



FAMILY MOMENT

Discuss our church vision and how you can incorporate it into the daily rhythms of your family life.

LOVE GOD.

In order to love God, we need to know Him, recognize Him, and continue learning even more about Him. So what can we do to love God more? Here are some easy-to-accomplish suggestions!

- Encourage your family to be watching for God throughout their day. At the end of the day allow each person to share how they saw God working in their life or around them. Remind everyone that God is always with us and always at work!
- Utilize the weekly devos provided on the Parent Cue app! Print them off for your kids/teens and encourage them by setting aside time to go through it with them. It'll create great conversations about loving God!

REFLECT HIS LIGHT.

- Grab a mirror and a dry erase marker.
- Read 1 Peter 2:9 together and remind each family member that they are God's special possession.
- Write words on the mirror that describe how you see God reflected in each person. Focus on one person at a time. When each person looks into the mirror they should see words that help them recognize how God's light is reflected through them.

CHANGE THE WORLD.

- Come up with a few practical ways your family can live out this vision together!
- How can we show God's love to our neighbors?

THINK ABOUT IT

This world is not our home...

For this world is not our permanent home; we are looking forward to a home yet to come. -- Hebrews 13:14

Pastor Josiah mentioned in his sermon that as believers this world is not our permanent home. Being at home with God means being estranged from this world. We are to live as foreigners with temporary visas here on earth. (Hebrews 13:14, Leviticus 25:23). Ezra illustrates this in 1 Chronicles 29:15 when he said, "We are foreigners and strangers in your sight, as were all our ancestors. Our days on earth are like a shadow, without hope." And finally, Jesus said in John 17:16, "They are not of the world, even as I am not of it." Jesus says of those who are His followers, they are like me! This is not their home or my home.

- How should you live your life differently knowing that our time on this planet is temporary and we are just passing through it? (James 4:14)
- Jesus says as believers we are just like Him: that we don't live permanently here as He doesn't live permanently here. (John 17:16) How does this similarity with Christ make you feel?

We are just alien visitors passing through. We are like vapor in the air that quickly disappears. James says, "Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes." (James 4:14). Truly, this earth is not our permanent home. The true believer's home is somewhere else.

TALK ABOUT IT

But while we are here, let's make the most of it for Christ...

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. -- 1 Peter 2: 9

You and I are foreigners here on earth. And like Pastor Josiah's illustration of tourists, we should look different, act different, talk different, and think different. It should be clear to others that we are not from here. Peter says in 1 Peter 2:9, "We are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation... that you may declare the praises of Him..." The reason why this verse was so powerful to the New Testament believers was that during the Old Testament days, people could not approach God directly. If they wanted to talk to God or ask God for forgiveness, they had to bring a sacrifice to the High Priest who would then bring it to the altar and then enter the "holy of holies" to meet with God. But now, because of Christ's permanent sacrifice, **we** are the royal priests who can boldly approach God! "Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus" - Hebrews 10:19).

- How does it make you feel that you, as a believer, can enter the holy of holies before God?
- In what ways should our lives change knowing we have a "royal priesthood" status?

We are now different because of Christ. And it is because we are different, we should live our lives differently. Where once we belonged to the world, we are now His. Where once we deserved hell, we have eternal life in heaven (our true home). Where once we were unforgiven of our sins, we now have forgiveness of our sins if we have received Jesus as our personal Lord and Savior. Because we have all these things, shouldn't we live our lives differently?

LIVE IT

- How are you living the church's vision "to love God, reflect His light, and change the world?"
- What does it mean to live with "loose hands" to the things of this world?