

## Phase 2 Day 1

Scripture: Mark 6:7-13, 30-45, 8:1-10

How Many Loaves Do You Have?



\*Read today's scriptures:

\*So are you ready for Phase 2? Are you ready to continue to move beyond the boundaries that have been created by this world to stop your family from taking the time that God intended for you to take in hopes of growing stronger? The real question that begins Phase 2 is what are you willing to give? I know that we take our time daily to give to God, but my question is do we give out of our fullness and our best, or do we give out of the leftovers and the reserves. Today we begin the next 60 day journey and I am asking you to think of your family first when it comes to giving God the best. You will be asked to be more hands on and take time to study and answer questions. Don't take this lightly. Give it your full attention and take hold of EVERYTHING that you can to help connect your family back to being the family unit God created it to be. FIGHT LIKE IT'S YOUR LAST OPPORTUNITY. GIVE IT ALL YOU HAVE... WELCOME TO PHASE 2.

The following questions are for everyone who follows Christ. Whether 5 or 75, we all frequently in need to recommit ourselves and our resources to him. Dig deep and journal about them. Connect with others. Help each other process and pray through the questions and challenges. After you've arrived at some conclusions, continue praying for and supporting each other.

\*What tempts you to think that you don't have what it takes to accomplish God's mission for your family?

\*What do you wish you could do for God and others, but are afraid to do?

\*What thoughts and emotions do you wrestle with?

\*How many loaves (gifts/talents) do you have? How might God honor your small-seeming gift?

\*What is he asking you to do for Him as it related to your family this week? Why will this be of value?

\*What support do you need from others this week? What do they need from you?

As we start phase 2, just know that we are really asking you to not just think about what you are able to get from this daily time to focus on your family, but what are you willing to give. We have been creating within you, opportunities to connect with your family. We will continue to equip you over the days and months, but we will also ask you to think outside the box and begin taking ownership of the spiritual direction and leadership of your family. This is exactly what God intended because God gave you your children and believed so much in you that he gave you these loaves, your children as a blessing and opportunity to help direct and mold their lives. It's never going to be easy, but understand, when we come with our hands open in humility and obedience, God is able to take our gifts and use them to change the world. So it was with the loaves and fishes... so will it be with your child/children. God is ready to do so much with just a test of obedience from us.

Prayer:

Lord, when I let myself dream, I get really pumped about all the things I'd like to do for you, and for people. For example....(Fill in the Blank)... But I'm usually afraid I don't have what it takes. I hear what you want from me, and I give up before I start. To be honest, I'm afraid you're unrealistic—that you want me to give what I don't even have. But You promise that that's not true. You just want what I have...everything I have. And as small as that seems to me, here it is. Here I am. As an act of faith in you this week I will (Fill in the blank with one simple, stretching act of obedience)... I pray these things, too, for my family, that they would courageously give you everything, and that you would provide confidence in your complete sufficiency through Him. AMEN

Memory verse: Actually an old Hymn:

Take my life and let it be, consecrated Lord to thee.

Take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them move, at the impulse of thy love.

Take my feet and let them be, swift and beautiful for thee. Frances Ridley Havergal

[illegible]

For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of His glorious riches He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit through your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. Ephesians 3:14-17

[illegible]

## Do You Believe in the Son?

As we are moving through our Family Faith Connection Series, it amazes me how many of our students have a hard time truly understanding the fullness of Christ. It is a harder time for students to truly grasp the God in flesh, but going through this time of isolation is a great time to have a discussion with your family about Jesus. One of the coolest things that happened to me this last year during our confirmation weekend was that their parents wrote them a letter of encouragement. Do you know that for most of them that was the first time they had ever heard their parents talk to them about their spiritual journey. Some of the students in the room were even amazed that their parents had a deeper understand of God and church. It was not just something that they did, but it was something that they really believed.

I find that very interesting. Why do we continue to say that we love our students, but sometimes fail to spend time asking the tough but not really tough question about if they know and believe in Jesus? So my first question for you today is this, do you know beyond the shadow of a doubt that your son/daughter knows Jesus. Not just the church answer about Jesus, but truly understands why the life of Jesus was so important to the future of the world. Second, have you ever talked about your spiritual journey and your relationship with Christ to your children? Wait.. hold on... that just got real... Yes it did! How can you expect your students to ever fully understand anything about Jesus if it is not be talked about or modeled as an example at home. Home is where God called us to be the example for our students. So, I am asking today that as you go through these questions, take the time and maybe even discuss these as a family. Share YOUR testimony with your family. Let them know how you came to know Christ and it wasn't just a confirmation experience, but a continued life journey with Jesus. Ups and Downs... victories and struggles. Be Real and help them to experience the love, grace and mercy of Jesus in a totally different way.. through your story.

Think about these questions, talk with God, and journal about them. When you meet with your family, share your thoughts and feelings honestly. Pray together for true knowledge of Jesus, no matter how old you are, and do what you can to help each other find them.

\*What's the difference between knowing Jesus and knowing about Jesus?

\*What's the difference between knowing Jesus and doing the good things He says to do?

\*If someone asked you how to start a relationship with Jesus, what would you say?

\*Do you know the Son of Man? You can pray to Him now, using the following prayer or any words that convey the same ideas. Then you'll have His presence in you, helping you live the life you've always really wanted.

Jesus, I've done wrong things, and I don't deserve forgiveness or heaven. Thank you for dying for me. I accept your forgiveness, your free gift of eternal life. Change me inside, and help me live for you. Thank you for this miracle in me. Now do miracles through me. And if you know Jesus... Lord, thank you for being in my life. Never let me take you for granted. Pull me and my family closer to you. Let us actually feel like we're starving when we neglect you, so we'll seek you with all our hearts. Live through us and change our world. AMEN

**Memory Verse:**

This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. Romans 3:22-24

Scripture: Matthew 14:22-33, Esther 2-4, 5:1-3, 6-8  
Joshua 1:7-9  
Why Did You Doubt?



One of the biggest struggles in this journey truly is the doubt that many of us have as it surrounds our lives. We continue to doubt that we are smart enough or good enough or can even fully understand who our students are and the decisions we need to make to equip them or prepare them for life. It's doubt. We stare at it every day when we look in the mirror, and continue to question everything when our worlds seem to be collapsing in around us. However, sometimes doubt can be a powerful source that helps to lead us out of our comfort zones. As I watch my children continue to grow up right before my eyes, sometimes the doubt that is in their lives causes them to have to reach out and depend only on Jesus to make it to the next step of their faith journey. When we cannot even see the light at the end of the tunnel, we continue to question if God really knows what is happening in the midst of the uncertainty and chaos that we may be right in the middle of right now. Breathe, God knows where you are and trust me, has already walked a mile or more ahead of you to prepare for your journey of full dependence on Him and not in this world. Today as you walk in your faith journey, the scriptures and the questions are going to challenge you to think about where you are in this so called life. Yesterday you were challenged to spend time talking to your family about faith.. well it's just as powerful to sit down and help them see and understand our journeys through doubt and how the struggle is real. How we live our lives in the presence of God in hopes of placing all of our doubts and fears at the foot of the cross and taking a step out of the proverbial boat by faith. SO spend some time today discerning your biggest doubts and fears and talk about how through those moments, God was able to direct your path. Even when you may have not realized it in the immediate moment, but you were able to see His prevenient grace when you looked back with 20/20 vision to see how God was there every step of the way.

Another day, a BIGGER challenge. Don't face it alone. Connect with your family soon, and share encouragement, accountability, and prayers. Connect with God about these questions and journal your responses.

\*Describe the doubt that makes it hard for you to trust and obey God.

\*What helps you beat it? What makes it worse?

\*How do you need people? What can we do for you?

\*Don't wait for fear to disappear. Fear isn't the opposite of faith. Disobedience is. What step will you take to show faith in spite of fear this week?

Lord, it's hard to admit that I doubt you. I do. (Share your doubts). Thanks for understanding. And thanks for not letting me stay stuck. Give me the will to obey, no matter how I feel. And when we've won a victory, let me feel your smile. I know that my family are also feeling doubts about (fill in the blank).. Please give them courage to overcome too. AMEN

**Memory Verse:**

Lord if it is you, Peter replied, tell me to come to you on the water. Come, he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and , beginning to sink, cried out, Lord, save me!.Matthew 14:28-30

**Scripture: John 14:1-18, Acts 4:13, John 15:1-17,  
Matthew 25:31-46**



\*Read todays scriptures:

When God knit us together, God was preparing for the moment when we would once again invite Him back into His creation to stake claim over our lives. In the daily moments that we pause and take time to get to know God, do you ever ask yourself the question, Don't you know me now? As God has probably asked that question so many times looking into our lives, I wonder how many times we ask that question of God. The answer is YES. Yes God knows us because God is part of us. Yes, God knows our thoughts, actions, and even the days of our lives. As you think through that for a second, think about this as well. How long have you been going to church or how long have you known or heard "about" God? See that's a different question but with HUGE Kingdom potential. See many of our students have truly heard and know "about" God, but don't fully "KNOW" God. What's the difference. Well I know of the Grand Canyon because I have read about it in geography and history. I have seen pictures, but to truly say that I "know" or have had the ability to see the Grand Canyon with my own eyes is something I have not fully experienced. The same is true with God. Many people have heard stories and seen images and heard and at some point read the Bible, but until they fully know God for themselves, it's just something they "know of" or "know about" and not something they are intimately attached to because of a personal experience.



So today that is what I am asking you to do. Spend a little time really getting to know and getting intimate with God. And hopefully you can share that experience with your family. Because all of our families are at different stages of knowing God. So it's ok if we tell our stories to help them out a little. As you dig into and journal about these questions, picture Jesus there talking with you. Absorb the love, power, and truth of His presence. Renew your commitment to seek Him each day. Share your commitment with your family, and prayerfully support each other.

\*What are some ways you've seen and come to know Jesus personally in your time with Him this week?

\*What differences has this vision of Him made in your attitudes and way of living?

\*In what ways do you need to open your eyes to Jesus, take a fresh look at Him, revive your relationship with Him?

\*What's one step you'll take now to see and know Jesus better?

**Prayer:**

Jesus, I want to see You. I want the fulfillment of a deep friendship with the God of everything, the central character of all human history. You. I know I have disappointed You at times, neglecting You, running from You, pretending to be Your friend when I've been more like a stranger to You. I'm sorry. Give me hunger to know you through your Word and prayer. And give me awareness to see Your hand and heart in people and events around me. I pray for the same hunger and sensitivity in my family. AMEN

**Memory Verse:**

When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus. Acts 4:13

## Phase 2 Day 6

Scripture: John 6:66-71, Psalm 139, Matthew 10:29-31, Ephesians 1:3-14, 1 Corinthians 12:4-31



Haven't I Handpicked You?

\*Read today's scriptures:

Journal about these questions, continually asking your father to let you see yourself through his eyes. When you connect with your family, be God's eyes and voice of love for them, too. Age is not an issue. Everyone needs reassurance.

\*What do you honestly believe about your worth to God and your special design for his mission? What are you told is true about you, but have a hard time believing?

\*What can you do to become more convinced of your value to God?

\*What can you do to become more convinced that Jesus wants you on His team, that He has an important job for you to do?

\*For today, don't work hard at figuring out what your life assignment is. Focus on simply grasping the truth of your value and purpose?

Lord, forgive me for the times I insult You, believing You didn't make me right. Or doubting the power of Your grace to clean me up. Or making too little of Your amazing love for me. I go back and forth between thinking too much of myself and thinking too little. Thank You for telling me exactly how You think and feel about me, not leaving me in the dark. Help me believe it. Let it fuel my confident obedience. Please also show my family more of Your love and Your purpose for them. How can I help You answer this prayer in their lives? AMEN

For he chose us, in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. Ephesians 1:4

Phase 2 Day 7

Scripture: John 14:1-6, 1 Peter 2:9-17, Mark 8:34-38

What Good To Gain The Whole World and Lose Your Soul?

