

**SUNDAY, JUNE 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Series Title: Serving God**

**Lesson Title: Serving God in Your Household**

**Key Scriptures: Joshua 24:15; Ephesians 5:21-6:4; Colossians 3:17**

## **INTRODUCTION**

We often repeat Joshua 24:15: "*But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.*" We say it with boldness and confidence, but do we really understand what it means to choose to serve God as a household? How can we set spiritual goals and priorities that reflect our commitment to follow God's teachings? The Bible provides guidance on how to serve God within the household by publicly declaring the inward change through salvation and baptism; committing to a consistent spiritual pattern as a household; and getting rid of and staying away from things or activities that could block your household's ability to fully serve God.

## **PUBLICLY DECLARING THE INWARD CHANGE THROUGH SALVATION AND BAPTISM**

How do we live a life that leaves legacy and significance? It starts with acknowledging Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. In Acts 16:25-34, we read about the Philippian jailer who, after witnessing Paul and Silas's faith, asked how he could be saved. Paul and Silas shared the Gospel with him, and he and his entire household were baptized. This family's public declaration of faith through baptism set the tone for their new life in Christ, showing their commitment to follow Him. Just as the Philippian and his household made a public declaration of their commitment to serve the Lord, we too must declare our dedication and commitment to God.

At Harvest Life Church water baptism and getting saved are two ways we declare our commitment and new life in Christ. When we say, "Get Saved", we mean love and honor God by bringing your life in alignment with His will and His Word. To do this you must accept Jesus Christ into your heart as your Lord and Savior. Jesus Christ died on the Cross so you could have

access to eternal life through Him. Water baptism is a public declaration of three important things:

1. You are a follower of Jesus Christ
2. You are beginning a changed life in Christ; and
3. You are part of a new family.

Visit [harvestlife.org](http://harvestlife.org) for resources about salvation and baptism, including how to sign up for baptism.

## **COMMITTING TO A CONSISTENT SPIRITUAL PATTERN AS A HOUSEHOLD**

Your actions speak louder than your words! Cornelius (Acts 10:1-8) was a devout man, who with his household prayed regularly and gave generously to those in need. In Acts 10:4 it says that the actions of his household “*came up as a memorial offering before God*” (Acts 10:4). To serve God in your household means having a consistent spiritual pattern as a household. This includes demonstrating love for God and each other through daily actions. You may not realize it, but you are providing a master class for everyone in your household on how to honor God, our Senior Pastors Bishop Dukes and Pastor Deborah and the life system of the local church through your actions. Remember, your actions are so loud that we cannot hear the words coming out of your mouth. Therefore, it is important to bring honor to God and what he has given you for the success of you and your household.

Harvest Life Church is a church of empowerment, and we recognize that serving God extends beyond the walls of our home and into our community. By incorporating God into all aspects of our lives, we actively seek opportunities for fellowship and spiritual growth. Through participation in church life groups and ministries, we engage in Godly fellowship and support one another in our faith journey.

Here are some examples of what to include as you establish a spiritual pattern:

- Regularly attend church worship services.
- Attend Sunday school.

- Contribute through tithes and offerings.
- Serve in ministry.
- Pray and read the bible together as a family.
- Demonstrate love and respect within the home.
- Attend life group events and ministry activities, including the upcoming Young Adult First Friday Fellowship, Elevate Fellowship, and Young at Heart Fellowship.

### **GETTING RID OF AND STAYING AWAY FROM THINGS OR ACTIVITIES THAT COULD BLOCK YOUR HOUSEHOLD'S ABILITY TO FULLY SERVE GOD**

Maintaining a God-centered environment requires intentionality about what you allow into your home. In Genesis 35, God tells Jacob to go to Bethel and settle there. Jacob instructs his household to get rid of foreign gods and purify themselves. Jacob's household gave up their idols and jewelry. This act of cleansing allowed Jacob's household to fully dedicate themselves to God. We too should declutter our lives and rid our home of anything that does not align with God's principles. This includes monitoring the music and movies we consume and ensuring that our entertainment choices reflect our commitment to God. You can start today by completing the "*Serving God in the Household Checklist*" included in this lesson to help you create a plan to declutter, clean up and get rid of the old things.

## SERVING GOD IN THE HOUSEHOLD CHECK LIST

Yes	Needs work	
		Does your family attend church services regularly?
		Are family members involved in church activities or ministries?
		Do you pray together as a family?
		Do you have a regular time for Bible reading?
		Do you have a household routine to complete Sunday School assignments?
		Are there regular family movie or game nights with wholesome content?
		Is the music played in your home honoring God?
		Do you create an atmosphere of peace and respect?
		Are family meetings held to discuss important issues and decisions?
		Do you use biblical principles to resolve conflicts (e.g., forgiveness, patience)?
		Are there regular expressions of love and appreciation?
		Do you regularly give in your tithing and offering?
		Do you practice biblical principles of financial stewardship (e.g., budgeting, avoiding debt)?
		Do you promote healthy living (e.g., nutritious meals, regular exercise)?
		<i>FOR HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN</i>
		Are children taught the importance of tithing and giving?
		Do children attend Sunday school?
		Do children participate in Youth programs and events?
		Do you discuss what they learn at church and integrate it into daily life?
		Are household chores and responsibilities distributed fairly?

### **Conclusion**

A Godly household is one that prioritizes spiritual growth and aligns its daily life with God's principles.

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT**

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**1. In Acts 10:4, Cornelius' household actions were described as:**

- A) A great sacrifice.
- B) A memorial offering before God.
- C) An act of charity.
- D) A religious ritual.

**2. What does water baptism publicly declare according to the lesson?**

- A) You are a follower of Jesus Christ.
- B) You are beginning a changed life in Christ.
- C) You are part of a new family.
- D) All of the above.

**3. Write out Joshua 24:15**

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**4. Read Colossians 3:17**

**5. Read: Ephesians 5:21-6:4**

**6. Complete the “Serving God in the Household” check list included in the lesson.**