



So You Want to be the Greatest

Part 3 – Serve Home

Pastor Ted Cunningham

I'm going to show you this picture and I'm going to ask the question: How many of you have not seen this movie [The Greatest Showman]? You're kidding! You haven't seen this movie? Look at everybody around you that has seen it. Shame these people that just raised their hand. If you've seen this movie, raise your hand. How many of you still play this in your car? I'm constantly singing this. I love this movie.

So, I don't want to spoil the movie for you, but this is Hugh Jackman, one of my favorite actors. He plays P.T. Barnum. He grows up after his father passes away. He's a street kid who marries a privileged girl. Her dad can't stand him. From humble beginnings, they get this circus started and it starts to take off. He starts bringing in world renown talent and things are going great. He starts to forget what it's all about and who got him to where he is, and he slips a little bit.

My favorite song is at the end, after it all comes crashing down. Maybe this is the story for some of you in here that you're at rock bottom right now. His friends gather around him in a pub and they start to remind him where it all got started. He has a moment... It's my favorite scene in the movie when he runs home all animated because he remembers how it all got started.

So, this is an opportunity... I always love every chance we get to sing together as a family. If you're an entertainer, I'm going to encourage you not to sing and just have your ears open to some new, fresh talent around you this morning. Many of you are going to be doing auditions... seriously, your theaters and shows are going to be doing auditions in the next couple of months and they may be sitting around you and there may be the voice of an angel within a few rows in front or few rows in back. As we sing this together, just be listening for the next Branson star.

He gets to this point... "I drank champagne with kings and queens. The politicians praised my name." If you know this, sing it. Don't leave me up here. "But those are someone else's dreams. The pitfalls of the man I became." Sing it with passion if you've got that smoky gravelly voice. "For years and years, I chased their cheers, the crazy speed of always needing more. But when I stop and see you here, I remember who all this was for. And from now on, these eyes will not be blinded by the lights. From now on, what's waited till tomorrow starts tonight. And let this promise in me start like an anthem in my heart. From now on. From now on. From now on."

What I love about this song is you can start at any time. You can get back to where you need to be. You can start fresh. That's the message of that whole movie.

We've taken this verse as our theme for *So You Want to be the greatest*. The greatest among you won't be the greatest showman; the greatest among you will be your servant.

We talked last week about serving the local church. We talked the week before that about serving. This week we want to talk about Serving Home, so if you have your Bibles, turn to Joshua 1. We're going to look at his story today and the declaration he makes. Maybe it was on a wall in your home growing up. It's on the wall we have right now in my home. His declaration as to who the source of their family is going to be. As you're turning there, just start to picture a little bit this morning about what it would be like if, in homes, all we ever see are spouses serving spouses. Your children have a front row seat to your marriage. And they are watching and their listening and their remembering and their repeating. They are going to leave your home one day and hopefully, they saw Mom serving Dad and Dad serving Mom.

After Christmas, my wife started watching this show. I think it's on Netflix. It's a show with this sweet Asian lady who helps you declutter your home. Has anybody watched this show? This woman is ruining our home. She teaches you how to declutter. I'm not going to make this up one bit. She wants you to walk into your closet... How many of you could clean out your closet? Here's what she tells you to do. You're supposed walk in and grab an article of clothing and you're supposed to ask yourself, *does this bring me joy?* If it doesn't bring you joy, you're supposed to say thank you for the joy that it brought you in the past. I'm not making this up, not one bit. Then she tells you to give it a little kiss and discard it.

I'm just looking out at some guys. I can just see you walking into your closet and doing this. I think this is the difference between men and women. Men don't walk in and go, "Do these jeans bring me joy?" No, what are we asking? "Do these jeans still fit? If they still fit, they're staying, but I'm discarding stuff that no longer fits." With my kids, we've done like five truck loads of garbage and stuff that needs to be decluttered from home. There is still stuff in the garage that needs to be piled up.