\*Read today's scriptures:



As you think and journal about these questions, call Home. Talk to Your Father about them. And connect with your homesick brothers and sisters, both older and younger. Talk and pray about this short earthly journey and the long eternity to follow.

\*What are the things that tempt you to think of this world as home?

\*Even with all the truly good things in this life, why is it dangerous to get too cozy down here?

\*What are the possible risks of living as a child of Heaven? Why are they worthwhile?

\*What's one new way you need to plug into God's family, your home away from home?

\*What is something on earth that your Father might be asking you to let go of, in order to stand up for Him?

Lord, thanks for all the gifts You've given me on earth, but help me get in touch with the unbelievably greater gifts in heaven—especially the ones I can have right now. You are the greatest Gift of them all. To be honest I think I'm too attached to (fill in the blank). I've valued it more highly than you. Help me put things in the right order, you on top. And if that means giving up something, I will. Give me the strength to do the right thing. I pray the same for my family. Help us to relate with each other as your family, helping each other through the earthly journey. AMEN

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 1 Peter 2:9

## Phase 2 Day 8

Scripture: Luke 5:1-32, 1 John 1:9, Hebrews 10:17-18  
Isaiah 61:1-3, 2 Corinthians 12:7-10



What's Easier to Fix-Body or Heart?

\*Read today's scriptures:

God promises to forgive all sins when we ask Him. He also heals emotional wounds with time. Sometimes He heals our bodies sometimes not. Trust His compassion for you as you journal, pray and connect with your family.

\*Do you have trouble believing in God's complete forgiveness and acceptance of you? If He's forgiven you, have you forgiven yourself, or sought forgiveness from others? Why might these steps be important?

\*Is some physical or emotional injury keeping you stuck? If so, explain why.

\*Consider your fitness to God's mission. What one specific healing of sin, emotions, or body would you request?

\*Once you've prayed for this, how can you step out in faith that the Healer has granted it, will grant it over time, or will enable you to live well even with this injury?

Lord, I hurt. My spirit sometimes feels dirty. Help me stay close to You through confession, and give me confidence that You forgive and accept me completely...(Tell Him specifics). You know best how and when to touch my other hurts. I give them all to You. Heal whatever I need in order to serve You best. Help me obey with patience and joy while enduring any injuries You don't heal, or that take time to heal. I'll be completely whole in heaven, but I can wait... and serve You...until then. Also bring healing to my family. AMEN

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9

## Phase 2 Day 9

Scripture: Luke 7:36-50, Luke 5:1-10,  
Matthew 9:9-13, 1 Timothy 1:12-17  
Who Loves God More?



\*Read today's scriptures:

We become trapped by labels that we place on ourselves or accept from others. But no matter what you've done or become, Jesus dismisses the labels when you become His. You can dismiss them too. These questions might challenge you to let go of something you've held dear for years—fives years or fifty—something that's hindering you, or killing you. Think, pray, journal, and connect with others. You need help from God and people to release your cherished labels. And people need you.

\*What labels do others put on you? Which labels are you most likely to let stick?

\*Why do you believe them?

\*Is there a difference between a sinful pattern of living and a label? If so, what's the difference? How do their solutions differ?

\*If you haven't invited Jesus to forgive your sins, why not now? If you have, but you're still attached to an old label, how can you become convinced the label's a lie?  
TRUTH: You are completely acceptable to Your Father.

\*What's your first step?

Lord, I've let something outside me define the inside-me. Something false. Something that fools me into thinking you can't love me. Forgive me... for the sins, but also for the lies I believe about who I really am. I'm your child. I'm a new creation in Christ. I've been genuinely reborn, remade with a new heart. Help me believe it. My Family also needs to let go of their labels. Please help them experience Your forgiveness and Your complete acceptance. AMEN

But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' [a] For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners." Matthew 9:13

Scripture: John 1:15-51, 1 John 1:1, Acts 4:13, John 15:1-17



\*Read todays scriptures:

\*Have you ever wished you could have been with Jesus in the flesh? How would that have been better?

\*What do you do to spend time with Jesus? Does it help you understand him better, or allow you to be more open to Him?

Jesus, how well do I really know you? I think if I knew you better, I'd be more and more hungry to connect with you. Because you're the best friend anyone ever had. I'm sorry for the things and people I've made more important than you in my life. Help me make time for you. I need it. I need you! Change me. And then as I go about my other activities and relationships, make me aware of Your presence all the time. I pray, too, for Your deepening connection with my family. Pull them closer and make them more like You. AMEN

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. 1 John 1:1

## Phase 2 Day 11

Scripture: Read 1 Samuel 1:20-28, 2:11-36, 3-4, 7  
Mark 4:23-25, Psalm 19, James 1:19-25, Isaiah 6:8-10



### Are You Really Listening?

\*Read today's scriptures:

Jesus is speaking all the time, especially to His true followers, in whom He lives. It pays to listen. Really listen. And that means accepting even the hard stuff—His truth is good medicine. Let it change your inside...and outwardly in your living.

Speak and listen to God as you work through and journal about these questions. Sometimes God speaks through your family, so keep your ears open when you connect with them. If you have something encouraging or challenging for them, share it in love. Maybe they need to listen too.

\*How well have you been listening to God lately? What makes listening hard for you?

\*Describe one time you listened well, or a time you wish you had listened better. What happened?

\*How can you tell the difference between truth from God—through any avenue of communication— and something that's not His truth?

\*What is one thing God is trying to tell you now?

\*How, specifically, will you show Him in word and action that you're really listening?

Speak, Lord, because I honestly want to hear you. But my "ear"—my heart—gets plugged up with fear, laziness, pride, greed, and more (Tell Him what makes listening hard for you). Please change me so I'm more open to You, willing to accept what's hard to accept, and do what's hard to do. I want to talk with You so much and pay such close attention to Your truth that You'll always come through loud and clear. Help me trust You so well that I'll obey You without hesitation. This week, to show my love I'll .....(fill in the space). I pray the same for my family. Help them experience the joy of hearing and obeying You without resistance. AMEN

10 The Lord came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." 1 Samuel 3:10

## Phase 2 Day 12

Scripture: Matthew 16:13-20, John 18:1-8, John 10:1-33,  
1 John 4:1-8



Who Do You Say I Am?

\*Read today's scriptures:

The world is full of counterfeit Christs. If you really want to see the genuine Jesus, He'll show Himself to you, and there'll be no mistaking Him for one of the imposters. Seek Him. Let Him be who He really is, not who you wish He was.

Meet with Jesus and talk over these questions with Him, journaling your thoughts. Help your family think clearly about Jesus and live for Him. Let them help you, too.

\*Describe the false Jesus who most easily fools you when you let your guard down.

\*How is the real Christ different and better?

\*Who do you say Jesus is? Choose an answer that zeroes in on the Truth and clearly sets Him off from the fakes. Your answer can be as long or short as you need.

\*Name one visible difference your Lord will make in your life this week.

Jesus, the One and Only. Lord of all lords, I'm deciding now to worship You, only You. I've followed counterfeits before. They don't love me, they've never helped me. Thank You for always being there for me. Thanks for letting me see You. Teach me discipline to keep my eyes and heart on You. Expose clearly the lies that try to distract me. Protect me. Make me so familiar with Your voice that I can't mistake any other voice for Yours. And help me show my devotion this week by (make one new commitment). Please also show Yourself clearly to my family. Help them reject the fakes and claim Your name. AMEN

**27** My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. **28** I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand.

**29** My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all[a]; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. **30** I and the Father are one." John 10:27-30





## Phase 2 Day 14

Scripture: John 5:1-18, John 3:19-21, 1 Corinthians 1:25-31  
1 Thessalonians 5:14



Do You Want to Get Well? \*Read today's scriptures:

We've all been wounded in life. Spiritually, emotionally, physically. At our own hand, by others, and by life's impersonal accidents. God offers healing....restoration to the fully functioning Christ-follower you were always meant to be. But healing sometimes means frightening change, hard work, and pain. It's okay to be afraid, but go ahead...put yourself in the Doctor's care. You can trust Him.

As you wrestle with these questions, be especially honest. With God...with your family...with yourself. Use your journal as a sounding board. Use your family as a source of prayer and encouragement. And be the same for them.

\*A huge number of people, young and old, have emotional and spiritual illnesses and wounds inside. Pain from abuse, rejection, or neglect. Horrible self-images. Destructive habits and addictions. Depression... A lot of people prefer to stay sick. Why? What good do they think they're getting out of their condition?

\*Do you know someone who doesn't want to get well? Don't mention names. How might Jesus try talking them into accepting healing?

\*How about you? Are you resisting God's healing in some way? Do you know why?

\*How might your life be different if you let Him make you well?

\*What specific steps would lead to your healing? Consider for example prayer, confessions, accountability, learning God's truth, getting counseling, or rehab. What do you want to do first?

Lord You've taken care of me in so many ways. (Thank Him for specifics). But I've held back some of my favorite wounds and sicknesses from Your healing touch. I don't completely understand my weird attachment to them. But here they are. (Open them up to Him). I do want to be well. Completely well. Give me patience with the time it takes. Give me courage for the obedience it takes. Give me humility to be vulnerable and honest. And give me confidence that you still love me, no matter what I dig up inside. Fix me, so I can know You and serve You better. Please help my family in their times of struggle as well. AMEN

**14 And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone. 1**

Thessalonians 5:14

Phase 2 Day 15

Scripture: Read Matthew 26:36-56, John 12:23-33,  
Job 1:13-22, 2:9-10, Psalms 42-43



Should I Beg For Escape?

\*Read today's scriptures:

When life knocks you down, take God's sympathetic hand and let Him help you up. When you can't get up, He lies down and hurts with you; feel His comfort. And when you think your nightmare is eternal, scream to God and hang onto Him; He'll bring morning light in time. Today's questions might stir some frightening memories or worries for you, whether you're young or old. Give yourself a break if you need it. And keep in close touch with someone you trust. (Watch for others, also, who might need to lean on you).

\*Describe a time when you've wished desperately that God, or someone, would rescue You from Your pain. (Maybe right now.) How can both honesty about your pain and genuine faith in God work together in those times?

\*How long did it take you to heal, if you ever did? What helped? What didn't?

\*No one can escape fear and grief when enduring a loss. But brainstorm some ways you can prepare during the easier seasons of life, so you'll hang onto both God and hope when you have to ride out the hard times.

\*What's one step you will take this week to prepare for a future crisis, or make it through one right now?

Lord, when the bottom drops out and I'm in freefall, nothing makes sense. Help me connect closer with you every day, so that in those times at least You make sense to me. Teach me to hang onto You no matter what. Teach me to be completely honest with You. You can handle even my most harsh and despairing thoughts. (If you need to, share your honest thoughts and feelings now.) Come to me also with silent comfort. (If you're hurting now, you don't have to use words. Just know His presence for a while. Take as long as you need.) I know, lord, that my family are hurting and scared. Let them feel Your comfort. AMEN

27 "Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. 28 Father, glorify your name!" Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and will glorify it again." John 12:27-28

## Phase 2 Day 16

Scripture: Luke 2, Matthew 5:1-16, 24:42-35:46,

James 1:27, James 4:13-15

Didn't You Know I Had To Be About My Father's Business?



\*Read today's scriptures:

Whatever your age, your heavenly Father has important work for you to do—kingdom work. Take Him seriously. Take yourself seriously. Follow Jesus' example and show yourself to be a faithful, reliable child of your Father.

Ready to live and serve like Jesus? Journal your thoughts on these questions, your prayers, your commitments. Share them with your family, and keep on supporting each other in prayer.

\*What are the traditional boundaries limiting the ways "kids" can serve in church? Which of these do you think are biblical boundaries? Which might not be?

