

# WHY - WHY WE STUDY GOD'S WORD PART 3 | 06.13.21

## We study God's Word because it brings truth to our family.

\*\*\*Ensure 5 seats are on stage for Mark, Pam, Dave, Shayne, me on blue chair in the middle  
2 handheld mics

\*\*\*Ensure I have the keys for the Warren Campus in my pocket!

Notes for Ryan:

- 3 Handheld Mics Ready to Go beside the bass player \*During meet and greet, chairs brought
- Before I Die plays as you'll see in the notes below
- Have "Look What The Lord Has Done" by Lindell Cooley "Revival At Brownsville" album for when I say "We gotta celebrate WHAT THE LORD HAS DONE"
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Before we begin the sermon, we have GREAT news to share with you!

I want to invite Pastor Andrew and Monica up here to the stage.

As you know we have a vision to see **10 Churches started in 10 Cities in 10 Years**

I didn't warn them I was going to do this=)

But we have purchased a building for our Warren Campus!!! **Picture up. \*cue music: Before I Die by Kirk Franklin - loud but not too loud - my voice / microphone louder**

And THIS is a TESTIMONY to YOUR faithfulness church! So many of you have given sacrificially towards our 10 Cities Mission to Transform Trumbull County and we are so pumped for what God's going to do.

I'll have some more pictures to show you next week but I want to make this kinda fun today.

Andrew, I have a proposition for you. You thought I'd just give you the keys - right? Nope. Not that easy. I'll give you these keys IF and ONLY IF you give me your BEST Brownsville revival, Toronto Outpouring Holy Ghost DANCE when you hear the music start. Are you willing to do that? We gotta celebrate What the Lord Has Done.

When we were at the park together, in part 1 of this sermon series, we said that

1. **God's Word brings truth and peace to our hearts; it reveals God's love towards us.**

We read Jesus promise to us from John 10 that He is the Good Shepherd who invites us into peace; we're like sheep lead into "pasture"

Over and over, when we read the Bible, we discover how great God's love is for people. He forgives them after they blow it, time and time again. He warns them lovingly

Last week, we talked about our enemy wanting to confuse our identity and get us to think that we define ourselves, our sexuality, our value, our identity. With all the different opinions coming our way in an ever-complex society, we said that ...

2. **God's Word brings truth to a confused world.**

When we study God's Word, we see that JESUS CHRIST, God's Son, is at the center of the Bible. The narrative of the Bible is the story of Jesus. It's the story of the Gospel.

Today, our main point is this -

3. **We study God's Word because it brings truth to our family.**

**Judges 2:6-12**

**<sup>6</sup> When Joshua dismissed the people, the people of Israel went each to his inheritance to take possession of the land. <sup>7</sup> And the people served the Lord all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great work that the Lord had done for Israel. <sup>8</sup> And Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the Lord, died at the age of 110 years.**

**<sup>9</sup> And they buried him within the boundaries of his inheritance ...<sup>10</sup> And all that generation also were gathered to their fathers. And there arose another generation after them who did not know the Lord or the work that he had done for Israel.**

**<sup>11</sup> And the people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the Lord and served the Baals. <sup>12</sup> And they abandoned the Lord, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt. They went after other gods, from among the gods of the peoples who were around them, and bowed down to them.**

Did you see that verse 10 - And there arose another generation after them who did not know the Lord or the work that he had done for Israel.

**The parents and leaders of the day loved God, yet failed to pass down their spiritual heritage.** Doing so left the people of God in a mess. I briefly mentioned this last week. We

When we read Hebrews and Romans, we learn that we are grafted into the family of God - like an olive tree. Their stories become our stories. Their history becomes our history. This is another reason why it's so important that you read the Bible daily. It tells you about the history of God's people and God's redemptive plan - knowing that it's *your* history.

**When we study God's Word, we are apart of God's family. We learn that their struggle is our struggle. Their history is our history. Their story is our story. Their testimony is our testimony. It's not that "they" were delivered from Egypt. We learn that "we" were delivered from Egypt. Through faith in Christ, we are adopted into the family of God. Israel's stones & stories are our stones and stories.**

Throughout the sermon I'll share a few of my stories - moments in my life where God really changed me and taught me about His goodness.

