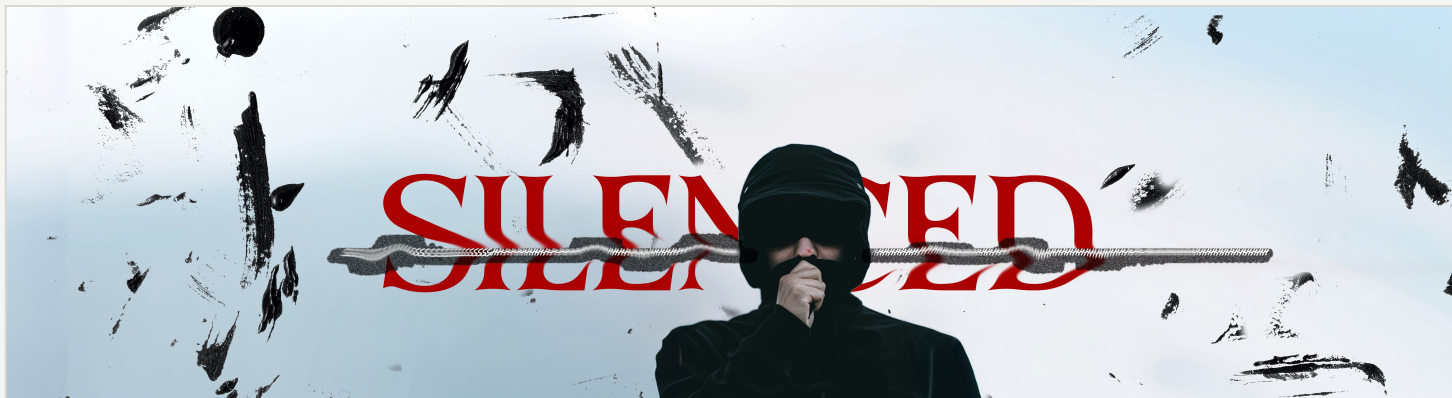




BIBLE STUDY SERIES

SILENCED



Restoring the Vision, Voice, and Decisions That Shape Your Family's Destiny

SILENCED

— MATTHEW 12:22 —

The enemy wants your family silent. Jesus wants to restore its vision and voice.

INTRODUCTION

Every Family Is Moving Toward a Destination



Every family is moving toward a destination. The question is not if we are leading our homes somewhere, but where we are leading them. Every conversation around the dinner table, every decision we make, every value we embrace, and every priority we establish is quietly shaping the spiritual future of our marriage and our children. Long before our children imitate what we teach, they imitate what we treasure. They learn what matters by watching what matters to us.

The message of Matthew 12 begins with a miracle that, at first glance, appears to concern only physical healing. A man is brought to Jesus who is both blind and unable to speak because of demonic oppression. Jesus immediately heals him, restoring both his sight and his speech (Matthew 12:22). Yet Pastor Tisdale points out something profound: in this particular miracle, the enemy had attacked two of the most important faculties necessary for fulfilling God's purpose, the ability to see and the ability to speak.

"Then was brought unto him one possessed with a devil, blind, and dumb: and he healed him, insomuch that the blind and dumb both spake and saw."

Matthew 12:22, KJV

This is much more than a healing story. It reveals one of Satan's greatest strategies against the people of God. If he can blind what we see, he can remove our direction. If he can silence what we say, he can remove our spiritual authority. And if he can accomplish both, we may continue living physically while becoming disconnected from God's purpose for our lives and for our families.

This strategy has never changed. The enemy still works to blur our spiritual vision until we can no longer see what God desires for our homes. He fills our minds with discouragement, disappointment, distractions, and fear until we stop believing that our marriage can be healthy, that our children can passionately serve God, or that our family can become a testimony of His grace. Once vision is lost, our words begin to change. Instead of speaking faith, we begin speaking frustration. Instead of declaring God's promises, we repeat our problems. Without realizing it, we begin agreeing more with our circumstances than with the Word of God.

The Scriptures consistently teach that God builds His kingdom through generations. When He called Abraham, His promise extended beyond one man to an entire family and ultimately to all nations (Genesis 12:1-3). Moses instructed parents to diligently teach God's commandments to their children "when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way" (Deuteronomy 6:6-7). Joshua boldly declared, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:15). David prayed that one generation would declare God's works to another (Psalm 145:4). Throughout the Bible, God's vision has always included the family.

“And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.”

