



Small Group Study Guide

Series: **SAFEHOUSE**

Sermon 8: BEFORE THEY LEAVE

A Faith They Can See, Serve and Carry

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◆ INTRODUCTION

In this final message of the SAFEHOUSE series, PT reminds us that graduation is not only a celebration of how far our children have come, but also a reminder of what we must build into them before they leave. Parents, grandparents, mentors, leaders, and every adult who influences the next generation are called to help children develop a faith they can see, serve, and carry into the world.

◆ KEY SCRIPTURES

Deuteronomy 6:4–9 — “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children...”

Summary: Faith must first live in the parent before it can be passed to the child.

Luke 15:20 — “But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, ran and embraced him and kissed him.”

Summary: The father of the prodigal shows love that longs for restoration without excusing rebellion.

Hebrews 12:5–6 — “My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. For the Lord disciplines the one he loves...”

Summary: Loving discipline and boundaries are part of God’s design for protection and growth.

Ephesians 4:15 — “...speaking the truth in love...”

Summary: Christlike faith holds truth and love together.

Ephesians 2:10 — “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”

Summary: We were not saved to sit. We are created to serve.

2 Timothy 3:14–15 — “Continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it...”

Summary: Timothy’s faith was shaped by what he learned and by who lived it before him.

Joshua 24:15 — “But as for me and my house, we will **SERVE** the LORD.”

Summary: Every family must decide what kind of home they are building.

◆ DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. PT said, “*We can’t wait until the graduation cap is in the air to prepare our kids for the world they are walking into.*” Why must spiritual preparation begin long before a child enters a new season?
2. Read Deuteronomy 6:4–9 above. Why is it important for children to see faith lived at home, not just heard about at church?
3. PT said, “*Before children need correction, they need connection.*” How can a home become a SAFEHOUSE where love, truth, grace, and boundaries work together?
4. In Luke 15, the father welcomed the prodigal home, but he did not chase him into the far country. How can families love someone deeply while still maintaining necessary boundaries?

5. PT said, *“Your silence will not protect your influence. It will surrender it.”* What conversations do parents and spiritual leaders need to have with the next generation?
6. Read Ephesians 4:15. Why must truth and love stay together when we teach children, lead families, and represent Jesus to the world?
7. PT said, *“A borrowed faith rarely survives a hostile world. But a practiced faith becomes part of the soul.”* How does serving help faith become more personal and lasting?
8. Read 2 Timothy 3:14–15. Who helped make faith visible to you, and what kind of faith example do you want others to see in your life?
9. PT said, *“You can’t control every room your child enters, but you can help build what they carry into the room.”* What spiritual foundations do children and graduates need to carry with them?
10. PT said, *“Your children will grow beyond the reach of your hands, but they are never beyond the reach of your prayers.”* How can prayer help parents release control without losing hope?

◆ PT’S BEST QUOTES

- *“Parents do not just owe their children a church to attend. Parents owe their children a faith they can see, serve, and carry.”*
- *“Before it gets into the child, it’s got to be living in the parent.”*
- *“Setting boundaries is not withdrawing love.”*
- *“A SAFEHOUSE is not a home where nobody fails. It is a home where failure never cancels love — but destructive behavior is never allowed to dominate the home.”*
- *“Love without direction (boundaries, discipline) may feel kind in the moment, but it’s cruel in the end.”*
- *“Truth without love becomes cruelty. Love without truth becomes compromise. Truth spoken in love looks like Jesus.”*
- *“God did not create us to just soak in ministry. He created us to serve in ministry!”*
- *“Graduates, you may be leaving a season of life, but you must never leave the God who carried you through it!”*

◆ APPLICATION / ACTION PROMPTS

- **Decide what kind of family you are building.** Are you fitting God in whenever convenient, or intentionally saying, *“As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord”*?
- **Make faith visible.** Choose one way your family or others need to see your faith lived this week through prayer, worship, repentance, service, generosity, forgiveness, or faithfulness.
- **Serve somewhere.** Don’t just consume ministry; carry ministry. Ask God where He may be calling you to serve through CrossPointe. Take the step to do it. Please. We need you this summer.

◆ CLOSING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank You for the SAFEHOUSE series and for teaching us how to build secure homes, stronger families, and deeper faith. As we close this out, teach us to build homes where faith is seen, served, and carried. Help us love without quitting, speak truth with grace, set boundaries with wisdom, and pray with faith.

Let *“We don’t run from it. We work through it.”* become part of our family dynamic moving forward. When conflict, pain, or struggle come, help us bring them into the light and trust You through it. Make CrossPointe a church filled with families who serve You, students who carry their faith, graduates who follow Your purpose, and believers who face hard things with grace, truth, humility, and courage.

In Jesus’ name, Amen. **PLEASE TAKE A GROUP PICTURE AND TAG PT and TABATHA on Facebook!**