

the WELL

DEEP TRUTHS
LASTING
TRANSFORMATION



Devotional Cover Page

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“With joy shall I draw water from the well of salvation.” Isaiah 12:3

I heard John Maxwell say, *“The greatest day in a man’s life is the day he was born. The second greatest day in a man’s life is the day he finds out why.”* You are no accident my friend. God created you on purpose, with purpose and for a purpose. A God-designed destiny to impact the world in which we live. The greatest adventure we will ever live is the journey of following Jesus and discovering why He put us here. It is that great adventure that has brought us here to The Well.

The first step on this grand adventure happens when a person makes a decision to become a “follower of Christ.” For example, in Mark 1:17 Jesus is walking by the side of a sea and sees Peter in a boat and says to him - “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” There are 2 parts to this powerful statement - the first is simple “follow Me,” Jesus said. Every person alive at some point will have that same opportunity. To follow Jesus is to first decide that He alone is Lord of every facet of our life. It is to put our full faith and trust that what the Bible says about Jesus and the way in which I should live is absolute truth. It is a great journey into a personal relationship with this amazing God who created the world, everything and everyone in it. When I commit myself to this process I discover the latter half of the statement where Jesus said - “follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” Following Him is the key to discovering purpose and fulfilling our God-given destiny.

Anyone who sets out on a grand adventure, must take stock of the necessary supplies and tools we need in order to succeed in our endeavor. According to the Bible, there are really about 5 things we need:

1. Make a quality decision, to be a life-long follower of Jesus Christ.
2. Develop a daily study of the Word of God.
3. Discover and develop a solid prayer life.
4. Become an active part of the Body of Christ.
5. Receive the gift of the Holy Spirit

The Well is simply a structure, a set of plans, to assist people who are hungry to grow in their personal relationship with Jesus and successfully fulfill this grand adventure. Each month we will look at a different theme and take us deeper into our understanding of the Scripture and how to apply Biblical principles to our daily lives. Thank you for joining us on this adventure of learning to draw the water of life, from the well of salvation.

Drawing water from - The Well

Different parts of this discipleship tool.

Exercising my Faith this month

- Each month I encourage you to have a faith goal. What are you believing God to do in your life? As you work through this early in the month. Learn to grab a hold of the promises of God by faith and join together with God to see His will fully accomplished in every area of your life. *(Example on p. 6)*

Weekly: Each Week there are 4 sections:

- **The Well - Daily Devotional thought written by multiple authors from The Father's House.**
 - Each day we will be looking at a small passage of Scripture and drawing truths up from the Word of God that will inspire the manner in which we live. Each month will have a theme we will be pursuing. Each day ends with a prompting for each reader to "put the Word to work." Remember it's not about how much we simply read, but how much of the Word we apply to our daily life that really matters.
- **Weekly Bible Reading Guide** (4 different options to choose from) *(See Page 9)*
 - Daily reading and study of the Scripture is essential for spiritual health. Here we provide 4 possible reading guides.
 - Option 1 - Follow this plan to read the entire Bible once in three years.
 - Option 2 - Follow this plan to read the entire Bible once per year.
 - Option 3 - Follow this plan to read the entire Bible once per 3 months.
 - Option 4 - Follow this plan to read the New Testament once per month.
- **Weekly Prayer notes**
 - Recording prayer notes is essential both for remembering what the Holy Spirit is speaking and evaluating what we hear based upon the Word of God. It is also encouraging to look back and see how God has been moving in the areas of life we have been praying about. We encourage you to bring this with you to your prayer time and prayer meetings. Regularly visit and revisit your prayer notes sections and write down what God is doing in and through prayer in your life. *(example, see page 7)*
- **Sermon Notes**
 - Often in services there are many great things said that I want to remember. I have discovered what science has already proven to be correct - if I listen and write down thoughts my retention doubles. Included are pages for sermon notes available to be used for each Wednesday and Sunday of the month. *(Example see page 8)*

In addition, we encourage you to join one of our Growth Groups. Inside these groups of up to 5, people will connect and share insights we are learning and growing in. I highly encourage you to get connected and join one of these groups.

(Example) Exercising my Faith this Month

Hebrews 11:1-2, 6 - Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. 2 For by it the elders obtained a good testimony.... 6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Q: What are 1 or 2 things you are believing God to do in your life this month?

1. I am believing God that He will surround me with His peace in the middle of a troubling time in the world.

2. I am believing God will heal my mother and renew her strength and vitality.

Q: Are there any Scriptures that directly deal with these?

Isaiah 26:3 ~ You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you. John 14:27 ~ Peace I leave

with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

Colossians 3:15 ~ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

Philippians 4:6-7 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ

Jesus.

Peter 2:24 that 'By Your stripes, I was healed.' Psalm 103:3 - You have 'healed me from every disease.' In Matthew 15:26 that 'healing is the children's bread'

Everyday, we take the Word of God that deals directly with situations we face, and lift up the promises in His Word that deal directly with these situations. We both remind ourselves that God has spoken and secondly, we take that promise and lift it up in prayer.

Part of my daily prayer: *God You said, You will keep me in perfect peace when I bind You to my mind. I choose today to intentionally think about You and trust that You will keep me in perfect peace. You promised your peace you would give me, that it would remain with me. I choose to let your peace rule in my heart, I refuse to be anxious, but come to You with my prayers and needs with thanksgiving present my requests unto You, and in return I today receive Your supernatural peace.*

"God You said in Your Word - I Peter 2:24 that 'By Your stripes, we were healed.' That according to Psalm 103 - You have 'healed us from every disease.' In Matthew 15:26 that 'healing is the children's bread' and since my mother is a child of God, I thank you that healing is hers, I ask you to heal, and renew her strength this day and exercise my faith believing that you will in Jesus' name."

Weekly Prayer Notes (Example)

Week: _____

Specific things I am praying about for my family. - <i>Daily for God's protection over my wife and children - (Psalm 91 and Isaiah 54:17)</i> - <i>Daily to hear and know God's voice, to be led by His Spirit in all that I say and do. (John 10 and Romans 8)</i> - <i>To walk in His supernatural provision and wisdom, to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge (Philippians 4, Ephesians 1 and 3).</i>	Specific things I am praying about for people in my church. - <i>That God would grant wisdom, protection and provision to our leaders.</i> - <i>Every week, I ask for people to come know and follow Christ, to encounter God's presence and to experience His goodness in every service.</i> - <i>That God would bring every person He has called to be a part of The Father's House here.</i> - <i>That God would heal and deliver those who are in need.</i> - <i>_____, the person who was in my row that told me of his desire to see his son come back to the Lord, I am praying for his son by name all week, that God would send someone across His path to lead Him back to Jesus.</i>
Things I sensed from the Holy Spirit while I was praying this week: - <i>When I asked God if there was anything He wanted to say to me today, I heard Him simply say - "You are my son, and I love you."</i> - <i>I was talking to the Lord, and felt like He reminded me this morning of the story in the gospels when He came walking on the water, and said to Peter, "come out here with me." I felt like He was letting me know, sometimes when He leads it will be in areas I have never gone before, and didn't know I could - such as walking on water.</i>	People I am praying for their salvation. - <i>Benjamin</i> - <i>Paul</i> - <i>Keith</i> - <i>Joel</i> - <i>Jordan</i>

Series (if applicable):

Scripture(s)	Things I want to remember	Things I want to study further
Genesis 17:21	- God has more in store for me than I have yet discovered - If Abraham laughed when he first heard the promise of God, and could still find God's favor and believe, then I realize I'm not alone, when sometimes I find it almost "too good to be true."	
2 Peter 1:5 - 11	- If I "add" these 7 areas to my faith in God - there is unstoppable fruit that will come in my life. - I can lead someone to Jesus - I can bear the fruit of the Spirit - I can discover and develop the call of God on my life - I can be fully assured of my salvation - I can live without stumbling	- What is Virtue? - What is knowledge referring to? - I think I understand self-control - Are perseverance and patience the same word here? - What is meant here by Godliness - What's the difference between brotherly love and love in 2 Peter 1:7

Versions of the Bible

There have been many arguments over the centuries about which version of the Bible is the best. Truth be told, I have many versions of the Bible and enjoy reading and studying most. The default version for this study will be the New King James Version (NKJV) of the Bible. If a contributing author uses a different version it will be labeled as such. Other common versions of the Bible quoted from in The Well include, but are not limited to:

The Amplified Bible (AMP)
New International Version (NIV)
The Passion Translation (TPT)
Young's Literal Translation (YLT)

King James Version (KJV)
The Message Translation (MSG)
The New Living Translation (NLT)

Often people will ask, why is the language so much different from one version of the Bible to the next. Very important question. There are two basic distinctions to pay attention to as you are reading the Bible - is the version you are reading a "paraphrase" or is it a literal translation from original language into our language? The goal of a literal translation approach is to have a word-for-word literal translation from the original manuscripts into our modern day language. The goal of a paraphrase is to capture the idea as communicated in the original language and attempt to use modern language to communicate that same idea. For example when we look at the famous John 3:16

(NKJV) - ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

(AMP) - ¹⁶ "For God so [greatly] loved and dearly prized the world, that He [even] gave His [One and] only begotten Son, so that whoever believes and trusts in Him [as Savior] shall not perish, but have eternal life.

