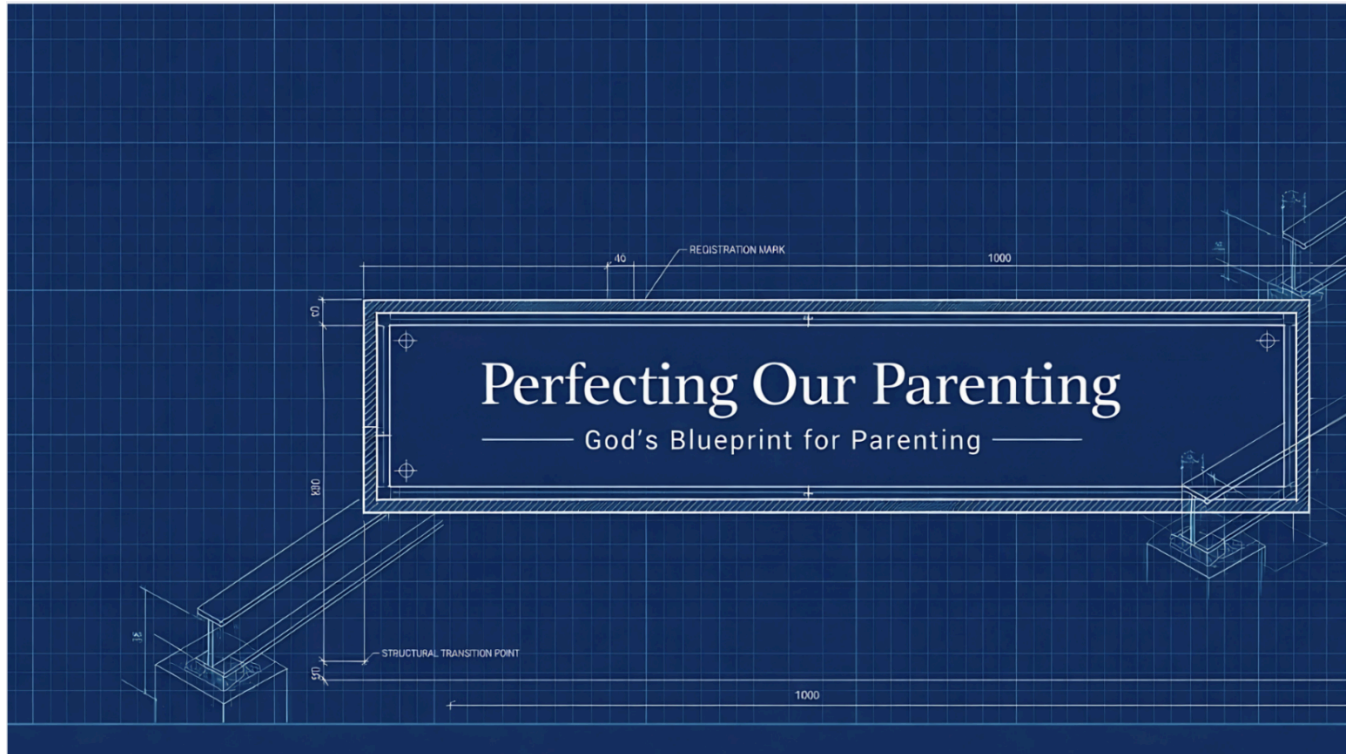


Week #2: Joshua Stage 2026

Sunday, April 19, 2026
2:52 PM

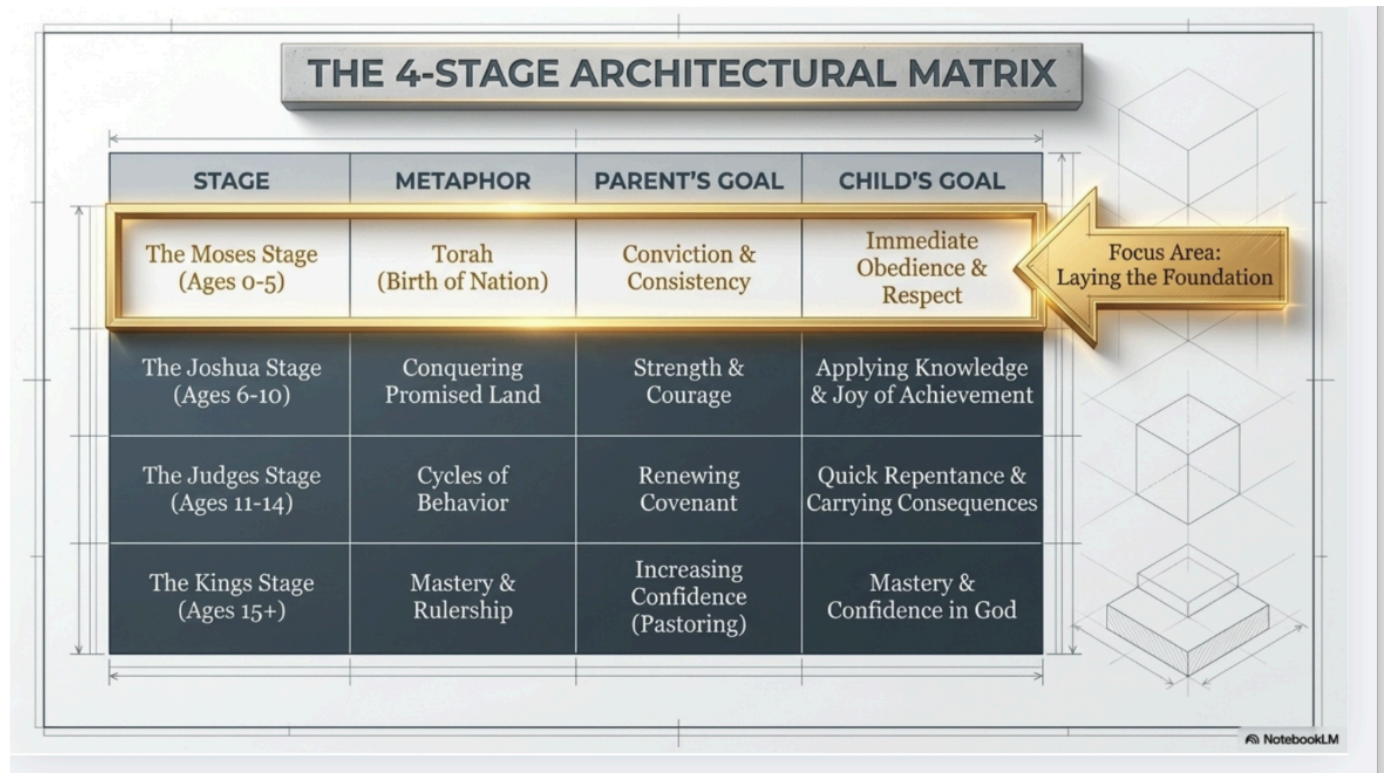


PETER

Good evening, Arising Church,

Welcome to week #2 of our class: *Perfecting our Parenting!* We would like to begin this class with a brief review of last week.