\*Can you describe one time that you or someone you know served God in an unexpected way—unexpected, maybe, because of age, abilities, personality, background, or some other pigeonhole?

\*What is your Father's business?

\*How does He want you to be doing it in church? Outside Church?

\*What's one significant new step you want to take to serve your Father?

Father, I'm so glad you adopted me into Your family. I love You. I'm also figuring out that You give Your kids chores and household responsibilities. Some of them are fun. Some are hard. Some are dirty. Some are scary. But I want to serve You. Now. Help me see opportunities for service that I've been overlooking. Help me accept responsibilities I've been avoiding. And if others frown on my service for You, give them insight to guide and encourage me. But give me also respect for the human authorities You've placed in my life. I pray too, for my family, that they would give themselves wholeheartedly to your service. AMEN

13 Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." 14 Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.

15 Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that."

James 4:13-15

[illegible]

## Won't God Answer His Children's Persistent Prayers?

Praying to an invisible Father, It's sometimes hard to believe that He's there. That He cares, and that He listens. Especially when you don't get any response for a long time. But take Him at His word. He's there, He cares, He listens, and He will answer your prayer in the very best way and the very best timing. Keep praying.

**\*When you pray, do you think God is listening? Do you think He cares about your requests? Why or Why not?**

\*What are a couple of God honoring desires you want more than anything else?

Lord, You're always there. Amazing! And You're better than hanging out with a movie star or sports hero. You can do anything. You know everything, and You never stop loving me. So why don't I connect with You more? I want to. I will. Create in my heart a hunger to be with You. Help me be patient for that hunger to grow, so I don't give up when prayer doesn't come easy. Do the same thing for my family. Give them more and more joy in your presence every day. AMEN

**16** Rejoice always, **17** pray continually, **18** give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

## Phase 2 Day 18

Scripture: Matthew 5:14-16, John 12:23-30,

Mark 4: 1-34

Do You Put A Lamp Under The Bed?



\*Read today's scriptures:

God wants everyone on earth to know Him. You're His spotlight, pointing to Him, making His heart obvious, unveiling His truth for the world. Shine! You're also His seed of life, planted on earth. By dying to self, you can take the life He's given you and multiply it hundreds and thousands of times in other people.

Here are a few more questions and challenges for you to weigh in your heart—questions and challenges for Christ-followers of all ages. Journal your responses. Process them and pray about them with others, toward personalized commitments and real-life followthrough.

\*Think about your life on earth so far. What will you be remembered for when you're gone? What will people say at your funeral?

\*What have you contributed to the lives of those around you? How are they different because you lived?

\*What one simple but stretching step will you take this week to shine God's love and truth into the lives of others?

\*What has to die in order for this to happen?

\*What support or resources do you need from others this week? What do they need from you?

Lord, You've given me eternal light and life. What an amazing gift. Thank you. As grateful as I am, though, I know I've sometimes kept this light to myself, while You want me to shine it and share it. I'm sorry for the opportunities I've missed...the people I've left in the dark. Please forgive me. I want to start, right now, burning brightly and boldly into the darkness of this world. Give me courage to climb out from under the bed. Help me die to the fear of what others think. Show me how to live as royalty-on-assignment, the child of the King who wants the whole world to be in His family. I pray this, too, for my family, that they would be able to put to death their self-attitudes, drop the walls, and shine You to people around them. AMEN

**14** "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. **15** Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. **16** In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:14-16

Scripture: Read Luke 6:27-38, Luke 10:25-37, John 21:1-17

[illegible]

If you're serious about loving Jesus, He makes it unmistakably clear how He wants us to do it. We love Jesus by loving people. all kinds of people. even-especially-the ones we find least lovable.

\*What kind of people do you have the hardest time loving? Why do you think this is?

\*What is one opportunity in your daily life to do something kind for an unlovable person?

\*What's your first step?

No, Lord, not me. Please don't ask me to love her. Okay, I've been honest. That's how I feel (forgive me.) Now change me. I want to love everyone You love. I want to love the way You love, for the reasons You love. I want to love no matter what. And I want to love with action. Show me how. Give me courage. Help me get over myself, my fears, and my pride. Help me do miracles in a life that needs You. Please also help my family to love all kinds of people in their lives. Fill them with Your heart, with Your sight, with Your touch of healing love. AMEN

**17** The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?"

Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Feed my sheep. John 21:17



## Are You Able To Drink From the Same Cup As Me?

The privilege of being Jesus' disciple comes bundled together with some responsibilities. Following Jesus means eventually following Him all the way to glorious eternity. But between here and there lies the way of the cross. Frightening? Yes., Doable? You bet, with God's help. Worthwhile? Well, let's put it this way: You're not even a disciple if you don't carry your cross.

\*Jesus asks you the question He asked James and John. "Are you able to drink from the same cup I drank?" What's our honest answer at this moment? If you're not happy with that answer, what might help you change it?

\*What step of service or sacrifice is He asking you to take now?

Lord, I'm scared. But so were You. I guess You understand. You've promised that Your followers will face suffering for Your name, but You also promised strength, victory and great reward. Help me keep my eyes on You, so that any humiliation or sacrifice seems small compared to You. Also give my family courage and eagerness to serve and suffer for You.

AMEN

**16** Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. **17** Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them. John 13:16-17



[illegible]

## Will You Really Die for Me?

What do you do when you've failed Jesus? When you've let Him down in a huge way? You might be sad and sorry for a while—that's okay. But don't just stay isolated in perpetual mourning. That doesn't do Jesus any good. Let Him forgive you, help you back up, and get you back in action. He wants to fix your friendship with Him, and He wants you serving in His kingdom.

\*How big a deal does the idea of failing Jesus seem to you? Explain your answer

\*What's the way of dealing with your failures that makes Jesus happiest?

**\*How will you confront that failure, and get back on with the mission?**

Lord, when I've failed You, I start to think You don't want me back. I honestly believe, then, that I'm helping You by staying away. But You tell me you want me back every time. No matter what I've done. Give me honestly to admit my sins and my mistakes. Give me strength to accept any negative consequences I've caused. Then show me Your unlimited forgiveness--let me honestly believe it. And point me to the next job You have for me. Do the same for my family as they deal with their haunting failures... (BE SPECIFIC IF YOU CAN).. AMEN

## Phase 2 Day 22

Scripture: Read Isaiah 55:11

Are You Ready to Move Forward?



\*Read today's scriptures:

As we look over the last 4 weeks, it is really hard to fathom the amount of time that many of us as a family have spent in God's word. It's hard to believe that we have been able to answer questions and listen to prayers as we have met as a family to discuss the Word of God. Below you will see the next steps following the 21 days of prayer. I encourage you to continue seeking God's word on a daily basis in hopes of finding the real foundation you and your family have been building. Continue to remember your family scripture verses... speak them as often as you meet... early in the morning.. as you are sitting around the table... as you are going to school... before you go to bed. These words of God will continue to deliver and protect if you are able to hold them close to your heart... and keep them as a symbol around the door frames and gates to your home. It's not an easy step.. but know that you are now ready to move on to the next stage of your family time together. Answer the following questions together and see where you stand:

\*Was does it mean that God's word will not return void?

\*Do you give God the power and authority that His Word found in the Bible has authority over your life?

\*Are you still willing to grow in your walk now that you know the way to meet with your family and continue to pray together as a family?

\*Have the last 21 days prepared you to build a solid relationship with your family, your friends, your God?

Lord, as we continue on this journey... I pray that you will continue to give us strength in times of failure and hope when we think all is lost. Continue to direct our paths in hopes of allowing God's Word to fill us a fresh every day. I pray for my family as they will continue to have a desire to learn and grow together in unity with God. Help me lead when I need to lead, and follow when I need to follow. Your Word will continue to be impressed on our hearts in hopes of changing our lives from the inside out. AMEN

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

## Phase 2 Day 24

Scripture: Read James 5:7-9



## What Is Your Return?

### Read Scripture Verses:

Once we begin to see the differences of our old life and the new one that is before us, we always question what we have gained and what we have lost. In looking to the world I was amazed to find an AWESOME voice from God in the midst of all the chaos. Of you missed this commercial during the Super Bowl I want to encourage you as a family to go back and watch it on YouTube. The title... God Made A Farmer. It blows my mind that in the chaos and glitz of one of the most widely watched events in modern day era, God was able to show up and show out. Never would I have ever imagined that Dodge Chrysler would be willing to spend 3.5 million dollars on an add whose main focus was God and the hands that are bruised and broken to help this country thrive. I was completely blown away!

Which brings me to the point of our study today. Has God called you to be a farmer? For many of us we say that there is no way that we could make the long hours, fight the despair and desperation of the years that it takes to grow a crop that will produce a harvest. Many of us are unwilling to work from sun up to sun down just so that we can prepare the fields..day in and day out with no yield or thank you.. We prepare the fields for rain and we plow the ground to find rich soil in hopes that something might actually take root and grow. But you see the hours I'm asking you to work are not with a plow or hoe... It's not with a tiller or pick ax... It's the farmer's greatest tool given by the greatest farmer we know.. The Bible. Filled with plenty of nourishment and good soil that is prepped and ready to be planted into a field that could yield millions. What is your return for the hours you continue to plant and prepare.. Will you have a yield at all?

\*How long each day are you preparing your personal fields for the harvest?

\*Are you still praying for God's rain to fall on you and your family?

\*Are you willing to take the time to nurture, weed, feed and harvest the Word of God into the lives of your family?

\*Are you willing to invest now so that you will be able to see a yield 100 times greater?

God, continue to help me to thrive to be a farmer. Help me to desire to reach out to my family and help them to pass on the ability to prepare the fields for the seasons that lie ahead. Help to prepare my heart in hopes of receiving Your Word as a seed that must have something to take root. AMEN



## Phase 2 Day 26

Scripture: Luke 6:46-49



### How Far Are You Willing to Dig?

#### \*Read today's scriptures:

It is said that in the days of Jesus, people would go and prepare their homes during the dry months of winter. One of the main reasons is the fact that they would be able to dig deep into the ground until they hit something solid that they could build on. If they were able to dig deep enough, they would be able to build on a solid foundation that could withstand the test of the many storms that would soon come in the spring. On the other hand, other builders who did not take the time to apply this knowledge, would go and build a house on adobe mud. In digging only past the surface they would find good dirt in which to build. The only problem with dirt is that when it is mixed with the rain waters you can only imagine why the house would fall.

In reading our scripture verses today, my question to you is how far have you been willing to dig. As we are moving through the 35 days left in our Family Faith Connection Phase 2 and continuing to try and grow our families stronger in their relationship with God... how far have you actually dug to begin your foundation? One of the hardest things is that we are only willing to give God the least amount possible that makes us feel good and adequate about our relationships. But you guessed it... we literally are acting like the foolish man who is only willing to dig deep enough to feel as though we can start building instead of spending the time to dig deeper until we hit a SOLID foundation.

\*How far have you dug?

\*What would happen if the storms of life surrounded your family? Would you be able to withstand the storm or would your house be destroyed?

\*How solid is the foundation of your family members?

\*Have you been preparing them to dig deeper or are you teaching them the same example of digging only surface deep?

God help us to keep digging. Help us to not give up because the road may be too difficult, but realize the stronger and more solid the foundation, the more stable our lives, our houses, our families will be. Teach me to dig and not be satisfied with a shallow foundation. AMEN

Scripture: Matthew 25:14-30

[illegible]

So many times it seems as though we have been given so much. We continue to keep moving forward with the things that God has given to us until we hit a hole. Now the hole can be something we have dug or something that we have run into. It is not something that can easily be seen, but can continue to destroy everything we have. In doing research about holes, it is amazing to know that you can never dig everything out of a hole and turn around and fill it right back up and everything fall perfectly into place. It blows me away how that works, but it shouldn't really surprise me. I mean it makes sense that when you take something that is so solid and compact and mix it up... it's very difficult to put it back in perfect form.

