

Fight for Your Family

“Fighting for Your Family Requires Passing on Faith to Your Children”
Joshua 3-4 – January 19, 2014

Our Sermon Series

FIGHT FOR YOUR FAMILY				
A Ten Week Study of the Book of Joshua				
Date	Title	Text		
Jan 5	Fighting for Your Family Requires Leadership	Joshua 1	Preparing to Fight for a Home	1 month
Jan 12	Fighting for Your Family Requires Faith	Joshua 2		
Jan 19	Fighting for Your Family Requires Passing on Faith to Your Children	Joshua 3-4		
Jan 26	Fighting for Your Family Requires Obedience (1)	Joshua 5		
Feb 2	Fighting for Your Family Requires Obedience (2)	Joshua 6	Fighting for a Home	7 years
Feb 9	Fighting for Your Family Requires Dealing with Sin	Joshua 7-8		
Feb 16	Fighting for Your Family Requires Seeking God First	Joshua 9		
Feb 23	Fighting for Your Family Requires Understanding	Joshua 10-12		
Mar 2	Fighting for Your Family Requires Boundaries	Joshua 13-21	Settling a Home	8 yrs
Mar 9	Fighting for Your Family Requires Finishing Well	Joshua 22-24		

How to Pass the Faith on to the Next Generation (Joshua 3-4)

1. Walk with God yourself (3:1-6)

- Before you can pass the faith on to the next generation, you need to have something to actually pass on. Focus first on walking with God yourself.
- Key verse = Joshua 3:5
- “consecrate” = *qadash* (kaw-dash’) = to be ceremonially/morally clean; to consecrate; to dedicate; to be holy; to sanctify; to be wholly devoted
- The next generation will be more inclined to walk with God when they see us wholly devoted to God ourselves.
- The examples we have of consecration in the Bible (Exodus 19:9-15; Genesis 35:1-3; 2 Samuel 12:20; 1 Corinthians 7:1-6) tell us that “consecrate yourselves” here probably meant:
 - (1) Confessing their sins
 - (2) Taking a bath – literally getting clean
 - (3) Putting on new clothes
 - (4) Abstaining from marital sexual relations for one day in order to dedicate themselves to prayer and worship.
- Application #1 – Lord, I consecrate myself to you:
 - ☐ Make me clean as I confess my sins to you (1 John 1:9)
 - ☐ Clothe me anew with Your Spirit and the character qualities of Your Spirit (Romans 13:14; Colossians 3:12-17; Galatians 5:16-25).
 - ☐ Help me worship You and pray to You with all my heart

2. Take a step of faith yourself (3:7-17)

- Key verses = Joshua 3:15-16
- The Jordan River did not part until the priests took their first step into the river.
- Many times God waits to do a miracle until we take a step of faith.
- Video: “Leap of Faith” [1:44] found at YouTube.com
- Application #2 – A step of faith that I sense God calling me to take is...
 - ☐ To invite Jesus Christ to forgive me of my sins and to give me eternal life (John 3:16; Romans 10:9).
 - ☐ To stay in my marriage, give love to my spouse, seek counseling, and trust God to make our marriage not only work but thrive (Ephesians 5:21-33).
 - ☐ To have a difficult conversation that I know I have been needing to have – speaking the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15) about a certain situation.
 - ☐ To stop my addictive behavior and turn control of my life completely over to God’s Spirit (Ephesians 5:18).
 - ☐ To sign up for GroupLink or Alpha and risk joining together with other people to grow spiritually.
 - To sign up for **GroupLink** (Jan 26) go to: https://whatisgrace.ccbchurch.com/form_response.php?id=385
 - To sign up for **Alpha** (Jan 21 or 22) go to: <http://alphakaty.org/>
 - ☐ To place myself in a position to minister and serve others by finding a place to serve in Christ’s church (1 Peter 4:10-11).
 - ☐ To begin giving the first 10% of my income back to God and trust God with my life and finances.
 - ☐ To trust God with my problem.
- Patrick (Uganda): “Don’t tell your God that you have a big problem. Tell your problem that you have a big God!”

