



5 DAY DEVOTIONAL

SERIES: FAMILY MATTERS

Sermon 1: The Foundation

SPEAKER: REV. CHRIS SMITH | 8/17/2025 | PAGE 1 OF 5

Day 1: Recognizing God as Our Source

Devotional: In our fast-paced world, it's easy to attribute our successes and blessings to our own efforts. We work hard, we plan carefully, and we execute diligently. But as Joshua reminded the Israelites at the end of his leadership, everything good in our lives ultimately comes from God. The homes we live in, the food we eat, the opportunities we enjoy—all are gifts from our heavenly Father. This recognition isn't meant to diminish our efforts or responsibilities. Rather, it places them in proper perspective. When we acknowledge God as the source of our blessings, we develop gratitude instead of entitlement, humility instead of pride, and dependence on Him rather than self-sufficiency. For our families to thrive, this foundational truth must be established first. Children who grow up understanding that God is the provider of all good things develop a worldview that naturally leads to thanksgiving, stewardship, and faith. They learn to see life's blessings not as rights to be demanded but as gifts to be cherished. Today, take a moment to look around at your home, your loved ones, your provisions. Consider how God has blessed you beyond what you could have accomplished alone. Let gratitude fill your heart, and share that perspective with those around you.

Bible Verse: "The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD, And He delights in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; For the LORD upholds him with His hand. I have been young, and now am old; Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, Nor his descendants begging bread." - Psalms 37:23-25

Reflection Question: What blessings in your life have you perhaps been taking credit for that you should acknowledge as gifts from God? How might this shift in perspective change your approach to family leadership?

Quote: "Remember, God is the source of our blessings. Whenever we're talking about a foundation for our family, remember, God is the source of our blessings. He is our helper. Everything I need is in his hand."

Prayer: Heavenly Father, forgive me for the times I've forgotten that You are the source of every good thing in my life. Help me to lead my family with gratitude and humility, acknowledging Your provision in all things. May this foundation of thankfulness shape our home and our hearts. In Jesus' name, amen.

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Day 2: Clearing Away the Idols

Devotional: Joshua challenged the Israelites to "put away the gods which your fathers served." While we may not bow before statues today, our homes can still harbor modern idols that compete for our devotion to God. An idol is anything that takes priority over our relationship with the Lord. It might be career ambition that consumes our energy, entertainment that dominates our time, possessions that capture our affection, or even good things like family activities that push God to the margins of our lives. Just as ancient households needed regular cleaning to remove accumulated dust and debris, our spiritual lives require intentional examination to identify and remove these competing priorities. This isn't a one-time event but an ongoing process of evaluation and realignment. When we allow these idols to remain, they gradually reshape our values, redirect our attention, and redefine our identity. Before long, our families begin to reflect these misplaced priorities rather than godly principles. The good news is that removing these idols doesn't diminish our lives—it enhances them! When God takes His rightful place at the center of our homes, everything else finds its proper perspective and purpose. Our relationships deepen, our activities gain meaning, and our possessions become tools for blessing rather than objects of devotion.

Bible Verse: "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up." - Deuteronomy 6:4-7

Reflection Question: What activities, possessions, or priorities might be functioning as idols in your home? What practical step could you take this week to restore God to His rightful place in that area?

Quote: "Every home needs a good house cleaning from time to time. We tend to gather up some clutter from time to time."

Prayer: Lord, show me the idols I've allowed into my heart and home. Give me courage to clear them away and wisdom to establish rhythms and priorities that honor You above all else. Help me lead my family in putting You first in everything. In Jesus' name, amen.

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Day 3: The Daily Choice to Serve God

Devotional: Joshua's declaration, "As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD," wasn't just a one-time decision—it represented a commitment to daily choices that would shape his family's direction. Each morning brought new opportunities to either follow God's ways or drift toward cultural norms and personal preferences. The same reality faces our families today. We don't decide once to build our homes on God's foundation and then coast through life. Rather, we make hundreds of small choices each week that either strengthen or weaken that foundation. When we choose to prioritize worship over other activities, we're saying, "We will serve the Lord." When we respond to frustration with patience rather than anger, we're declaring, "We will serve the Lord." When we allocate our resources toward kingdom purposes instead of just personal comfort, we're affirming, "We will serve the Lord." These consistent choices create a family culture where serving God becomes the natural response rather than the exception. Children learn more from these daily decisions than from occasional grand gestures or inspirational talks. Today, recognize that you have the same choice Joshua faced. Cultural pressures, personal desires, and competing priorities all pull at your attention and allegiance. Yet the strength of your family's foundation depends on your willingness to consistently choose God's way over all alternatives.