Deuteronomy 6:6-7, KJV

This means that every parent, grandparent, husband, and wife is shaping a spiritual inheritance. We are not simply raising children; we are raising future disciples, future spouses, future parents, future worshippers, future soul winners, and future leaders in the Kingdom of God. The choices we make today become the spiritual foundation upon which the next generation will build tomorrow. Pastor Tisdale summarizes this truth with a powerful statement: “The choices you make today become the path that you and your family walk tomorrow.”

That is why this study is not merely about personal growth. It is about building homes where Christ is honored, marriages where faith is cultivated, and families where the next generation learns to see God’s purpose and boldly declare His promises.

Throughout this study we will discover three foundational principles that determine the direction of every family:

Vision allows us to see the future God desires for our home.

Our voice releases faith and continually shapes the atmosphere of our family.

Our decisions transform that vision into a lasting spiritual legacy.

Our prayer is that God would do for us what He did for the man in Matthew 12. May He restore our spiritual sight so we can clearly see His purpose for our families. May He restore our voice so we can speak faith over our marriage, our children, and our future. And may He give us the courage to make the daily decisions that lead our homes toward the destiny He has prepared for us.

SECTION 1

The Enemy's Strategy: Blindness and Silence

01

The first lesson we must understand is that Satan rarely begins by attacking our destination. Instead, he attacks the things that determine our destination. This is exactly what we see in Matthew 12. A man is brought to Jesus who is both blind and unable to speak because of demonic oppression. Jesus heals him, restoring both his sight and his speech. Pastor Tisdale emphasizes that in this particular miracle, Jesus connects blindness and muteness to demonic bondage, revealing a powerful spiritual principle: if the enemy can blind what we see and silence what we say, he can greatly limit what we become.

This truth reaches far beyond one individual. It speaks directly to every Christian home. Satan understands that families are built on vision. Before a family becomes a praying family, someone must first see a praying family. Before children become worshippers, someone must first believe they can become worshippers. Every spiritual legacy begins with someone seeing what God desires before anyone else can see it.

Throughout Scripture, the enemy has consistently attacked vision before attacking behavior. In the Garden of Eden, Satan never began by telling Eve to rebel against God. Instead, he questioned God's Word and distorted her perspective. Once her vision became blurred, her decisions quickly followed. Sin always begins long before the action itself. It begins when we stop seeing God, His promises, and His purpose as clearly as we once did.

Paul later explains this same principle when he writes that "the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not" (2 Corinthians 4:4). Blindness is one of Satan's favorite weapons because a person who cannot clearly see God's truth will eventually begin making decisions based on feelings rather than faith. A family without spiritual vision slowly drifts wherever culture pushes them. They are no longer intentionally pursuing God's purpose because they have lost sight of it.

"The god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not."

2 Corinthians 4:4, KJV

Pastor Tisdale reminds us that if Satan steals our vision, we lose our direction. If he steals our voice, we lose our authority. If he steals both, we may continue living while becoming disconnected from our God-given purpose. This is exactly what the enemy desires for Christian families today.

Consider how this attack often unfolds in modern homes. A husband becomes overwhelmed with work and slowly stops praying. A wife becomes discouraged and begins believing that nothing will ever change. Parents become consumed with schedules, sports, finances, and entertainment until family worship quietly disappears. None of these changes happen overnight. They happen because spiritual vision gradually becomes clouded. What once seemed essential begins to feel optional.

The enemy also attacks our voice. Once discouragement enters our hearts, it usually begins to come out of our mouths. Instead of speaking God's promises over our marriage, we speak disappointment. Instead of declaring hope over our children, we repeatedly describe their weaknesses. Instead of praying with confidence, we complain with frustration. Eventually, our words begin reinforcing the very future we fear.

This is why Scripture repeatedly emphasizes the importance of our speech. Proverbs 18:21 declares, “Death and life are in the power of the tongue.” James compares the tongue to the rudder of a ship. Although small, it determines the direction of the entire vessel (James 3:4-5). In the same way, the words consistently spoken within a home eventually shape its spiritual atmosphere.

“Death and life are in the power of the tongue.”

Proverbs 18:21, KJV

Imagine two homes. In one, children constantly hear, “You’ll never learn... Why are you always like this?... Nothing ever changes.” In the other, children hear, “God has a purpose for your life... We believe God is working in you... We are praying for your future... You belong to Jesus Christ.” Both homes experience correction, discipline, and challenges, but only one consistently points its children toward God’s vision.

The difference is not merely positive thinking. It is spiritual leadership.

