

HOME

Small Group Notes
A Series About Family: #2 "If You Build It They Will Grow"
Rev. Joshua Sklar
Sunday, January 15th, 2017

Welcome to the second in our series about Home. As we continue to look ahead at what God is calling us to do and more importantly how we are to be, we come to understand that we might need to reorder not only some of our priorities, but some of what we think as well.

READ Joshua 24:1-25. Joshua gives us some wonderful ideas of things that we can do to share faith and leave a legacy for our families.

1. In Joshua 24:2-13, Joshua teaches the people of Israel by highlighting and reminding them what God has done for them and how He has provided.
 - a. What are some of the ways God has worked in the lives of His people from those 11 verses?
 - b. What are some of the ways that he has provided for us as believers in North America and around the world?
2. When things go well we have seem to have several tendencies: believe that we are responsible for the good things rather than God being the one who has provided **or** we take too much comfort in the provision/ blessings and forget the One who has blessed and provided.
 - a. How do we see the people of Israel doing this?
 - b. Why do we do this?
3. How does Joshua warn the people to stay focused on God? – verse 14
How can we do this in our families? Extended families?
4. Joshua challenges them to throw away other gods that their forefathers served. What are the gods that we serve today that we might need to throw away?
5. The people of Israel, and us, are offered a clear choice in verse 15. God will not force you to follow Him but rather pursues you for a loving and faithful relationship. Joshua makes a choice for how he will choose to raise his household.
 - a. What might make us or others choose to faithfully follow God?
 - b. What might make us or others choose to not follow God?

6. The people choose wisely in verses 16-18. They acknowledge what God has done for them and at the end of verse 18, the last sentence they say is a powerful proclamation.
 - a. What are the proclamations found in verses 18, 21, 24?
 - b. What areas in their lives will the people of Israel have to change to live out these commands? (hint v. 23)

7. Choosing to do this is a powerful message for themselves, their children, and grandchildren.
 - a. How would it impact their families to make this proclamation and to focus on God?
 - b. How would it impact our families today?

Mark your calendars:

Sunday February 5th:

Anniversary Service (of our first year at St. Raphael)
with guest speaker Gerry Lougheed Jr.

Lantern Lighting 6 p.m.
to commemorate the Lord's leading
in our church community

Superbowl Party following
bring your own snacks (to share in the courtyard)
– sign up at the Welcome Centre to let us know
what you can bring
and enjoy some football in the courtyard or in the auditorium