Bible Verse: "But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD." - Joshua 24:15

Reflection Question: What specific choices will you face this week where you'll need to deliberately choose to serve God rather than following the path of least resistance? How can you prepare now to make those choices well?

Quote: "There's only two choices. There's only two. We complicate things, but there's only two. It's God or our own way, which is who is ultimately behind that? Satan himself."

Prayer: Father, like Joshua, I want to lead my family in serving You faithfully. Give me discernment to recognize the daily choices that matter, and courage to consistently choose Your ways even when it's difficult. Help us build a home where serving You is our highest priority and greatest joy. In Jesus' name, amen.

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Day 4: Building on the Rock

Devotional: Jesus used a powerful metaphor to illustrate the importance of a solid foundation: two builders, two houses, and one devastating storm. The difference in outcomes wasn't due to the quality of materials or the skill of the builders—it was entirely about the foundation. In family life, storms are inevitable. Financial challenges, health crises, relationship conflicts, and cultural pressures will test every home. The question isn't whether these storms will come, but whether your family will stand firm when they do. Building on the rock means more than just knowing God's principles—it requires applying them consistently in daily life. It's not enough to attend church or own a Bible; we must allow God's truth to shape our decisions, priorities, and relationships. This foundation-building happens in ordinary moments: when we respond to disappointment with faith rather than despair, when we choose forgiveness over bitterness, when we practice generosity instead of selfishness. Each of these responses lays another stone in the foundation that will support your family through future challenges. The beautiful promise is that families built on Christ's teachings don't just survive storms—they often emerge stronger, with deeper faith and more authentic relationships. While the immediate circumstances may be painful, the ultimate outcome is growth and stability.

Bible Verse: "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock." - Matthew 7:24-25

Reflection Question: What current or potential storms might your family face in the coming months or years? What specific teachings of Jesus could strengthen your foundation to withstand these challenges?

Quote: "Jesus said, if you plan to be able to stand firm during the storms of life, you must have a firm foundation."

Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank You for providing the solid foundation we need through Your teachings and example. Help us not just to know Your words but to live them out daily in our home. When storms come, keep us anchored firmly to You. May our family not only survive life's challenges but grow stronger through them. In Your name we pray, amen.

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Day 5: Leaving a Legacy of Faith

Devotional: As Joshua addressed the Israelites near the end of his life, he wasn't just concerned about their present circumstances—he was thinking about generations to come. His challenge to choose whom they would serve was about establishing a legacy that would impact children and grandchildren long after he was gone. Every family creates a legacy, whether intentionally or by default. The question is not whether you'll leave a legacy, but what kind of legacy you'll leave. Will your descendants inherit a foundation of faith that sustains them through life's challenges, or will they have to build that foundation from scratch? The most valuable inheritance we can provide isn't financial assets or material possessions—it's a living example of faith in action. When children see parents who genuinely trust God, who prioritize spiritual growth, who serve others generously, and who face difficulties with unwavering faith, they receive a priceless gift that money cannot buy. This legacy-building isn't accomplished through occasional grand gestures but through consistent daily choices that demonstrate what we truly value. Each time we prioritize worship over convenience, generosity over accumulation, or forgiveness over resentment, we're adding to the spiritual inheritance we'll leave behind. Today, consider what spiritual legacy you're currently building. Remember that it's never too late to make adjustments that will bless future generations with a firm foundation of faith.

Bible Verse: "Now therefore, be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go. This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success." - Joshua 1:7-8

Reflection Question: What specific spiritual values or practices do you hope your children or future generations will carry forward from your family? What intentional steps can you take to strengthen these aspects of your family's legacy?

Quote: "The best thing we can do for our family, we have parents here with young children. The best thing that you can do for your family is to build your life on God's ways to serve the Lord."

Prayer: Heavenly Father, help me to build a legacy of faith that will bless generations to come. Guide me in establishing patterns and priorities that point clearly to You. May my children and their children find in our family history a compelling example of what it means to follow You wholeheartedly. In Jesus' name, amen.

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