

# Family Impact

Newton Presbyterian Church

September 23, 2012

*These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children...*

## Life of Abraham: Genesis 13

### Synopsis:

Abram returned from Egypt very wealthy with a great deal of livestock. His nephew Lot had also become wealthier while in Egypt. The land could not support both of them with all their clans and flocks. Their herdsman began to quarrel. Abraham told Lot he did not want to quarrel so they should separate. He let Lot choose where he wanted to dwell. Lot chose the more fertile-looking plain of the Jordan near Sodom. Then God reaffirmed his promise to Abram and told him He would give him all the land as far as his eye could see. Abram worshipped God.

### Application:

Abram chose to walk by faith and not sight, by giving Lot the opportunity to choose the land God had promised to him. When we trust God we can relinquish control knowing God blesses those who trust in him. By contrast Lot chose the land that “looked” better but was inhabited by wicked people, which eventually led him to more trouble.

### Other Scripture passages to study this week:

Isaiah 42:16; 2 Corinthians 5:7

Jeremiah 29:11; Psalm 37:23-24

Dueteronomy. 31:6

## How to Take Advantage of Teachable Moments With Your Kids



The most effective teaching style for parents is one that takes a proactive approach. It is one that helps teenagers process values and decisions before they are faced with making decisions. Certainly, all teenagers make mistakes. It is inevitable. In those times, they will find opportunities to learn some great lessons. Yet, helping your teenager learn how to process issues *before* they are faced, will have a tremendously positive impact on them.

One proactive teaching style is that of actively looking for “teachable moments” and then taking advantage of them. A “teachable moment” is any opportunity that presents itself, where you see values being presented or decisions being made. The possibility for creating teachable moments is virtually unlimited. These can appear from a TV program, a news report, a movie, conversation at the dinner table, the pastor’s last sermon, a book, situations happening at home, work, school, and so on.

If you want to take advantage of using the “teachable moment” teaching style with your teenager, you will have to take a number of steps.

To read the full article, go to :

<http://www.homeward.com/take-advantage-teachable-moments-with-your-kids-ta-a-1532.html>

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**This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.**  
**Joshua 1:9**

## This Week's Family Worship Ideas

Walking by faith and not by sight. That's hard to do! Here are two fun ways to illustrate this with your kids:

- **Trust Falls:** Have your child stand facing away from you. Place yourself a short distance behind them. Keeping his legs straight, have your child fall backwards- depending on you to catch him. Repeat increasing the distance you stand from your child, and therefore the distance of their fall, each time.
- **Blindfold walk:** Blindfold one member of your family and then have another lead him/her around just by verbal directions.

**Talk about what it is like to trust another person when you cannot see.** What do you need to know about the other person (in terms of who they are—character etc.) if you are going to be able to trust them with confidence

**Here is a great family devotional that you can read with your family:**

<http://ministry-to-children.com/story-about-trusting-god/>

Bookmark [ministry-to-children.com](http://ministry-to-children.com) on your computer. There are lots of great resources and articles there!

## Questions to ask at home:

This week on Wednesday night the children will have looked at the story of Gideon in Judges 7. In this passage Gideon prepares to lead his men into battle against the Midianites. But God tells him over and over that he had too many men. The Lord reduces Gideon's army from 22,000 to 300 men! In order to lead his small group of men into battle, clearly he had to trust God to win the battle for him. And God makes it happen without even a fight!!!

Check out the account of God's faithfulness and Gideon's willingness to trust God.

Here are some questions you could look at with your kids:

Gideon had to walk by faith and not by sight as God sent him into the fight with the Midianite. Would anyone of your kids dare to do something you are not sure of? How about walking the tightrope? Would you walk a tightrope? Sometimes, it is difficult to do something when we are not sure of what the results would be. But, being able to do so is a demonstration of one's faith or belief or trust.

## Telling Your Story

**The majority of your children's spiritual training takes place in your home— whether you realize it or not.** Everyday, we share about the events of our day— what good things happened? How did we do on our test? What happened with a work presentation or a meeting? When we share, are we careful to acknowledge God's hand in the day to day events of our lives? Do we give him the credit or do we take it for ourselves?

One of the challenges we face as parents is sharing where our faith intersects with real life. Because God is involved in every aspect of our lives, we need to take the time to share where we've seen Him at work. Have you ever considered that when you proclaim the places where God has acted, you are sharing your testimony in a powerful way? When we do so, we declare to our children that God is alive and well and sovereignly moving in our midst. We are pointing to the One who is faithful and active in the world— working out all things for His good purposes .

***We want to challenge you to share your own stories with your children.*** Don't be intimidated! You don't have to give them a long explanation of how you came to faith. Focus on answering the question, "How did I experience God in a particular situation?"

For instance, this week we are talking about the fact that we can allow fear to get the best of us sometimes. We can often take matters into our own hands instead of trusting God and being obedient. Tell your story around that! It only takes five minutes or so.

**Parents, share with your children a time when you held control so tightly over a situation that you didn't allow God to work in it?** What happened with that situation and what did you learn from it? (i.e. not trusting the lord with finances/tithing, not trusting the lord to take of your child in a difficult situation, etc)

*Moms and Dads,*

*How did you do with this last week? Did you share your story? If you didn't, it's okay. This can be hard to do the first 2 or 3 (hundred) times you do it. Here's a suggestion. Ask someone to pray for you and to hold you accountable. Have a trusted brother or sister hold you in prayer this week so that you might have the opportunity and the courage to share with your children from your own life.*

## Affirming One Another:

Growing in Christ is not easy— not at any age!!! That's why it is important to acknowledge the victories and the times when God has blessed you for your obedience and faithfulness.

We need to hear from others that we are indeed making progress in this journey. Take some time to encourage one another every week. Perhaps it may have to do with the theme of walking by faith. Perhaps it is another way. This is a really great way to connect to one another!!!

### Family Memory Verse Challenge:

**For we live by faith, not by sight.**

2 Corinthians 5:7

# Newton Presbyterian Church

Transforming lives by living the Truth of Jesus

## Next at NPC:

Save the dates for these upcoming events:

Sunday, September 30th: Congregational Visioning Lunch

October 5-7th: 5G All Church Retreat @ Camp Brookwoods, Alton Bay, NH

October 28th and November 4: Marriage Seminars

November 1 and 8: Thursday Night New Members/Inquirers Class

### Youth Programs:

*Wednesday Nights: Junior High Live*

7-8:30 pm @NPC

*Undivided: Senior High*

Sunday Nights

## Trunk or Treat



The Ultimate Halloween Alternative

**October 31st**

*More*

*information to come....*