

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

June 18, 2023

The Challenge

Being a father is a challenge because it is not like mothers do not have anything to say. It is even more difficult when a father seeking to lead a home has another father lurking in the background, especially those fathers who have not been involved in their children's lives. It is even harder when the child learns how to manipulate the stepfather, and the father while the mother is trying to keep the peace. Being a father can be a challenge, but there is a greater challenge.

It is what we see with Ishmael who is the step child to Sarah, but the son to Abraham. When Sarah gets her own son Isaac, she is determined to not have Ishmael around. Things became so difficult that Sarah ordered Abraham to get rid of Ishmael. Abraham had developed a good relationship with his son, Ishmael (Genesis 21:11) so the issue distressed him. Abraham, because of how adamant Sarah had become, especially knowing what happened in the past (Genesis 16), made the decision to pray rather than react. God responded and provided Abraham direction and Abraham despite the pain, submitted to it. Because of Abraham's submission to God's direction and God's agenda for the nation of Israel, two nations were born, but his sons knew each other and when Abraham died they came together to honor their father (Genesis 25:1-9).

The challenges caused Abraham to grow and mature in his relationship with God. Abraham, despite everything he may have encountered, always kept a worshipful relationship with God (Genesis 12:8; 13:3; 14:17-24; 28:12). This being the center and life-line of Abraham's life is the core from which Abraham found his direction for productive results. So even though his family was dysfunctional at times, his sons still respected him and gave him honor.

Being honored no matter the circumstances begins with our commitment to first honor God by how we remain worshipful and obedient to His direction. When David passed on, there is no mention of his children being present (1 Kings 2:10-11). As a matter of fact the very next verse went on to talk about sibling rivalry for his throne. When Solomon passed on, the nation became divided and splintered. No matter how great David and Solomon's accomplishments were, their legacy was not as strong as Abraham's.

To all the fathers who faithfully take care of their children and those that are not their biological children; to those fathers who did not neglect their kids even in the midst of divorce; to those fathers whose wives have passed on, or those who have become a single father by proxy; you have stayed the course and faithfully led and continue to lead your families, Especially to you, HAPPY HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!!!



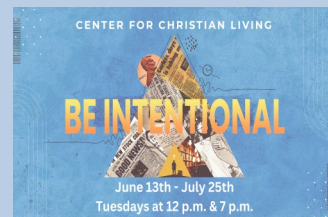
UPCOMING Events



BOWLING WITH L.E.G.I.T.
Join us for a night of bowling with the Young Adults, Saturday June 24th at 6:30 p.m. Be sure to register! You don't want to miss this chance to fellowship with one another. Register at <https://bit.ly/LEGITBowling> For more information, contact **Keron Brown** at keron.brown@lwfellowshipchurch.org



CONTEMPORARY SERVICE KICK BACK SUNDAY, JUNE 25TH AT 1:00 PM
Join us for Contemporary Service on Sunday, June 25th at 11:00 a.m. Join us immediately after service for free food, fun, games, music and fellowship. For more information contact **Keron Brown** at keron.brown@lwfellowshipchurch.org



CENTER FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING
Join us for the Center For Christian Living every **Tuesday at 12 p.m. & 7 p.m.** starting June 13th and ending July 25th. This reformatted CFCL will focus on topics related to the theme for the year, which is "BE INTENTIONAL" There will be classes for women, men, 55+ adults, adults, young adults, youth and kids. For more information visit www.lwfellowshipchurch.org/center-christian-living



WOMEN OF GRACE MINISTRY BE INTENTIONAL DISCUSSIONS
Join the Women of Grace Ministry for our BE Intentional Discussion Series Saturday, July 1, 2023 from 9:00 a.m. - 11 a.m. For more information contact **Eleanor Wilson** at wog77088@gmail.com