One of the greatest responsibilities God gives parents is the privilege of helping their children see themselves through God’s eyes rather than through the world’s labels. The world labels children according to failures, personalities, popularity, or achievements. God speaks purpose. Before David ever became king, God already saw a shepherd after His own heart. Before Jeremiah was born, God declared that He had already ordained him as a prophet. Before Gideon ever led Israel, God called him a “mighty man of valour” while Gideon still saw himself as weak.

God has always spoken destiny before people could see it themselves.

Perhaps one of the greatest questions every parent should ask is not, “What is my child today?” but rather, “What does God see my child becoming?”

When we begin seeing our children through God’s promises instead of merely through today’s struggles, our prayers become different, our conversations become different, our discipline becomes more intentional, and our hope begins to grow.

This principle also applies to our marriages. If all we can see is today’s conflict, our words will reinforce discouragement. But if we begin seeing what God desires our marriage to become, our prayers, attitudes, forgiveness, and daily choices begin moving in that direction.

Every family is constantly being shaped by what it sees and what it says.

That is why we must guard both carefully.

The enemy would love nothing more than to convince us that our family will never change, our children will never serve God, our marriage will never heal, or our ministry has already reached its limit. Those lies are designed to blind us before they ever silence us. Once we stop seeing God’s possibilities, we

eventually stop speaking God's promises.

But Jesus came to restore both.

Just as He opened the blind man's eyes and loosened his tongue, Christ desires to restore our ability to see His purpose for our families and boldly declare His truth over our homes. Every revival in a family begins when someone once again begins to see what God sees and refuses to stop speaking until that vision becomes reality.

FAMILY REFLECTION

Ask yourself these questions before moving to the next section:

- What vision do I truly have for my family five years from now?
- Are my daily conversations producing faith or feeding fear?
- If my children repeated everything they hear me say about God, our family, and the future, would it strengthen their faith?
- Have disappointment, fear, or past failures clouded my ability to see what God still wants to accomplish through my home?
- What promises of God do I need to begin speaking over my marriage, my children, and my family today?

SECTION 2

Vision Gives Restraint a Purpose

02

One of the most powerful truths Pastor Tisdale shares is that vision gives restraint a reason. He explains that when people lose vision, restraint begins to feel unnecessary. Instead of seeing God's boundaries as protection, they begin to see them as limitations. This simple principle helps explain why two believers can hear the same biblical teaching yet respond so differently. One embraces it with joy while another feels frustrated by it. The difference is often not their love for God, but whether they can clearly see what God is building in their future.

Solomon captures this truth in Proverbs 29:18 when he writes, "Where there is no vision, the people perish." Pastor Tisdale reminds us that the Hebrew word translated perish does not simply refer to destruction. It carries the idea of casting off restraint or living without spiritual boundaries. In other words, when people lose sight of God's purpose, they also lose their motivation to live disciplined lives. If we cannot see where God is leading us, it becomes difficult to understand why obedience matters.

"Where there is no vision, the people perish."

Proverbs 29:18, KJV

This principle affects every area of family life. A parent who cannot see God's calling over their children will eventually stop fighting for the spiritual atmosphere of the home. Family prayer becomes less important. Worship becomes optional. Conversations about God become less frequent. Little by little, what once seemed essential begins to feel unnecessary. The problem is rarely that someone intentionally rejects God. More often, they simply stop seeing what God wants to accomplish through their family.

The opposite is also true. When God gives us a vision for our home, sacrifice begins to make sense. We gladly protect what we value. Parents who believe God has a purpose for their children will naturally become more intentional about the influences they allow into their lives. They are not trying to isolate their children from the world out of fear. They are preparing them to live faithfully in a world that desperately needs Christ. Vision changes the question from, "What am I giving up?" to "What am I protecting?"

The Apostle Paul understood this principle well. In 1 Corinthians 9, he compares the Christian life to an athlete preparing for competition. Athletes willingly discipline their bodies because they are focused on winning a prize. They wake up early, train consistently, eat carefully, and deny themselves many comforts because they have fixed their eyes on the finish line. Their discipline is not punishment; it is preparation. Paul explains that he lived with the same mindset spiritually. He disciplined himself because he understood that God had called him to something far greater than temporary pleasure.

Our families require that same perspective. Every time we choose prayer over distraction, generosity over selfishness, forgiveness over bitterness, or holiness over compromise, we are making decisions that protect the future God desires for our home. These decisions may seem small today, but they become the spiritual foundation upon which our children will build tomorrow. They are watching what we value. Long before they adopt our beliefs, they observe our priorities.