Sometimes that is how we are in our lives. We are all in our comfort zone and all compact and comfortable and then all of a sudden something shakes us and we fill as though everything is completely out of place. We try to put everything back perfectly and that is not how God wanted it to be. Sometimes we have to think outside of the box, break things us and give God what He is asking for from our lives. What He gives us, He wants us to use in hopes of allowing it to grow in our lives. Yes, there are times that we are to store up some things in our lives, but also know that there are times we are to use everything in our arsenal to combat all the things that is looking to destroy our journey. So what are you digging out of your holes and what are you burying in hopes of never using? Answer the following questions.

\*What needs to be dug out and thrown away?

\*What gift from God are you hiding and unwilling to use or let go of?

\*How many times have you tried to keep putting the same things back in the hole time and time again and you just cannot get it to fit and you don't know why? Maybe it was not meant to go back into the hole..

God grant us the wisdom to dig. Help us to shake up the things that you have given us in hopes of creating something that will glorify You. Pray for our families and help them to see the need to expand our territories. AMEN



## Phase 2 Day 28

Scripture: 1 Peter 2:9-10



### What Kind of Priest Are You?

#### \*Read today's scriptures:

Here we stand, a chosen people of God trying to figure out the importance of God's calling. Here we are, a family directed and blessed by God to figure out the best way to live and glorify His name in all that we say and do. Here we go, out into the world as a shining light to light the path of those who are constantly surrounded by darkness. Here we stand...

Looking over the words of the writer, how do we determine the places we will stand, the places where we will exist and the places we will go for God? Is there a limitation to the things that we or our families will do for God? Is there a restrictive clause that once we reach that point of giving, serving, praying, worshipping, ... that we will be able to say that we finally have given enough? WOW these are tough questions to have to answer today. They are tough because I know that there are days in which I feel as though I cannot give any more. There are days where I wish I could just climb deep into my own world for just a moment and not have to worry what is going on in any one else's world but my own. But see that is not what God has called us to do. He has chosen us as a special and holy possession to go and do all that we can to change the world. He has called us to stop slavery, end hunger, seek the lost, light the path and worship unending. He has called us to teach our children, model His love so the world can see a difference and instead of waiting in the corners, we are to be digging trenches on the front lines. We must now step out of the darkness and allow others to see the LIGHT of God's Priesthood shining through our actions.

\*Are you still hiding in the darkness of the sin that controls your life?

\*Can you see the mercy of Jesus surrounding you with every breath that you take?

\*Are you willing to finally let go and fulfill the calling that is in your life and in the lives of your family?

\*Are you a priest waiting to be called or one who has heard the call and fled?

God, give us strength to continue moving in your calling for our lives. Give us the passion to see the world through Your eyes and the desire to do something that will change the world. Help our families see the love that surrounds them and help magnify the love of God to a world filled and living in darkness. AMEN



## Phase 2 Day 29

Scripture: 1 John 3:11-24, 4:7-21



### What Are You Willing to Exchange for Love?

#### \*Read today's scriptures:

I remember growing up watching Monty Hall and Let's Make a Deal. I used to think that it would be awesome to get on the show because there was no way that I would get zonked! I was just amazed at all the crazy costumes and all the people that were willing to trade away what they had won for a chance at the Grand Prize Deal of the Day! More than half would end up taking home a horse, or donkey, or some broken down car as the treasure they had was never good enough.

Is that how we feel with God's love? I think it's funny that we have this amazing gift that is free and it seems as though every moment or chance we get we want something more. We seem to take for granted the blood, sweat, and tears of sacrifice that was shed in order that we could get that gift with no strings attached. Why are we always expecting that the world can show us more love than the God who created it all in the first place? It just seems to blow my mind! But we all fall in that pit or hole that we continue to dig until suddenly we realize we were zonked and have lost it all! Journal and answer these questions with your family today:

\*Have you found yourself shrinking back into old routines only 3 weeks after the last Family Core Group session?

\*Was it easy to exchange the time you used to spend reading the scriptures, praying with your family and spending time together for a zonk of the old routine of life?

\*Did you give away the family time you were having for a hope of something better and then you realized you lost everything you had gained and you feel as though it's not worth trying to fight to get it back?

God in these three questions we answer a lot about where we are in life and the love we have for our families. Today you have literally smacked us in the face and helped us to realize that we don't just exchange seasons to be with you with seasons we want to go out way. We reap what we sow and God I pray You will give me strength to hold onto the love in my family and not trade it for the world. Amen

Scripture: Joshua 10:7-15



\*Read today's scriptures:

In today's scripture, we see that God's people are in a battle for their lives. They are fighting their enemies and in need of light. In order for them to continue to battle, Joshua prays to the Lord and receives from God an answer that he will be victorious. As Joshua stands on the battlefield he commands the sun to stand still and it did... for almost an entire day the sun did not move in the sky. This miracle allowed the Israelites to defeat their enemies and be victorious. There has never been a day like it before or ever since. A day in which God's chosen leader called to be given more time in order to find victory. Funny thing is that scientist have mapped the time and yes we are missing a day and a few hours and it can only be traced to this occurrence in history. Man, I wish that I could do that too. Ask the Sun to stand still in order that I could overcome my enemies...my time crunch... my failures. We have the time, because we woke up this morning and God blessed us with another day. The problem lies within us. We have to ask our lives to stop so that we can defeat the busyness of our lives. May we continue to seek God first and teach our families second. Then we will realize the Sun did stand still because we were willing to put our time to better use.

God, help us to find this time we continue to search for. Help us to realize the importance of stopping the world and retaking the time for our families again. It is so easy to fall off the wagon and get back into our regular routines, but God I pray that we continue to seek this to be our regular routine. Help us make the sun stop so that we can defeat our enemies that continue to take from our families. AMEN

## Phase 2 Day 31

Scripture: Haggai 1:1-14

Is it Time to Rebuild?

**\*Read today's scriptures:**

Here we go, looking toward the future. It blows my mind how many times we wait and wait and wait before we finally take a step forward. After almost 120 days, I am asking.. how many steps have you taken to rebuild your home? How many days have you planned on building your foundation in hopes of seeing the rest of the house start putting up walls and supports. It's difficult. It really is difficult to know exactly when to begin building. For me and my family, we are building very slowly because we want the foundation to set properly with Amelia. As far as Avery, we are just in the planning stage. Amelia can understand everything that is right and wrong and is beginning to understand the true love of God. Avery is in the setting up mode. We continue to show her God's love, but cannot begin building? But before we even start pouring the footings, we have to be ready to rebuild our lives first.

In reading through the scriptures today, one will be able to see the importance of being patient and waiting to hear from God when the proper time to start building must take place. It is difficult to wait and be patient, but also understand that God is preparing the hearts for harvest and one must wait for the right time to cultivate the seed in order that the fruit will be as great as it can be from each person. In rebuilding one also must be ready to tear down the old ways of doing things. That is the hardest thing to do, because we have been through so much and think we know the best way to do everything, but God continues to remind us that "His ways are not our ways and His thoughts are not our thoughts" and I am grateful for that point. Today, I hope you begin gathering the materials and get ready to begin planning out your process. To rebuild or continue building on our homes is not an easy job. We have to determine what we have to get rid of and what needs to be changed and strengthened, but in the end the new home will be a kingdom glorifying God.

God, please give us the strength today to see the places we have struggled and understand the things we need to do to fortify our homes. If we need to tear down and start over, please give us the wisdom and courage to do so. If we need to fortify our walls, give us the materials we need to rebuild what might have broken. Thank you God for all your days of restoring our lives in order that we may return the favor through the lives of our families. AMEN



Scripture: Haggai 2:1-9

[illegible]

So what do you think your children's homes will look like? If you honestly took a trip to the future today, what do you think you would see? Well if I did I would be afraid that their home would be in shambles based on what their rooms look like on a weekly basis. But I guess I am looking on a deeper level. Yes, we could say that hopefully they would be living their dream and be a great asset to their community with amazing grandchildren, awesome jobs and really making a difference in the world. I cannot think that any of us would have a different view in our small focus for their future. But I guess I am asking how firm of a foundation would they be building in their homes?

God, help us to be with our families. Help us see the importance of seeing the cracks in our foundations as settling continues to occur, and help us to push to change. God I know that it is so easy to stay in our comfort zones, but God I pray that our new comfort zones be built on a new desire to know more about You and share it with my family in hopes of seeing a stronger foundation for the future. Guide me to reach out and share wisdom for my family in hopes of changing the building trends in my home. AMEN

## Phase 2 Day 33

Scripture: Haggai 2:10-19



### Are We Blessed?

#### **\*Read today's scriptures:**

Are we blessed? One of the most difficult questions we can ask is are we blessed or just lucky? All throughout my life I have counted everything as a blessing. I have seen good things that gave me reasons to smile and bad things that have given me reasons to weep. In ALL things I have found the opportunity to see the blessing through the gift or the lesson. I know that might seem crazy, but in reality we are blessed in all things. Even the days we refuse to give back to God, we have a God that continues to show us mercy and grace. WHY? That is the question I am glad I have no answer for. See if I had an answer that would mean that God would have conditions for His love, mercy and grace. But in reality, God is greater than anything we can fathom. He blesses us beyond compare and we don't even realize the blessing until we are removed from our lives and see the struggles others are facing. See that is the lie that Satan has sold us all. He continues to tell us that we should have more and more and more if God loves us so much, and we fall into the lie. We begin thinking that we do deserve more and God is just not willing to spread the wealth. WOW... I think that just blew my mind by me saying that... but even to my eyes the truth hurts.

Today, we see God speaking through Haggai about the same example. God is saying that even in the troubled times, the people were given so much and yet they were unwilling to thank God and give an offering of sacrifice and obedience back to God. Because the people were not able to live to the same standards THEY were accustomed to, they begin to think that they were losing favor with God. Instead they should realize that God was still blessing them with the portions they were receiving. I know that times are tough, but if you still have a roof over your head, food on the table, clothes on your back, electricity, running water, protection from insects, a car, a bed to sleep in, a TV and shoes on your feet... You are richer than 95% of the rest of the world's population. Haunting fact to swallow today. Are we a defiled nation because we don't get what we want when we want it? Are we defiled because we are the dead man mentioned in the scriptures? We are the one struggling to understand the blessing and in turn defile the gifts that are given to us by a merciful God. Be thankful today and continue to be grateful for the life and family God has given to you. Plan to take time and be with your family and not sit them on a shelf until you are ready to spend time with them. Are We Blessed.... Beyond our means. We just need to stop being so selfish and realize the wealth of love God has surrounded us with today.

God, open our eyes. Help us to help others. In our 40 days of love, may we continue to seek out others who are less fortunate, but may we also realize the great blessings you have given to our families. May we take a moment today to thank God for the lives we have and not the lives we want to have. AMEN

## Phase 2 Day 34

Scripture: Haggai 2:20-23



### We Are A Symbol of Royalty!

#### **\*Read today's scriptures:**

Have you ever seen the emblem of a King or Queen? With every decree, law or royal letter they present, they have attached to it a seal with the emblem of the Signet Ring. This is to authenticate the letter or law that has been passed as one coming directly from the King or Queen. It helps to give even more authority to the receiver of the parcel as well. It is a sign of honor and prestige to anyone who receives such valuable information. A Signet Ring is only created specifically for that King, Queen or even Pope. Once they die, the ring is destroyed and new ring is fashioned for the person who is to take their place as the authority of the realm.

Today, we are reading that God has once again spoken to the prophet Haggai and given him a very significant role in the history of the kingdom. Haggai is given the honor of telling the ruling body of the country that a new King is going to be pronounced... Zerubbabel, and with this announcement, kingdoms that are not with God will falter and fail. God is beginning to restore the kingdom of Judah and Israel back to one united kingdom of God instead of 2 diverse kingdoms trying to destroy each other. Sort of like the Baptist/Methodist feud that has been going on for ages. In doing so, God is saying that Zerubbabel is going to be his Signet Ring, or God's authoritative voice for the people of Judah and Israel. God is placing His hand of authority over his household and calling for the world to listen to Zerubbabel's voice as ruler.