(YLT) - ¹⁶ for God did so love the world, that His Son -- the only begotten -- He gave, that every one who is believing in him may not perish, but may have life age-

(MSG) - ¹⁶ This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, his one and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life.

You can quickly see the different approaches in these versions of Bible translation. Some are focused on a direct word for word translation regardless of the difficulty in reading in current language. On the other end of the spectrum authors focus on taking the concept and making it easy to read in our current language.

I am not one that will mandate a single-specific version of the Bible. However, three things I would look to avoid in study of the Bible: 1) Any translation that eliminates the deity of Christ. 2) Some "woke" versions of the Bible being made, for example the "gender neutral" Bible. 3) If an author has attempted to "water" down absolute truths included in Scripture I pay no attention to those versions.

There are many websites that provide access to these translations and more such as biblegateway.com providing free easy access to those who want to compare various translations and paraphrases of the Bible.

Bible Reading Plan November

	3 year (1)	Once/year	Once Quarterly	New Testament in a month
1	Daniel 1	Mark 15-16	2 Chron. 6:37 - 22:6	Matt. 1-3; Rom. 1-4; Act 1; Rev. 1
2	Daniel 2	Matthew 1-4	2 Chron. 22:7 - 34-26	Matt. 4-6; Rom. 5-8; Acts 2; Rev. 2
3	Daniel 3	Matthew 5-7	2 Chron. 34:27 - Ezra	Matt 7-9; Rom. 9-12; Acts 3; Rev. 3
4	Daniel 4	Matthew 8-9	Nehemiah 1 - 12:36	Matt. 10-12; Rom. 13-16; Acts 4; Rev. 5
5	Daniel 5	Matthew 10-12	Neh. 12:37 - Job 6:15	Mat. 13-15; I Cor. 1-4; Acts 5; Rev. 5
6	Daniel 6	Matthew 13-14	Job 6:16 - 23:17	Matt. 16-18; I Cor. 5-8; Acts 6; Rev. 6
7	Daniel 7	Matthew 15-17	Job 24:1 - 40:18	Matt. 19-21; I Cor. 9-12; Acts 7; Rev. 7
8	Daniel 8	Matthew 18-20	Job 40:19 - Psalm 22	Mat. 22-24; 1 Cor. 13-16; Acts 8; Rev. 8
9	Daniel 9	Matthew 21-22	Psalm 23 - 43	Matt. 25-28; 2 Cor. 1-4; Acts 9; Rev. 9
10	Daniel 10	Matthew 23-24	Psalm 44 - 68	Luke 1-2; 2 Cor. 5-8; Acts 10; Rev. 10
11	Daniel 11	Matthew 25-26	Psalm 69 - 87	Luke 3-4; 2 Cor. 9-13; Acts 11; Rev. 11
12	Daniel 12	Matthew 27-28	Psalm 88 - 107	Luke 5-7; Gal. 1-3; Acts 12; Rev. 12
13	Zechariah 1	Luke 1	Psalm 108-119	Luke 8-10; Gal. 4-6; Acts 13; Rev. 13
14	Zechariah 2	Luke 2-3	Psalm 120 -140	Luke 11-13; Eph. 1-3; Acts 14; Rev. 14
15	Zechariah 3	Luke 4-5	Psalm 141 - Prov. 5	Luke 14-16; Eph. 4-6; Acts 15; Rev. 15
16	Zechariah 4	Luke 6-7	Proverbs 6 - 19	Luke 17-19; Phil. 1-4; Acts 16; Rev. 16
17	Zechariah 5	Luke 8-9	Proverbs 20 - 31	Luke 20-22; Col. 1-4; Acts 17; Rev. 17
18	Zechariah 6	Luke 10-11	Ecc. & Song of S.	Luke 23-24; I Thess. 1-5; Acts 18; Rev. 18
19	Zechariah 7	Luke 12-13	Isaiah 1 - 12	Mark. 1-3; 2 Thess. 1-3; Acts 19; Rev. 19
20	Zechariah 8	Luke 14-16	Isaiah 13 - 28	Mark 4-6; I Tim. 1-6; Acts 20; Rev. 20
21	Zechariah 9	Luke 17-18	Isaiah 29 - 41	Mark 7-9; 2 Tim. 1-4; Acts 21; Rev. 21
22	Zech. 10	Luke 19-20	Isaiah 42 - 51	Mark 10-12; Titus. 1-3; Philemon 1; Acts 22; Rev. 22
23	Zech. 11	Luke 21-22	Isaiah 52 - 66	Mark 13-16; Hebrews 1-4; Acts 23
24	Zech. 12	Luke 23-24	Jeremiah 1 - 9	John 1-3; Hebrews 5-8; Acts 24
25	Zech. 13	Ephesians 1-3	Jeremiah 10 - 22	John 4-5; Hebrews 9-13; Acts 25
26	Zech. 14	Ephesians 4-6	Jeremiah 23 - 32	John 6-7; James 1-5; Acts 26
27	Philippi. 1	Colo. & Philemon	Jeremiah 33 - 46	John 8-9; I Peter 1-5; Acts 27
28	Philippi. 2	Philippians	Jer.47 - Lam 5	John 10-12; 2 Peter 1-3; Acts 28
29	Philippi. 3	Acts 1-3	Ezekiel. I-14	John 13-16; I John 1-5
30	Philippi. 4	Acts 4-6	Ezekiel 15 - 25	John 17-21; Books of 2nd & 3rd John & Jude

Exercising my Faith this Month

Hebrews 11:1-2, 6 - **Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. 2 For by it the elders obtained a good testimony.... 6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.**

Q: What are 1 or 2 things you are believing in God to do in your life this month?

Q: Are there any Scriptures that directly deal with these things you are believing in God for?

Everyday, we take the Word of God that deals directly with situations we face, and lift up the promises in His Word that deal directly with these situations. We both remind ourselves that God has spoken and secondly, we take that promise and lift it up in prayer.

Example: "God You said in Your Word - I Peter 2:24 that 'By Your stripes, I was healed.' That in Psalm 103 - You have 'healed me from every disease.' In Matthew 15:26 that 'healing is the children's bread' and since I am a child of God, I thank you and receive healing in Jesus' name."

Week One

Week One Prayer Notes

Specific things I am praying about for my family.

Specific things I am praying about for people in my church.

Things I sense from the Holy Spirit while I pray.

People I am praying for their salvation.

November 1

Created in the image of God

Genesis 1:27

“So, God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created Them.”

Jesus said, *“God is Spirit”* (John 4) thus, God is neither male nor female, but His attributes consist of a full spectrum of characteristics – both masculine and feminine. Creation was a womb-like setting, complete with darkness and waters and the Spirit hovering over the face of the waters. The Hebrew word for “spirit” is “ruach” – a feminine noun in a language that has very few feminine nouns! The Hebrew word for womb is “rechem,” a derivative of “ruach.”

God created man in His image, after His likeness – took the dust of earth and formed a body and breathed into the nostrils and the man became a living being. However, God said, *“It is not good that man should be alone; I will make a helper comparable to him”* (Genesis 2) So, God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and from Adam’s side He took something and made woman. God split the Adam! Thus, God created Ish, the man, with all his inherent masculinity, and God created Isha, the woman, with all her inherent femininity. Male is not the full spectrum of the image of God, only a part. Female is not the full spectrum of image of God, only a part. And only through their marriage to one another, as they became one flesh, did they together represent the full spectrum of the image of God.

God is a triune being – three in one. The Divine Trinity is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God designed marriage to reflect His triune nature. In his role within marriage, a man, by himself, is not fully representative of all the descriptors of the image of God. For example, a male, by himself, cannot manifest the full spectrum of God’s features historically associated with both femininity (tenderness) and masculinity (strength). At the same time, the early pages of Genesis confirm that a woman, by herself, cannot do manifest the full spectrum of the image of God. However, when the two complimentary halves of humanity unite - physically, spiritually, mentally, and emotionally – the image of God, containing both tenderness and strength, is manifested. Male and female are made anatomically, emotionally, and spiritually for oneness. Husband and wife, joined together, represent the full spectrum of the image of God.

One aspect of God’s image is His creativity. In sexual union, husband and wife become co-creators, in a sense, with God. Children come into being as husband and wife unite, one more expression of the image (creativity) of God. A sperm and an egg unite to form (miraculously) a human! A person! Male and female becoming one is what Genesis establishes as the components for this image. The breathtaking image of God!

Putting the Word to work

Q: Describe the ways you reflect the image of God:

Q: Describe the ways your spouse reflects the image of God:

Nov 2
Have Dominion
Genesis 1:26-28

*Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; **let them have dominion** over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”*

The Hebrew word translated “dominion” is *rādâ*. At its core, it means to rule, to govern, to tread down. But in this setting, it speaks of more than power—it points to delegated authority. Humanity was entrusted to govern creation in a way that reflects God Himself. *Rādâ* is not domination for selfish gain but stewardship rooted in accountability to the One who gave it. What is striking is that God gave this command to man and woman together.