This is why Joshua's declaration remains one of the greatest leadership statements in Scripture: "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:15). Joshua was not simply expressing a personal conviction. He was establishing the direction of his family. Someone had to decide where that household was going, and Joshua accepted that responsibility. Every Christian parent is called to do the same. We cannot allow culture, entertainment, social media, or popular opinion to determine the spiritual direction of our homes. God has entrusted that responsibility to us.

One of the greatest dangers facing Christian families today is not sudden rebellion but gradual drift. Rarely does a family wake up one morning completely disconnected from God. More often, prayer slowly disappears. Worship becomes less passionate. The Word of God receives less attention. Entertainment fills the silence that once belonged to the presence of God. Little compromises accumulate until an entirely different culture has formed within the home. What once would have troubled our conscience slowly becomes normal.

This is why vision must continually be renewed. We should regularly ask the Lord to help us see our family through His eyes. What kind of husband is He calling us to become? What kind of wife? What kind of parents? What kind of disciples are our children becoming? These questions are not intended to produce guilt but to restore purpose. When God renews our vision, He also renews our passion to protect what He is building.

As Pastor Tisdale teaches, restraint is no longer seen as restriction when we understand God's purpose. It becomes the fence that protects the future God has promised. Every "no" to temptation becomes a greater "yes" to God's calling. Every act of obedience becomes another brick in the spiritual legacy we are building for the generations that will follow us.

The greatest gift we can leave our children is not financial security, educational success, or earthly achievements. It is a home that consistently pointed them toward Jesus. When our family sees God's vision clearly, restraint is no longer something we endure. It becomes an act of love, protecting the precious work God is accomplishing in our lives and in the generations that will come after us.

SECTION 3

Vision Changes the Way We Speak

03

Once God gives us a vision for our family, the next step is learning to speak in agreement with that vision. This is where many believers struggle. We may believe God has a purpose for our marriage, our children, and our future, yet our daily conversations often tell a completely different story. Pastor Tisdale makes a powerful observation when he says that the enemy does not always mind if you quietly believe the truth, as long as you never boldly declare it.

The Bible consistently connects faith with our words. Paul writes in Romans 10:10, “For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.” Notice that believing and speaking are not separated. Faith begins in the heart, but eventually it finds its expression through the mouth. What fills our heart will ultimately shape the words we speak. If our hearts are filled with fear, fear will come out of our mouths. If they are filled with faith, faith will also be heard.

“For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

Romans 10:10, KJV

This principle should cause every parent to examine the atmosphere being created in the home. Our children hear far more than our instructions; they hear our expectations. They listen to how we speak about our marriage, our finances, our church, our leaders, our future, and even about themselves. Those words quietly shape the environment in which they grow.

How many times do parents unintentionally speak defeat over their children? We hear statements like, “He’s just stubborn,” “She’s always difficult,” “He’ll never listen,” or “She’s just like I was.” Although these comments may seem harmless, repeated words have tremendous influence. Eventually children begin believing the labels that are consistently spoken over them. Pastor Tisdale references a fascinating educational study showing that children often grow into the expectations placed upon them. If human expectations can shape a child’s development, how much more can God’s truth spoken consistently over their lives?

Throughout Scripture, we see that God rarely introduced people by describing who they were at the moment. Instead, He often spoke about who they would become.

Abram became Abraham before he ever became the father of many nations. Sarai became Sarah before Isaac was born. Simon was called Peter before he became the rock-like leader of the early church. Gideon was called a “mighty man of valour” while he was still hiding in fear. God continually spoke identity before people fully lived it.

What if we began doing the same within our homes?

Imagine a father placing his hand on his son and praying, “God has a purpose for your life. You’re going to be a man of integrity. You’re going to love God’s Word. You’re going to walk in wisdom.”

Imagine a mother speaking over her daughter, “God has called you. He has given you gifts that will bless His Kingdom. You belong to Jesus, and He has a wonderful plan for your life.”

These are not empty compliments or wishful thinking. They are declarations of faith rooted in the promises of God.

This same principle applies to marriage. Every marriage experiences seasons of difficulty. There are moments when frustration, disappointment, or exhaustion make it tempting to speak carelessly. Yet Scripture reminds us that “death and life are in the power of the tongue” (Proverbs 18:21). Our words can either strengthen the covenant God has given us or slowly weaken it.

This does not mean pretending problems do not exist. Healthy families address problems honestly. However, they refuse to let problems become the loudest voice in the home. Faith acknowledges reality, but it also declares God’s ability to transform reality.

