

Experiencing God Together

“Experiencing God as a Family” – Joshua 24:14-15

September 28, 2025

40 DAYS OF EXPERIENCING GOD TOGETHER		
A Journey to Encounter the Living God Together		
Date	Message Title	Bible Text
Aug 17	Experiencing God Through Community	Acts 1-2
Aug 24	Experiencing God Through His Word	Psalm 19:7-14
Aug 31	Experiencing God Through Prayer	Acts 12:1-19
Sept 7	Experiencing God Through Worship	Acts 16:16-34
Sept 14	Experiencing God Through Watching and Obeying	John 5:19-20
Sept 21	Experiencing God Through Faith Sharing	Acts 1:6-11
Sept 28	Experiencing God as a Family	Joshua 24:14-15

Experiencing God as a Family

- The best way to experience God together as a family is to seek Him together through all of the avenues that we have been learning about in this series – through community, the Word, prayer, worship, watching, obeying, and faith sharing.
- Application #1 – An area where I want us to grow in experiencing God together as a family is...
 - ☐ Community – pursuing fellowship with the body of Christ together
 - ☐ The Word – reading and obeying God’s Word together
 - ☐ Prayer – talking and listening to God together
 - ☐ Worship – praising God together at church and at home
 - ☐ Watching and Obeying – discerning together what God is up to and joining Him together
 - ☐ Faith Sharing – sharing the Gospel with others in word and deed together.

A Testimony of Experiencing God Together as a Family

- Joshua 24:14-15**
- Joshua is the successor of Moses. He is now 110 years old, and he has gathered the people of Israel for a second time at Shechem (8:30-35; 24:1-28) to call them to publicly commit their allegiance to the Lord.
- He models this allegiance (he and his family) and calls the people to follow his lead (Joshua 24:14-15).
- Seven times he uses the word “serve” in this speech (vv. 14-15).
- “serve” = *abad* = the act of serving through work, labor, and worship; it conveys a deep, devoted allegiance and commitment to worship the Lord exclusively, integrating both daily actions and spiritual devotion.

What Does It Mean to Serve the Lord? (Joshua 24:14-15)

1. To serve the Lord means to _____ the Lord (v.14a)

- The fear of the Lord is reverential awe.
- Hebrews 12:29** (NKJV) – *Let us serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. For our God is a consuming fire.*
- Sinclair Ferguson: “The fear of the Lord is that indefinable mixture of reverence, fear, pleasure, joy and awe which fills our hearts when we realize who God is and what He has done for us.”
- Exodus 20:20** (NKJV) – *Do not fear; for God has come to test you, and that His fear may be before you, so that you may not sin.*
- Charles Spurgeon: “The fear of God is the death of every other fear; like a mighty lion, it chases all other fears before it.”
- Recommended book: “The Awe of God” by John Bevere
- Application #2 – How do I need to grow in the fear of the Lord? How do I need to lead my family to grow in the fear of the Lord?
- Proverbs 9:10** – *The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.*
- The true fear of the Lord is a relationship with the Lord. Wisdom is not a WHAT but a WHO. Wisdom is a Person – the Person of Jesus.
- Psalms 25:14** – *The friendship of the Lord is for those who fear Him.*

2. To serve the Lord means to put away any false _____ or _____ (v.14b)

- Some of the people were still hanging on to idols from Egypt or from the wilderness (“beyond the River”). Some people were adopting new idols from the new land they were in. Joshua confronts them to get rid of any and all of these idols.
- Kyle Idleman: “Anything in the world can be hammered into an idol, and therefore can be a false god, if misplaced at the top spot of our affections.”
- Application #3a – What are my idols? Seven questions from Kyle Idleman’s book “Gods at War” that help identify my idols:
 - ☐ What disappoints me?
 - ☐ What do I complain about the most?
 - ☐ Where do I make financial sacrifices?
 - ☐ What worries me?
 - ☐ Where is my sanctuary? Where do I go when I am hurting?
 - ☐ What infuriates me?
 - ☐ What are my dreams?
- Louie Giglio: “Worship is our response to what we value most. Whatever is worth most to you is what you worship. How do you know what you worship? It’s easy. You simply follow the trail of your time, your affection, your energy, your money, and your allegiance. At the end of that trail, you’ll find a throne; and whatever, or whomever, is on that throne is what’s of highest value to you. On that throne is what you worship.”
- Application #3b – What is sitting in that chair at the end of the trail of my time, affections, energy, money, and allegiance?