You may be asking, "what does that even have to do with the price of tea in China?" and you're right... nothing. But what it shows us is that God is still in control out of the war and chaos. We are given a very strict calling to restore our homes in hopes of receiving the same blessing of authority from God. We have been given the blessing of a house and family, but still to this day it is a kingdom divided between God and the world. We must retake the authority and not allow the world to tell us how to raise and teach and train our children. We must be willing to sacrifice the times we hold so precious for time that will produce fertile soil. In order to have the authority of God in the house, God must be a part of the house. He is not a power that rules from a far, but one that rules from the inside out. Are you ready to restore your kingdom for God? Are you ready to hear His voice? Are you ready to receive the blessing of reclaiming the kingdom God has given you from the world. If so, that action begins TODAY! If not, don't be amazed if the kingdom you continue to build ends up in ruins.

God, grant us the wisdom of humility and grace. Help us to restore our families to be a source of Your authority here on earth, and let it begin in our homes! Only through true humility and obedience will we see a change and receive the symbol of a king. AMEN

## Phase 2 Day 35

Scripture: Exodus 3:1-15

Who is God!

**\*Read today's scriptures:**

Who is God?

This is a frequently asked question that can be quite mind boggling. If a person that is not a believer of God asked you this question, would you be prepared to answer? Or would you fumble around to find an answer?

There are multiple answers to describe who God is. God could be described as creator, powerful, all knowing, caring, perfect, and many many more. But which one is the right one? Is there one right answer? Each person has their own definition of who God is. For example: God is the one person who loves me for who I am, even when my faith is weak, my trust is gone, my choices are wrong, and even when I turn away. God always takes all of my flaws and brokenness and creates me into his beautifully and wonderfully made masterpiece. How do you imagine God? Before you are able to describe God to someone else you should know who God is, right?

How do we describe God so perfectly that everyone who is not a believer will want to become a child of God? We as Christians tend to assume that everyone knows who God is, the sad part is that everyone does not; even people in your church, at your school, at your work, or even in your family! There are people old and young who have no idea of who God is. It is our duty as Christians to teach, tell, and show people God.

As a family we need to talk and learn about God through reading scripture. The bible tells us everything we need to know about God. In our families we need to know who God is, whether the adult is teaching the child or the child is teaching the adult. We need to hold each other responsible to knowing and studying God's word. As children of God we need to know who God is and be able to tell everyone we meet and encounter.

Dear God, please help us understand who you are. Open our eyes, hearts, souls, and minds to see you and your amazing love. Give us the wisdom to answer any questions we may not be prepared to answer and give us the courage to tell, teach, and show others who you are. In your name we pray, Amen.





## Phase 2 Day 36

Scripture: 2 Timothy 2:1-10

Can You Endure?



**\*Read today's scriptures:**

So here we are... Continuing to move through our Phase 2 for Family Faith Connection. At this point it is hard for us to actually look back and remember everything that has happened. Once we are in the moment with God, we find ourselves losing track of time. As though time never existed. The funny thing is that if we really tracked our time with God we would be amazed at why we have to use something like Family Faith Connection for us to stop and spend time with the one who loves us the most. We find ourselves in the midst of a love that has been surrounding us every day of our lives and by giving to others in the same way, we have been able to experience the love of God first hand.

However, the other side of the coin is the fact that you may have already slipped and forgotten about the promise you have made to God to follow through with the time you have left. In fact this may be a daily reminder of the failure and I hope and pray you see this more as an encouragement to get up and press forward. One of the greatest things we can do on our journey is continue to strive and push forward for God, our families, or for people whose lives we haven't even met yet. Your time of love may be a chance just to stop everything for 5 seconds and hug your family. The process of enduring faith is the idea that God's word will continue to strengthen, fortify, or rebuild you and your family, but you must ask yourself, am I truly willing to change forever. One of the hardest things is understanding that this life is not filled with quick sprints but it is actually a marathon. Are you willing to endure the pain and sacrifice to finish? Can you endure the shame and frustration that continues to keep us all in chains? Do you believe that God's word will not be bound but will continue to direct and inspire others to accept the love of God? You are still pushing towards your goal.. Don't give up... But give in to whatever God is trying to teach you!

God help us all see and hear your calling for our lives. Today is a great point for some but can be a huge setback for others. I pray for all our families to be able to push through to completion and spend time watching God's love grow in and through us. AMEN!



## Phase 2 Day 37

Scripture: Genesis 1:1-3, 1 Peter 3:15



Does Evil Exist?

**\*Read today's scriptures:**

Something I read the other day I wanted to pass along based on our discussion of God.

Does evil exist?

The university professor challenged his students with this question. Did God create everything that exists? A student bravely replied yes, he did!"

"God created everything?" The professor asked.

"Yes, sir," the student replied. The professor answered, "If God created everything, then God created evil since evil exists, and according to the principal that our works define who we are then God is evil." The student became quiet before such an answer.

The professor was quite pleased with himself and boasted to the students that he had proven once more that the Christian faith was a myth. Another student raised his hand and said, "Can I ask you a question professor?" "Of course", replied the professor. The student stood up and asked, "Professor, does cold exist?" "What kind of question is this? Of course it exists. Have you never been cold?" The students snickered at the young man's question. The young man replied, "In fact sir, cold does not exist. According to the laws of physics, what we consider cold is in reality the absence of heat. Everybody and every object is susceptible to study when it has or transmits energy, and heat is what makes a body or matter have or transmit energy. Absolute zero (- 460 degrees F) is the total absence of heat; all matter becomes inert and incapable of reaction at that temperature. Cold does not exist. We have created this word to describe how we feel if we have too little heat.

The student continued. "Professor, does darkness exist?" The professor responded, "Of course it does". The student replied, "Once again you are wrong sir, darkness does not exist either. Darkness is in reality the absence of light. Light we can study, but not darkness. In fact we can use Newton's prism to break white light into many colors and study the various wavelengths of each color. You cannot measure darkness. A simple ray of light can break into a world of darkness and illuminate it. How can you know how dark a certain space is? You measure the amount of light present. Isn't this correct? Darkness is a term used by man to describe what happens when there is no light present."

Finally the young man asked the professor. "Sir, does evil exist?" Now uncertain, the professor responded, "Of course as I have already said. We see it every day. It is in the daily example of man's inhumanity to man. It is in the multitude of crime and violence everywhere in the world. "These manifestations are nothing else but evil." To this the student replied, "Evil does not exist sir, or at least it does not exist unto itself. Evil is simply the absence of God. It is just like darkness and cold, a word that man has created to describe the absence of God. God did not create evil. Evil is not like faith, or love, that exist just as does light and heat. Evil is the result of what happens when man does not have God's love present in his heart. It's like the cold that comes when there is no heat or the darkness that comes when there is no light."

The professor sat down.

God may we too be able to answer with authority the power of your existence. May we be sure in our faith as we continue to teach our family truth! Direct our paths and help us to be prepared always and everywhere to give an answer for who You are. AMEN

[illegible]

## Where do we fit in?

One of the most difficult things I have to be a part of is trying to show people how to live a Christian life. It is not the same as your every day ordinary life. In fact it, in most cases, is completely different. One of the hardest things that I tell people is that in most of the decisions they make, if they would for just one day make the opposite decision, what would their life look like? God continues to give us every chance that we need to fully understand the meaning of His grace and mercy. He continues to demonstrate for us a pattern of grace that if we would just take time to listen and pay attention to would give us a chance to see the need for change. It's just the problem that we don't want to take the time to sit and see where those changes need to come from.

As we are continuing to walk through our Family Faith Connection, I ask you this question...Have you seen God working in an around you? Have you had the chance to honestly listen for His voice or have you continually been listening to the sound and voice of satan that is tempting you to go back to the old style of life. The voice of the cravings for coke, food, facebook, or whatever it is that you have either given up or taken on to gain a closer knowledge of God?

In today's scripture we here Paul encouraging Timothy to continue to follow the calling in which God has put before him. And that is exactly what I am asking you to do as well. If you put to death the life of sin or something that is causing you to struggle, I encourage you to continue to stay dead. As you died with Christ, so you too will live. As you are suffering for the cravings of sin or the worldly things you gave up, I encourage you to endure the pain and hardship and turn your focus back to God for strength, power and peace. If you are still saying that you can handle your flaws without God, I hope that you will understand that God is their to walk with you and your family every step of the way.

Finally, understand that even when we falter and fail, God is still bigger than our failures and when we lose our faith, He never will, for if He lives in us, He can never fail.

God give us the strength to endure. Help us to reach out to our families in hopes that they will understand Your amazing power and desire to see us succeed. In all things, may we push forward to celebrate Your victory to sin and death on Easter. AMEN

[illegible]

## What do we hear?

One of the most difficult things for people to actually do is hear. We are able to literally do like the Dr. Pepper commercial showed a few years ago. As soon as someone is talking about something we don't want to hear we completely tune them out. In the commercial the song from the muppets Manah Manah was being played in the background as the listener basically disregarded everything the other person has to say. Have you ever felt that is how it is with your family? You try and try and try to convey a message to them but they have that glassy-eyed thing going on and they completely hear NOTHING that you are saying.

Here is a family action point for this week. For 20 minutes this week I would like for your family to work on their listening skills. As we have talked about before there is a difference between hearing and listening. I would love for you to sit down with each member of your family and honestly ask them how things are going and before you tune out. Write it down... Ask them what they are struggling with and write it down. Yes, this may seem like a session with a psychiatrist, but maybe there are some small details that God is trying to reveal to you through your family and we are not taking the time to listen. As we are past the midpoint of our Lent, we are beginning to move back into our family habits of trying to spend time together. Beginning next week we will once again be requiring that you spend time together as a family on a weekly basis. We are kicking it up another notch in hopes of using this time over the Summer to truly strengthen our families. It all starts here.. Are you ready?

God, please open my ears to hear Your word. Give me a desire to want to listen more intently as You continue to talk to me specifically through my family. Guide me to a better understanding of Your plan. Keep us focused on You. AMEN

Scripture: Psalm 131



## Where Does Your Hope Rest?

\*Read todays scriptures:

As the end of June looms and vacations move to the front of our minds, it really makes me think about why we seek rest in just one week or maybe a total of 2-3 weeks a year. Are our lives so busy that we cannot enjoy each day that God gives us? I have personally tried to find the silver lining in each day... and trust me there have been many days that have been filled with storms and darkness. But I ask myself, is it worth being so miserable each day of my life? And if I answer yes, then I have to ask why am I killing myself and still not finding peace?

David writes today of the desperation of a person who has asked the same question. The person has removed themselves from the foundation of God and determined that their life is suffering from that. In the example shown of a child weaned from its' mother, one can understand the confusion when something that was so vital to life has been stripped away almost like pulling a band aid off with one swift pull. Are we miserable because we have removed the greatest of source nourishment for joy and peace? Have we pulled our lives away from God and now asked the question why am I so unhappy?

In understanding the journey we are all taking, we must realize the value of remaining in a solid relationship with God and the nourishment we receive from His Word. Families feed off each other. If they are a close knit unit, then each one will be able to build and help sturdy the family in good times and bad. However, if the family is completely broken apart, they will soon see that there is no concern for the needs of the family but only will be concerned for the needs of the individual. As David continues to seek rest, he realizes the need to restore a stronger relationship within the entire Israel family. As you and your family seek to find rest, I hope and pray it is not for just a few weeks or even moments out of the year. Continue to put family night weekly and enjoy time of true rest in the arms of God.