We learned that the framework for our class was derived from the perfect parenting of Adonai with his firstborn son, Israel.



We walked through each stage, recognizing a clear pattern: the way Adonai related to Israel under Moses corresponds to how we shepherd children ages 0–5; His leadership under Joshua reflects the training of ages 6–10; the period of the Judges parallels the formative years of 11–14; and the era of the Kings aligns with guiding those 15 and older into maturity.

Concerning the Moses stage, we learned that there are two goals, or pillars for your children in this phase—obedience and respect.

To instill these two principals in young children it requires two things from parents:



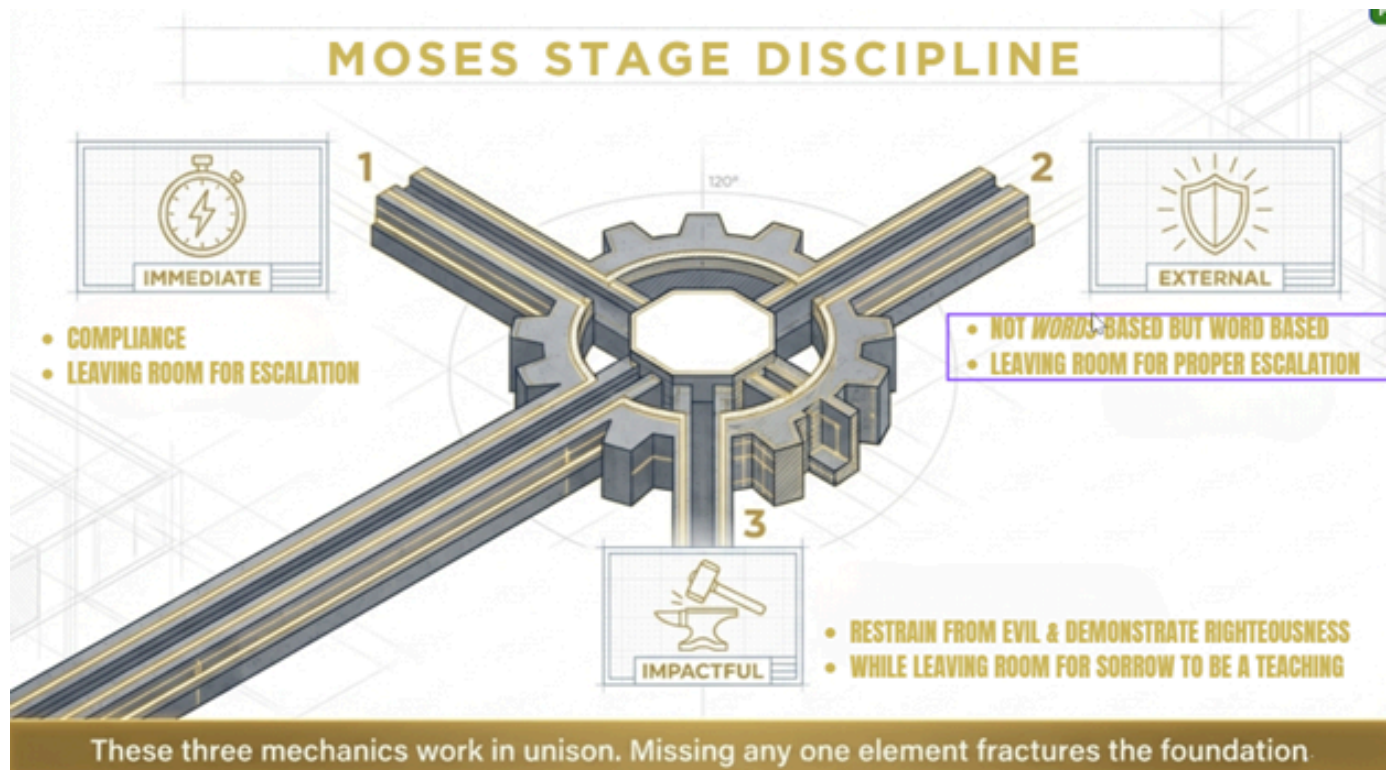
JOY

- o **Deuteronomy 4:1–2 (NIV)**

4 Now, Israel, hear the decrees and laws I am about to teach you. Follow them so that you may live and may go in and take possession of the land the Lord, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. ² Do not add to what I command you and do not subtract from it, but keep the commands of the Lord your God that I give you.

BEN

Parents must be consistent in everything when it comes to Moses Stage children. Consistent in expectations, consistent in their behavior and consistent in discipline.



We learned that discipline must be these three things:

- Immediate, so that it demands compliance to the command given.
- External, not *words* based by word based
- Impactful, causing sorrow but leaving room for escalation.

This led us to a profound revelation concerning our parenting—God will only allow us to succeed *little by little*.