Dominion is not a solitary task, nor a divided one—it is a shared calling. In their unity, they reflect the fullness of God’s image, and in their shared authority, they reveal His design for responsibility and partnership. This word, *rādâ*, presses us to see that dominion is never neutral. Every decision, every act of influence, every use of authority carries weight. It either mirrors the goodness of God or distorts it. To have dominion is to live with intentionality, to step into life with purpose, and to see our roles, big or small, as sacred trust.

God’s blessing here is more than existence—it is vocation. He gives humanity a task that infuses meaning into every aspect of life. Dominion is the invitation to participate in His plan, to exercise authority that does not point to ourselves, but reflects His character and rule.

Putting in the Work

Where in your daily life has God entrusted you with “*rādâ*”—authority, influence, or responsibility—and how faithfully are you reflecting His image there?

What would change if you saw every responsibility, no matter how ordinary, as a sacred trust from God rather than something to endure or control?

November 3
Be Fruitful
Genesis 1:28

*“The **God blessed them**, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the seas, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”*

What does it mean to be fruitful? Often this passage is used to refer to the beginning of the human race. Adam and Eve were to begin the procreation that would be the foundation of all mankind. This is partly true, but it is not the entire picture. They have just been given the mandate to fill up the entire earth. We find the term fruit throughout the entire Bible, referring to the results of a close relationship with our Lord and God.

To be fruitful means to produce fruit. What are the fruits that a modern-day Christian might bear? The New Testament refers to the fruit of the Spirit, love, joy, peace, long suffering (patience), kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. These are all fruits that we as believers strive to produce in our daily walk with God. In Genesis, there were only two people in the entire world when God gave the mandate to be fruitful, but we must always keep in mind that God is not constrained by time as we are. God may have been giving Adam and Eve a command to begin the propagation of mankind, however He was also referencing what we as believers in the twenty-first century would be doing in advancing the Kingdom of God.

Today, the expansion of the human race is not our first priority. However, the advancement of the Kingdom of God through the exhibition of the fruits of the Spirit is. Fruit is something that comes naturally to a fruit tree or vine. Grape vines naturally produce fruit. However, the quality and quantity of fruit that a tree might produce is based on how well the tree is cared for or nurtured. The proper amount of water, fertilizer, and the occasional pruning will maximize the fruit production for a tree. The same is true for the believer. If we will feed on God's Word, meditate and concentrate on what He is teaching us, and if we will be attentive to His chastisement and correction, we will maximize the fruit that we produce. Job 5:17 “Behold, happy is the man whom God corrects; therefore do not despise the chastening of the Almighty.” So, feed your spirit on God's Word, meditate on it day and night, and do not reject God's correction when it comes.

Putting the Word to Work

What kind of fruit are you producing? Take an inventory of the habits that you have formed that will lead you to more and better fruit. Make a plan to eliminate the bad habits and nurture the good habits.

November 4

Title: Multiply

Genesis 1:28

*Then God blessed them, and God said to them “Be fruitful and **multiply**; fill the earth and subdue it, have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds for the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”*

Webster's dictionary defines “Multiply” as “to become greater in number: Spread. If you take a number and double it, you have increased it ; $1 + 1 = 2$. However, if you multiply it by itself, it will double each time: $1 \times 1 = 1$, $2 \times 2 = 4$, $4 \times 4 = 16$, etc. Adam and Eve were told to multiply, to fill the earth and subdue it. They were indeed the father and mother of humans, but they did not fill the earth, their progeny did. By the Biblical account, Adam & Eve had Cain and Able, then they had Seth and then it says that Adam lived 800 years, and he had sons and daughters. He still could not have filled the earth himself. Through his sons and daughters, who had sons and daughters, who had sons and daughters, etc., the earth was filled.

How do we apply this Scripture to our lives today? Are we supposed to have huge families and fill the earth? The earth is already rather full. We are charged with multiplying ourselves spiritually. We need to spread (multiply) God's word through the way that we live and by witnessing to anyone and everyone that we meet daily. Pastor Bill Sanders used to say, “Witness to everyone you meet, and if necessary, use words.”

How are we supposed to reach people throughout the world with the gospel, and make them disciples? There are two ways in which to accomplish this task. First, there are those that are called to go, and there are those who are called to send. If God has not put a call upon your life to become a missionary, then you can be one of those that sends the called ones into the mission field. You would be amazed at how a small monthly donation to the missions can be multiplied and reach many people. We have been told that an average pastors' salary in Cuba is \$300.00 a month. If 30 people would give \$10.00 a month, we could support a pastor who would be out multiplying the gospel in Cuba.

Second, you have a world that only you can reach. Whether it is in your community, your workplace or even in your home, you have special people that you come in contact with on a regular basis. Reach out to your world with the way you live and how you speak. 80%+ of people who attend church regularly are there because someone invited them. You might be the only person that some of these people meet that is a Christian. Multiply yourself!

Putting the Word to Work

Keep your eyes and ears open to the opportunity to present Jesus to those around you.

November 5
Fill up the Earth
Genesis 1:28

*“Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply: **fill the earth** and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”*

When you pull into the gas station and tell the attendant to “fill it up” you are instructing them to put as much gas into the gas tank as they possibly can. How are two people such as Adam & Eve supposed to fill up the entire earth from their location in the garden of Eden? What are they supposed to fill it up with?

God was expecting Adam & Eve to maintain their personal spiritual relationship with Him, relying on Him for direction and inspiration. It is only through God Himself that we can accomplish such a task. On first examination it would seem to be impossible to complete. God tells them to fill the earth. Like telling the waitress at your favorite dining spot to fill your water glass. Yet, we do not see anything recorded where Adam hesitated at these instructions. Today we would be in an all-out discourse with God over such an order.

Adam & Eve were stewards of the things God had created and were instructed here to see that they were dispersed throughout the world. Each species was to have its own environment and its own territory. What would it have been like if all the birds, fish, mammals, amphibians were all located in one place? In Genesis 11, we find out what happened when the entire human race tried to locate in the land of Shinar. That is where the story of the Tower of Babel originated. Adam was given the task of naming all the animals, and he was to see that they were cared for in a proper manner. We often complain about the assignments God gives us. Can you imagine the enormity of the task set before these two. However, they did not shirk the responsibility but instead relied on God to show them when, how and wherefore.

We will find out in our next chapter that there was more to this task than just parceling out the assignments of location. They were also tasked with propagating the fodder to ensure that these species were fed.

During this herculean task, Adam and Eve were also responsible for the beginning of the human race.

Putting the Word to Work

The next time that God taps you on the shoulder and asks you to do a particular task, regardless of who He uses to request your participation, remember the tasks set before Adam and Eve and recall the enormity of what was placed before them. (Matt 19:26)

November 6
Subdue it
Genesis 1:28

*“Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply: fill the earth and **subdue it**; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”*

Take a moment and think of the conditions that existed on the earth just after God had created it. Things might have been in a bit of a turmoil. Adam was given the command by God to SUBDUE the earth. The term subdue, according to the Merriam Webster dictionary means to: To bring under control by influence, training, persuasion or force. The Hebrew word translated subdue in this passage is *kabash*. It is from the prime root “to tread down”. It can be translated, to disregard, to conquer, to subjugate. It means to force, keep under, subdue, bring into subjection.

Adam was to take command over the creation that God had placed before him and bring it into subjection to the rule and reign of the Almighty. Now, could God have done this Himself? Absolutely, but He chose to delegate the responsibility to His most prized creation, man. Adam was to take this newly created planet and make it a suitable habitat for the other creations of God. Adam was to make it livable.

When our Lord Jesus died on the cross and was resurrected by God to sit at the right hand of God Himself, He returned the dominion over this earth to mankind. We now have the right and responsibility to subdue this world. What does that mean today? Let's look at a couple of things it does not mean. It does not mean we can go around bullying anyone that doesn't agree with us. It does not mean that we can stand next to our neighbor's property and command the blackberries to grow only on their side of the fence. However, it does give us the responsibility of stewarding the resources that God has given us and seeing that they are utilized in a manner consistent with God's plan. We become managers of God's creation. This means that we do not squander that which God has entrusted to us, but that we are to use our influence and persuasion to train what God has given to each of us, see that it is used to the benefit of the Kingdom of God.

Just as we are to keep our earthly desires under subjugation to our spiritual man, we are to likewise keep our earthly environment under subjugation to the same powers. It might be something as simple as keeping your lawn mowed or keeping the blackberries pruned back, or you may have a call to assist in the management of an entire forest. Whatever has been put under your control, manage it well. You must keep in mind that the Lord wants you to do all things under the auspices of the Holy Spirit and His guidance.

Putting the Word to Work

Take a moment and ask the Lord what your part is to be in subduing the world around you. Whatever He tells you to do, do it with gusto, as unto the Lord.