Father, please help us to step back again and see your plans. Help us to realize that the greatest gift that we can give our family is time. Time not filled with chaos and frustrations, but time filled with love, peace, patience, kindness, joy, and understanding. We have fallen so far away from Your original plan for the family, help us restore our hope on You. AMEN

## Phase 2 Day 41

Scripture: Hebrews 2:1-4



### The New Idea: Friends with Benefits

#### \*Read today's scriptures:

Such a new idea for us to be able to listen to God's word. So many times we ask ourselves are we serious about our relationship with Christ. Many times we continue to ask questions about what God asks of us, but maybe we should just be asking what we should be giving back to God. In the grander picture it is easy to just live life and forget about our commitment to God. I mean, He is always going to be there right? There is no way that He would ever leave us or forsake us right? Man that's a tough question for me to answer. In dealing with this question, we have to wonder if we really want a relationship with God in the first place or just want to be "friends with benefits".

We are living in a time and age where God is barely spoken of in common conversation, even to our families. It seems as though we have to really need something or really feel guilty to feel as though we can spend time in His word. See, on one hand we really want all of the good things that comes with being a Christian...eternal life, favor with God, an eternity of no pain and suffering...but we really don't want to do anything about it right now. The audience of Hebrews were suffering from the same situation. They liked the fact of being "CALLED" Christians, but they really did not want to adhere to all the stuff that made them have to be obedient. They wanted the prize without even having to go through the training. Sound familiar?

So here we stand today. I am going to use a harsh term so get ready... We are prostituting God...Yeah I know that sounds really bad, but it is the truth. We want to get everything we want when we want it and really don't want to give God but a few hours a week in return. We are unwilling to pay the price of full obedience because we really just want what comes in the end. The sad thing is we are teaching our children how to pimp out God too, and not in a good way. We are training them to only pray and ask for what they want and based on the outcome they receive, they begin to compose a foundational image of who God is for them. He is no longer Savior, He is the one that got them through the test they didn't study for. He is no longer Master, He is the one who was able to make sure they didn't get caught. He is no longer the Alpha and Omega, He is just a common name used to give them someone to blame if things fail. He is no longer GOD, He is just a friend they hope to get something from until the next crisis arises.

God, I pray that we change our perspective of You. I hope we are not planting seeds in our families that have shallow roots and no real foundation. It is not easy reading these words today, but God sometimes the truth is real and it hurts. Forgive us of our many shortcomings. AMEN

## Phase 2 Day 42

Scripture: Numbers 22:21-35



### If Our Pets Could Talk

#### \*Read today's scriptures:

I love my cat... No I am not a cat person, but Lucy is really a part of our family, in fact she was our first child. Funny how close we get with our pets. Funnier how these pets begin taking on our mannerisms and knowing when we need to be comforted and when we need to be left alone. When we need to play and when we need to see unconditional love. I can only imagine the stories that Lucy could tell about our home. I mean she sees and hears it all. She knows the truth and still loves us, regardless if we are the ones giving her food and shelter. She is always there. What about you? If God gave your pet the opportunity to speak, what would they say about the real you? How would they say you lived out your Christian walk on a daily basis? I have always heard it said that we can do all we want and claim what we want, but the true test is when no one is looking. Would they say you were loving...would they say you had multiple personalities.... would they even know through your actions that you were a Christian at all?

In the scripture reference today, we see the sacrifice that Balaam's donkey was willing to sacrifice in order for his master to be protected. He was willing to go through beatings and ridicule in hopes of saving the one that he cared for the most. He saw the destruction that was ahead for his master and tried to do everything that he could to change the path, but the master wanted to continue down the path of destruction. Would our pets be willing to sacrifice their lives for us? If they saw death and destruction in front of us, would they risk it all in hopes of saving us?

I know that might sound crazy today. I know that we say they are just pets... but what I am saying goes back to the simplest message spoken by Jesus, "Whatever you do for the least of these..." They have no protection but us. They show us the unconditional love of God and we just blow right past it every day. They wag their tails, lick our faces, hear our cries, and lift our spirits even when we treat them worse than death. God is watching all of our actions, even to the least... It is time we begin recognizing some of God's unseen gifts and help show love through even our relationships with our pets..or even strays. This is a message even for the strongest of hearts that if we really think about it could truly humble our lives.

God, man have we missed it. You continue to show us grace and mercy through every aspect of Your creation. Help us to see the simplest signs of love that You give us each day. Help us to instill this lesson into the minds of our family as well the next time we take out our hostility on the indefensible lives of Your blessings. AMEN



## Phase 2 Day 43

Scripture: Mark 10:17-29



### Can a Camel Go Through a Needle's Eye

#### \*Read today's scriptures:

Pretty hard words to swallow from Jesus today. In all of our minds, we have to ask a lot of questions about who will inherit the Kingdom of God. In fact we see very clearly that if we were all asked to do the same thing as the rich man we would probably fall to our knees and walk away sad. How much richness do we have and how much are we really willing to give away to follow God? I saw a nice conversation the other day about the USA being the most blessed country in the world. As I look around we are blessed way beyond our means, but as a country are we following the path of the rich man?

Scripture tells us that to whom much is given much will be required, and I continue to see the country that was based on religious freedom continue to fall apart at the seams. That does not mean that we are losing our foundation, but we have been a country for such a small amount of time in the perspective of the world and it blows my mind that every other country that was so blessed found a way to completely mess it up. They lost their focus on God and a nation without God will completely find itself destroyed.

It's a pretty big miracle for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, but today as a warning and an encouragement, we are not so far gone that we cannot return to a stronger foundation. We must believe in the power of God and stop asking what are we going to do and begin doing what we need to do to restore the land of the free back to its roots. I firmly believe that we have reached the hour in which we must stop waiting and begin moving forward with the Gospel. Our families are once again seeing the struggle that so many other generations have faced and led to very difficult times in our country. The problem is not new, it has just never been solved and we are being called to once again take up the fight with the Cross as our foundation and Jesus as our leader. Two more weeks and we will celebrate the victory over this world that Jesus was able to give us. A freedom that no one deserves but everyone can receive. So can a camel go through the eye of a needle? I firmly believe yes in America, if the rich people of this country realize that we need more God and less of the world.

God grant us freedom to see You. Help us believe in the power of Your love and realize the gift of life we receive daily. We are the rich man, but God we still have a choice to give up everything and live in Your richness. Help us to see the stumbling blocks we have created and realize that nothing is too big for our GOD. AMEN



Scripture: Philippians 3:14



\*Read today's scriptures:

Funny how we put so much faith and trust in a number and how little value we really believe in the amazing story of God. In understanding our scripture verse for the day, Paul is writing to the people of Philippi about having a better understanding of what we are called to do. We are called to get a bigger piece of the pie and no matter how big life gets that time and effort to understand God is a constant. One of the most difficult things that we fail to understand is that God is calling us to strive to do better. We are failing to understand that God does have a plan of victory for our lives and for the lives of our families. That is a constant. There is no questioning what God has in store for the family, because ever since the beginning of time God created the family and saw it as VERY GOOD. We have already seen that this week. The major question is whether or not we believe it enough to take hold of the plans God does have in store for us.

God, help us to continue to focus on You and Your plan for our lives. Help us to extend the meaning of that love to our families and to everyone that we meet. You were willing to give us not just a piece of pie but the whole thing, and instead of saying thank you, we just want more. Humble our hearts and spirits in an ability to teach our future generations the importance of having You in our lives on a daily basis. AMEN

[illegible]

## When You Look in the Mirror, What Do You See?

It amazes me that we only have 15 days left in Phase 2... Where did the time go? In looking back over the last few months, we have been able to truly see where we stand with our families. We hopefully see only a reflection of the family we were when we started this journey together. In looking in the mirror, all of us have an opportunity to see glimpses of the people we use to be and the people that God is continuing to mold us to be. A mirror is able to reflect the exact opposite of what we are projecting and is a good opportunity to measure our progress either forward or our regression backwards. I know that there are days that I wake up and look in the mirror and say, WOW... When did this happen? But all in all we are able to get a clear look at the person that we are becoming.

As people know you and your family, I hope and pray the first impression they have is wow that family is a Godoy family. I hope and pray that people will know your name and help to place it in conversation as one who is striving to give all they can to strengthen their family and their community for God. When you look in the mirror are you depressed at what you see because you continue to say... what if... or maybe I could.. instead of saying, I love the picture I see. One of the greatest lines I have heard about reflecting God is that every time we look in a mirror we should be able to see less of us and more of Him. We must decrease He must increase... The mirror never lies.

God, grant us the strength to see what we need to see and to reflect Your love in our lives. Help us to teach our families the importance of seeing more of You and less of us. AMEN

## Phase 2 Day 46

Scripture: Read Daniel 1:8-20, 1 John 3:16-24, 4:7-21

Do You Prepare to hear from God?

\*Read today's scriptures:



Are you ready? Hard to believe that we are getting ready for the last 15 days that lie before and the last part of Phase 2. As we get ready for the journey I have to ask you a question... Are you and your family prepared for the next steps? Are you prepared to fully take the reigns as it pertains to the spiritual journey for your family. I know that may seem a little overwhelming, but remember the goal of the Family Faith Connection has been to really prepare you to hear and discern next steps for the spiritual center for your family to be your home. The bigger questions still remain if whether or not you still see that as a vital part of your new normal. It gets so easy trying to get back into our old routines, but if you have made it this far, you now have hopefully developed some new routines for your family that incorporates God into the picture. I am asking you and your family to do something over the next 15 days. Spend time praying and talking through your next steps. Have you developed a good pattern for prayer and family discipleship? Now this is not going to be easy... in fact it is really going to be difficult because it's actually asking us to again look inside our family patterns and see how we will, daily communicate with God.. but how AMAZING is it that you get to really spend time as a FAMILY making this decision, or at least I hope and pray that you do. It should no longer just be a parents choice, but a family decision!

In the scriptures today you have 2 different settings. First is the setting that Daniel was preparing to be able to hear and see God as he was preparing for the road ahead. By clearing his body and mind he was able to discern and hear God's voice. We need to do that too. We need to truly prepare for the next journey that begins with us releasing our lives into the hands of God starting after the end of phase 2. Second, we see a great definition of sacrifice and God's love in John's letter. He gives us an amazing glimpse of what our families should strive towards over the next 15 days. Sharing love unconditionally with no strings attached. As you answer the questions below, may God begin to speak to you and your family.

\*What do you see as your greatest struggles when your family is in charge of their daily journey?

\*Is there something that you and your family is completely snared in that you cannot even see that may trap or cause you to fall?

\*In reading the scriptures in 1 John, how do you see the opportunities around you that God is supplying that your family may have to share love.

\*Sit down with your family and have a conversation on setting your daily schedule that includes your inviting God and your family to the table..

Lord, begin to prepare our hearts and minds for the journey we as a family are about to take. Help us to focus on Your example of love and help us to move into an attitude of Christ. As we have read, we know love because Christ "loved" us first, with no strings attached.. Help us to continue that attitude of love in our daily lives. Pray also for our family that we may grow closer in our love for each other too. AMEN

## Phase 2 Day 47

Scripture: Read Philippians 2:5-11, 2 Corinthians 4:11, Galatians 5:1



### What is True Freedom?

#### \*Read today's scriptures:

I know that people all over the country are gearing up for what will take place in a few days to celebrate the birth of our country. I know people who call themselves real Americans because of the love they show towards our country. One of the hardest things that I come across is the idea that we just throw out the word LOVE to mean something very common. We treat it as a slang term for a lot of things. Scary enough, the same can be said for the name of God and Jesus. We have brought the most powerful name in all creation to be a common word, a curse word, and something that many flippantly say when they get mad. Why?