But this is their mom's love language: acts of service and quality time. I serve her for long periods of time to show her love. I want my kids to see it because I want my kids to serve us, serve each other, serve their church. We have parents serving children; our kids are seeing that. I've been doing dishes for years. Amy cooks... She loves the Food Network too. It looks like it after we've done a meal. There are dishes everywhere and eggs coated onto the pan. You scrub and they don't come off in the dishwasher. I want my kids to see that I'm serving their mom and I'm also serving them because (Mom and Dad, amen on this) we want homes where children are serving parents! And all God's people said... Amen. "From now on. From now on." Oh, you ain't singing now are you, pal?"

How about this? Let's get absolutely radical today. What about siblings serving siblings? Brother, did Mom and Dad just tell you to make your bed? Oh, because I love you, I want to do that for you." "Corynn, clean your room." And Carson comes up, "Corynn, don't clean your room. I'll clean it for you." We laugh, but... I mean the greatest among you will be a servant. We want families serving churches and communities. It starts in the home. Before you serve each other – this is what we're going to learn from the life of Joshua today – be settled on your source.

We looked at it two weeks ago. We want to serve with no expectations. I want to serve my wife with no expectation. I want to serve my children with no expectation. I want them serving each other with no expectation. How do you do that. It's when you understand the people in your home are not your source of life. The source of life is Jesus, not you, not me.

We're going to jump into Joshua 1: 1. We're going to spend a little bit of time here because there are two words in here that I saw this week and I thought this is where our church is at right now with kind of a new core value of our church surfacing.

1 After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' aide...

Let's stop right there. That's just an introductory sentence, but I want to look at this idea that he was the aide to Moses. He knew how to serve, and he watched Moses lead the children of Israel to the Promised Land. There's something that surfaced in the last year at Woodland Hills that we want to share with you. Your wondering how this surfaced. Did leaders just decide it or did the elders sit down and decide we need more values? No, it kind of rises to the surface. A core value you hear us share often around here is do for one what you can't do for all. We don't want to look at how great the need is and do nothing; we want to see how great the need is in our community and do something. So, we'll do for one what we can't do for all. We believe that every member is a minister. That's a core value of our church. We don't just have five or six people that do the ministry of the church; it's those who profess faith in Jesus. You are a minister. Someone who meets need in love.

Before we see what Joshua is called to and how he's called to lead the children into the Promised Land, this is the big idea from him being the aide of Moses. **We want you to serve before you lead.** In a growing church, what happens is people show up all sorts of qualified to serve and lead in ministries. Sometimes, they want to jump right in and start leading this or leading that. We just want to encourage you that before you lead here at the church, serve. Let us watch you and you watch us. Let us get to know you and you get to know us. Serving before you lead.

A few years ago, I had the opportunity to do the devotional right before Dan Cathy's talk as he went around the country to all the Chick-fil-A owner/operators. I really enjoyed traveling in that season because I stayed for a lot of the talks that they gave to the owner/operators. I wanted to see how they had a culture of "It will be my pleasure to serve you." What are they being taught, these leaders at this level? In that time, I had the opportunity to sit down and spend time with Dan Cathy, the CEO of Chick-fil-A. He was in a transitional season of his life, taking over the company from Truett, but he was also leaving like 60 years of Southern Baptist life and joining Louie Giglio's church, Passion City in Atlanta.

I asked Dan Cathy how that was going. I go, "It's gotta be something." He played the trumpet in his church orchestra for years. He wanted to go ahead and jump right in and play the trumpet with Chris Tomlin at Passion City. Again, we love brass and we love using that, but it's not always used in worship. When he asked Louie how he could serve, Louis told him, "Well, what we do at Passion City is everybody here is a door holder for the first year." I absolutely love that. Dan Cathy goes, "Yeah, I have to hold the door open for a year."

Now, do you think the CEO of Chick-fil-A has a problem holding the door open for a year? No. Because “it will be my pleasure to serve you.” The door holders this morning are like, “Man, this is an awesome Sunday to be greeting at Woodland Hills.”

Dan said, “My dad, Truett, when he started the Hawaiian chicken...” He wanted to do a Hawaiian chicken franchise, like an entirely different restaurant theme based on chicken. Under each cash register, he wanted to leave a ukulele that after you put in your order of Polynesian chicken sandwich, the cashier would pull out the ukulele and sing you a little Hawaiian number.