JODY

- o **Deuteronomy 7:21–22 (NIV)**

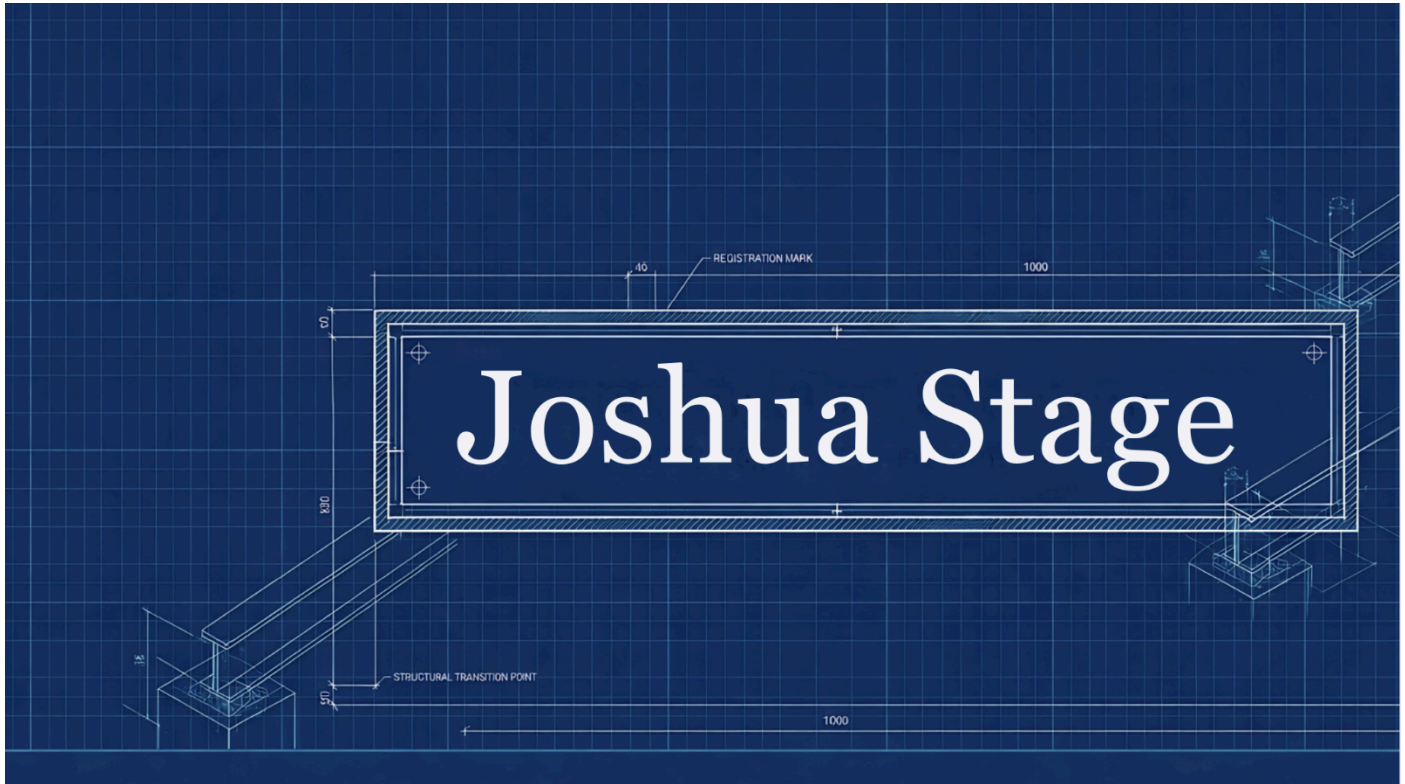
²¹ Do not be terrified by them, for the Lord your God, who is among you, is a great and awesome God. ²² The Lord your God will drive out those nations before you, little by little. You will not be allowed to eliminate them all at once, or the wild animals will multiply around you.

BEN

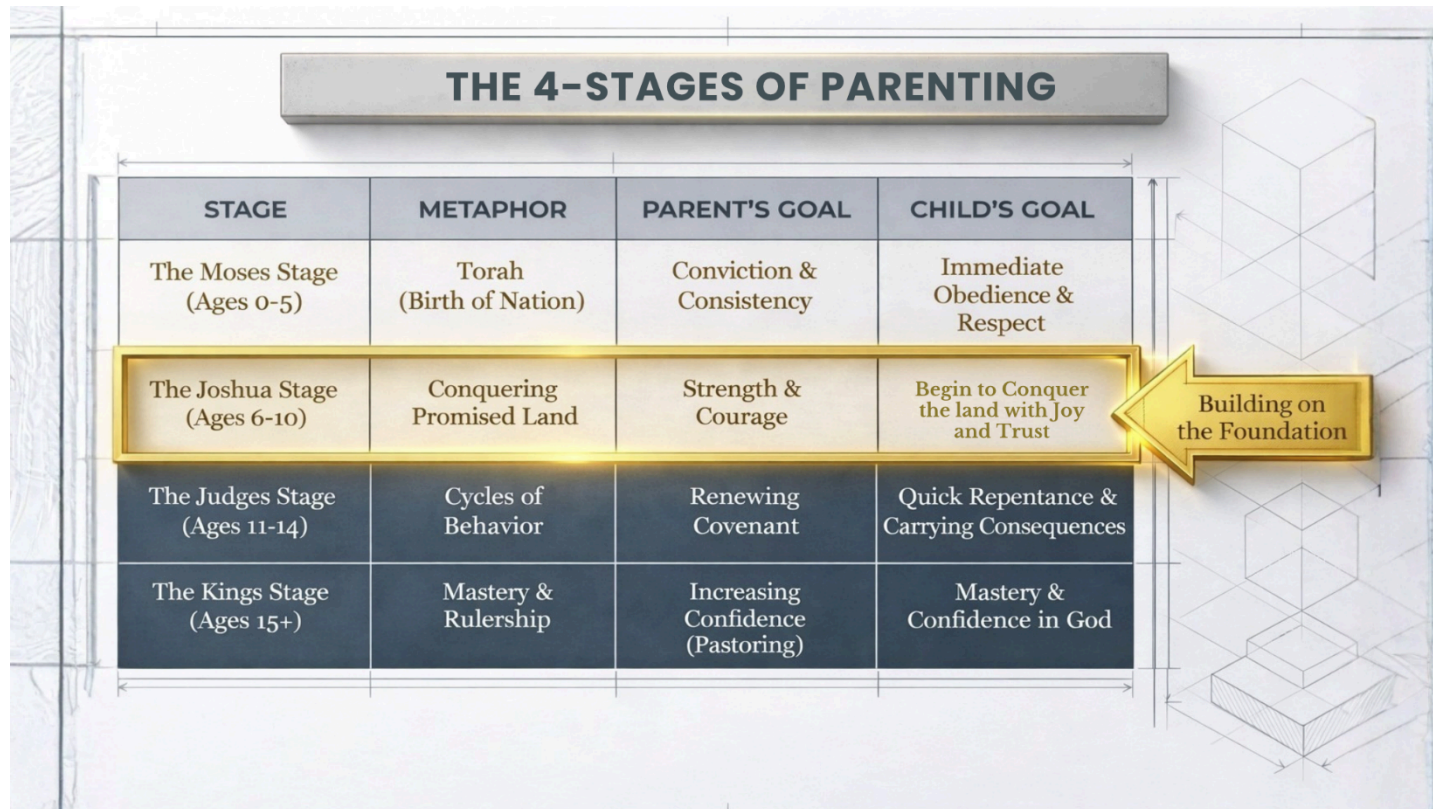
The little ones you have now will one day be Godly adults who love the Lord and are raising families of their own.

NICK

This leads us to our next stage:



Let's review the goals for parents and children in this stage.



For our children, we compare them to Joshua during this stage. Moving from the Moses stage, our children are in the promise land and they are now learning step by step how to begin conquering the giants in the land. They are learning not only to obey but to do it JOYFULLY!

