

OUR FAMILY SERVES THE LORD

Stories

HOW TO LEAVE A GODLY LEGACY

PRECEPT

MATTHEW 22:37

³⁷ Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength

JOSHUA 24:15

¹⁵ As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

PROMISE

Every family is unique; we have different cultures and dynamics and different ways of doing things, depending on our schedule and season of life. As we learn from the lives of our guests that were interviewed the past Sunday, may we carry out the principles the we can apply in our lives and families to help establish a strong and thriving relationship with each other. We are in this series for each of us to understand the importance of intentionally discipling our families, learn practical steps on how to build strong family relationships, and to be inspired and motivated to obey God no matter how hard life can be.

Learning from the example of Aguilar family, here are the things they applied in order to serve the Lord and His people faithfully:

COMMIT TO SERVE THE LORD. The truth is, we serve something or someone else one way or another. We could serve our career, family, hobbies, or anything else, or we could serve the Lord. Garry said he has served other things in this world like career, vices, hobbies, etc, and it was all in vain. Their family now serves the One that matters the most. Matthew 16:24 also says, *"If anyone wants to become my follower, he must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me."* Gina said Jesus saved their family and if not for Him, they could have been a broken family, or they could have lost Garry due to depression. In response to His unconditional love, let us follow the Lord by willingly taking up our own cross. This means that whatever life may bring, however hard it may be, we will keep following Jesus. He gave us purpose and meaning in life, and the least we could do is serve Him.

SERVE THE LORD WHOLEHEARTEDLY. God's love should drive us to serve Him more and more. The way Jesus served people selflessly and faithfully and the way He obeyed the Father should inspire us to follow His heart and His ways. Serving the Lord together with our family or spouse can also strengthen the marriage relationship. He blesses the family with fullness of joy and love as we serve Him wholeheartedly. We are to serve the Lord while we have the means and strength to do so. *"A skill we don't use, we lose."* We do not serve God because He needs it. Serving God is for our benefit so we can experience joy in serving Him. It's true that as we serve God, He rewards us. We will experience joy in our family and God's provision financially and physically. We experience God's protection and His abiding presence. We gain more family and friends, and most especially, we grow spiritually, and we get to witness transformed lives in Him.

SEEK GOD ABOVE ALL ELSE. When we make God our priority by serving Him, He will make us His priority. He will bless us abundantly. We will surely have peace, joy, purpose, meaning, God's protection, provision, and blessing in all aspects of our lives. We will never go wrong in serving Him. Matthew 6:33 promises, *"Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and He will give you everything you need."*

PRACTICE

1. Joshua 24:15. How can you imitate Joshua's commitment to serve God? What specific steps are you going to take?

2. Serving God and His people. In what areas are you currently serving the church? If you are not serving yet, how can you take the initiative to be involved in building His Kingdom?

PRAYER

I. Disciples

- May God equip us to be faithful witnesses of His truth and to live out His teachings.

II. Courage

- Pray for courage in the face of challenges and fears, and for confidence to overcome.

III. Trust

- When we face uncertainty, may we be reminded of His love, faithfulness, and promises.

IV. Growth

- May He guide us as we seek to grow in faith and character, and to learn from Christ.

V. Healing

- We lift up those in need of God's healing touch. May they have comfort and restoration.

VI. Hope

- Pray that God may fill our hearts with hope and light, even in the darkest times.

VII. Peace

- May the Lord calm our hearts and minds, and help us to bring peace to those around us.