So, this family gets serving and understanding and that’s kind of what we’re looking at here as a church. If you’re brand new to our church, we’re glad you’re here and here’s what we’re telling you. Don’t jump in and start leading. We don’t know you. You don’t know us. Be the aide, be someone who serves, be someone who says, “Alright, I’ve got to find my place of service. I don’t have to be in charge. I want to just roll up my sleeves and get busy serving.”

This week, we said good-bye to a dear friend of our church, Jim Sedlacek. As I was preparing notes... We had a service here and one in Phoenix go on at the exact same time. Over 20 of you showed up to celebrate his life. He was basically the chairman of our elders, although I don’t know how he became that. We don’t technically have one, but he started to run the place. I was trying to figure it out. I can’t remember how I met Jim. I can’t remember how he became the chairman of the elders and all of us did what he said. He just ran the money and he was just in charge. As I started trying to think when this happen and that happen, I didn’t have any memory of it. Do you know why? It’s because Jim was awesome at serving. He served himself into leadership. And that’s what Joshua does.

2 “Moses my servant is dead.” Strong words, but if you go back one chapter to Deuteronomy, at the end of Deuteronomy, you know that Moses led the children of Israel and then he climbs Mt. Nebo from the plain of Moab and the Lord shows him the land. But guess what? Moses is not going. What a great leadership principle for us. Many of us are called to take people here, but not there. I love this because it’s for all of us in leadership here at Woodland Hills. As I look around at young people sitting in here, I’m 20 years older than some of you. It’s my job and I’m part of a leadership team that’s taking the church to here; it’s your job to take the church there. Some of you are in a ministry right now and God has called you to take it to this point, but not to there.

I think about the same thing with parents. As parents, it’s our job to take our kids to here, but then they are leaving your house. And all the parents said... Amen. We’re not going with you there. But we hope you take the Lord and a relationship with the Lord with you and you are now going to be in your own position. Go, but I’m staying here.

It’s one of my favorite ways, and I’m grateful I get to start off every speaking season talking to the Kanakuk Link Year. It’s a gap program between high school and college, 18 – 20 years olds. I think they have 67 enrolled this year. I love it because they are right at this point where Mom and Dad brought them to here, but Mom and Dad are supposed leave them here and say, now you go on and, hopefully, everything we’ve placed in you in the last 18, 19, 20 years will continue on.

One of the reasons I love sharing with this group is because a lot of them have parents that said, “I brought you to here and I’m going to keep going with you to there.” And it’s a lot of frustration for the young people and for the parents. There’s a point coming, Mom and Dad, where you send them on down the road. And all God’s people said... Amen. There’s a point where my children will hear, “Your dad is dead, Grandpa is dead, Grandma is dead. Now what are you going to do?” The time has come. It’s time for you to step up and not just have your parent’s faith or your grandparent’s faith, but to have as faith of your own and lead on your own.

“Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River...” Something Moses was not to do. He got them to there, but wasn’t going to cross it. ***“...into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites. 3 I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. 4 Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates—all the Hittite country—to the Mediterranean Sea in the west. 5 No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. 6 Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them.”***

7 “Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you...” Your parents brought you to this point. They poured into you the scripture, the Word of God, they prayed with you, they spent time with you, they taught you the responsibility necessary for your faith, for work, for relationships, now take it with you. Mom and Dad come to a point they are supposed to stop. They’re not supposed to go with you. ***“...do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go.”***

Go all the way to the back of the book now to Joshua 24. This is a summary of Joshua’s life and how he lived this out. As he gathers the Israelites together, he’s going to make a declaration on behalf of himself and his household. And he’s calling them to make the same decision and to make the same declaration. ***14 “Now fear the Lord and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. 15 But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve...”*** It’s very important to understand this is rhetorical. He’s not saying you have two choices; both of them would be okay for you; just pick one. No, that’s not what’s going on here. There is only one choice and he declares it. ***“...whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living.”*** Here’s where he declares as a leader before the people. This sits over a couch in our home. ***“But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”*** We’ve made the declaration.