November 7
God Blessed Them
Genesis 1:28

*“Then God **blessed them**, and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.’”*

Immediately after creating Adam and Eve, God blessed them both, bestowing divine favor upon them. Specifically, His blessing conveyed to them three privileges and responsibilities as co-regents in the governance of earth. Thereby, God defined their relationship with Him as stewards over His creation. He established the borders and boundaries of their authority on earth.

First, He said, “Be fruitful and multiply.” He blessed them with the ability to be abundantly reproductive, to have children who would have children generation after generation for the purpose of populating the planet.

Second, He said, “Fill the earth and subdue it.” Thus, God defined the role of humanity. Mankind was given the divine imperative to explore the earth and set out beyond the horizon to discover new lands in which to dwell. Mankind was given the capacity to manage and care for God’s creation in accordance with God’s instructions and in cooperation with God’s will. Remember, Jesus taught His disciples to pray, “Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”

Third, He said, “Have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” Thus, God defined the role of mankind regarding the relationship He wanted them to enjoy with all the other creatures on earth. Our innate desire to “talk with the animals” comes from the initial relationship with His creatures God designed for us. He designed humanity to be the caretakers of His creation, working in partnership with Him to rule and reign, not as tyrants and exploiters, but as compassionate caretakers.

Sadly, many Christians have not yet appropriated the blessing God spoke to our ancestors. They are unfruitful because they have not yet recognized their connection to that blessing. They look inward and promote their own self-interests rather than look outward beyond the horizon to discover their own role in the blessing. They do not rule over themselves and thus they are unable to appropriate the authority of God in their own life, let alone the authority of God that they are designed to project in the world. They do not subdue their selfish tendencies and thus are unable to exercise their God-given talents and abilities to solve their own problems let alone the problems of others. **They would rather ventilate their complaints than dominate their constraints**. Entering the blessing is not difficult. All that is required is faith in God and obedience to His will. The benefits of the blessing are manifested when we recognize our role as co-regents with Him on earth and seek to become all that He has designed us to be.

Putting the Word to work

Q: Describe the blessings of God in your life:

Q: Describe the ways in which you have exercised yourself as a steward in God’s creation:

Week One Sermon Notes

Week One Sermon Notes

Date: _____

Sermon Title: _____

Series *(if applicable)*: _____

Scripture(s)	Things I want to remember	Things I want to study further

Week One Sermon Notes

Date: _____

Sermon Title: _____

Series *(if applicable)*: _____

Scripture(s)	Things I want to remember	Things I want to study further

Week Two

Week Two Prayer Notes

Specific things I am praying about for my family.

Specific things I am praying about for people in my church.

Things I sense from the Holy Spirit while I pray.

People I am praying for their salvation.

November 8
Uniquely Male
Genesis 1:26-28

26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Gender is not an intellectual idea or concept, it is a biological reality. Men and women are created distinct from one another. Physical, biological, XX chromosomes (female) vs. XY chromosomes (male), hormonal and emotional differences make profound distinct difference between men and women. In March of 2022, U.S. Supreme Court nominee Ketanji Brown Jackson refused to define a woman when asked. Her response: "I'm not a biologist." I am no biologist either, but I know there are differences between men and women.

Contrary to some people's beliefs, masculinity is not toxic and femininity is not some elevated state men should try to become more in tune with. It is perfectly logical and natural for men to have more masculine traits, and women to have more feminine traits. One is not more important than the other, but the two together reflect the very image of God. Men do not have the right nor the ability to change the manner in which we were born, your gender was a decision made by God over your life. The most important thing for a person to do is to learn to accept who God made you to be and thrive within the body God gave you. Men tend to have an instinct to provide, to protect to be identity declarers, more aggressive, competitive and often more emotionally stoic. Men's strength tends towards extending boundaries while women's strength tends to be towards nurturing inwards. Differences between men and women should be celebrated and rejoiced over.

A few years ago, we were shocked with the number one documentary movie produced with hundreds of millions of people watching it, "What is a Woman?" Matt Walsh went to multiple "experts" who had rejected the time-tested definition that a woman is "an adult human female." Men would be an "adult human male." Hopefully we are learning this lesson, that if we attempt to take away from, add to or change God's definition we create problems.

Putting the Word to Work

What are your greatest strengths within the confines of the gender God assigned you when He knit you together in your mother's womb?

November 9
Uniquely Female
Genesis 1:26-28

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

I grew up in the country across the field from Aunt Jeanne and Uncle Bruce. There was a decided difference between their household and ours. They went to church services regularly, teaching classes and serving. My Dad didn't go at all---he poached deer and made moonshine in the backyard.

I would often cross the field between our houses to play with cousin Patty. Aunt Jeanne, "Uniquely Woman," would come out on the porch in her house dress and apron and warmly greet me. The unique thing about her was that she was filled with JOY! I knew few women like her who reflected the love of the Father and the JOY of Jesus as she did.

My Aunt and Uncle owned a dairy farm in the days of milk bottles. Every evening Aunt Jeanne could be found in the pump house washing bottles. (Some days she would hire me to help her.) There she was, "Uniquely Woman," supporting her husband in his business.

I would sometimes spend the night, observing how they honored the Father and His Word. There was always prayer before a meal. Sadly that wasn't happening at our house. Their well used family Bible was sitting near an easy chair in their small house. Oh how they valued that precious Book, and never was anyone allowed to set another book on top of it. This "Unique Woman" of the faith was teaching me by example the holiness of God's Word.

Her last years were spent in an assisted living home in Eugene and I would visit her there. She had a yellow legal pad with actually 100 names on it that she prayed for daily. My brother's name, then deep in alcohol and drugs, was on that list. He recently entered heaven due to her prayers. Oh how she did reflect the love of Jesus!

She would call me sometimes for prayer. One day she said, "Jeanie, I am so glad your folks named you after me!" Well actually they hadn't, and made sure I knew growing up that I was not named after her. Well I knew God Himself had named me so I just said, "So am I! I cannot think of any other name I'd rather have." For she was God's woman and continually reflected who He is.

At her celebration of life I rose to speak about her, saying that of all the famous people I had ever known of, she was the Woman of Faith I most desired to emanate. She walked in His JOY and daily reflected His glory!

Putting the Word to Work

Do you know a woman who has shown you by example how to be like Jesus? Be sure to let her know what she has meant to you.

November 10

Divine Union

Genesis 2:24 & Mark 10:9

24 "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh."

10:9 "What God has joined together, let no man separate."

Something amazing happens when a man and a woman decide to join their lives together in a marriage union. Two lives independently lived now deciding to come together in a covenant inviting God to be in the middle of it. You will remember back on November 1st when we looked at how God "split the Adam" creating a distinction between male and female. A marriage union is the knitting together of the covenanted male and female; spirit, soul and body that is described as a reflection of the image of God. Neither male nor female alone represents God alone, but it is the two coming together that displays the image of God on the earth.

This is not only about the consummation of a marriage in the sexual intimacy of the male and female. Those who have experienced a healthy marriage will be quick to tell the others that sex is a fabulously wonderful gift of the Lord to a husband and wife, but the connection experienced between a husband and a wife is much deeper than mere sex. There is a melding together in multiple levels. Genesis 2 goes on to describe Adam and Eve's were *"25 And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed."* The gift of intimacy of full transparency allowing someone to fully know you and every part of you, physically, emotionally, in our mental space, spiritually with nothing hidden. To be fully known, unafraid and unashamed. Pursuing one's spouse recognizing it is my honor to know, to serve and to bless the other. This is a truly blessed divine union.

Every gift from God comes with a responsibility. Sadly I have had to do much counseling with couples who at some point in their lives had not realized the great responsibility of the gift. Why do we think pornography, and casual sexual relationships are pushed so hard by culture as a "normal" and "acceptable" even pushed by some that men and women should "experiment sexually" prior to marriage to see if they are even "sexually compatible." What twisted lies the enemy has pushed. When two people join together sexually outside of a covenant of marriage, there is a connection a "soul tie" that is established that needs to be dealt with and broken.

Putting the Word to Work

1. Viciously guard yourself from unGodly sexual patterns. Often for men this begins more visually and thought of physically, for women this is usually more about guarding yourself emotionally.
2. If you have had sexual experiences outside of marriage. Seek pastoral counsel to meet with you and invite them to pray with you through a breaking of soul ties.
3. For those who are married, everyday cultivate and celebrate the truly intimate covenantal relationship you are blessed to be in. Allow yourself to be heard and seen. If there are communication challenges for you in that process ask God to help you know how to openly communicate who you are, and celebrate when your spouse does likewise.

November 11

Role of the husband - Love your wife

Ephesians 5:25-28

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, 26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, 27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. 28 So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself.

Disclaimer about the next three days as we look at the role of a husband. Single women, whatever you have been taught you should look for in a future husband, make sure that what you are looking for is rooted in the Word of God, because this is going to describe the kind of relationship you want to experience. For married women, encourage your husband to read and reflect on his role as a husband. Do not take this as a license to try and “change your husband’s behavior until after you have read the following three days on the role of wife and reflected on how you are doing in that area.