In understanding the importance of the Gospel, we see today the words written about Jesus, who was willing to sacrifice His spot by God in order that we might understand the true meaning of Valentines. Crazy don't you think. That the person who had it all was willing to give His life in hopes that we would understand the meaning of love... the real meaning of Valentines Day. So today as you meet with your family, I hope and pray that you see the true meaning of God's LOVE and blessings that He has given to you. I hope and pray that you see the FREEDOM that God has placed in your life. Your son, daughter, wife, husband, parents, pets, best friends, siblings, etc. Each of them tell a story that either connects or disconnects them from God, and you and your family have the chance to share in the true meaning of FREEDOM. Change the world's perspective and make it an EVERY day occurrence and not just once an occasional topic that we share God's FREEDOM to those who surround us.

\*How do you define freedom in your life?

\*Have you ever felt as though we take our freedom for granted and what it would look like if we were unable to freely speak about God?

\*Have you ever known anyone who gave the ultimate sacrifice so that we could experience the freedom we have today?

\*What is one way that your family can truly share freedom given to us through Christ to the world?

Dear Lord, please continue to push our lives. Please help us to not only know that we are free but that we have an obligation to help others understand this freedom. May we continue to walk with our families in such a way that the world can see the gift that God has given us. If we are truly the home of the brave and land of the free, may we reflect that in our every day lives. AMEN

Scripture: Read Isaiah 58  
Picking up the Ashes?



SO here we are.. Beginning top transition our journey with FFC and we prepare to stop and listen for the voice of God. The next 12 days are really going to be a time of trial and frustration, but also days in which will give you a joy beyond all joy. In the Old Testament, they use to spend time tearing their clothes and covering themselves in ashes. A ritual that was set aside for humbling a person to the point of death in order for them to see and hear a voice of direction from God. Now we don't have to go that far... all we have to do is take the time to stop and spend time as a family or an individual for the next 12 days to hear from God's voice. We have to set aside the time to pray and listen. Yes, I am asking you to take part in a 12 day fasting challenge to stop and listen for the voice of God. I would love to see your entire family participate in some way through prayer and petition for each other. This is a VERY important step as we prepare for the final steps of Phase 2.

\*What are the things that captivate your time on a daily basis?

\*How will you approach this idea with your family, or will you choose to only do it for yourself?

\*Based on Isaiah 58, which type of person are you? One seeking personal gain, or one seeking what God wants for you and your family?

God, over the next 44 days, please give me strength to endure the hardships that will appear during this journey. Help me to quiet down our lives in hopes of hearing Your voice. Keep us steadfast in our time with You and our time together as a family, and may others see Your love through our actions. AMEN

Scripture: John 3:16-17, 1 John 4:7-10



\*Read today's scriptures:

Happy Valentines Day!! Is so difficult to truly understand the willingness of God to sacrifice it all for us. It just literally blows my mind. So today we are going to refocus on the sign that was given to us on this first day of our journey together. Jesus was the greatest example of love that we could even imagine. I know that many times that is hard for us to believe, but really, we have a very hard time understanding the real meaning of the words that were written on the inside of the card. See we just accept it and move on with our lives. We have come to expect that God should give us His love because we exist. In other words we have gained some sense of entitlement because we are willing to go to church or live a certain way that God should show us favor.. even though for the longest time we have really been running away from God like Jonah.

So today, even though it is not Valentines Day, I want you to open up the Valentines card that God was willing to give to us through the life of Christ. I want you to really read and focus on the words of the scriptures for today as you dig deeper into seeing the extent of God's love for us and then answer the questions below.

\*Would you be able to show the same amount of love for others that God showed for us? Why or Why Not?

\*How hard is it to fathom or understand that we didn't ever make the choice about love first, but that through our lives God has been showing love with every breath we take?

\*Share a time in your life and in the lives of each of your family members when you felt the love of God. If you cannot share that time, share a time when you truly knew you were loved by your family or friends.

\*Can YOU give love away or do you struggle with being able to express love? Why or Why not

God grant us the freedom to receive the mentality of living to be a reflection of the Valentine You sent to us in the form of Jesus. Help us to share that same passion to help others experience freedom from the struggles of this world and receive the gift you so freely want to give. AMEN



Scripture: John 15:1-8



## The Lineman

\*Read today's scriptures:

A few years ago a storm came through and knocked out all our power. My family and I sat in complete darkness. It was amazing how quiet things are when the power goes out. My oldest was scared from the lightening and thunder and continued to ask if everything is going to be ok. I kept reminding her that God is bigger than the storm. She asked when the power would return so that the light of the closet could ward off any darkness in the room. I assured her that there men and women working throughout the night to get the power back on. These people have to be ready at a moments notice if called to go and restore the link that has been destroyed. They do this with little recognition, but they continue to weather the storms so that we can be able to watch TV or have our ceiling fans oscillating. It blows my mind how much we don't thank those who fight to keep us connected. However, it should not surprise any of us in this day and age. We are so quick to ask and want that we sometimes forget the people who sacrifice to give us what we so desire. In fact, we have such a bad habit of passing this along to our children that we need to get what we want, when we want it. And even though we receive it, the funny thing is that we are still in the dark and don't even realize it.

For us, the lineman was Jesus. In scripture today we see that God is the main power source for our lives and that the only way we can stay connected is through the sacrifice of the lineman. He was willing to go through the raging storms, the insults, the demands for power and the wants of the unthankful. He was willing to risk His life until death in order that we may have the opportunity to live life. We never really fully appreciated the lineman who was willing to sacrifice it all by climbing a tree and giving His last breathes in hopes that we would finally appreciate and understand the need we had to be connected with God instead of living a life surrounded by darkness. Impress these words of scripture on your mind today in hopes of realizing that every time the storms of life disconnects us from the power of God, we have one that will fight all hell to keep us and our families connected to the power. Next time it all grows dark, remind your family just how important the LIGHT is and why we celebrate Easter. Because that was the day the world saw THE LINEMAN sacrifice His life so that we could have POWER.

God, help us to see through the darkness. Help us to realize the importance of who You are and the sacrifices that many give in order that we may have simple pleasures in life. As we approach Easter, may we remember the sacrifice Jesus gave for us so that we can live eternity with You.  
AMEN

## Phase 2 Day 51

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 9:19-23

### All Things to All People

#### \*Read today's scriptures:

We are 10 days away from the end of Phase 2. We have to continue to see where we have gone and where we want to be in the future. We must realize that everything happens in order to cause us to fully understand the function of God's grace and mercy. We, as a family, must realize that in the beginning, God created the family to be a single unit that nothing should have the power to destroy. As we look to the future, are we still sure that the family is that strong? Can we truly imagine the importance of seeing the sacrifices that may be ahead of us that might determine the growth of our family? Are we able and willing to do anything we can to help our families to grow in a stronger relationship with each other and a stronger relationship with God?

Today, we see that Paul is talking about the sacrifices we all should be looking to make in hopes of helping others to grow stronger in their walk with God. It blows my mind the message for today. The humility and strength that Paul had to forgo anything that would cause a person to stumble. He was willing to go against the grain and truly walk in the shoes of those he was ministering to on a daily basis. If they could not eat meat... he would not eat meat. If they had specific customs, even if they were against his personal beliefs, he would honor the custom in hopes of gaining an audience with them to talk about the Gospel. If they were weak, he was able to understand their struggles and help them gain strength through the journey. I know this seems crazy, but he was willing to become "ALL THINGS TO ALL PEOPLE". Now, also understand that he was not trying to replace Jesus, but he was trying to meet the people where they were and help them gain a better understanding of the life God had in store for them. He was willing to do this with complete strangers... I am only asking that we do this with our family.

Do you still have any doubts or questions about the foundations of your family? If so, today is the day that you need to spend time talking to them about God. After 140 days, you should have a better understanding about the love, grace and mercy of God. All I am asking is to get on their level and spend time truly building a firm foundation. I am not asking you to go outside your walls and have to speak to strangers. I am asking you to honestly spend time speaking to those God has blessed you with and spend time getting to the heart of the issue. Are you afraid they will say no? Today is the day, and I encourage you to spend time praying with them that God will continue to speak to their hearts. Paul left everything behind to reach out to a lost world. He gave away everything, and God blessed his journey. God will do the same for you, but you have to be willing to let go of self and take up God's mission in the home.

God give us the desire to try and reach out to a world that is living in our home. We don't have to be fake or put on masks. All we have to do is be with the ones who love us the most and spend time giving them a chance to see God's love and mercy in our lives. AMEN





## Encouragement

Today is a day for encouragement. I am writing this to you in hopes of helping you to see that you are doing an AMAZING job. So many times we always hear people talk about the things that we are NOT doing, but I wanted to let you know that I have been praying for you EVERY DAY since this journey began. I know that even I have struggled some days to do all I can for our families, but I just wanted you to hear some words of encouragement today to help you finish the next 8 days strong.

I am always reminded of Isaiah's message in Isaiah 55, that God's Word will not return void or empty. I firmly believe that with all of my heart. The treasure is buried deep in the Word of God, but also note that it takes time to cultivate something that is preparing to grow. Plants do not sprout over night and we should also realize that our families cannot change in just over 6 months. We must realize the time it takes to nurture the seed before it begins to take root. You have done an AMAZING job, but don't quit yet. We still have a sprint to the finish to go and I hope and pray you have been training for the finish line to not end the race but start a new one.

God, help us to see Your face. Help us to be encouraged by the fact that things may not change over night, but that You will continue to surround us in order that we may draw strength from You. Help us to see the good and not the negative as the world drives us to see everything besides You. We are making a difference and the foundations that we are pouring will soon be able to be built on for the world to see the difference. Challenge us in the remaining days. AMEN

## Phase 2 Day 53

Scripture: Hebrews 12:7-13



### Discipline for the Harvest

#### \*Read today's scriptures:

In the moments that we struggle the most and find ourselves completely exhausted is the moment that Satan is ready to pounce. It is in these moments, that we no longer have to think on how we are going to react in certain situations. Based on our discipline we basically react in the manner that we have been taught, if we were willing to accept and take ownership of the training. I always remember hearing in church the phrase, "You reap what you sow", and it really blows my mind to see that for most instances that statement is true. Based on the seeds that are planted from us into our children, they will see how to react in times of struggle, in times of frustration, in times of praise and in times of uncertainty. We train our children based on the teachable moments that God gives us to discipline them for a future harvest.

In saying that, it also blows my mind that God, our heavenly Father, is still doing the same thing to us. In reading the scripture verses today, I see that even in the moments I do not understand how to react, God is helping to teach me something. It may be a lesson on humility, trust, strength, or letting go. It may be a lesson of discipline to keep my heart, mind and soul focused on the path God is revealing for me to go. Whatever the cause, we must all realize that teachable moments are all around our lives and we have to be disciplined to first see them, and second help train our children how to react to every situation. If we tell our kids that we are to go to God with everything in prayer and never pray when we have situations, we seem to be giving them mixed signals and they learn the less honorable lesson of, "Do as I say and not as I do". I don't want to be that parent. I want my children to want to honor me because I am a person of my word and I am teaching them that sometimes they have to be disciplined in order for them to learn the valuable lessons in life.

Even though we may not see the fruit of our labor today, we must understand that the trials of this world will do everything that it can to wear us down until the point we have to react based on our training and not have time to rationally think through the process. That is why Satan tempted Jesus after almost 40 days of little food or sleep as God was preparing Him for the journey over the next 3 years. Satan waits for the most opportune time to snare us and if we are not disciplined and have not trained our children to be disciplined, we will falter and give in every time. Jesus gave us the answer by refuting every temptation immediately with scripture. He was trained and disciplined to be ready when the time approached and He was able to defeat Satan even in His weakest moments. Discipline is only part of the journey, we must be ready at all times to prepare for the battle and to prepare our children for the battles they will face in this life as well. Discipline only works if we are able to see the end product. It is not a means to destroy, but to build up in preparing others for the struggles that may lie ahead.