Jesus demonstrated this beautifully throughout His ministry. When He stood before Lazarus’ tomb, He did not speak death; He called life. When He faced storms, He spoke peace. When He encountered sickness, He spoke healing. When He met broken lives, He spoke restoration. Again and again, we see that heaven’s response to darkness is not silence but truth spoken with authority.

Pastor Tisdale challenges us with a convicting thought. Some mountains have heard our complaints thousands of times, but they have never heard our faith.

We have become skilled at describing our problems while remaining silent about God’s promises. We rehearse our fears more often than we proclaim God’s faithfulness.

Imagine if every day your children heard words like these:

“God has been faithful to our family.”

“The Lord is leading us.”

“God has great plans for you.”

“Our home belongs to Jesus Christ.”

“We will trust the Lord in every season.”

“God is going to use you for His glory.”

Those words become seeds planted into the hearts of the next generation. Over time, they shape identity, build confidence in God, and create an atmosphere where faith becomes normal.

Joshua understood this principle when he declared, “As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” Notice that Joshua did not say, “We’ll see what happens.” He spoke the direction of his family before they ever walked it. His words established the spiritual culture of his home.

The same responsibility belongs to every Christian parent today.

Our children need to hear us pray. They need to hear us bless them. They need to hear us speak forgiveness instead of bitterness, hope instead of despair, gratitude instead of complaining, and faith instead of fear. They need to know that when difficulties arise, our first response is not panic but prayer.

Eventually, they will adopt the language that filled their childhood home.

May our homes become places where God's promises are spoken daily, where faith is heard as often as it is believed, and where every conversation points our families toward the future God has prepared for them. After all, the enemy seeks to silence God's people, but Christ restores our voice so that we can lead our families with faith, courage, and hope.

SECTION 4

Vision Must Become Decisions

04



One of the greatest dangers for any Christian family is believing that vision alone is enough. We can dream about having a godly home, pray that our children will love the Lord, and even speak words of faith over our family. Yet if those convictions never become daily decisions, they remain nothing more than good intentions. Pastor Tisdale makes this point very clearly when he explains that seeing the vision and speaking the vision are not enough. We must also make the decisions that move our family toward that vision.

Every family is being shaped today by the decisions they made yesterday. Likewise, the home we will have five years from now is being built by the decisions we make today. This should encourage us because it reminds us that our future is not determined by one emotional moment, but by thousands of faithful choices made over time. Strong families are not built overnight. They are built one prayer at a time, one conversation at a time, one act of obedience at a time.

The Bible consistently teaches this principle. James writes, “But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves” (James 1:22). Hearing God’s truth is essential, but hearing alone never transforms a family. Transformation begins when truth is practiced consistently inside the home. Many believers sincerely desire spiritual growth, yet desire without obedience never produces lasting change.

“But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.”

James 1:22, KJV

This is exactly what Moses taught the nation of Israel before they entered the Promised Land. In Deuteronomy 6, after commanding Israel to love the Lord with all their heart, soul, and strength, Moses immediately turns his attention to the home. He instructs parents to teach God’s commandments diligently to their children, speaking about them while sitting at home, walking along the road, lying down at night, and rising in the morning. God’s plan was never that faith would exist only in the sanctuary. His desire has always been for faith to become the daily culture of the home.

Notice how practical these instructions are. Moses does not tell parents to schedule one annual lesson. Instead, he describes an ongoing lifestyle where every ordinary moment becomes an opportunity to disciple the next generation. Family discipleship is not primarily built through occasional events. It is built through consistent habits repeated day after day.

This is where vision becomes decisions.

If we desire a praying family, then someone must decide that prayer will become part of the daily rhythm of the home. If we desire children who love Scripture, someone must decide that God’s Word will be opened regularly. If we desire a peaceful marriage, someone must decide that forgiveness will be practiced quickly instead of allowing resentment to grow. If we desire generous children, someone must intentionally model generosity before them.

Pastor Tisdale illustrates this beautifully when he says that if we want our children to become worshippers, they must first see us worship. If we want them to become generous, they must first watch

us give. If we desire spiritual authority in our home, we must first accept spiritual responsibility ourselves.

Children learn far more from observation than from instruction.

A father may tell his son that prayer is important, but if that son never sees his father pray, the lesson loses much of its power. A mother may encourage her daughter to trust God during difficult seasons, but if anxiety dominates every conversation, the example begins to contradict the instruction. Our children are constantly asking one question, even if they never say it aloud:

“Do my parents really believe what they are teaching me?”