The first responsibility of a husband is to “love his wife.” Paul gives a number of expressions of what this “love” is supposed to look like. Christ of course is the ultimate example Paul refers to that all men (and women) should aspire to live like. Paul describes the love of a husband ought to look like a husband “giving his life” for his wife as Christ gave his life for the church. Realize the first role of a husband is not to be a boss, but to be a giver. Husbands who emulate Christ have and should cultivate a strong desire to be “givers.”

The second responsibility of “loving one’s wife,” is the role of *“sanctifying and cleansing her with the washing of the water of the Word.”* This speaks to the idea the man is the “priest” of his home. An Old Testament priest had two primary roles: represent the needs of the people before the throne of God in prayer, and to represent God to the people he was a priest over. The husband has been given a beautiful responsibility to “sanctify” to set apart his wife (and his children) in prayer and in the Word. To see that the Word of God is established in His household, “cleansing” his house and home of things of the world that have no business being there. Men, man-up, do not allow things in your household that violate the ways of God.

Thirdly, Paul says your goal should be to present your wife (and family) to the Lord *“without spot or wrinkle, or any such thing,”* manage how you walk, see that you are not the reason for sowing seeds of bitterness into the soul of your bride. Be quick to manage your flesh and take ownership of your shortcomings. Why? It is your responsibility to guard the heart of your wife.

Putting the Word to Work

For the men:

1. What did you do in the last 24 hours to demonstrate love by giving of yourself towards your wife?
2. When is the last time you prayed for your wife that was about her, not what you felt you needed God to change in her?
3. When is the last time you took ownership for your shortcomings and apologized?

For the women:

1. What are 2 or 3 things your husband does that makes you feel loved? Have you told him what those are?
2. Your husband is not a mind-reader. Does he know how much it means to you when he prays with and for you?
3. When your husband apologizes do not use that as an opportunity to beat him down.

November 12

Role of the husband - Head of the Home

Ephesians 5:23

22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. 24 Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.

Our God is a God of authority. He started in creation in Genesis 1 organizing all of creation; establishing order, structure and authority. In Genesis 2 when he developed the first family with Adam the head and Eve the Helpmate (more on that on Nov. 15th) God set Adam as the head of his household. Headship is not a dictatorial tyrannical position but a great responsibility. As we looked yesterday, headship from the place of love is a picture of Christ and the church. Now it would be folly to say that headship means the husband is the only one of the two who has these four responsibilities, but the head of the home carries with it the responsibility of cultivating these within their marriage. Four of our five senses our eyes, ears, nose and tongue are all located in/on our head of all the senses not primarily thought of as accessing on or in our head is our sense of touch.

First, we have two ears and one mouth, headship is not about barking out orders but must include the ability to listen well, a skill that can be developed. In order to be effective as the head of our household, we must develop a hearing ear. First hearing the Word of the Lord for our wife and home. Hearing and paying attention to the heart of our wife. Hearing the sound of the household and hearing the sound of culture and what culture is trying to force our way.

Second, headship is about developing a seeing eye. Eyes to look forward in terms of provision, protection and purpose. It is a responsibility to develop an eye primarily for foresight and oversight.

Thirdly, headship is about managing the appetites of the household. A Godly household has a Godly hunger and appetites. Headship places a demand on the husband to guard the tastes and appetites within the household to ensure the home is feasting on the things of God, not on the things of the world. Men guard your homes and do not allow worldly appetites such as materialism, and other lustful appetites to intrude on the tastes and preferences of your house.

Fourthly, headship demands responding to discernment. The sense of smell is one of the strongest senses in terms of alerting a person and shifting the person immediately into the mode of "fight or flight." I think of times I have suddenly discerned propane in the air, and went from half asleep to wide awake, on my feet and quickly moving to fix the issue before there was a major problem. Men need to cultivate the kind of discernment that makes them quick to act on Godliness and shut down wickedness within the household.

On Nov. 16th we will look more at the response of wives to their husband's role as the head.

Putting the Word to Work

How is your home doing with this in terms of the husband functioning as the head of your marriage? What are 2 or 3 things you can do to cultivate this role in your home?

November 13

Role of the husband - Wife Builder

Ephesians 5:28-32

28 So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. 30 For we are members of His body, [h]of His flesh and of His bones. 31 "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." 32 This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. 33 Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

We are called to be builders not demolishers. What does a marriage look like when the husband and wife are dedicated to building one another, not tearing each other down? What does it look like to refuse to undercut one another, but to pull together in unity? What does it look like to encourage one another? This is the kind of marriage we want to experience and exemplify to the world.

Husbands, your attentiveness to this assignment as a "builder" of your wife can change the atmosphere in your home and revolutionize your marital experience. Builder does not mean we avoid problems, because to build a solid relationship it requires that we deal with anything that would cause decay or ruin a foundation. Your goal needs to be to daily build your wife up. Daily affirm her value. Daily acknowledge the things that she does and ways that she adds value to your soul and your home. Speak to her about the impact you see of her sacrificial choices to bless your home.

Secondly, make the decision to pull together and refuse to pull in opposite directions. I think this can be why some couples go from problem to problem. When one or both hit a situation that is bigger than their ability to manage on their own, it gets their attention and they take their responsibility to pull together very seriously suddenly. But, you need not live from crisis to crisis, pulling together in emergency moments and can instead learn to live intentionally pulling together. Later this month we will talk about developing a family vision, a goal to have something to pull together in. Get really good at communicating with one another about the things you are working to conquer so you can conquer mountains together.

Thirdly, make the decision to encourage, not discourage. To encourage us to leave them "in courage." To discourage is to strip someone of courage. A woman who knows, believes and feels that her husband trusts in her, believes in her and desires her completely changes the way she carries herself. It transforms the way she sees herself and her place in the world. When a man intentionally cultivates her heart, she naturally responds to that.

Putting the Word to Work

What is one thing you can do to build your spouse today?

What is one thing you can do to pull together today?

What is one thing you can do to encourage your spouse today?

November 14

Role of the wife - love your husband

Titus 2:1, 3-5

*1 But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine: 2 that the older men be sober, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in patience; 3 the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things— 4 that they **admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, 5 to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.***

How countercultural is this message to the young women compared to what the world says. Paul instructs the church that they are to instruct the younger women to “love their husbands and children and then in verse five gives out several distinct characteristics of what that should look like.

While the world says, be loud, stand up and shout your own praises, Paul urges them to train the young women to be discreet, defined as “careful and circumspect in one's speech or actions, especially in order to avoid causing offense or to gain an advantage.” Manage yourself in the way you should walk. Be chaste, abstain from all extramarital sexual activity. To be homemakers, mocked by the world in today's world. To be good, this is to be of a good constitution or nature, useful, pleasant agreeable, joyful, happy. To be obedient, under or submitted to their own husbands. That the word of God may not be blasphemed. These are all individual daily decisions to be made.

Putting the Word to Work

When these decisions are being made consistently, what is (or what would be) the result in your home?

Week Two Sermon Notes

Week Two Sermon Notes

Date: _____

Sermon Title: _____

Series (if applicable): _____

Scripture(s)	Things I want to remember	Things I want to study further

Week Two Sermon Notes

Date: _____

Sermon Title: _____

Series *(if applicable)*: _____

Scripture(s)	Things I want to remember	Things I want to study further

Week Three

Week Three Prayer Notes

Specific things I am praying about for my family.

Specific things I am praying about for people in my church.

Things I sense from the Holy Spirit while I pray.

People I am praying for their salvation.

November 15

Role of the wife - Helpmate

Proverbs 18:22; Genesis 2:18-22; Ephesians 5:22

22 He who finds a wife finds a good thing, And obtains favor from the Lord.

18 And the Lord God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him..." 20 So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him. 21 And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. 22 Then the rib which the Lord God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man."

22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.

Just because you are a woman does not make you a wife. Solomon's word of wisdom to men, "*he who finds a wife*" not just a woman to be married to "*has found a good thing...*" one of the key distinctions between a woman and a wife is the embrace of her responsibility and role as a helpmate.

Now helpmate does not mean doormat. Nor does it eliminate drive, calling, strength or destiny. It is a recognition that the role of a wife is an assignment to support and submit to her husband. It is a gift of completion. It fills in the gaps of what was missing from Adam. Sometimes, the word submit has been perceived as an ugly word, a hard word. But think back to how we previously described a husband's primary roles of loving his wife, giving of himself for her, headship in the home and building his wife. Now that kind of husband makes a role of support as responsibility to submit much easier than to be married to a dictatorial tyrant. Wives, your husband needs to believe, know and feel that you respect him.

This role as a helpmate is not a lesser or less important role. When we described the role of headship to the husband using four of the five senses, we left out the sense of touch. The way God fashioned women, they often carry that sense of touch, the sense of feeling and connection. You are the guardian of his heart. When thinking of how God fashioned women from the rib of Adam, I ask, what is the role of the rib cage? To guard the heart and vital organs. You are the guardian of the heart of your husband, he needs to trust in your desire to guard his heart. When your husband knows you respect him you are setting him up for success in the world.