Money	Fame	Power
Sex	Work	Taylor Swift

Myself	My spouse	My children
Wanting to get married	Exercise	My phone
Social media	Television	Pleasure
Traveling teams	Success	Food
Pornography	Video games	Past Hurts

- Don Williams: “We become like what we worship. Worship money, become a greedy person. Worship sex, become a lustful person. Worship power, become a corrupt person, worship past hurts become a perpetual victim. Worship Jesus, become a Christ-like person. We become like what we worship.”
- Application #3c – Lord, I repent of declaring the worth of.... Right now, I claim Your forgiveness through the death of Jesus on the cross, and I receive Your cleansing. Now, please fill me with Your Holy Spirit in order to worship You with my time, my affections, my energy, my money, and my allegiance.

3. To serve the Lord means to publicly and boldly declare solely to the Lord Jesus Christ (v.15)

- Joshua draws a line in the sand and challenges the people of Israel to step across the line and make their public declaration of allegiance to the Lord. And then, he goes first.
- Mark Batterson: “When did we start believing that God wants to send us to safe places to do easy things? That faithfulness is holding the fort? That playing it safe was safe? That radical is anything but normal? Jesus didn’t die to make us safe. He died to make us dangerous. Faithfulness is not holding the fort. It’s storming the gates of hell. The will of God is not an insurance plan. It’s a daring plan. The complete surrender of your life to the cause of Christ isn’t radical. It’s normal. It’s time to quit living as if the purpose of life is to arrive safely at death. It’s time to go all in! Pack your coffin!”
- Application #4 – I am going to go public with my faith in and allegiance to Jesus Christ by...
 - ☐ Telling my family: “I have given my life to Jesus Christ. I believe that He died for me and rose from the dead. I choose to serve and follow Jesus!”
 - ☐ Telling my friends, neighbors, and coworkers that I am a follower of Jesus.
 - ☐ Public water baptism on Sunday, November 23. More info and sign up at <https://www.whatisgrace.org/baptisms>
 - ☐ Signing the Joshua 24:15 card (solo or as a family) and displaying it somewhere in my home. Perhaps writing specific ways that we are going to serve the Lord on the card.

1. **Family devotions.** Read God’s Word and pray together as a family daily. Family devo ideas include...
2. **Church.** Go to church together every week.
3. **Serve.** Serve at church. Serve a neighbor.
4. **Missions.** <https://www.whatisgrace.org/local-missions>
5. **God’s creation.** Go on a hike together. Go fishing together. Go on a picnic together in a park. Throw the frisbee. Go on a vacation to experience God’s creation.
6. **Fun.** Have fun together. Go bowling together. Go roller skating together. Go to Pop Stroke together.
7. **Discipleship.** Create discipleship experiences together.
8. **Progressively let go.** Progressively release your children to become independently dependent on God.
9. **Faith steps.** At appropriate levels, trust God together for something bigger than yourselves. Finances. Faith experiment.
10. **Marriage.** Model Christ and the Church through your marriage. Your children experience God through observing a healthy marriage relationship.
11. **Spiritual disciplines.** Practice some spiritual disciplines together as a family. Phones in a basket at 6:30pm. No phones on Saturday. Silence. Fasting. Family devotions.
12. **Witness.** Share your faith together as a family.

Twelve Best Practices for Experiencing God Together as a Family (choose 3 or 4 to implement this Fall)