God, please give us vision to see the areas that we need to prepare ourselves and our families for the future battles we will all face. Help us to seek discipline as a teachable time given to us by God as a moment of planting more seeds down the road. No one ever said life would be easy, but through our teachable moments, we have the opportunity to change the mindset of our families and future generations. AMEN

[illegible]

## Let Our Trials Begin?

Here we are...7 days until the end of Phase 2 and many are really questioning what the next steps really look like or if all of this has been a waste of time or maybe a constant reminder that we have all quit many times already. Pause... Breathe... It will be ok. As we know, satan continues to surround us no matter what we are doing, but more now satan will continue to test and tempt you because you are moving toward God and that is not a place that satan wants us to be. So here is your chance to look back over and think about the things that you have given up for this journey and the blessings that God has placed in your life with your family. Understand that this is going to be an epic battle of spiritual warfare every day of your life and and I hope you are prepared not just to win one day... but to glorify God on every day.

In trying to continue in our journey together, have you stopped and ultimately asked God to speak to you, or have you just said, you know if God has something to say I am sure that He will get my attention. Strangely enough, even though He does not need it, maybe God is waiting on an invitation to be invited into the conversation. It's time to turn our eyes from the world and "fix" them on Jesus who will direct us as the "author" of our faith and "perfect" us as the gardener He is. But we must be willing to offer everything that we have to Him in order for His work to begin. So read through the questions below and journal about how even right now satan is tempting you today.

\*How soon into your fast did you feel the temptation to stop or your mind begins to wonder?

\*How hard has it been for you to find the time you really need to talk with God on a daily basis. Have you moved back into your old routine and began pushing God back out of the discernment process? Talk about your struggles with your family.

\*What are the things that are still getting in the way? The things that are entangling you?

God give us the strength to move forward in our walk. Help us to continue to draw strength from the struggle we have each day to put off the world and take on You. It's not easy and I hope and pray we understand that truth, but God during this Lenten season may we refocus on the life You so willingly sacrificed in order for us to have life and have it more abundantly. Pray for my family so they too will be able to see their struggles and give them strength to turn to You in this time. AMEN

## Phase 2 Day 55

Scripture: Titus 2

### Teaching that Transcends



#### **\*Read today's scriptures:**

Yesterday's lesson was one to help us focus on the next steps with our families as we continue this family faith connection together. As we go through the last days of phase 2, how much are we willing to share in hopes of teaching others the importance of God's sacrifice for us. In hoping to see the difference of our lives after the 55 days of Phase 2, I hope and pray that we have been taught something through our times of struggling and our times of rejoicing that will give us the opportunity to begin with a new perspective about the sacrifice of Jesus. In order for something to transcend our lives, we must be able to see some type of change. We must be able to understand that we will no longer be the same. One of the greatest examples is the metamorphosis that a caterpillar goes through in becoming a butterfly. You would not expect for the caterpillar to bust out of the cocoon as the same caterpillar it went in as.

In understanding the job we have of teaching, we must realize that our journey is only going to get harder. If we look over the last week of Jesus' life, we saw that each day got harder and harder as Jesus was about to be given up for 30 pieces of silver. But Jesus knew that He was going to have to lose His life in order that we could be transformed from the state of sin and death that we deserve, to a life filled with hope and a potential future of eternal proportions. Titus tells us that we are to help teach these same lessons to the generations that will follow us. We must be willing to help them understand the importance of training our families in the foundational lessons given to us by God. We must help them to understand the importance of why we as Christians must help the world to see the importance of living a life for God..

So as we continue to walk this week with Jesus. I hope and pray that you take the time to understand the transcending power of God and the grace that was shed on the cross. I hope and pray that we all see the importance of Jesus' victory over sin and death that He endured in hopes of giving us a promise of eternal life for the future. .

God, please give us the chance to teach our family the importance of this week. Help us to make every day of our lives something that continues to focus everything back to You. As we walk along this journey with You, may we once again focus on the importance of telling the real meaning of the sacrifice you made through Christ which has transcended our lives way beyond anything we could have ever imagined. AMEN

## Phase 2 Day 56

Scripture: Matthew 4:1-11, Luke 4:1-13

### Temptation to End Early

**\*Read today's scriptures:**



I was amazed today to hear this story again. I love how we can hear the same scriptures over and over again and finally get a new meaning from the words at different points of our lives. As we wake up today, we are facing 5 days until the end of Phase 2. I know that might sound crazy, but here is really where the toughest part of the battle begins. We see the finish line from our 60 days of Phase 2 and we begin to hear the voices telling us just how good of a job we have done over the last 55 days. We hear voices telling us that the end is near and it is ok for us to stop now because what could really happen in the next few days that hasn't already happened for us over the last 55 days.

It was amazing to think that we are standing here with Jesus. On the last days of His 40 day journey in the wilderness, satan appeared and tried everything he could to stop Jesus from accomplishing God's task for Him. Satan did not begin tempting Jesus on the first days of His fasting because he knew that Jesus would be too strong, but in reality satan waited until Jesus could see the light at the end of the tunnel to begin whispering in His ear that it would be ok for Him to give up all of this and take His rightful place of authority. Instead of letting go and giving in, Jesus rebuked satan with the power of the Word of God and completely drew strength from God.

Today, is that what satan is doing for us? Has he waited to the last days of our journey to cause us to rethink life back in the old way? Is he trying to get us to give up when the finish line is in site? It is almost as if he wants us to quit early and tells us we have done such a good job, when the prize is still yet to be found. In both scripture verses we read today tell the same story. The only difference is the one in Luke adds a little more detail at the end. In verse 13 of Luke 4, satan leaves Jesus to return and tempt Him again at a more opportune time. That opportune time... Is this week. Satan will be there as Jesus is completely exhausted in the garden... Satan will be there as Jesus is being beaten and arrested... Satan will be there as Jesus is being lead to Golgotha... and Satan will be there when Jesus is hanging on the cross. Satan saw Jesus was too strong in the beginning and waits to see Jesus completely beaten down before he will strike again. During this week, I hope and pray that you will see the sacrifice you have made. I pray that you will finish strongly your time of Phase 2 and get back up if you stumbled and fell to the temptation to quit. God has something in store for you, but He knows how easy it will be in the last days to fall to the temptation of satan to quit early.

God, give us the strength to endure. Help us to see the finish line and hold on strong to our commitment to You. When satan gathers around us these last few days, may we continue to grow stronger in our walk and hold true to Your Word. AMEN

**Family Connection**

Other words in the word cloud include: SON, DAD, MOM, SISTER, BROTHER, PARENTING, FAITH, LEADERSHIP, RELATIONSHIPS, DUTIES, and many others in various sizes and colors.

## Is Your Hand in the Cup?

The table is set and everyone is trying to figure out what in the world Jesus is doing. Sitting in the Upper Room, He is breaking every tradition that they have known as it pertains to the Passover meal. Instead of taking time to realize this is the last meal that they will share with Jesus, they continue to ask questions about who should be closest to Him, when in reality they are all about to try and be as far away from Jesus as they can possibly be from Him. The table is set and Jesus says these words, “I tell you the truth, one of you will betray me—one who is eating with me.” After Jesus spoke these words, each person did exactly what we would do, denied in any way that we would have the gall to deny Jesus and betray Him.

This question is one we should all take to heart. We need to realize the importance of keeping our families grounded and teach them the importance of the communion we take with God today. His sacrifice is a price paid for future debts, and we need to quit denying the fact that we have all denied the Father in one way or another and we must refocus on trying to get past our place at the table and realize the sacrifice that was made. **TEACH YOUR CHILDREN THE MEANING OF COMMUNION and share in that moment TODAY!**

God, help us. We are just like Judas. We may not receive 30 pieces of silver, but God we may betray You because of our wants and desires. Help us to stop saying “Surely not I”, and help us to say, “Forgive me Lord for I know not what I do.” Help us to share the importance of the sacrifice of Christ today. The King is COMING. AMEN



## Transforming Our Hearts of Stone

We are 3 days now... 3 days from the end of my deep thoughts and my crazy antics to try and encourage you to be a stronger family. Statistics say that if you have made a change in your lifestyle for 6 months, it will likely remain with you for the rest of your life. And I guess that it really has been longer than 6 months if you factor in the fact that we have only been doing this Monday-Friday, but the real question that will be asked is did it have a lasting purpose in our lives? Was I able to truly convince you enough to fight for your families or did we see all of this as a quick fix for a short amount of time. You know, similar to a self-help book. It was really good for that first couple of month but then...ehhh not so much. Did we think, you know I really think that we have it all together. See only time will tell. It is not for any statistical data that we truly did this except for one piece. The one piece of statistical data that we did all of this for was...YOU. See I don't have any money in the game more than to say that I truly have a passion to help families to reconnect and find ways to share in a relationship together that was created by God. So has the heart of your family change in any way whatsoever? And if the answer is no... then it truly is a heart issue.

I say all of this so that you will see one thing. You have chosen to either live with a heart of stone and truly continue to NOT let God into your family, OR you have seen in humility the difference God can make once invited into the door and you have experienced a transformation within your family dynamics you could have never imagined. Only YOU and YOUR family can answer that question. We can only provide the opportunity for your to engage... will you break this heart of stone in order that it can be replaced by one that is living and growing stronger with each day.



## Phase 2 Day 59

Scripture: Matthew 26:17-27:66



### It Is Finished

#### \*Read today's scriptures:

Here we stand, 59 days later and we have been able to grow closer in our walk. For the last 150 days we have been challenged with spending time to share the love of God with those who may have no idea what true love resembles. We have been challenged with spending time with our families and trying to help them see that God is not restricted to a Sunday school or worship service. God is alive in all of us and now we must realize that as we walk through the next steps together as a family. This phase has been one to challenge you to find ways to spend time with your family. It has been a phase that has given you an opportunity to take the lead. The question is were you able to find ways to keep your family in the Word and prayer together?

In the last moments of Jesus' life, the supporting crowds were all running away. Jesus was left alone to go through the agony of death and destruction in order that we might have life. The disciples left and betrayed Him, the crowds turned on Him, and the church literally determined it would be better to CRUCIFY the Savior than it would be to free a murderer. Jesus was all alone except for family. Mary continued to follow and pray for her son. So, too have you been left outside with God and your family. I have not set aside any particular opportunities for you and your family to spend time in the word as in Phase 1, but have hoped that after Phase 1 you would continue to spend time enjoying getting to know your family and trying to see if you would personally set aside time to continue to grow.

The journey in scripture today leads to death... The journey today leads to a tomb in which the world thought that everything was finished...but they had no idea, even though He told them countless times that He would return. Jesus' death was not a time to believe that God was finished, but that life and sin as we knew it was finished. The veil had been torn. A bridge between the separation of us and God had been built, and family took on a new meaning. We celebrate this day as a marker of death, but what we must realize is that what Jesus meant by "It is finished" is that the debt had finally been paid in full...for ALL DEBT. This is not a marker for His life to be over, but a finishing marker for the sinful lives that we are living. Celebrate the day as we remember the day that we received the greatest gift of all from God the Father.

God, our prayer is one of thanksgiving for this day. Even though it marked a day we at first thought as loss, we realize now the victory that occurred. Help us to see the opportunity to teach our families the importance of this DAILY GIFT of grace and sacrifice. AMEN

Phase 2 Day 60

Scripture: Deuteronomy 6:4-9, Jeremiah 29:11,  
Proverbs 22:6, Matthew 7:24-29, Romans 12:1-2,  
2 Timothy 4:6-7, Hebrews 11-12:3



THE NEXT STEP BELONGS TO YOU

**\*Read today's scriptures:**

Dear Families, there is nothing more for me to say than this... Thank You. Thank you for being a part of this journey and taking to heart the seeds of God's passion in my heart to reach families. Today all I am offering for you are some of my foundational scriptures that God has placed in my heart that led to this amazing 150 day process. With every scripture verse, you will hopefully see how God spoke through these words to help me encourage and inspire you to fight to reclaim your family from this world. The Next Step Belongs to YOU! The rest is a blank page waiting for you to fill in the space with your story. Thank you and AMEN! In HIS grip, Jason