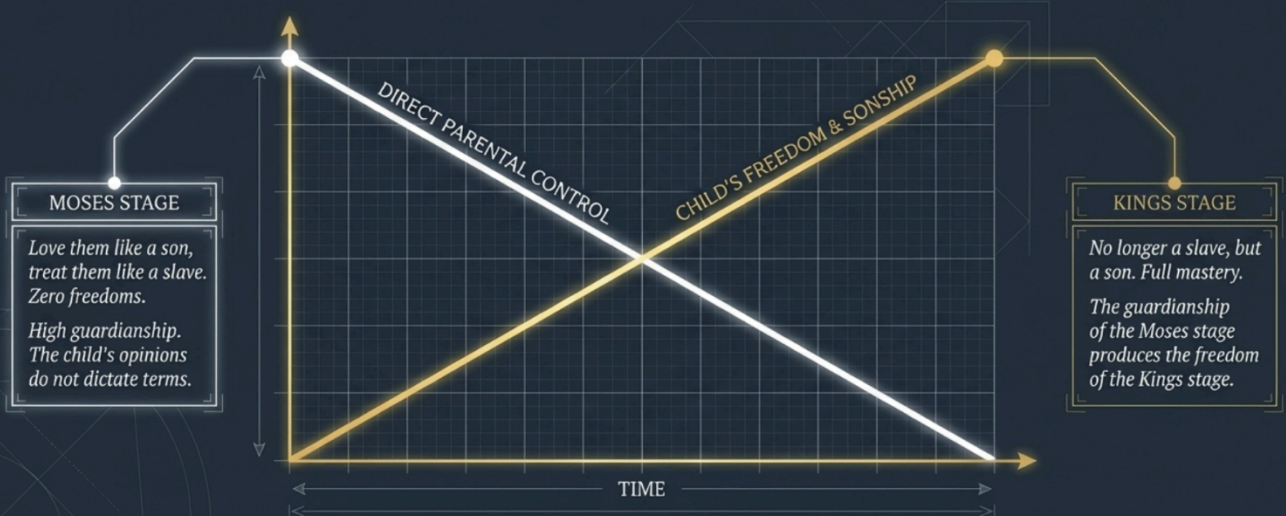
And TRUSTING the leading of their parents and the authority in their life so that they will be able to produce great fruit.

Joshua is the first prophetic book of the Tanakh, thus it can be likened to the overall point of the prophets—to warn the soul. You will see this in the way the flesh is lessened compared to the Moses stage.

This means that discipline will be a mixture of external and internal consequences. They will also begin to have freedoms as their character develops.

THE MATURATION OF FREEDOM: SLAVERY TO SONSHIP

As long as the heir is a child, he is no different from a slave... He is subject to guardians and trustees until the time set by his father. (Galatians 4:1-2)



They will move from slavery to more and more levels of sonship. Your direct control will decrease as their freedoms increase from this stage on into the Judges and Kings stage.

Those freedoms are limited but may feel like a lot compared to none! This stage also includes rewards for success. As they conquer their giants you will want to help them feel the reward of righteousness.

LYNDIE

o Joshua 1:7 (NIV)

Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go.

PETER

Parents, in this stage you must be strong and very courageous!! The road behind you has been exhausting, difficult, and in some ways seemingly unending. You have not left the foundation of the Moses stage behind, you are now beginning to build upon it! This means your parenting and your children's maturity is going to go beyond just the immediate, external and impactful. Together you will achieve greater levels of strength, courage and joy. As a family in this stage you must not

turn to the right or to the left from your convictions which in turn will teach them to be successful to do the same. Think about this in relation to the transition from Moses to Joshua and what Joshua wrote at the end of Deuteronomy concerning Moses.

JOY

o Deuteronomy 34:5–12 (NIV)

⁵ And Moses the servant of the Lord died there in Moab, as the Lord had said. ⁶ He buried him in Moab, in the valley opposite Beth Peor, but to this day no one knows where his grave is. ⁷ Moses was a hundred and twenty years old when he died, yet his eyes were not weak nor his strength gone. ⁸ The Israelites grieved for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days, until the time of weeping and mourning was over.

⁹ Now Joshua son of Nun was filled with the spirit of wisdom because Moses had laid his hands on him. So the Israelites listened to him and did what the Lord had commanded Moses.

¹⁰ Since then, no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face, ¹¹ who did all those signs and wonders the Lord sent him to do in Egypt—to Pharaoh and to all his officials and to his whole land. ¹² For no one has ever shown the mighty power or performed the awesome deeds that Moses did in the sight of all Israel.

PETER

Your success and theirs depends on your convictions being consistently upheld. They will watch you and desire to be like you and honor you—just like Moses and Joshua. Joshua took what Moses had taught him and used it to conquer the land! He did not forget it or graduate from it, it was what fueled his own success.

JODY

o Joshua 1:8 (NIV)

⁸ Do not let this Book of the Law depart from **your mouth**; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful **to do everything** written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.

BEN

The goal is this: meditating on it + doing it = prosperous AND successful! This will look like keeping the word in your speech and on your lips, meditating on the Word when you walk, when you rise. Share with your Joshua stage kids what the Lord is speaking to you, it is what your kids need. Let this be what you discuss on car rides, during chores, and before bed.

JODY

o **Psalm 119:97-104 Mem (NIV)**

Oh, how I love your law!

I meditate on it all day long.

98 Your commands make me wiser than my enemies,
for they are ever with me.

99 **I have more insight than all my teachers,**
for I meditate on your statutes.

100 I have more understanding than the elders,
for I obey your precepts.

101 I have kept my feet from every evil path
so that I might obey your word.

102 I have not departed from your laws,
for you yourself have taught me.

103 **How sweet are your words to my taste,**
sweeter than honey to my mouth!

104 I gain understanding from your precepts;
therefore I hate every wrong path.

BEN

This is such a remarkable passage. When you meditate on the word all day long it gives you more insight than your teachers and the ability to obey the Lord's precepts! That turns into the perspective that those commands from the Lord are sweeter than honey.

Something special about the Joshua stage is that there is an awakening of awareness. They ask lots of questions, they want to know new things. Take advantage of that time and begin to feed your child the Word repetitively. When we as parents meditate on the word all day long and teach them to do the same, it will make you BOTH wise.

In light of wisdom in young children, you should be familiar with the three different Jewish schools that have been discussed in here before.

NICK

In traditional Jewish education, when a child began learning for the first time (around the beginning of the Joshua stage) the Hebrew letters would sometimes be written on a slate or tablet covered with honey. As the child traced and read the letters, they would also taste the honey. This simple but powerful lesson

taught them from the very beginning that the words of God are sweet, good, and meant to be desired.

LYNDIE

o Joshua 1:9 (NIV)

9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

NICK

Joshua is in this moment *commanding* the people to be strong and courageous! The same call goes out to us in our parenting. Parents you must address head-on fear and discouragement, not only in this stage but every stage.

Being faithless in the **Moses stage** looks like...

- *Explaining to your toddler the whys and the reasons,*
- *bargaining with them when You expect obedience.*
- *Allowing fear to make you doubt that "if you **are** immediate, external and impactful, it **will** produce what the Word says it will."*

But, Being faithful in the **Moses stage** looks like:

- *Being consistent with convictions to produce obedient, respectful children!*

Being faithless in the **Joshua stage** looks like:

- *Terrified with homeschool: "they won't be ready for the rest of their life," "they won't learn important concepts for life" or, "they will miss out."*

Being faithful in the **Joshua stage** looks like:

- *Realizing the kids we are raising are going to be more equipped and better prepared than we ever were and not lacking anything!*



They are going to be homeschooled and not weird! They will grow up loving the Word and trusting in Jesus to give them everything they need!