And here’s how the people respond. ***16 Then the people answered, “Far be it from us to forsake the Lord to serve other gods! 17 It was the Lord our God himself who brought us and our parents up out of Egypt, from that land of slavery, and performed those great signs before our eyes. He protected us on our entire journey and among all the nations through which we traveled.”***

I think this is important. As you pray tonight as a family, as you gather your family around a meal table maybe here in a few moments, that it wouldn’t just be prayers of petition or it wouldn’t just be

requests, but that you, as a family, would take plenty of time to remember God's goodness in your life. That you would take time to list out and thank the Lord directly to him for all the good he has brought in your life. You can start with your salvation. You can remember your life that was in bondage and slavery and the Lord delivered you from that. He saved you. Start by thanking him for that.

Sometimes our prayer requests just become a long list of things we want and things we need when we should be saying thank you to the Lord. May our hearts always be full of gratefulness for what he has done for us up to this point. It's when we stop being grateful that we become entitled. When we forget the Lord is when we start taking it on our own. As P.T. Barnum, in the movie, forgot what got him to where he was, we often do this in our faith. We get somewhere, we have some success, and we start to take credit for it. We start to think we did something here when we should be thanking the Lord for all that he has done for us.

18 "And the Lord drove out before us all the nations, including the Amorites, who lived in the land. We too will serve the Lord, because he is our God."

I'm calling you to make that commitment today for your family as well. This is where you find great success in life. It's following the Lord, not turning to the right or to the left, but choosing the Lord as your source of life, as the source of your family, and making that declaration and decision in your home.

If you go a couple of chapters from this, into Judges, you see a completely different picture. We read this in Judges 2 ***8 Joshua son of Nun, the servant of the Lord...*** I love this. May this be said of you. May this be said of your sons and of your daughters. ***...died at the age of a hundred and ten. 9 And they buried him in the land of his inheritance, at Timnath Heres in the hill country of Ephraim, north of Mount Gaash.***

10 After that whole generation had been gathered to their ancestors... They died and now they are gone. "Okay, so we've gotten you to this point."***another generation grew up who knew neither the Lord nor what he had done for Israel.*** They forgot. ***11 Then the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord and served the Baals. 12 They forsook the Lord, the God of their ancestors, who had brought them out of Egypt. They followed and worshiped various gods of the peoples around them. They aroused the Lord's anger 13 because they forsook him and served Baal and the Ashtoreths. 14 In his anger against Israel the Lord gave them into the hands of raiders who plundered them. He sold them into the hands of their enemies all around, whom they were no longer able to resist. 15 Whenever Israel went out to fight, the hand of the Lord was against them to defeat them, just as he had sworn to them. They were in great distress.***

This is a far cry different from "Be successful wherever you go, don't turn the right or to the left, but stay focused, declaring me as you source of life." They bailed. And now they were in great distress.

Wherever your family is – whether you've declared the Lord already or you're still trying to figure out how to do life as a family – and there's not a lot of serving going on in your family, not a lot of care for each other going on, I encourage you to start with this declaration. "As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." It starts there and everything flows from that.

To put this in a practical application, years ago, Gary Smalley taught my family how to do this. He encouraged our family to write a family constitution. We did this when our kids were five and seven years old. We sat down and we wrote our declarations, our decisions as a family. What do we believe? Who is our source? What will we live by? Ours is ten points. You're welcome as I go through these to steal ours, edit them, make them your own. If you have small children, maybe do three or four to get started and then let them add to them throughout the years.

Last night, after dinner, we pulled out the family constitution. I asked Carson to read the first five and discuss and then Corynn to do the last five. As we read through them, we asked where we need improvement? What have we let slip? As we talk about core values, this constitution serves as our declaration, our decisions, our core values. We don't pull it out and read it every single day to make sure we're following it. It has become part of the fabric of our family.

Last night, we looked at some points to say, "Hey, we need to do a better job at that, we've let that one slip, and we could get better at that one."