Putting the Word to Work

For the men, what makes you feel respected?

For the women, what can you do to demonstrate respect?

November 16

Role of the wife - Respect and Be a Husband Builder

Proverbs 14:1; Ephesians 5:22-23, 33

14:1 The wise woman builds her house, But the foolish pulls it down with her hands.

23 For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body... 33 Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

A funny story has been told of former President Bush. One day, he and his wife were in their limousine and pulled into a gas station. Barbara, his wife, suddenly jumped out of the car and began talking to the gas station attendant. After a few minutes she climbed back in as he asked, "who was that dear?" Oh, just an old beau of mine. President Bush leaned back with a big smile on his face and said, "So you're telling me, that here you are, married to the most powerful man in the world, and you almost married a gas station attendant instead?" "O George," she said, "If I had married him, He'd be president."

While I have no idea of the truth to that story, it presents a beautiful idea on the role of a wife to be the primary builder of her husband. A wise woman is the builder of her husband, while a foolish woman chips away at him, until he has no strength left to really lead, or his heart becomes callously hardened and he loses hope turning to other avenues to try and meet his needs of being respected, almost always creating a mess. Three ways that you can build your husband, 1) Acknowledge his sacrificial actions of love. A man who sees that his sacrifices are recognized and appreciated is apt to replicate and multiply them. 2) Acknowledge the various ways he provides. 3) Do not withhold your body from him. Withholding sexual intimacy from your husband never produces a good result in his patterns and behaviors. A husband and wife who view sex as their opportunity to bless and bring one another pleasure, understand sexual intimacy to be a joyful gift to be shared with one another.

Putting the Word to Work

Women, what is one way you can build up your husband today?

Men, What is one or two things that make you feel built up in your home?

November 17

Earthly Fathers and Our Heavenly Father

Matthew 3:16-17

“16 When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. 17 And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, ‘This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.’”

Fatherhood was established by God before the foundation of the earth. The term, “father” occurs over 1,500 times in the Bible. The dictionary defines the term as: a male parent, a man who has begotten a child, or when capitalized, the first person of the Trinity.

We all have a biological earthly father, but not everyone has a Heavenly Father. Some have a stepfather, or a father who adopted us. Jesus came to show us the Father, and to challenge those who falsely believed God was their father. You have heard it said, “We are all God’s children,” but Jesus exposed that lie. Every person who has ever lived is one of God’s creations, but only those who have been born again become God’s children. In his letter to the believers in Rome, the apostle Paul declared: *“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out ‘Abba, Father.’ The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ”* (Romans 8). Those people who are born again are adopted as children into the Heavenly Father’s forever family.

God designed earthly fathers to be an example of our Heavenly Father, who so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, the One in whom He was well pleased so that anyone who confesses Jesus as Lord and believes in his or her heart that God raised Him from among the dead will be saved. Our Heavenly Father is a giver, and He designed earthly fathers to be givers, not takers.

The Father spoke from heaven regarding His Son three times: at the baptism of Jesus, on Mount Hermon at the transfiguration of Jesus, and in Jerusalem before the crucifixion of His Son. His public recognition of His Son serves as a fitting example of how earthly fathers ought to affirm their own children. John, the beloved apostle wrote: “I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in the truth.” However, our Heavenly Father not only affirms His children, but He also corrects them, as described in Hebrews: “Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness. Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.”

Putting the Word to work

Q: Describe when you were born again, and how you were adopted into the Father’s forever family:

Q: Describe how your Heavenly Father has chastened you and how you profited from His correction:

November 18, 2025
Father the protector
Psalms 91: 3-4

3 For He will save you from the trap of the fowler, And from the deadly pestilence. 4 He will cover you and completely protect you with His pinions, And under His wings you will find refuge; His faithfulness is a shield and a wall.

Protect is to cover or shield from exposure, injury, damage, or destruction, to guard. As earthly fathers God calls us to protect our children. Just as He protects us, we are to protect them. God puts us under His wings and covers us with His opinions. A blanket of protection that not only shields us but hides us. Under that blanket we kept warm and safe, out of sight. Many scriptures attest to His protection He saves from the fowler's snare, the deadly pestilence, He will fight for us.

What God said to Isaiah reassures us that no matter what the threat He will be there to protect us. *"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze"* (Isaiah 43:2)

We as fathers not only need to protect our children's physical safety, but more importantly their spiritual safety. We are to train our children and raise them with nurturing instruction from the Lord. Ephesians 6:4 *"And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord"* Proverbs 22:6 (AMP) *"Train up a child in the way he should go [teaching him to seek God's wisdom and will for his abilities and talents], So that Even when he is old he will not depart from it". Admonition is a gentle reproof that carries a warning."*

In Psalms 127 children are referred to as arrows in a fathers quiver. I did some research on arrows and how the archers of the day would make them. Starting with the shaft they would remove all the burrs that would interfere with flight. They carefully ground and shaved them smooth. Then they would oil them and heat them over a fire to harden and polish them making them strong. The fletching (feathers) were carefully picked because this is what guides the arrow after it leaves the bow. Finally the tip was sharpened and lashed on strong and tight to pierce the enemy.

The best protection is eternal protection. We raise them straight and strongly to try to knock off the roughness. We occasionally hold them over the fire to harden and strengthen them. We add the fletchings of God's word to guide them after leaving our home. We give them the strength and sharpness of the Holy Spirit to go before and pierce the darkness. While the archer was not always sure that he would hit the target, he never released an arrow without aiming it. He never just shot (released) blindly.

I could tell you personal stories of how I stepped up and protected my children from physical harm and this we should do. But the best story is how even with my limited knowledge and understanding. I raised a child who is serving the Lord and I know where he will spend eternity.

Putting the word to work

What advice would you give to a young set of parents who desire to protect your children by teaching them the word. Hold their children accountable. Shape them straight and strong with love

November 19

Father as a provider

1 Timothy 5:8 (KJV)

“But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.”

I thank the Lord that I married such a good Christian man. Before my eyes, I get to see him become more and more like Christ every day. All the while, transforming into a husband I know Christ is proud of.

A little over a year ago, the Lord instructed me to go into full-time ministry. Many people would be able to do this while working, but unfortunately I am also physically disabled, with some health issues. Thus, the only way to make this happen is if my husband is the sole financial provider for our home.

Every so often, though, I can tell he feels bad, thinking that he may not be a good enough provider. Only, I have never once thought that. I know he wishes he could give me every material thing I could ever want, but I couldn't love him more. I look at him with so much love and respect because he always puts God first, and what he provides me with is so much more than financial support.

There are many ways a man can provide for his family, and just one of which is financially. The above verse is a powerful illustration of exactly what God considers the role of a provider, and it expresses how important it is that a man fulfills their role.

Let's look at this verse closer. By researching the word “provide” in the Strong's Concordance, I admit that I was shocked to know what it actually meant. The word “provide” is the Greek word *pronoō* and it means the following: To consider in advance, and look out for beforehand (actively, by way of maintenance for others; and by way of circumspection for oneself.) “Being Circumspect involves exercising careful consideration and prudence in one's actions and decisions, particularly in relation to God's commandments and moral living.” (BibleHub.com)

To prepare financially is just one way a man provides for his family. It is also another form of protection, in that he is preparing for your future and looking ahead to try to avoid mistakes and risks. By doing this, he is making educated, safe, moral decisions right now. This is how my husband lives everyday, and this is why he is an amazing provider. Today, be thankful for all of the wonderful providers God has put in your life. We need strong men to raise and lead strong families. Hallelujah!

Putting the Word to Work

If you are the man of the house, how can you better provide for your family?

If you are the woman of the house, how can you encourage this in your husband?

If you have a good provider at home, do you show him appreciation and honor for this?

November 20

Father - Identity Speaker

Genesis 35:17-18

17 Now it came to pass, when she was in hard labor, that the midwife said to her, "Do not fear; you will have this son also." 18 And so it was, as her soul was departing (for she died), that she called his name Ben-Oni; but his father called him Benjamin.

The Father's prophetic voice in his household and amongst his children is without a doubt one of the most foundational and formational roles in his children's lives. In a traditional household in Biblical times, baby boys would be given their name on the 8th day after birth. The same day as they would be circumcised. In his article *Baby Naming and the Covenant*, Rabbi Harold Schulweis, speaks of the Jewish understanding about the principles of naming children "the Jewish ideality principle that assigns to the human being the task of turning the world that 'is' into the world that 'ought to be.'" he describes the Father's responsibility to prophetically recognize and call out the gift of God in their children.

Just like the story in Genesis when Rachael was giving birth and called her name choice for her newborn as Ben-oni which means "Son of my Sorrow" as she was realizing she was not going to survive giving birth. Jacob's first recorded declaration of this newborn son was to reject the dying declaration of the wife he loved, and instead to prophetically declare his name to be "Benjamin" meaning "Son of my right hand." In His last recorded declaration over him in Genesis 49, Jacob declared Benjamin "Benjamin is a ravenous wolf; In the morning he shall devour the prey, And at night he shall divide the spoil."