L.E.G.I.T. YOUNG ADULT CONFERENCE
Join the L.E.G.I.T. Young Adult Ministry for the Be Intentional Conference Saturday, July 8, 2023 12 p.m. - 8 p.m. This Conference will feature and afternoon and evening of fun, food, fellowship, BE Intentional workshops, speakers, dinner provided, Exalt the King, a Drama Ministry presentation, and much more! Register at <https://bit.ly/LEGITConference2023>



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Visitor's Welcome

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

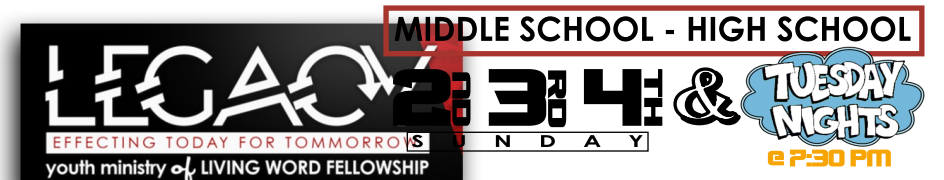
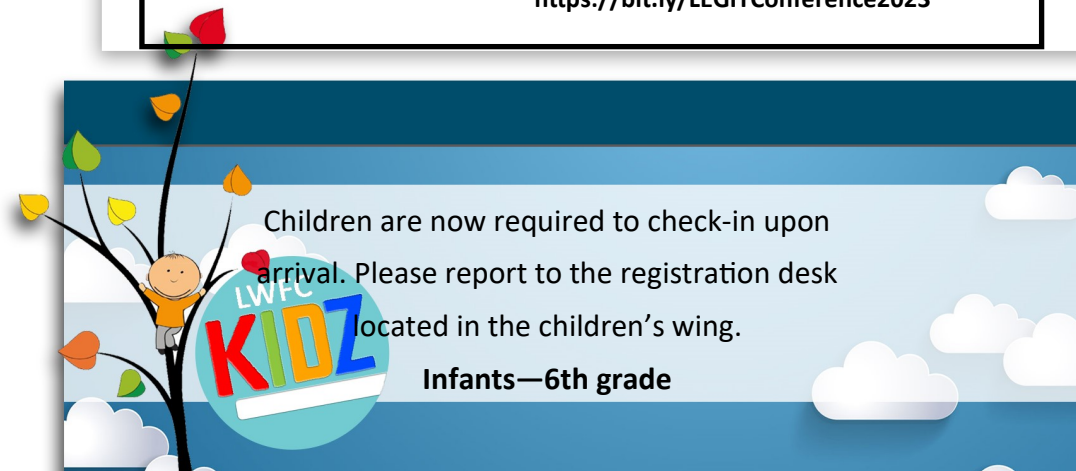
Special Music

"From the Top"
Genesis 35:1-8

Click "Sermon Notes" on the Website

Call to Discipleship
Please remain seated at this time

Benediction



From The Top
Genesis 35:1-8

A. No Choice (v. 1):

- 1. No matter that it was his sons who conspired and acted in this manner, God continuously interacted only with Jacob.
- 2. God was not just commanding Jacob to get up and go to Shechem, God was expecting Jacob to meticulously construct a plan that he must carefully execute to make this happen. This was because Jacob was not planning to go even though he was supposed to go.
- 3. Many times we have so many distractions all week and so much energy is burned getting things done that church can become something we put off.
- 4. God’s command reveals how God thinks about worship. It is not just being at worship, but it is carefully making a way out of no way and being committed to the journey of getting to church no matter the sacrifice; this is worship (Romans 12:1).
- 5. God did not want Jacob coming to worship Him without a clear understanding that He was commanding him to be committed to spend a significant amount of time in worship.
- 6. God commanded Jacob to put a lot of effort into faithfully (meaning once he starts he does not stop until it is done) establishing out of nothing a place of sacrifice that is totally dedicated to Him.
- 7. Jacob’s delay to fulfill what he promised God, seems to create a family life of violence, vengeance, treachery and idol worship in his family. His delay to take God seriously led to the decaying family life.

