

Determined Faith

Strength & Courage

World Outreach Church
Sermon Discussion Guide
Sunday Sermon: **February 12, 2023**



Our faith is summarized by our initial step into the Kingdom of God—our personal decision that we need a Savior and that Jesus of Nazareth is God’s Son and the Messiah. Then, we make Him Lord of our lives. But the fallacy is that we are then “done” with our God-business. But that is not the biblical presentation of our journey as Christ-followers. We need to make continual decisions for the Lord, yielding to Him in the entirety of our lives. The fruit of our lives will display our consistent choices, and it will take leading a life of determined faith—with strength and courage to finish our course.

I. DIVINE ASSIGNMENT

Deuteronomy 6:4–9 ⁴ *Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.* ⁵ *Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.* ⁶ *These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts.* ⁷ **Impress them on your children.** *Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.* ⁸ *Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads.* ⁹ *Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.*

Proverbs 22:6 *Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.*

Matthew 18:10 *“See that you do not look down on one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven.”*

Matthew 18:5–6 ⁵ *“And whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me.* ⁶ *But if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a large millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea.”*

1. In what ways are your behaviors an expression of your obedience to the Lord?
2. What effects of sin do you see in our culture, specifically in the areas of academics, corporations, sports, entertainment, etc.?

II. LEARNING TO BE GOD’S PEOPLE

Exodus 19:1–6 ¹ ***In the third month after the Israelites left Egypt***—on the very day—they came to the Desert of Sinai. ² *After they set out from Rephidim, they entered the Desert of Sinai, and Israel camped there in the desert in front of the mountain.* ³ *Then Moses went up to God, and the Lord called to him from the mountain and said, “This is what you are to say to the house of Jacob and what you are to tell the people of Israel: ⁴ ‘You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself.*

⁵ ***Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession.*** *Although the whole earth is mine, ⁶ you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites.”*

A. 10 Non-Negotiable Principles (Exodus 20:3-17, Deuteronomy 5:6-21)

1. No Other Gods
2. No Graven Images
3. Do Not Misuse God’s Name
4. Remember the Sabbath, Keep It Holy
5. Honor Your Father and Mother
6. Do Not Murder
7. No Adultery
8. No Stealing
9. Do Not Bear False Witness/Tell the Truth
10. Do Not Covet

B. The Miracle People

- ❖ Moses ... Shepherd's Staff, Hand Covered with Leprosy Restored
- ❖ 10 Plagues & Passover
- ❖ Plundered Egypt
- ❖ Red Sea
- ❖ Marah, Bitter Water Made Sweet
- ❖ Pillar of Cloud & Pillar of Fire
- ❖ Mannah, Daily
- ❖ Water Provided
- ❖ No Sick Travelers
- ❖ Clothing Did Not Wear Out
- ❖ "No Swollen Feet" Deuteronomy 8:4 *Your clothes did not wear out and your feet did not swell during these forty years.*
- ❖ Victory Over Antagonists
- ❖ Mt. Sinai Drama

3. Have you ever witnessed a miracle? How did that impact your faith?
4. Where have you seen the diminishment of a willingness to learn about biblical principles in our culture today?

III. COMPLACENCY OR COURAGE — CHOOSE THE "NARROW GATE"

Matthew 7:13–14 ¹³ ***Enter through the narrow gate.*** *For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. ¹⁴ But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.*"

Numbers 13:30–33 ³⁰ *Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, "We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it." ³¹ But the men who had gone up with him said, "We can't attack those people; they are stronger than we are." ³² And they spread among the Israelites a bad report about the land they had explored. They said, "The land we explored devours those living in it. All the people we saw there are of great size. ³³ We saw the Nephilim there. We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them."*

Numbers 14:1–4 ¹ *That night all the people of the community raised their voices and wept aloud. ² All the Israelites grumbled against Moses and Aaron, and the whole assembly said to them, "If only we had died in Egypt! Or in this desert! ³ Why is the Lord bringing us to this land only to let us fall by the sword? Our wives and children will be taken as plunder. Wouldn't it be better for us to go back to Egypt?" ⁴ And they said to each other, "We should choose a leader and go back to Egypt."*

5. When was a time being complacent resulted in an increase of attacks against your faith?
6. In what areas of your life have you tended to avoid difficult situations or conversations about your faith? How can you intentionally aim to be more courageous in those situations?

PRAYER

Week 2, Day 2: Family Prayer Guide

Lord, You have put our feet on a path that we might spend our days and our strength in service to You. Help us and give us a new heart—a heart that is more receptive, understanding, and aware of what You are doing in those around us. Give us the boldness to be identified as Your people, with a willingness to take Your truth into our homes. We ask You to pour out Your Spirit upon our families. In Jesus' name, amen.