## **GOD KNEW JUST WHAT I NEEDED**

I remember being in Bible College and I had just lost my prestigious job as a pizza delivery boy. I lost the job because my radiator blew-up while driving too fast through the suburbs of Florida. In the next 2 months, I applied for many new jobs but just couldn't land one. My tuition had to be paid every semester as the college didn't want you to leave with any debt and my \$220. Rent was due within 2 weeks. I hadn't had any income in 2 months, and I only had about \$25. in the bank. I was too stubborn to call home, so I very reluctantly tried selling my bass guitar in the paper for \$200. It was a \$400. bass I didn't want to part with but "you gotta do whatcha gotta

do.” Nobody called on the bass for 2 weeks, and I was getting pretty nervous. I was the responsible one in the apartment, and I always collected the money from my roommates to pay rent. Now I was the one not low, but *out* of cash.

It was a Thursday night at the church and I was stressed to say the least. Rent was due the next day! Out of nowhere, an elderly lady came up to me and sat by me. She had tears in her eyes, and she handed me an envelope. With the aged, scratchy, and beautiful voice of a spiritual mom, she said, “Son, God told me to give you this money and that you’re not supposed to sell your instruments. He said that He wants to use them for His glory.” I was stunned. I was speechless. Guess what was in that envelope? Exactly \$200. I was able to pay my rent without selling an instrument! God provided supernaturally! I know it was only \$200. but when you only have 25 bucks in the bank and rent is due, \$200 felt like 2 million dollars! It was manna from heaven!

You see in that moment, the stories of the Bible came to life. I realized that God really will “supply all my needs according to His riches and glory.” Scripture came alive to me in that moment. I realized that God really does care “more for me than the sparrow.” Like He promised in Mathew 6.

I connected myself to the history of God’s people. God provided bread right out of the sky for the Israelites and now God provided for me - supernaturally!

It’s important that I tell you stories like that and connect it to what we learn in Scripture. Parents, Grandparents, your spiritual heritage must be passed down to your kids. The miracles God has done in your life! The times that God has forgiven you and given you a new start. That time that God supplied for you when you were dead broke and put His faithfulness on full display! That time when God healed you. You need to tell those stories to your kids!

**Your children to need to hear what God has done in your life! Read them a Scripture and tell them a story of God being faithful to you - pass down your spiritual heritage!**

Turn to Deut. 11 please. As you’re turning there, I’ll set up the scene. The people of God had been rescued from slavery in Egypt. They followed Moses into the wilderness and they were about to enter the Promised Land they had been long waiting for. God gives them some instruction that I believe He wants to give us today.

**Deut 11:2-28 Know this day that it is not your children who have known and seen the discipline of the LORD your God: His greatness, His mighty hand, and His outstretched arm; 3 the signs and works He did in Egypt to Pharaoh king of Egypt and all his land; 4 what He did to the Egyptian army and horses and chariots when He made the waters of the Red Sea engulf them as they pursued you, and how He destroyed them completely, even to this day;**

**5 what He did for you in the wilderness until you reached this place.. 7For it is your own eyes that have seen every great work that the LORD has done. 8 You shall therefore keep every commandment I am giving you today, so that you may have the strength to go in and possess the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, 9 and so that you may live long in the land that the LORD swore to**

your fathers to give them and their descendants, a land flowing with milk and honey.

*Skip to vs 12 for the sake of time*

12 It is a land for which the LORD your God cares; the eyes of the LORD your God are always on it, from the beginning to the end of the year. 13 So if you carefully obey the commandments I am giving you today, to love the LORD your God and to serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul, 14 then I will provide rain for your land in season, the autumn and spring rains, that you may gather your grain, new wine, and oil.

15 And I will provide grass in the fields for your livestock, and you will eat and be satisfied. 16 But be careful that you are not enticed to turn aside to worship and bow down to other gods, 17 or the anger of the LORD will be kindled against you. He will shut the heavens so that there will be no rain, nor will the land yield its produce, and you will soon perish from the good land that the LORD is giving you.

18 Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as reminders on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. 19 Teach them to your children, speaking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. 20 Write them on the doorposts of your houses and on your gates, 21 so that as long as the heavens are above the earth, your days and those of your children may be multiplied in the land that the LORD swore to give your fathers.

22 For if you carefully keep all these commandments I am giving you to follow—to love the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways, and to hold fast to Him— 23 then the LORD will drive out all these nations before you, and you will dispossess nations greater and stronger than you. 24 Every place where the sole of your foot treads will be yours.