Being faithless in the **Judges stage** looks like:

- *Terrified that they won't be the men and women of God that will carry the Gospel into the nations and all the work will be for nothing!*
- or-
- *Discouraged they aren't maturing fast enough*

Being faithful in the **Judges stage** looks like:

- *Believing they will become Strong & Courageous and have maturity beyond their years, you are raising up 5 fold ministers & pillars!*

Being faithless in the **Kings Stage** looks like:

- *Terrified that our kids will be harmed by some supposed lack of equality, fairness or even equity*
- or-
- *Discouraged that our kids won't have the weighty words that we are still working towards*

Being faithful in the **Kings** Stage looks like:

- *Being Strong & Courageous that as you are perfecting your parenting you will raise children who will become mighty men/women of God able to hear from the LORD, be completely capable to address the giants in their own promised land and be victorious!!*



And one day you'll go from this!



To this!

PETER

Now we are going to do a group activity!

Parents: take this time to read to your family Psalm 119:97-104 & give your children a sweet treat!

- Have your children in the Moses stage say to you "*the Word of God is as sweet as honey*"
- Have your Children older than Moses stage: recite their favorite verse

Lets go back to the Scripture to continue our teaching, let's go to the Writings.

JOY

- **Nehemiah 8:10 (NIV)**

Nehemiah said, "Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is sacred to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the **joy of the Lord is your strength.**"

PETER

While you are displaying strength for your Joshua stage child to reflect, you must continually remember this strength is derived from Joy of the Lord! It is not derived from making no mistakes, knowing all the answers, or presenting your kids as a completed project before they are! Your strength is only from the Lord. It will inspire your kids to see that Mom & Dad are unshakable!

In the Joshua stage, you define success for your child as **joyful obedience** to what God has said and what you have said. In the Moses stage, you were teaching them obedience—now we are adding the correct "heart response" to instruction. For them to be both "willing and obedient".

An external obedience and an internal heart compliance. Teach them that when they know the Word, they are strong!

JOY

o **Psalm 19:7-9 (NIV)**

The law of the Lord is perfect,
reviving the soul.

The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy,
making wise the simple.

8 The precepts of the Lord are right,
giving joy to the heart.

The commands of the Lord are radiant,
giving light to the eyes.

9 The fear of the Lord is pure,
enduring forever.

The ordinances of the Lord are sure
and altogether righteous...more precious than gold...

PETER

This stage is characterized by JOY & TRUST, "*for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go*". How should you act if you know that you are meditating on the WORD, doing everything the WORD says, and that HE is with you? With Joy & Trust!! This is how to fight fear & discouragement.

When correcting your children, **apply** a scripture to the instruction, tying in what the Word says about their behavior. *"We don't speak like that because the Word says in Ephesians 4:29 to speak only what is helpful for building others up, let's recite that verse together"* . Give them scripture to memorize, expecting them to be able to speak it back to you **and demonstrate the ability to apply it in their lives.**

BEN

This is the difference between this stage & Moses—the application of the Word. This application and repetition must be more than just fleeting moments, it must begin to be the very nature of your child. **You and your child are Strong when you KNOW the Word, and courageous when you DO the Word. Your child is learning to express trust in the LORD—this trust is the proof of courage!!**

"Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts." — Winston S. Churchill



These are great years of parenting! Years where you will see success and should feel encouraged!! Your consistency in your convictions will begin to take root in

them. You may view these as glory years, a special season, just like the reign of Joshua!!



Your child will want to be with you and please you as they long for your approval concerning their actions! Keep them with you! Mentor them! Pour into them!!

*Testimony about bringing them along with ministry



Let's briefly touch on a problem with this stage. Parents often like this stage so much that they want to keep their children "in" this stage. Meaning, that although the child should move on into the time of the Judges (pre-teen, early teen) we like the response and sweetness & limited freedoms of this stage...so we just never advance in our instruction. This is convenience over conviction. This will cause them not to develop into the adults and mighty men and women of God that they are designed to be. But, there is a way to move forward...it is found in Joshua 3:17

JODY

- o **Joshua 3:17 (NIV)**

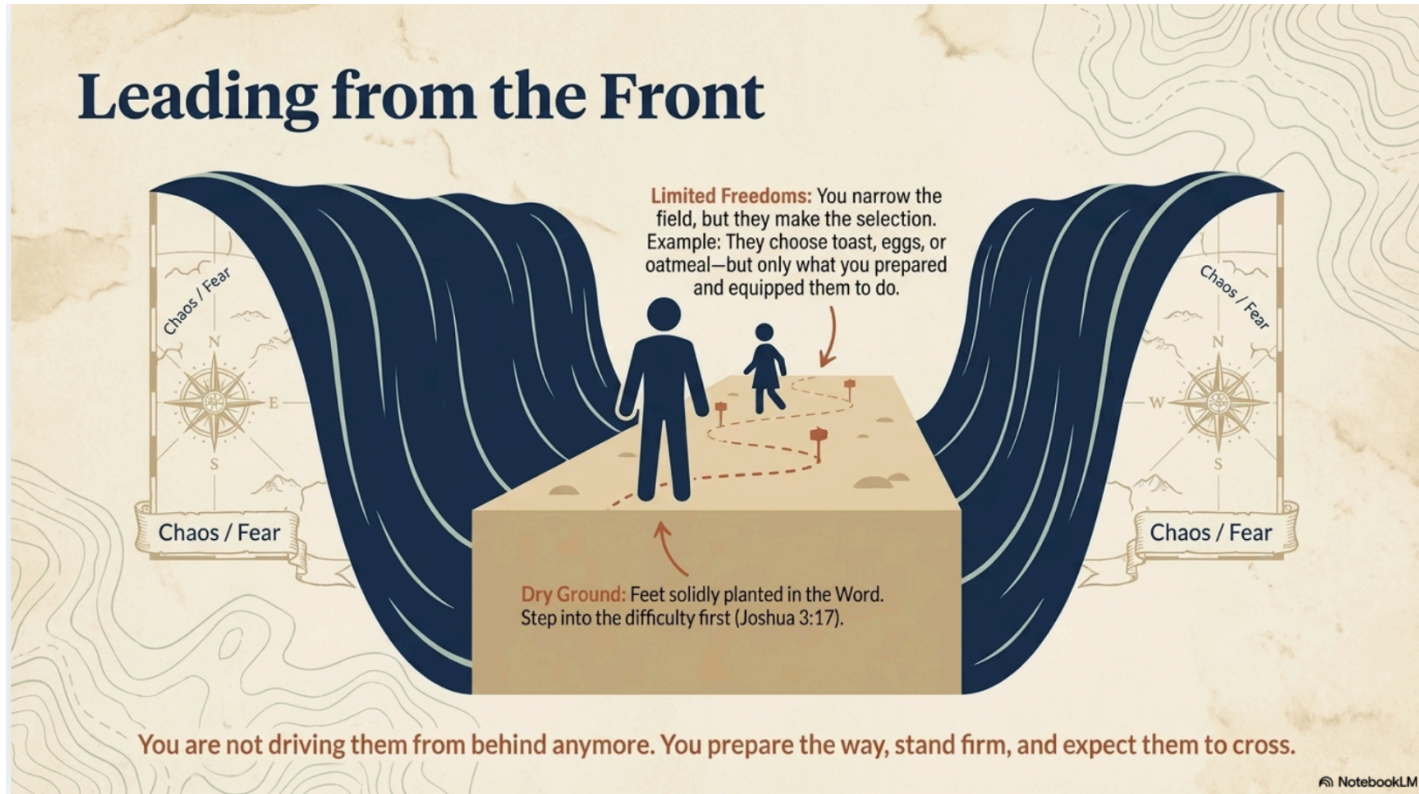
17 The priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord stood firm on dry ground in the middle of the Jordan, while all Israel passed by until the whole nation had completed the crossing on dry ground