If you've never a family constitution, do it on the back of a napkin at lunch, pull out a writing pad, a journal. Some of you might want to type this out and print it and put it up on the wall or on the refrigerator, but gather your family around the table and call it your congressional family meeting.

I'm going to run through these quickly and show you what we mean. The first one we all had to decide individually. It required each person in the family making the decision for themselves and then collectively. Since everyone in our family has placed faith in Jesus, collectively, we are able to say,

1. We will love the Lord with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength. In Deuteronomy 6, we read, ***4 Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.*** There is a God, there's only one God, he is the Lord, and in our family – we declare it in our family, and we hope you declare it in your family – that there's only one God, he is the Lord, and he is our Lord. ***5 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.***

We read in Matthew 22, ***37 Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."*** Number one at the top of the list, make this declaration that Amy is not my source of life, Carson is not my source of life, Corynn is not my source of life. Jesus is my source of life. And everything we talk about from here on out flows from that decision.

2. We will speak words of high honor over each every day. And our clothes. We are now speaking gracious words over our shirts that brought us joy. Proverbs 16 – ***24 Gracious words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.*** We just decided as a family... You experience this in your home. The world throws plenty at us. There is plenty of nastiness out there. There is plenty at school and at work and on the road of people coming at your throat. May your home be a home of honor, a home of high value where you are speaking a blessing over each other. Our family does that high/low thing at some meals. Give me the high of your day. Give me the low of your day. If somebody has a low, spend some time with that person. If you can tell that low has really hurt them, it cut them deeply,

if someone comes in and they feel torn down, may your home, your table, your family room, your car be a place of high honor.

3. We will read and memorize scripture together. 2 Timothy 2 – ***15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.*** Around when we started this, our kids were five and seven and we had been through the kid's devotional Bibles. Amy and I sat down, and Stephanie Watson illustrated, but we did these A to Z devotional cards. If you are new to our church and you've never received a set of these or you're brand new today and you fill out the card at the Welcome Center, a lot of times they give you a gift and it's a book, but today they will give you these cards. A is ***Go the ant you sluggard; consider his ways and be wise.*** B is ***Kind words are like honey; sweet to the soul, healthy to the body.*** A lot of our family constitution is in these cards, but I'm tell you if you start this when your kids are young and start at A every night and go up to the next letter, they can have dozens of passages of scripture memorized.

4. We will pray together every day. 1 Thessalonians 5 – ***17 pray continually...*** Again, we're not legalistic with any of this, but we do pray together every single day. Most nights, it's each member of the family praying as we pray. There are some nights we all walk in and just put our heads down on the bed because we're so wiped out and one of us may pray that night. But prayer has always been of value. I want to encourage you. For some, this is a great starting point. This may be number two on your list.

Years ago, when we challenged families to do this, there was one friend of mine in here that had never prayed with his family. He told me the next week that he walked into his teenage daughter's room. He couldn't even look at her because he didn't even know where to begin. He said, "I don't have a strong prayer life." He's a new believer just being disciplined and learning how to do it. He asked his daughter, "I don't know... You want to pray or something?" He didn't give her enough time to respond when he said, "We can do it later. We can do it before bed" and he started to walk out. He couldn't get out of he room because his daughter said, "Dad... I would love that."

If I could just encourage dads in here, single parents in here, just sit down and pray as a family.

5. We will offer grace for mistakes and avoid repeating the same mistakes. Proverbs 26 – ***As a dog returns to its vomit, so fools repeat their folly.*** We want to be a gracious family, but we want to learn from our mistakes to the point we don't keep repeating them. That's the foolish living that we're trying to avoid. Because we're taking you up to here, but we're not going with your to there, we want you to take this with you.