God tells them very clearly to heed His warning, to be careful to obey the law, to love Him and walk in His ways and to pass these teachings on to their children. He in a way tells them “What I promised your parents, I’m promising you. I will take care of you if you’ll keep Me first.” In hearing their elders’ testimony, they believe ... What God did for them, God can do for us.

Kids are Graduating

We’re in a season right now where some of you have kids or nephews and nieces that have just graduated High School. Be sure to take some time with them before they move away to share the miracles God has done in your life, the power of God’s Word for them daily and that they can trust God like you have.

**This land was promised again by God in Joshua 1. Joshua was mentored by Moses.**

**Joshua 1:1-3** “After the death of Moses, the servant of the Lord, the Lord said to Joshua, Moses’ assistant, <sup>2</sup> “Moses my servant is dead. Now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the people of Israel. <sup>3</sup> Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, just as I promised to Moses.”

See that message God gives them? God wants them to know... **What God did for them, God will do for us.**

This is what stones and stories communicate!

**Jos 1:5-8** Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you. <sup>6</sup> Be strong and courageous, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give them. <sup>7</sup> Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go. <sup>8</sup> This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

Do you see how the testimony of the parents is connected to the study of God’s Word?

*This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.*

So let’s see if God was faithful to do what He said He would do.

**Joshua 3:9-13 & Joshua 4:1-10**

<sup>9</sup> And Joshua said to the people of Israel, “Come here and listen to the words of the Lord your God.” <sup>10</sup> And Joshua said, “Here is how you shall know that the living God is among you and that he will (drive out your enemies) Vs 12 Now therefore take twelve men from the tribes of Israel, from each tribe a man. <sup>13</sup> And when the soles of the feet of the priests bearing the ark of the Lord, the Lord of all the earth,

shall rest in the waters of the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan shall be cut off from flowing, and the waters coming down from above shall stand in one heap.”

<sup>14</sup> So when the people set out from their tents to pass over the Jordan with the

priests bearing the ark of the covenant before the people, <sup>15</sup> and as soon as those bearing the ark had come as far as the Jordan, and the feet of the priests bearing the ark were dipped in the brink of the water (now the Jordan overflows all its banks throughout the time of harvest),

<sup>16</sup> the waters coming down from above stood and rose up in a heap very far away, at Adam, the city that is beside Zarethan, and those flowing down toward the Sea of the Arabah, the Salt Sea, were completely cut off. And the people passed over opposite Jericho. <sup>17</sup> Now the priests bearing the ark of the covenant of the Lord stood firmly on dry ground in the midst of the Jordan, and all Israel was passing over on dry ground until all the nation finished passing over the Jordan.

**4** When all the nation had finished passing over the Jordan, the Lord said to Joshua, <sup>2</sup> “Take twelve men from the people, from each tribe a man, <sup>3</sup> and command them, saying, ‘Take twelve stones from here out of the midst of the Jordan, from the very place where the priests’ feet stood firmly, and bring them over with you and lay them down in the place where you lodge tonight.’”

<sup>4</sup> Then Joshua called the twelve men from the people of Israel, whom he had appointed, a man from each tribe. <sup>5</sup> And Joshua said to them, “Pass on before the ark of the Lord your God into the midst of the Jordan, and take up each of you a stone upon his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the people of Israel, <sup>6</sup> that this may be a sign among you. When your children ask in time to come, ‘What do those stones mean to you?’

<sup>7</sup> then you shall tell them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord. When it passed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. So these stones shall be to the people of Israel a memorial forever.” <sup>8</sup> And the people of Israel did just as Joshua commanded and took up twelve stones out of the midst of the Jordan, according to the number of the tribes of the people of Israel, just as the Lord told Joshua.

And they carried them over with them to the place where they lodged and laid them down there. <sup>9</sup> And Joshua set up twelve stones in the midst of the Jordan, in the place where the feet of the priests bearing the ark of the covenant had stood; and they are there to this day.

It goes on to say that they all crossed over the Jordan River on dry ground! They were now in the land promised to them by God years before! Why did God ask them to do this strange thing of setting up 12 stones in the middle of that river bed - one for each tribe of Israel?

They set up a monument of stones to serve as a reminder of what the Lord had done for them! Why? God asked them to do this because He knows we’re prone to forget. They did this so their kids would know about God’s faithfulness!



What is the result when you do the same? Your kids will have courage, trust in God & success.

We all want that for our kids. But how many of us are doing what's required for that to happen? We must share the stones and stories and pass down our spiritual heritage!