NICK

In the Joshua stage parents must always be leading from the front.

(SLIDE)

Leading from the Front



This is how you move them from the foundation of the Moses stage to the Joyful trusting of the Joshua stage. Like the priests in Joshua three—stand firm on dry ground. Plant your feet solidly in the WORD, *you* must be full of joy and trust so they can be! You lead the way and lead by example. What you expect out of them, expect from yourself! You are not driving them from behind anymore—you prepare the way, stand firm, and expect them to cross!

Your trust grounded obedience will allow them to walk with stability, like the priests prepping the way and letting them cross.

This is another example of limited freedoms—you have narrowed the field, but they select. For example:

- Cutting the grass
- Chores (laundry, cooking, etc.)
- Assignments
- Getting into the Word
 - You have done a study on a topic
 - You help lead them through the topic
 - Ask them to add to the topic

Listen to this play out in the book of Joshua and we will see the next point in the teaching.

LYNDIE

o Joshua 4:4-7 (NIV)

So Joshua called together the twelve men he had appointed from the Israelites, one from each tribe, 5 and said to them, "Go over before the ark of the Lord your God into the middle of the Jordan. Each of you is to take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites, 6 to serve as a **sign (OT - banner, H226)** among you. In the future, when your children ask you, 'What do these stones mean?' 7 tell them that the flow of the Jordan was cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord. When it crossed the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. These **stones are to be a memorial** to the people [ben - sons/children] of Israel forever.

NICK

As they conquer and cross over what you have lead them to—build memorial stones with them! Recount the problem with them, how your situation was at flood stage and yet you needed to cross. What did the LORD say to do and how did He powerfully move. Celebrate their success and show them how God helped them, while helping them realize that they had to walk first!

PETER

This also will help you live transparently with your kids, or said another way translucently— letting the light to shine through! That is the opposite of opaque and secretive. Let the light shine through in your testimonies, struggles and victories.

- Finances
- Health issues
- Relationships
- Big Decisions

Let them in on the both good and bad of all of those situations. This provides the security, joy and trust in them to be transparent with you as they have struggles and victories. They will have challenges as they learn things in school—they can admit the difficulty but also see God come through. Or maybe it looks like fixing something with Dad, mistakes are made but you complete it and it works! Or maybe cooking a meal with mom the family loves it.



This develops in them the joy of achievement! They now can work hard, overcome obstacles and actually accomplish something!

Help them experience what it's like to want to quit but then to carry on!

(The appeal of video games is it feels like you're achieving something without actually doing anything)

JOY

o Joshua 5:9 (NIV)

Then the Lord said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you." So the place has been called Gilgal (rolled away) to this day

PETER

Parents, as they are conquering the land, look for the times when their reproach (disappointment from the Lord) is rolled away! They will sin along the way in their campaign to adulthood, help make them aware of the reproach that sin brings and see the effects of sin and guilt. This will be much more present than in the Moses stage. But, when you lead from the front and conquer and overcome

together despite failures it will produce in them a desire to do what is right and a love for virtue. You will see them want to do right! This is where the internal and external merge! (want = internal, do right = external).

BEN

While you are in this process, apply scripture and prayer: sharing difficulties with the Lord and each other and watching God come through. Help them get familiar with the phrase: *"We don't know what to do but our eyes are on you!!"*

Personal Testimonies:

- Hefner - Simeon - lots of obstacles
- Slaughter - Learning to love discipline (Caleb)
- Allens
 - Storm on 6th birthday.

On this note, you should expect this stage to be the time your kids ask about being spirit-filled or baptized. Parents often ask about when those things are appropriate to do in a child's life. While each child is different our recommendation is to not be afraid to delay and let the hunger build. You want to develop in them through this stage true repentance and a heart that begins to run after God.

Its important to give a reality check about this stage. Do not fall into the delusion that the land is conquered in this stage. They are just beginning the fight. Like Joshua, the land is theirs but they have to conquer it. Salvation is a three-tense journey: past—present—and future. Learn to have the faith to point them in the right direction and not immediately have the problem solved. This is good for you and them to develop joy and trust in the Lord to help you and them conquer the land.

Many parents are crushed after this stage once they enter the time of the Judges. Why? Because everyone will see that the parents and their children have giants left in their land and huge swaths of land yet to conquer! So what do you do? Do you pretend like the whole area has already been conquered by burying your head in the sand? No, you recognize that there is a lot of fighting left to do! Identify the areas of growth, put them on the trail of victory and help them fight for it everyday! That is achievement over time—little but little.

Consider what Joshua says to Achan. And Let's talk about another fruit of this stage.

JODY

- o **Joshua 7:19 (NIV)**

Then Joshua said to Achan, "My son, give glory to the Lord, the God of Israel, and give him the praise. Tell me what you have done; do not hide it from me."

NICK

Joshua is at least 40 years older than Achan, he calls him and treats him like a son. He instructs him to give glory to the Lord and praise Him in his full confession. You get to teach them in their sin that God knows anyway, there's no reason to lie. Recognizing God's authority means being fully honest. When you let the weight of confession AND consequence fall upon them, you allow the Lord to get glory by getting to the heart of the matter and establishing His right order in their heart! Even when they fully confess—consequences and punishment may still be given! In this stage you are beginning to get to their character and the root issues in their heart. If you remove the consequences, you remove God's glory.

Because of this, discipline will still be a part of their daily lives. Sometimes its better to have them work it off as opposed to just getting spanked. Some kids have learned to endure spanking so that it's over quickly and they can get back to what they want to do.

It is an achievement to have a child confess in order to bring glory to God and praise to His name even if consequences are inevitable. This is getting their heart and character in Shalom with who God is.