That question is answered every day through our decisions.

Jesus closes the Sermon on the Mount with one of the clearest illustrations of this truth. He describes two men who both heard His words. One obeyed them and built his house upon the rock. The other ignored them and built upon the sand. Both houses experienced storms, but only one remained standing (Matthew 7:24-27).

Notice that the difference was not knowledge.

The difference was obedience.

Likewise, two families may attend the same church, hear the same sermons, and believe the same doctrines, yet experience very different outcomes because one consistently builds upon God’s Word while the other merely admires it.

This is why spiritual leadership cannot be postponed. There is no perfect season to begin leading our families. The best time to establish godly habits is today. We do not need elaborate programs or perfect schedules to begin. Sometimes the most significant changes begin with very simple decisions.

Perhaps tonight the family gathers together for five minutes before bed to pray.

Perhaps tomorrow morning begins with reading one chapter of Scripture together.

Perhaps the television stays off one evening this week so that worship music fills the home instead.

Perhaps a difficult conversation ends with forgiveness instead of anger.

These decisions may appear small, but heaven measures them differently. Every act of obedience is another stone placed into the spiritual foundation of our family.

Pastor Tisdale also gives a sobering warning that every parent should remember:

“What I tolerate today, my children embrace tomorrow. What I excuse today, my family normalizes tomorrow.”

Those words should cause each of us to pause.

Children often normalize whatever they repeatedly observe. If they consistently witness kindness, they learn kindness. If they witness prayer, prayer becomes natural. If they witness forgiveness, they learn

forgiveness. But if they repeatedly observe compromise, bitterness, dishonesty, or spiritual indifference, those patterns can quietly become normal as well.

This is why our daily decisions matter so deeply.

Every choice either strengthens or weakens the spiritual culture of our home.

The wonderful news is that God is gracious. No family has led perfectly. Every parent has moments they wish they could revisit. Yet our failures do not have to define our future. The moment we surrender our home to Christ and begin making decisions that honor Him, He begins restoring what may have been neglected. God's grace is always greater than yesterday's mistakes.

As we faithfully choose obedience day after day, our children begin to see that following Jesus is not simply something we do on Sundays. It becomes the way we live every day. Eventually, those consistent decisions become a legacy of faith that will continue influencing generations long after we are gone.

That is the power of vision lived out through daily obedience. It transforms faith from something we admire into something our children experience every single day.

SECTION 5

Parents Are the Primary Disciplers of Their Children

05

One of the most convicting moments in Pastor Tisdale's message comes when he reminds us that if we do not intentionally shape the spiritual direction of our children, someone else will. Nature does not tolerate a vacuum. Whatever parents fail to teach, culture will gladly teach. Whatever fathers and mothers remain silent about, the world will eagerly define.

This truth has always been recognized in Scripture. Long before God established kings or prophets, He established the home as the primary place where faith would be passed from one generation to the next. The first classroom God designed was not a synagogue or a temple. It was the family.

That is why Moses instructed Israel in Deuteronomy 6 to teach God's commandments diligently to their children. Notice that he never told parents to leave this responsibility entirely to the priests. Instead, he instructed them to speak about God's Word while sitting in the house, while walking together, before going to bed, and after waking in the morning. In other words, discipleship was never intended to be an event; it was designed to become a lifestyle.

Sometimes we unintentionally believe that one church service each week is enough to shape our children's faith. We are deeply thankful for pastors, Sunday school teachers, youth leaders, and children's ministries, but none of them were ever meant to replace the influence of a godly father and mother. The church reinforces what should already be happening at home.

In fact, the church has only a few hours each week to invest in our children. Parents have thousands.

That should not discourage us; it should inspire us. God entrusted this incredible responsibility to parents because He believes the home can become one of the most powerful places where faith is formed.

Psalms 78 beautifully expresses this responsibility. The psalmist declares that each generation must tell the next generation about the mighty works of God so that they would place their confidence in Him and not forget His faithfulness. God's desire has never been that every generation start over spiritually. His desire is that each generation stands upon the faithfulness of the previous one.

This is one of the greatest gifts we can leave our children.

We often spend years preparing an inheritance that will one day help our children financially. We save money, purchase homes, invest for retirement, and wisely plan for their future. None of those things are wrong. They demonstrate good stewardship.

But there is an inheritance that is even more valuable.

A child who grows up watching parents pray receives something no amount of money can purchase.

A child who witnesses forgiveness inside the home receives a gift that cannot be measured financially.