**Just like the Israelites, we must pass on the stones and stories of God's faithfulness!**

When the future generations saw the stones piled up by the Jordan River when they'd say "What's the pile of rocks there for?" — grandpas and grandmas would kneel down and say "Oh let me tell you! Those stones were placed right there to remind you of what God did for us! We were afraid to enter Canaan because there were GIANTS here, BUT God told Joshua, our leader to send in the priests with the Ark and suddenly the waters STOPPED in MID-AIR and God did for Joshua the same thing that God did for Moses. He allowed us to cross the river on dry ground and that gave us the courage to enter the land that God had promised us!"

The little grandkids would say "OH WOW!"

You see, stones and stories communicate ...

**What God did for them, God will do for us.**

### **Practical Advice For Parents**

Listen parents, I know that parenting isn't always easy. Actually let's be honest, parent is almost *never* easy.

Did you ever wonder why God created teenagers? I mean - think about it. It's like why did He create Cicadas? Same question right?

No really - **why did God create teenagers? I tell you why.**

**So you would know what it's like to create someone in your own image who then denies your existence. lol**

Ok no really - Parents I want to give you a few tips for doing this well.

**Parents, open the Bible with your kids every day.** Pick a time, pick a place and try to stick to that same schedule. Read the Bible out-loud and share what it means.

**The goal isn't quantity is quality.** The goal isn't to "get through a whole chapter" but rather to understand and apply what's read. That means it may only be one paragraph or ONE proverb.

**Read it, discuss what it means then pray together.** Ask God to help you apply what was read and ask your children what they might want to pray for.

When you include them in your prayers - including their requests - it indicates to them that no request is too small for God. Pray big prayers too! Pray for healing. Pray for miracles! They also need to see that no request is too big for God either.

## Tell a story

### Make **SOMETHING TANGIBLE** to serve as a **TESTIMENT** - a stone altar

Maybe it's a book/journal of you writing in your God-stories.

Maybe it's a literal stone pile in the yard if you feel that property will very likely stay in your family. Maybe it's a picture book you can create using shutterfly.

**This is why we study God's Word. It brings truth to families. The Word brings truth. The truth brings salvation!**

90% of this has been a message to parents & grandparents, aunts and uncles. But I want to talk to the teens and college students that are listening today - in person and online.

Pay attention to the advice your parents give you. **Be open with a humble heart to hear your parents' advice, their testimonies and their guidance.**

**Prov 6:20-23**

**"My son, keep your father's command and do not forsake your mother's teaching. Bind them always on your heart; fasten them around your neck. When you walk, they will guide you; when you sleep, they will watch over you; when you awake, they will speak to you. For this command is a lamp, this teaching is a light, and correction and instruction are the way to life."**

If you do, God will honor your humility and your obedience to His Word. God will bless you in so many ways! Your marriage will be better! Your enjoyment of your job will be better. Your parenting and relationship to *your* kids will be better if you will heed their advice and follow Jesus, trust God for miracle, and study God's Word daily.

As Parents and Grandparents its our job to pass on the stones and stories to the next generation. When we do, they will believe ...

**When we read God's Word together, we realize that Israel's story is our story. We are grafted into the family of God. Their stones become our stories.** When we do that well, the next generation will believe ...

### **What God did for them, God will do for us.**

*(That line stays on screen while Dave, Shayne, Mark & Pam share)*

Again, let's draw a contrast. Gideon and the other Judges did not pass down their spiritual heritage to their children - they were *not* intentional about it. They didn't play offense - only defense. So their kids lost - they lost the heritage & the protection of the Lord.

But Moses and Joshua did pass down their heritage through stones and stories. Their children not only were protected by God because they obeyed His ways but they enjoyed His presence!

***I want to illustrate this for the last section of our service today.***



I'm going to invite my parents up and Dave and Shayne Harnett up to the stage.

I felt it would be cool to enact this for you for three reasons

- 1 It gives you a sample - a picture of what I want each parent and grandparent to do.
2. It honors our elders. Ed and Margret would be up here too but we'd run out of time if I gave a bunch of preachers the mic! =)
3. It does in fact pass down a memory to us as a church. They are OUR parents and Spiritual Parents, our elders and in hearing, we know that ... What God did for them, God can do for us.

Closing - P Ed and Margaret come up and stand together and P Ed prays a blessing over the church.