LYNDIE

- o **Joshua 8:30-33 (NIV)**

Then Joshua built on Mount Ebal an altar to the Lord, the God of Israel, 31 as Moses the servant of the Lord had commanded the Israelites. He built it according to what is written in the Book of the Law of Moses — an **altar of uncut stones**, on which no iron tool had been used. On it they offered to the Lord burnt offerings and sacrificed fellowship offerings. 32 There, in the presence of the Israelites, Joshua **copied on stones the law of Moses**,

NICK

You could say, Joshua set it in stone!

LYNDIE

- o **Joshua 8:33 (NIV)**

which he had written. 33 All Israel, aliens and citizens alike, with their elders, officials and judges, were standing on both sides of the ark of the covenant of the Lord, facing those who carried it — the priests, who were Levites. Half of the people stood in front of Mount Gerizim and half of them in front of Mount Ebal, as Moses the servant of the Lord had formerly commanded when he gave instructions to bless the people of Israel

NICK

The Joshua stage is when a clear biblical sense of right and wrong is being established. The two mountains is a good illustration that there are blessings for obedience and curses for disobedience.

The Ark being smack dab in the middle of blessings and curses signifies that the standard for right and wrong is not based on a parents opinions, feelings, or intentions, but is rooted in the presence of God found in his Word!

JOY

- o **Joshua 5:10-12 (NIV)**

On the evening of the fourteenth day of the month, while camped at Gilgal on the plains of Jericho, the Israelites celebrated the Passover. 11 The day after the Passover, that very day, they ate some of the produce of the land: unleavened bread and roasted grain. 12 The manna stopped the day after they ate this food from the land; there was no longer any manna for the Israelites, but that year they ate of the produce of Canaan.

PETER

Joshua 5:10–12 shows a turning point for Israel: when they entered the land, the manna stopped and they began eating from the produce of Canaan. At this stage, they were expected to take responsibility for feeding themselves.

In the same way, this stage of parenting calls for an expectation of maturity. Children should begin learning to “feed themselves,” both physically and spiritually. The idea of a ten-year-old still needing a high chair highlights the point—what was appropriate in an earlier stage is no longer fitting here.

Practically, this means giving them responsibility for things like fixing their own breakfast, lunch, or dinner. Spiritually, it looks like guiding them to daily bread—leading them to the Word, but allowing them to discover it personally. You might read together as a family and then ask, “What stood out to you in this chapter?” so they begin engaging directly with Scripture.

As they do this, they start finding joy in God’s Word feeding their souls and receiving their own revelation from it. Watching this happen strengthens and encourages you as a parent to keep going.

This is also a time to help them develop tools like Scripture strings, building a framework of truth they can carry with them. Ultimately, this stage is about fostering growth—not just in the individual child, but in establishing patterns that impact generations.

JODY

- o **Joshua 5:13-14 (NIV)**

Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, "**Are you for us or for our enemies?**" 14 "**Neither,**" he replied, "but as commander of the army of the Lord I have now come." Then Joshua fell facedown to the ground in reverence, and asked him, "What message does my Lord have for his servant?"

BEN

Joshua 5:13–14 reveals that God’s purposes are not centered around taking sides in a human sense, but around His own righteousness. When Joshua asks, “Are you for us or for our enemies?” the answer is neither—God is establishing that His will is the standard, not personal perspective.

(READ SLIDE)

The Neither Compass

(Joshua 5:13-14) Are you for us or our enemies? Neither, he replied.



Eradicating Woe is Me

Teach children that not everything is a binary of fair vs. unfair.

The Idolatry of Same Treatment

Tribes did not receive the same size inheritance. Do not build into a child's sense of worldly injustice.

True North

Focus entirely on God's Standard. The question is never "How does this affect me?" but rather, "Is this right to do?"

In this stage of parenting, it is important to begin helping children internalize that not everything is binary or about being for them or against them. They need to understand that, as a family, you are committed to righteousness for its own sake, not just what feels fair or personally beneficial.

This requires intentionally shifting their thinking away from "How does this affect me?" toward a broader awareness of God's will and purposes. It is helping them see beyond themselves and into a larger, God-centered perspective.

Scripture reinforces this idea in passages like Joshua 14:4, where not all tribes received the same inheritance—some received more land, while the Levites received no land at all, only towns to live in. This shows that God's standard is not sameness, but righteousness according to His design.

As a result, children must learn that there is a difference between equal standards and equal treatment. The standard remains the same for everyone, but the application may differ. For example, you may give birthday presents, but only to the one whose birthday it is. Expecting identical treatment in every situation can

actually reinforce selfishness and even idolatry, as it centers everything on personal entitlement.

In many cases, trying to treat everyone exactly the same can unintentionally create a sense of injustice rather than resolve it. Instead, the goal is to anchor the family in God's standard, helping children grow in maturity by recognizing and submitting to His ways rather than measuring everything by personal fairness.

LYNDIE

- o **Joshua 17:14-15 (NIV)**

The people of Joseph said to Joshua, "Why have you given us only one allotment and one portion for an inheritance? We are a numerous people and the Lord has blessed us abundantly."15 **"If you are so numerous," Joshua answered, "and if the hill country of Ephraim is too small for you, go up into the forest and clear land for yourselves there in the land of the Perizzites and Rephaites."**

NICK

Josh 17 puts the responsibility on the people to go and conquer what is already theirs. This is when you as the parent are looking at your child and telling them "you can do this...I have seen what you are capable of...now go get it!" This is when you are giving them the cure to their insecurity!

LYNDIE

- o **Joshua 17:16-18 (NIV)**

16 The people of Joseph replied, "The hill country is not enough for us, and all the Canaanites who live in the plain have iron chariots, both those in Beth Shan and its settlements and those in the Valley of Jezreel." 17 But Joshua said to the house of Joseph — to Ephraim and Manasseh — **"You are numerous and very powerful. You will have not only one allotment 18 but the forested hill country as well. Clear it, and its farthest limits will be yours; though the Canaanites have iron chariots and though they are strong, you can drive them out."**

NICK

Joshua 17:16–18 shows the people focusing on limitations—the land feels insufficient, and the enemy appears too strong—but Joshua responds by calling out their strength and capacity, reminding them that they are capable of overcoming if they are willing to do the work.

In this stage of parenting, it becomes essential to call out a child's true capabilities. This requires discernment—recognizing whether they are unaware of

their ability, afraid of their ability, or simply unwilling to do the hard work required to grow and overcome.

This is also the stage where parents begin identifying and drawing out specific traits in their child—like the wisdom, discernment, and initiative seen in Abigail. It is about dialing in on who God has made them to be and helping refine that identity.

Parents are actively building their child’s confidence, not in a shallow way, but rooted in who they are in Christ. As children begin to recognize their God-given design, they can start to find joy in who they are and strength in walking it out.

Ultimately, this stage is about shaping how they see themselves—cultivating a clear and confident understanding of their identity, so they are equipped to step into challenges, do hard things, and live out who God created them to be.