B. Reconnect (vs. 2-4):

- 1. Jacob did not delay in obeying God and Jacob exercised the leadership necessary to get everyone in his household in the right direction. Sometimes we need God to push us in the right direction, but it still requires us to take the initiative to obey Him.
- 2. Even though Jacob commanded his family and employees to worship God, he knew all along they were worshipping other gods and did nothing about it. This led to them almost being annihilated from the earth. Dead to God almost led to them being killed.
- 3. Coming to worship is a time of preparation and it is representative of our respect for God’s holiness.
- 4. Jacob commands everyone to collectively make every effort, no matter the sacrifice, to construct a place where they can experience the powerful presence of God.
- 5. Jacob remembers meeting God at Bethel. In that meeting God responded to him in his time of need. Jacob is again going through a crisis. He comes before God expecting to experience God in the same manner.
- 6. No matter if our decisions or lack of leadership put us in the same place God is always ready to listen especially when we follow His direction.
- 7. When Jacob submitted to God’s direction his house came back to order.
- 8. It is when Jacob’s house was back in order that they were in the best condition for worship.

C. His Presence (vs. 5-6):

- 1. When we submit to God’s way, God’s protection is comprehensive. Jacob’s enemy had completely no desire to hunt them down for what they had done.
- 2. You know a person’s heart by the manner by which they worship God.
- 3. Jacob’s naming of God’s place of worship is a reflection of his relationship of what God continuously means to him.
- 4. When the scripture states that ‘God had revealed Himself’ it is the same as saying that God made Himself naked before Jacob like a husband and wife are to each other. God had established Himself completely to Jacob (32:24-30).
- 5. When our life experiences are sensitive to God’s leading, God’s care, and God’s protection, our worship is deeper and even more meaningful.





Living World Church

New Members Orientation 2023

CLASSES ARE 8AM-12PM EACH WEEK

SUNDAY JULY 2 & 9
SUNDAY AUGUST 6 & 13
SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 3 & 10
SUNDAY OCTOBER 1 & 8
SUNDAY NOVEMBER 5 & 12
NO CLASSES IN DECEMBER

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON BECOMING A MEMBER CONTACT PASTOR DUANE LAWRENCE AT DLAWRENCE@LWFELLOWSHIPCHURCH.ORG



Love Faith Hope
Jesus Faith Hope
Faith grateful

PRAYER REQUESTS

Grieving: Pastor Cannings & family, Byron Grand & family, Pastor Lawrence & family, Wayne Jackson & family, Nord Bullock & family, Michelle Lewis & family, Moniqua Glasper & family, Clifford Jackson Jr, & family, Susie Farley & family, and Vincent Robertson & family.

Health and Healing: Lurlean Lane, Florence Wiggins, Retha Amos, Margaret Baptiste, Cici Sharpe, Eunice Johnson, Jeffrey McQueen, Barbara Gordon, Eric White, Ella James, Pat Crawford, Lisa Roberts, Birdie Williams, Jon Heard, Lakesia Davis, Rutha Patrick, Betty Goode, Latifah Brown, Tanisha Collins, Eric Prichett, Rufus Hadnot, Pat James, Kevin Carey, Lori Lee, Nikisha Doyle, Jessie Austin, Sherri Love, Elizabeth Clark, Clara Williams, Betty Cunningham, Wanda Turk, Deborah Smith, Dorothy Price, Kathryn Ford-Cheatham, Anthony Thomas, Beverly Austin, Joshua Williams, Ruby Hunter, Yvette Ford, Calvin Wilson, Diane Ford, Patrice Terrell, Patsy Gatterson, and Rita Hughes.

Happy Father's Day!

From the Top

GENESIS 35:1-8

WWW.LWFELLOWSHIPCHURCH.ORG | [@lwfchouston](https://www.instagram.com/lwfchouston) | 

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