A child who consistently hears God's Word discussed around the dinner table receives a foundation that will strengthen them for the rest of their life.

Long after material possessions have disappeared, those spiritual investments continue bearing fruit.

Pastor Tisdale challenges parents to think beyond the present moment. Rather than asking only, “What do I want my child to become professionally?” we should also ask, “Who do I want my child to become spiritually?”

We naturally dream about our children becoming successful adults. We imagine them graduating from college, building careers, raising families, and living productive lives. Those are wonderful aspirations. Yet Scripture calls us to dream even bigger.

Do we see them becoming passionate worshippers?

Do we envision them leading Bible studies?

Do we picture them praying over their own children one day?

Do we imagine them standing firmly for truth when culture pressures them to compromise?

Do we see them becoming husbands and wives who build homes centered on Christ?

Those dreams require intentional discipleship today.

One of the beautiful examples of this is found in Timothy’s life. Paul reminds Timothy that sincere faith first lived in his grandmother Lois and then in his mother Eunice before becoming evident in him (2 Timothy 1:5). Timothy did not inherit faith genetically. He inherited it because two godly women consistently invested in him. Their daily example prepared him to become one of the greatest young leaders in the New Testament church.

“When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice.”

2 Timothy 1:5, KJV

This reminds us that discipleship is often quiet.

Most parents will never realize the full impact of ordinary moments. Reading one Bible story before bedtime may seem insignificant today. Praying together before school may seem simple. Singing worship songs in the car may appear ordinary. Yet those repeated moments slowly shape the heart of a child.

The world understands this principle remarkably well.

Companies spend billions of dollars each year trying to shape the thinking of children through advertisements, entertainment, social media, music, and digital content. They understand that whoever captures a child’s imagination will often influence that child’s future.

As believers, we must recognize the same reality.

Pastor Tisdale warns that if we do not define our family's vision, culture will define it for us. If we do not teach biblical identity, someone else will teach a different identity. If we do not explain God's design for life, marriage, sexuality, holiness, and purpose, the world will eagerly offer its own answers.

Silence has never been neutral.

Every day our children are being disciplined by someone.

The only question is, who is doing the disciplining?

This is why Christian parenting extends far beyond correcting bad behavior. Our highest calling is not simply producing well-behaved children. It is raising disciples of Jesus Christ.

Discipline certainly has its place. Scripture teaches that parents should lovingly correct their children. But correction alone cannot produce transformation. Rules may control behavior for a season, but only a relationship with Christ transforms the heart.

Pastor Tisdale makes a statement that every parent should remember:

Correction without vision can crush them, but vision gives correction a destination.

What a beautiful principle.

We do not correct our children because they inconvenience us.

We correct them because we see who God is calling them to become.

We are not simply dealing with today's attitude.

We are shaping tomorrow's husband.

Tomorrow's wife.

Tomorrow's father.

Tomorrow's mother.

Tomorrow's leader.

Tomorrow's disciple.

Every conversation, every prayer, every act of correction, every expression of grace should point them toward that future.

One day our children will leave our homes.

The toys will be packed away.

The bedrooms will become quiet.

The schedules will change.

But the spiritual foundation we helped build will continue walking with them for the rest of their lives.

May we never underestimate the holy privilege God has given us. Long before our children ever stand before a pastor, a teacher, or an employer, they stand before us. Our greatest assignment is not merely preparing them for adulthood.

It is preparing them to faithfully follow Jesus Christ for the rest of their lives.

SECTION 6

The Atmosphere of Your Home Is Formed by What You Consistently Speak

06

Every home has an atmosphere. Long before anyone notices the decorations, the furniture, or even the size of the house, they begin to sense its atmosphere. Some homes immediately communicate peace. Others communicate tension. Some are filled with encouragement and laughter, while others are marked by criticism, anxiety, or constant conflict. That atmosphere is not created by the home itself but by the people who live in it. Day after day, conversation after conversation, we are building an environment that shapes every member of our family. Pastor Tisdale reminds us that what we consistently speak has tremendous spiritual significance because our words are constantly reinforcing either faith or fear.

Jesus repeatedly demonstrated that faith is not only something we believe internally but something we declare openly. In Mark 11:23 He taught His disciples to speak to the mountain. Pastor Tisdale makes the striking observation that many mountains have heard years of our complaints but have never heard our faith. That statement exposes something that many of us struggle with. It is often easier to describe our problems than to declare God's promises. We become experts at talking about what is wrong while remaining strangely silent about what God is able to do. Our children hear us discuss financial pressures, health concerns, frustrations at work, and disappointments in life, but do they hear us declare that God is faithful? Do they hear us reminding one another that the Lord has never failed us? Do they hear us pray with confidence, or do they only hear us worry?

