

January 31, 2016

FACING LIFE'S CHALLENGES

How to Save Your Family

Joshua 2:1-24

The book of Joshua tells the story of the new chapter in the life of God's people Israel. In the excitement of entering a new land filled with possibility was the reality of some serious challenges facing them. The challenges we face today may be different than what Joshua faced, but they are equally as real and daunting. This is especially true when we see the challenges facing our families. In the great story in Joshua involving a woman named Rahab, we see some great truths to help us save our families. Let's do it.

1. **Be aware of what is happening!**

"We have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to Sihon and Og, the two kings of the Amorites east of the Jordan, whom you completely destroyed." **Joshua 2:10 (NIV)**

"Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak." **Matthew 26:41 (NIV)**

"Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour." **1 Peter 5:8**

2. **Declare the Lord as the only hope.**

"When we heard of it, our hearts melted and everyone's courage failed because of you, for the Lord your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below." **Joshua 2:11 (NIV)**

"Choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." **Joshua 24:15 (NASB)**

"Guide me in Your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in You all day long." **Psalms 25:5 (NIV)**

3. **Make your family's salvation the priority!**

"Now then, please swear to me by the Lord that you will show kindness to my family, because I have shown kindness to you. Give me a sure sign that you will spare the lives of my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them, and that you will save us from death." **Joshua 2:12-13 (NIV)**

"At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his family were baptized." **Acts 16:33 (NIV)**

"Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord." **Ephesians 6:4 (NIV)**

4. **Cling to the true lifeline – Jesus!**

*"The men said to her, 'This oath you made us swear will not be binding on us unless, when we enter the land, you have tied this scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down, and unless you have brought your father and mother, your brothers and all your family into your house.'" **Joshua 2:17-18 (NIV)***

"Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful." **Hebrews 10:23 (NIV)**

5. **Put faith to action!**

"'Agreed,' she replied. 'Let it be as you say.' So she sent them away and they departed. And she tied the scarlet cord in the window." **Joshua 2:21 (NIV)**

“The seventh time around, when the priests sounded the trumpet blast, Joshua commanded the people, ‘Shout! For the Lord has given you the city! The city and all that is in it are to be devoted to the Lord. Only Rahab the prostitute and all who are with her in her house shall be spared, because she hid the spies we sent.’”

Joshua 6:16-17 (NIV)

“By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient.” **Hebrews 11:31**

Jesus, today I hear you saying to me _____