3. Set up “memorial stones” and tell the faith stories to the next generation (4:1-24)

- The 12 memorial stones were to serve as a reminder of what God did that day in parting the Jordan River and to pique the interest of future generations so they would ask and the faith story would be retold again and again.
- Application #3 – Twelve memorial stone ideas for passing the faith to the next generation:
 - ☐ Create a “memory shelf.”
 - ☐ Read a Bible story to your children each night before bed and discuss its meaning. Pray together.
 - ☐ Listen to Christian music in the car together. Talk about the songs. (Recommend 89.3 FM – KSBJ)
 - ☐ Go to Pine Cove Family Camp as a family (www.pinecove.com)

- ☐ Do a compassion project together as a family. Church in Action (Feb 15). Church Has Left the Building (March 30). Go to www.whatisgrace.org; click on Ministries; click on Missions.
- ☐ Go to Kidz XD 101 with your 3rd, 4th, or 5th grader (Feb 16). Go to www.whatisgrace.org; click on Ministries; click on Kidz XD; click on 101.
- ☐ Serve as a volunteer in your child's Kidz XD class. Sign up with Susan Verzani at sverzani@whatisgrace.org
- ☐ Serve as a volunteer in your teen's youth ministry. Sign up with Terese Hamilton at thamilton@whatisgrace.org
- ☐ Serve together with your teen in The Bridge – our church's special needs ministry. Sign up with Dora Corley at dcorley@whatisgrace.org
- ☐ Do a rite of passage with your child (see message on 1-27-2008).
- ☐ Have family devotions at dinner time. Resources include "The Beginner's Bible," "Heritage Builders," your SOAP journal entry from that morning, or videos from SkitGuys.com.
- ☐ Go on walks with your kids and talk about life and God as the conversation flows.
- Video: "We Are the Next Generation" [0:25] found at sermonspice.com

4. Set your heart on **world evangelization** (4:23-24)

- One of God's ultimate purposes for parting the Red Sea (40 years ago) and parting the Jordan River (in today's passage) was to reveal Himself to the nations.
- **Genesis 12:1-3** – *The Lord had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. 2 I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."*
- **1 Samuel 17:46-47** – *David said to Goliath: "This day the Lord will hand you over to me, and I'll strike you down and cut off your head. Today I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. 47 All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the Lord saves; for the battle is the Lord's, and He will give all of you into our hands."*
- **Matthew 28:18-20** – *Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

- **Matthew 24:14** – *And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.*
- The next generation wants to give their lives to something bigger than themselves – something significant, something grand, something eternal. There is nothing more significant, grand, or eternal than giving your life completely to God for the purpose of the fulfillment of His Great Commission (world evangelization) whether as a goer or a sender.
- **Application #4** – With God's help and power, I choose to be a Great Commission Christian.

Great Commission Christian – *By God's grace and power, I commit my life to the fulfillment of the Great Commission. I commit my life to pray for the world to be reached for Christ. I commit my life to tell others about a relationship with God through Jesus Christ. I am open to God calling me (and my family) to the mission field, but regardless of whether I leave West Houston or not, I will give my life away for the sake of the Gospel. I will share my faith right where I am. As a part of Grace Fellowship, I will support the vision of reaching our adopted unreached people groups through prayer, encouragement, and finances.*

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PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS FOR LIVING OUT APPLICATION #4:

- ☐ Pray through "Operation World" (prayer book) regularly.
- ☐ Take "Perspectives on the World Christian Movement" starting August 19, 2014 (visit www.katyperspectives.com)
- ☐ Have your small group adopt (prayer and encouragement) one of our unreached people group (UPG) field workers (kkershner@whatisgrace.org)
- ☐ Develop a Top Ten List and pray for them daily and share your faith with them as God leads. Pick 1 of these Top Ten and build a deeper relationship by spending intentional time with them.
- ☐ Go on a short-term cross-cultural mission trip this year (visit www.whatisgrace.org/missions)
- ☐ Intentionally build relationships with your unbelieving neighbors over coffee or dinner.
- ☐ Participate in The Church Has Left the Building (CHLB) on March 30.
- Video: "Conference Recap" [4:10] found at www.crosscon.com