

Family Impact

Newton Presbyterian Church

Week of September 16, 2012

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

The Life of Abraham

Genesis 12: 6-20

Sermon Synopsis

God called Abram and made him the promise we know as the Abrahamic Covenant(12:1-3). When a famine strikes the land, Abram must travel to Egypt (Gen 12:10). Out of fear that Pharaoh will kill him and take his beautiful wife Sarai, he decides to pretend that she is his sister. Pharaoh does take her as a wife, and treats Abram well, giving him many gifts and servants. But God intervenes and inflicts diseases on Pharaoh (12:17). When Pharaoh found out what had happened, he sends Abram and Sarai away with all the riches he had acquired there (12:16, 20). Abraham by going to Egypt put in jeopardy God's promise to make him a people and give him a land, but God intervened so the promise was maintained.

Application: Sometimes circumstances raise fears in our mind that cause us to lose sight of God's promises. We often act on our fears, rather than living by faith. The good news is that even when we act in fear rather than in faith, God keeps his promises.

Did you miss this week's sermon or just want to hear it again? Go to:

http://www.newtonpres.org/get_involved/audio_sermons.htm

Other scripture to study as a family:

Psalm 37:1-7, Psalm 62:6-8, Proverbs 3:5-6, Isaiah 12:2, Matthew 6:25-34, Philippians 4:6-7, 1 Peter 5:7

Family Friendly Bible Study:

Matthew 14:22-33: Peter walking on water. ..



This is a great passage to read together as a family. As Peter walks on the water, he falls victim to the same fears as Abraham did as he entered into Egypt. The Children studied this passage in KidzRootz this week. Look at it together

as a family.

One fun idea is to act out the story. And make it come alive. Do you have action figures, dolls or characters of any kind at home? Have some fun with them! Take a shoe box and turn it into a boat. Fill it with action figures and narrate the story. Ambitious? Creative? Use a spray bottle to simulate rain, a flashlight for lightning. Get everyone involved and engaged.

Another great illustration: Storm in a Bottle:

Pour water 2/3 of the way full into the bottle. Now add baby oil or mineral oil into the bottle to fill it up. Add 1 drop of blue food coloring. Screw on the bottle cap and secure with duct tape (so that it will not unscrew). Shake up the bottle and watch the storm. Use this storm to set up the reading of the passage.

If you want help preparing for this, check out the back of this page for more questions and ideas.

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More On Matthew 14:22-33

Great Application Thought:

We may shake our heads and think Peter was foolish for sinking in the water. But we do the same thing in our lives. We worship Jesus and try to follow Him. But then problems come—and they seem so big! We take our eyes off Jesus and the problems grow bigger and bigger. We begin to sink down into the stormy waters of our troubles. But Peter called out to Jesus, saying, “Lord, save me!” And Jesus reached out and pulled Peter out of the raging waters. He will do the same for us. We can call out to Jesus anytime anywhere, about anything. And He is there. He wants to be with us and help us through the storms of life.

Questions For Family Discussion around Matthew 14: 22-33

What fears do we have?

What can we do to help us remember to ask God for help when we face these fears?

How have we seen God keep His promises?

What does it mean to fear God instead of other things?

Is it healthy to fear God?

How could a true understanding of God’s faithfulness helped Peter to have responded differently?

Telling Your Own 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.

Answer these simple questions:

Can you think of a time when you were afraid or anxious about something? What did you do? Did you panic and take matters into your own hands? Or did you trust God? Whatever your choice, did you learn something through this about God’s faithfulness? Is there a passage of Scripture you’d like to share about what you know of God’s faithfulness? Take a few minutes to write down your answers and share your story with your children.

Family Memory Challenge:

1 Peter 5:7

Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you.

Family Resources of the week:

Book: *The Legacy Path: Discover Intentional Spiritual Parenting*

by Brian Haynes

Website: <http://www.homeword.com/>

This site has a wide variety of resources and articles for families.

Next @ NPC:

Dad's Breakfast

Steppin' Up: Become a Better Dad

Saturday, September 22

8:00-9:30 @NPC

Steppin' Up is a forum for men to come together to talk about the challenges of being a dad. Come meet with other men, look at the Scriptures and encourage one another as dads. Contact Kevin if you have questions or plan to attend. kcampbell@newtonpres.org

Youth Programs:

Wednesday Nights: Junior High Live

7-8:30 pm @NPC

Undivided: Senior High

Sunday Nights

6:30-8:30

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

October 31: Trunk or Treat!!!!!! The Ultimate Halloween Alternative

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