The tribe of Benjamin became known for being skilled and ferocious warriors, particularly as ambidextrous slingers and archers. They produced the first king in the nation of Israel and though they had their share of problems, the declaration of a father set a direction for generations.

I wonder what would happen if every Christian Father in our church, would intentionally take time to lay their hands on their sons and daughters and declare the blessing of the Lord and the Word of the Lord over their children.

Putting the Word to Work

If you have never received a blessing from a father, go to your spiritual father figure and ask him if he would bless you. If you have no one else, you have spiritual fathers in your local church who can do that.

For the father's reading The Well, I would encourage you, with intention, make time each week to bless your wife and children (and if you have them, grandchildren, even great grandchildren).

November 21

Family Roles: Earthly Mothers

John 14:16-17

*And I will ask the Father and he will give you another Savior, the Holy Spirit of Truth, who will be to you a friend just like me—and he will never leave you. The world won't receive him because they can't see him or know him. But you know him intimately because he remains with you and will live inside you.
(The Passion Translation)*

The Passion Translation uses the word Savior. The Father will give you another Savior. As I studied this verse, I read that no word alone is adequate to encapsulate what this word Savior or Parakletos in Greek fully means. Words like, counselor, comforter, advocate, encourager, intercessor, helper, protector and defender are used to help us understand all that this word encompasses.

As a mother I have lived out these words in one way or another over the years. I have counseled my kids through trials and tough times, comforted them when they were broken-hearted, and stood up and advocated for them when they were wronged or when they needed a voice in their corner to take the lead. I have encouraged them to not only work hard, press through tough times, honor the Lord in their decisions, but also to seek Him first, before they seek others for help. I have interceded for them in prayer, covered them in Prayer, and carried burdens they were carrying, to the Lord in prayer. I have helped equip them to make decisions, and guide them as they walk out each day. I hope that my kids know I am not going anywhere. If they fail or fall (and they will), I am here to pick them up, if they succeed, I am here to celebrate and encourage them to keep going.

Earthly Mothers are not perfect, but what an example we are for our kids. An example of the kind of relationship we can have with the Holy Spirit. An example of all the ways in which the Holy Spirit is close to us, leading us, and for us. As much as I teach, counsel, and guide my kids, it is in those times, The Holy Spirit speaks to my heart about how He is doing the same for me. As I help my kids grow and mature, He is helping me to grow and mature. As I teach my kids to look to the Lord for answers, The Holy Spirit is teaching me, look to the Lord for answers.

You may not have had an Earthly mother who was an example of all these things, or you may be a mother who struggles to do these things. I pray that you be encouraged, we are not perfect, when we put our hope and confidence in Jesus, we are filled with the Holy Spirit. He will be all of these things for you and lead you to walk these things out for others.

Putting the Word to Work

What are some ways in which your relationship with your earthly mother taught you things about God? *(For those who had great examples this may be easy, for those who did not, what were you lacking, that you have found made up by your relationship with God?)*

Week Three Sermon Notes

Week Three Sermon Notes

Date: _____

Sermon Title: _____

Series (if applicable): _____

Scripture(s)	Things I want to remember	Things I want to study further

Week Three Sermon Notes

Date: _____

Sermon Title: _____

Series *(if applicable)*: _____

Scripture(s)	Things I want to remember	Things I want to study further

Week Four to the end of the Month

Week Four to the End of the Month Prayer Notes

Specific things I am praying about for my family.	Specific things I am praying about for people in my church.
Things I sense from the Holy Spirit while I pray.	People I am praying for their salvation.

November 22

Family Roles – Mother Consoler

Isaiah 66:3,14

3: “As one whom his mother comforteth, so will I comfort you.” Verse 14: “And when you see this, your heart shall rejoice, and your bones shall flourish like an herb and the hand of the Lord shall be known toward His servants and His indignation toward his enemies.”

In our earthly families, the mother is the first to interact with or be aware of the child within her and instantly there is a bond that happens that is unexplainable for she would give her life for the life of her child within her. Throughout Scripture the Word speaks of mothers and how no one can console like a mother. In the above Scripture, the power and spirit of a mother's love is likened to the Spirit of God. If you possess the Spirit of a mother's love, you have experienced the very core of God through His Holy Spirit and yet His love is deeper still.

In the story of Ruth, when she gave birth to Obed, she handed the child to Naomi who became a second mother to him. She consoled him, protected him, and loved him just as the Holy Spirit does for us, God's children. Psalms 147:3 says, *“He healeth the broken in heart and bindeth up their wounds.”* Psalm 56:8 (Passion) *“You’ve kept track of all my wonderings and my weeping. You’ve stored my many tears in your bottle—not one will be lost, for they are recorded in your book of remembrance.”*

Jesus as the Holy Spirit consoles us. So as a mother I have kept my children's mementos down through the years; their foot prints, hand prints, poems, pictures, even hair clippings, and every momentous event in their lives. When it was a sorrowful occasion, we would take out our memory books and trace back to the good times until the season of sorrow had passed. That's what a mother does and that's what our God does... only more and better.

Putting the Word to Work

1. Have you ever wanted to climb into Daddy God's lap and rest there?

2. Pray for the Holy Spirit's comforting touch. He loves to love us!

November 23

Theme: Family Roles – Mother Comforter

John 14:16

“and I will pray the Father, and He will give you another [a]Helper, that He may abide with you forever...”

Research shows that when a mother is pregnant, some of the baby’s cells move into her body and stay in her body for years. The cells can help heal the mom if she gets hurt, even fixing her heart. Scientists say it is why mothers are so connected to their children. A mother truly carries her child forever. That connection brings comfort for the mother and the child both. If this happens in the physical, you can only imagine the strength of comfort the Holy Spirit provides in the supernatural.

In John 14:16, Jesus is speaking, telling His followers that He will ask the Father for a helper or comforter that will abide with you forever, just as a mother carries her child forever. So, the Holy Spirit abides in us providing us with comfort.

My youngest brother was killed in an automobile accident and perished instantly. But all the while God was there with the Holy Spirit providing indescribable comfort. His presence permeated the air. As our family walked through the “shadow of death,” we were never alone. The ever-presence of the Holy Spirit comforts believers by empowering us with spiritual gifts to fulfill what God has called us to do. Even when it looks so bad, so devastating, He is there comforting and guiding us through.

Romans 8:28 says, “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.” If you have received Jesus as your savior, you are called. Remembering the Holy Spirit, the Comforter abides within and no matter what it looks like to man, Jesus sees this as a way to glorify the Father. He is right there to comfort, lift up, and exonerate His beloved ones!

Putting the Word to Work

1. Where and when have you felt the comfort of your Father?
2. Tell of the great things God has done for you. Testify, journal it, make it a reminder when the enemy comes to wreck you.

November 24

Theme: Family Roles – Mother Advocate

2 Corinthians 13:14

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Naturally, a mother will do what feels best when it comes to meeting her child's needs in terms of emotion, well-being, health development, and otherwise. This is often done by "gut feeling" and with a heart advocating for what best serves him. But when we have the Holy Spirit advocating for us, it far exceeds what a mother can do. There is no error in God. When you have His Spirit guiding you and you are obeying His instructions, there is no mistake. God reads our hearts, knows our intent and even if we do "fail" in man's terms, the Holy Spirit will make advocacy for us and turn our actions for good. Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 13:14, "May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all." Here are all Three being One, working in us to love us—our minds, souls, and spirits.

Here, recently we have experienced our modern-day martyr in Charlie Kirk. It has been said, "The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church and the more His enemies rage, the more will God be glorified." This is so true! God has been on the lips of people all around the world after Charlie had been killed by evil. In the Old Testament Joseph's brothers meant evil for him and were terrified of the repercussions when they were reunited. 'Joseph said to them, *"Do not be afraid, for am I in God's place? As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive."* Genesis 50:18-20 [NASB] All along on Joseph's journey, God's presence was with Joseph, advocating for him, with the Holy Spirit guiding and covering him with favor.

Daniel was another example of God advocating for His chosen one. See Daniel 6:18-21. How much more will He do for His children who have made Him their habitation? *"If you abide in Me and My Words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you."* John 15:7

Life is hard and full of potentially destroying moments. I'm not wise enough or smart enough to avoid all the tragedies life has in it, but my God, my Savior, my Jesus, my all and all IS!

Putting the Word to Work

1. What can He do for you?
2. Reflect and write on some of those moments in life.

November 25

Jesus-Our Older Brother

Romans 8:29 (NIV)

“For those God foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.”

Siblings are often our first teachers in life. They show us what it means to share, forgive, and sometimes even to argue. Through the ups and downs of these relationships, God gives us a glimpse of what it means to live as part of His family. The Bible says Jesus is “the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.” That means He’s not only our Savior—He’s also our older brother who shows us how to live as God’s children.

In every family, siblings can both challenge and shape us. Maybe your brother tests your patience or your sister knows exactly how to get under your skin. Yet, those moments give us opportunities to grow in love and humility—qualities Jesus models perfectly. Hebrews 2:11 reminds us, *“Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters.”*

What an incredible truth: Jesus is proud to call us family! Through Him, we are invited into a relationship not based on perfection but on grace. As we learn to love and serve our siblings with compassion, we reflect the same love Jesus shows us.