We went to a movie. I think it was a Christmastime. My parents don't go to movies. They're independent, fundamental, pre-millennial, King James version only... No, that's not why they don't go to movies. But my dad would just rather watch stuff at home. We talked them into going to a movie, so we took Amy's parents and my parents. It was probably the only movie my dad had been to in the last year, maybe for two years. It was awful, like disgusting in the first few minutes. I hopped up and I looked at my parents and said, "Hey, we're out of here." I always hate doing that because many of you were in there enjoying the movie. I'm leaving because I'm not going to sit there and subject myself to it;

it was trash. Carson and I had the conversation again yesterday. I said, "It's easy for me to put laws and rules down in the home to say that at 13 and 15, you will not watch this movie or this rating, but I'm preparing you for this day where I've taken you to hear and now your going to go there. I hope you want to walk out of the movie. I hope you're the one that wants to do this. Right now, Carson is going *you're sounding a little fundamentalist, Dad*. But that you would make these decisions. I can have rules, but I'm moving from a parent of control... My kids are at the teenage level. I want to be a parent of influence.

6. We will work hard, give generously, save wisely, and spend sensibly. Long before I ever heard the name Dave Ramsey, I heard the name Ron Cunningham, and this was his list. We would go mow a lawn at a neighbor's yard at five years old and the grass would be three feet high. You know what I'm talking about; you mowed two feet and you backed up a foot and you shake the mower out. My dad would howl watching my brother and I do this. We'd made ten bucks, paid him five bucks for renting his mower and then he'd say, "Okay, here's your tithe, here's what's going to missions, here's what's going to a savings account, and now here is what you can spend."

Proverbs 6 – ***6 Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise!*** Proverbs 11 – ***25 A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.*** Proverbs 21 – ***20 The wise store up choice food and olive oil, but fools gulp theirs down.*** That you and I would be in the home, working hard and giving generously and saving wisely, and spending sensibly.

7. We will love and support and serve our church. Matthew 16 - ***18 "And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it."*** Some of you have jumped from church to church to church and in the process, your jadedness has been passed onto the heart of your children. Amy and I have just made the decision. We want to love, support, and serve. When we started Woodland Hills, we asked the Lord to let this be our last church that we are serving. I want that. It's not that I can't do something else. The Lord may call me to do something else, but we don't want to raise kids that are jaded. We want our children leaving Woodland Hills with the desire to serve the local church, not just loving Jesus, but loving Jesus and his bride.

8. We will laugh together every day. This one won't shock you. Proverbs 17 – ***22 A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones.*** We've made laughter a value in our home. And we have a 13 years old professional comedian on staff at our home that is good for us because as we grow... As we take on responsibility as adults, as parents, and we put braces and clothes on our children, the responsibility can weigh us down and sometimes it is a heart of a child in a home that helps lighten that home.

9. We will take 100% personal responsibility for our emotions, words, and actions. Proverbs 4 – ***23 Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.*** Every word you speak and every action you take flows from the heart. We started very young teaching this to our kids. I encourage you to do it. I'd ask Carson when he was five or six, "Whose responsible for your heart?" He'd say, "I am responsible for my heart." "How much are your responsible for your heart?" "I am 100% responsible for my heart." "How much is your sissy responsible for your heart?" "She is 0% responsible for my heart." That the kids would own it and not blame one another.

10. We will live in the moment, not on technology. This is one we know we need to work on as a family. We read in 2 Corinthians 10: 5, ...***we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.*** Do you know what I love about this? You can start this at any time. You can make the decision right now. As a family, you can make the declaration of Joshua 24:15 true in your home as well. Dad, Mom, Child, you can leave here today and, in the car, declare, “As for me and this household, we will serve the Lord.”

Father, we’re grateful for what you continue to do in this church. I pray for moms and dads and brothers and sisters and grandmas and grandpas as they have made great declaration in their home to serve you and to love you with their heart, soul, mind, and strength.

I pray that is passed onto the children and grandchildren. The day is coming where they would hear mom is dead, dad is dead, grandma is dead, grandpa is dead, but they would continue on. That they would lead well their own families one day.

I think of all the families that are forming in this church that they will lead well as they have been led. For some who are first generation Christians or the first generation to make this declaration that they would be true to this and they would raise their kids with a love for you and a desire to serve you all the days of their life.

We pray all of this in the name of Jesus and everyone agreed and said... Amen.