GROUP ACTIVITY

 **PARENTS:**

- TAKE A CUP OF SOIL AND A SEED FOR EACH OF YOUR CHILDREN
- PLANT THE SEED WITH YOUR CHILD
- PUT IT IN AN OBVIOUS PLACE IN YOUR HOME
- GIVE IT PROPER CARE
- WATCH THE SEED OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYS/WEEKS TO SEE THE GROWTH THAT IS TAKING PLACE
- BE REMINDED... THIS GROWTH IS OCCURRING IN YOUR CHILDREN AND IN YOUR PARENTING!!

JOY

- Joshua 10:6-8 (NIV)

The Gibeonites then sent word to Joshua in the camp at Gilgal: "Do not abandon your servants. Come up to us quickly and save us! Help us, because all the Amorite kings from the hill country have joined forces against us." 7 So Joshua marched up from Gilgal with his entire army, including all the best fighting men. 8 The Lord said to Joshua, "Do not be afraid of them; I have given them into your hand. Not one of them will be able to withstand you

PETER

Joshua 10:6–8 shows Joshua responding to the Gibeonites because of the oath that had already been made. Even though the situation became difficult and costly, the commitment stood, and God affirmed it by going with Joshua into battle.

This highlights the seriousness of an oath, both for a parent and for a child. When a commitment is made, especially in the name of the Lord, it is no longer just about personal preference or convenience—it is about the Lord's name and reputation.

An oath made in God's name reflects on Him, not just on you. It calls for consistency and faithfulness, because God Himself is not capricious. There is no shadow of turning in Him—He is completely trustworthy in everything He says and does.

In this stage, children must begin to understand that their words carry weight. Commitments are not to be taken lightly or abandoned when they become difficult. Oaths and promises are not casual—they are an added layer of responsibility that reflect the character of God, who is always faithful to His word.

JOY

- o **Leviticus 23:37-38 (NIV)**

("These are the Lord's appointed feasts, which you are to proclaim as sacred assemblies for bringing offerings made to the Lord by fire — the burnt offerings and grain offerings, sacrifices and drink offerings required for each day. 38 These offerings are **in addition** to those for the Lord's Sabbaths and **in addition** to your gifts and whatever you have vowed and all the freewill offerings you give to the Lord.

PETER

Devotion to God is not optional or occasional; it is established as a baseline rhythm in the home. Rooting out faithlessness begins by building consistent patterns of worship, obedience, and honoring the Lord that are not dependent on feelings. Extra acts of devotion do not replace what is already required—they reinforce that God is central, not secondary.

JODY

- o **Joshua 24:14-15 (NIV)**

Now fear the Lord and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your forefathers worshiped beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. 15 But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."

BEN

Serving the Lord requires **removing competing loyalties**. Israel is commanded to throw away other gods and make a clear, decisive choice. In parenting, this means actively identifying and confronting idols in your children—whether comfort, approval, control, entertainment, or self—and not allowing them to coexist with devotion to God.

Together, these passages show that rooting out faithlessness and idolatry involves two things: establishing unwavering, daily faithfulness to God as the standard, and intentionally removing anything that competes with Him. It is not enough to add God into life; everything that rivals Him must be exposed, addressed, and put away, while the household is firmly anchored in, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

JODY

- o **Joshua 24:14-18 (NIV)**

16 Then the people answered, "**Far be it from us to forsake the Lord to serve other gods!** 17 It was the Lord our God himself who brought us and our fathers up out of Egypt, from that land of slavery, and performed those great signs before our eyes. He protected us on our entire journey and among all the nations through which we traveled. 18 And the Lord drove out before us all the nations, including the Amorites, who lived in the land. **We too will serve the Lord, because he is our God.**"

BEN

- Sounds like every kid from the Joshua stage
- HE is becoming their God!!

JODY

o Joshua 24:14-24 (NIV)

19 Joshua said to the people, "You are not able to serve the Lord. He is a holy God; he is a jealous God. He will not forgive your rebellion and your sins. 20 If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, he will turn and bring disaster on you and make an end of you, after he has been good to you." 21 But the people said to Joshua, "**No! We will serve the Lord.**" 22 Then Joshua said, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen to serve the Lord." "Yes, we are witnesses," they replied. 23 "Now then," said Joshua, "throw away the foreign gods that are among you and yield your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel." 24 And the people said to Joshua, "**We will serve the Lord our God and obey him.**"

NICK

Joshua 24:14–24 brings the people to a moment of clarity and decision. Joshua confronts them with the reality of God’s holiness and their own inability, forcing them to recognize that serving the Lord is not casual—it requires wholehearted surrender and the removal of everything that competes with Him.

In this stage of parenting, you are bringing your children to an awareness that they have been given ground, but there is still more ahead. They must begin to see both what God has entrusted to them and what within them still needs to be conquered.

This includes helping them recognize their own inabilities—specifically areas of faithlessness and pride that hinder true devotion. Rather than ignoring these, you are intentionally exposing them so they can be addressed and overcome.

The goal is to root out idolatry at the heart level. This is not just about behavior, but about identifying and removing the “foreign gods” within—the things that compete for their trust, affection, and obedience.

At the same time, you are calling them to more than just removal; you are leading them toward replacement. The aim is a heart that willingly and joyfully yields to

the Lord—a heart that runs toward Him, desires to please Him, and finds joy in doing His will.

State of Christianity - "all you have to do is believe and confess"...an 8 year old's understanding

State of the Word and this church - Ps 34:4 - Turn, Do, Seek and Pursue!

Parents -

JOSHUA STAGE: AGES 6-10

PARENTS:

- STRENGTH & COURAGE

CHILDREN:

- BEGIN CONQUERING THEIR LAND WITH JOY & TRUST

The graphic features a parchment-like background with a mountain range illustration in the center. Below the title, there are two circular icons: a shield for parents and crossed swords for children. The bottom right corner shows a stack of rocks.

JOSHUA STAGE: AGES 6-10

- PROMISES VS CONQUERED
- LEAD FROM THE FRONT (PREP THE WAY AND EXPECT THEM TO WALK IN IT)
- MEMORIAL STONES
- SET THE STAGE TO ROLL AWAY REPROACH
- EXPECT MATURITY
- SAME STANDARD NOT SAME TREATMENT
- SERIOUSNESS OF OATHS
- INQUIRE OF THE LORD
- GIVE THEM AWARENESS OF THE LAND THAT THEY ARE TO CONQUER

Kids-

JOSHUA STAGE: AGES 6-10

- ABSOLUTE JOY & ABSOLUTE TRUST
- IDENTIFY THEIR OWN WEAKNESSES AND BEGIN THE PROCESS OF CONQUERING THEIR LAND
- LEARN THE JOY OF ACHIEVEMENT
- CURSES/BLESSINGS DERIVED FROM THE WORD