Putting the Word to Work

How does knowing Jesus as your “older brother” affect the way you relate to Him?

In what ways can you show Christ-like love to your siblings, even when it’s difficult?

November 26

Grace in Our Communications

Hebrews 4:15 (NIV)

“For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet He did not sin.”

If you have siblings, you know that communication isn't always easy. Words can heal or hurt, and sometimes the people we love most are the ones we speak to the harshest. But Jesus gives us an example of how to speak with grace. He faced frustration, temptation, and misunderstanding—yet He never responded with sin. When we're irritated or defensive, it's easy to speak before thinking. James 1:19 reminds us, *“Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.”* Jesus lived this perfectly. He listened with empathy, spoke truth in love, and never used His words to tear others down. Even in conflict, His goal was restoration, not revenge.

Healthy communication with our siblings reflects God's heart for unity. Ephesians 4:29 says, “Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up.” When we choose our words wisely, we strengthen our family bonds and honor God.

Putting the Word to Work

How do your words reflect your relationship with Jesus? With your siblings?

What's one habit you can change to communicate with more grace and patience?

November 27

Friends that stick closer than a brother.

Proverbs 18:24b

"But there is a friend that sticks closer than a brother."

In my poem, "In Day's Called Last of Time", the last stanza say's, "Joy in knowing all is well with thee, when you open your heart's door and let Him be your savior, best friend and King." God longs to be our best friend. John 15:13-15. *"No one has greater love [no one has shown stronger affection] than to lay down (give up) his own life for his friends. (14) You are My friends if you keep on doing the things I command you to do. (15) I do not call you servants (slaves) any longer, for the servant does not know what his master is doing. But I have called you My friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from My Father. [I have revealed to you everything that I have learned from Him]."*

John 14:23 *"...Jesus answered, if a person [really] loves Me, he will keep My word [obey My teaching]; and My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make Our home (abode, special dwelling place) with Him."* Proverbs 17:17 in the message Bible reads, *"Friends love through all kinds of weather, and families stick together in all kinds of trouble. A good example of this is found in my daughter's poem she wrote when interceding for her brother:*

God, Take Good Care Of My Little Brother

God take good care
Of my little brother.
Hold him in Your hands.
Wrap him up in love.
Let him understand.

I miss my little brother, Lord.
I miss his dear, dear face.
His kind and giving heart.

It hurts me too, God.
To see him slip away.
I don't want to lose my brother, Lord
Help him, guide his way.

I want to see him, Lord
To give him one more hug.
I want to wrap my arms around him.
And let him feel our love.

God please keep him safe.
Keep him safe God, please, for me.
Watch over my little brother;
He's blind right now, you see.

I know he's far away now, Lord.
So please do one thing for me.
Hug him Lord, hold on tight.
And don't let go.

Take him piece by piece.
It's taking my little brother.
I want him back
God stop his misery.

Putting the Word to Work

Q. Has God ever instructed you on how to pray for someone? I would encourage you to ask Him. One day as I was praying for my son, God instructed me to worship Him for my son for he was not in a place (of mind) to do it himself.

November 28

Building generational blessings and breaking generational curses

Exodus 34:6, 7

6 And the Lord passed before him (Moses) and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, 7 keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation."

We build generational blessings by faithfully walking in God's ways, providing positive, Godly attitudes for our family... loving attitudes, generosity, working together, thankfulness, tithing, patience and prayer. That is a tall order for anyone, but it will be easy if your true attitude to honor Jesus with all you are. That brings us to introspection to evaluate how we are progressing. It is not condemnation, it is honesty about yourself and the effect on family relationships.

We see the results of a family that serves God with one mind in 2 Timothy 1:5-7 *"when I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also. 6 Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. 7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."* Being steadfast and faithful as a family brings blessing. vss.13-14, *"13 Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. 14 That good thing which was committed to you, keep by the Holy Spirit who dwells in us."*

If you are one who grew up in a family with various sins and brokenness, whose 'habits' carry over to a new generation, seek God who has power to break generational curses for you and your family. Seek Him.

Numbers 14:17-19 *"17 And now, I pray, let the power of my Lord be great, just as You have spoken, saying, 18 'The Lord is longsuffering and abundant in mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression; but He by no means clears the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generation.' 19 Pardon the iniquity of this people, I pray, according to the greatness of Your mercy, just as You have forgiven this people, from Egypt even until now."*

Forgiveness provides renewal for a new generation to embrace the grace of salvation in Jesus. Zechariah 8:13 *"13 And it shall come to pass That just as you were a curse among the nations, O house of Judah and house of Israel, So I will save you, and you shall be a blessing. Do not fear, Let your hands be strong."*

Putting the Word to Work

Deuteronomy 28:1-15 Blessings; and 28:16-68 Curses. CHOOSE LIFE!

November 29
Building A Family Name
Proverbs 22:1

“A good name is to be chosen rather than great wealth, and grace rather than silver or gold”

I remember one time I got caught lying to my dad. I thought I was going to be getting the belt, but instead I got a mini-lesson that stuck with me forever. “Son,” he said, “a man’s word is his bond. If a person cannot trust your word and handshake you have nothing.” It stuck with me. A good name, a trustworthy name, is more valuable than anything dishonesty could ever gain.

Families not only want to have a good name, but to discover the prophetic destiny over their family. It’s interesting to read through the last 3 chapters of the book of Genesis and see the declaration over the different family tribes and what they became. We looked earlier this month at the tribe of Benjamin and how they became mighty left-handed warriors. As a family, make it a family project to work on developing a good family name and reputation. Pray together, go to church together, work together, study together, grow together, play together, share meals together. Enjoy every opportunity you can to be together and make an impact in your neighborhood. Be the kind of house and home that the neighbors look at and say, I want what they have.

Putting the Word to Work

What kind of reputation do you think your family currently has in your present neighborhood? What is one thing you can do this week as a family that would add to your neighborhood reputation?

November 30
Building A Family Vision
Joshua 24:15

"But as for me and my house, we will serve The Lord"

Family vision must always be rooted in honoring and living out the Word of God. There are a number of Scriptures that issue commands that we would be wise to build our family vision around:

- James 1:22a: *"We will be doers of The Word not merely listeners".*
 - James 25b: *"Active doer, he shall be blessed in his doings."* A bunch of doosies just doing what He says!
- Proverbs 10:25: *"But the righteous have an everlasting foundation."*
- I Samuel 15:22: *"To obey is better than sacrifice."*
- John 8:32: *"And you shall know the Truth and the Truth shall make you free."*
- I Corinthians 3:11: *"For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid which is Jesus Christ."*
- Deuteronomy 30:19b-20: *"Choose life that you and your descendants may live and may love the Lord your God, obey His voice, and cling to Him. For He is your life and the length of your days, that you may dwell in the land which the Lord swore to give to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob."*
- I Kings 6:12: *"Concerning this house which you are building, if you will walk in My statutes, execute My precepts and keep all My commandments to walk in them, then I will fulfil to you My promises which I made to David your father."*
- Matthew 7:24: *"So everyone who hears these words of mine and acts upon them will be like a sensible, prudent, practical, wise man who built his house upon the Rock."*

This reminds me of the time we were looking to buy a house in Texas. We looked at a house we liked and when praying about the house, the Lord told me to read Jeremiah 13. He said if the house stands buy the house. When I read the text, "the house was destroyed", I knew we were not to buy the house. Then later, we walked an empty lot, in a new subdivision. Upon going to church, later that night, the pastor was stirred in the spirit to speak out Joshua 1:3; *"Every place upon which the sole of your foot shall tread, that have I given you."* So I asked the Lord, if that word was for us, stir up the pastor again. He stirred him up a second time. So we knew that the empty lot was for us to purchase.

John 16:13: *"However when He, the Spirit of Truth is come, He will guide you into all truth; for He shall not speak from Himself, but whatsoever He shall hear, that shall He speak and He will show you things to come."*

It's exciting to follow God! I want to be all You want me to be, Lord!

Putting the Word to Work

Q. Do you have an eager readiness to build a family vision?

Q. Do you want all He has for you and be all He wants you to be?

Week Four to the end of the Month Sermon Notes

Week Four to the end of the Month Sermon Notes

Date: _____

Sermon Title: _____

Series (*if applicable*): _____

Scripture(s)	Things I want to remember	Things I want to study further

Week Four to the end of the Month Sermon Notes

Date: _____

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For more information about The Father's House, you can check out our website:

thefathershouseint.org or on Facebook or our YouTube channel. Weekly we gather:

Sunday	9 am & 11 am - Sunday Worship Experience
Tuesday	9 am - Prayer meeting
Wednesday	9 am - Prayer meeting
	5:30 pm - Dollar Diner at 5:30
	6:30 pm - Wednesday Worship Experience
Thursday	9 am - Prayer meeting
Friday	7 pm - Prayer meeting
Saturday	6 pm - Prayer Meeting

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