"Death and life are in the power of the tongue."

Proverbs 18:21, KJV

One of the greatest gifts parents can give their children is a home where faith is heard regularly. Our children should hear us thanking God even before the answer comes. They should hear us praying together before making important decisions. They should hear us blessing one another, asking forgiveness when we are wrong, and speaking words that build rather than destroy. Those moments may seem ordinary, but they are forming a spiritual vocabulary that our children will carry with them long after they leave our homes. Years from now they may not remember every family meal or every vacation, but they will remember hearing their parents call on the name of the Lord. They will remember hearing Scripture quoted during difficult seasons. They will remember whether prayer was the first response or the last resort.

Pastor Tisdale also points to an educational study showing that children often rise to the level of expectation consistently communicated by the adults who influence them. He then asks us to consider what would happen if Christian parents intentionally began speaking God's purpose over their children instead of constantly repeating their failures. That is a deeply biblical principle. Throughout Scripture, God consistently spoke to people according to His purpose rather than their present condition. Before Abram ever had a son, God called him Abraham, the father of many nations. Before Gideon won a battle, God called him a mighty man of valor. Before Simon became a pillar of the early church, Jesus called him Peter. God always saw what His grace could accomplish, not merely what people were at the moment.

As parents, we are called to learn from that example. This does not mean pretending our children are perfect or refusing to correct them. Loving correction is necessary because God Himself disciplines those He loves. However, Pastor Tisdale wisely reminds us that correction without vision can crush a child, but vision gives correction a destination.

There is a tremendous difference between correcting a child because we are frustrated and correcting a child because we can see who God is calling them to become. One approach tears down; the other builds up while still calling them to obedience. Our children need to know that even when they fail, we still believe God has a purpose for their lives.

The same principle strengthens marriages. Every husband and wife will experience seasons of disappointment, misunderstanding, and struggle. During those moments it becomes easy to focus only on weaknesses. Yet if our conversations continually emphasize failures, discouragement slowly fills the home. Instead, Scripture calls us to become people who speak grace, forgiveness, encouragement, and hope. This does not ignore problems; rather, it places those problems beneath the greater truth that God is still at work. A marriage where spouses regularly encourage one another creates an atmosphere where healing can flourish because faith is continually replacing fear.

Joshua understood the importance of establishing the atmosphere of a home when he boldly declared, “As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” He was not simply making a personal commitment; he was establishing the spiritual culture of his family. Before anyone else in his household could embrace that vision, Joshua first had to speak it. Every Christian parent has that same privilege today. Our children need more than a comfortable home. They need a home where the Word of God is spoken, where prayer is normal, where forgiveness is practiced, where worship is welcomed, and where faith becomes the language that fills every room.

When our homes are filled with those conversations, something beautiful begins to happen. The atmosphere changes. Peace begins replacing anxiety. Hope begins replacing discouragement. Prayer becomes more natural than panic. Our children begin learning that God’s promises are more reliable than their circumstances. Little by little, our homes become places where Jesus is not simply believed in but honored, spoken about, and followed every day. That is the kind of atmosphere that shapes generations and leaves a spiritual legacy long after we are gone.

SECTION 7

Someone Will Shape the Next Generation

07

One of the most sobering moments in Pastor Tisdale's message comes when he explains that if we do not intentionally define the vision for our family, someone else will. There is no such thing as a spiritually neutral home. Every home is being disciplined. Every child is being shaped. Every family is moving in a particular direction. The only question is who is setting that direction. Pastor Tisdale warns that what we leave undefined will eventually be disciplined by default.

That statement perfectly describes the world we are living in today. Our children are surrounded by voices that compete for their attention every single day. Social media tells them who they should become. Entertainment tells them what success looks like. Friends influence their values. Schools, advertisements, music, and countless hours of digital content are constantly teaching them how to think. Whether we realize it or not, every one of those voices is presenting a vision for life. If parents remain silent, those voices will gladly fill the void.

This is why God placed such a heavy responsibility upon parents throughout Scripture. Deuteronomy 6 does not simply command parents to love God personally. It commands them to teach His Word diligently to their children. They were to talk about God's commandments while sitting in the house, while walking together, before going to bed, and when they woke in the morning. God never intended spiritual formation to happen only during worship services. He designed it to happen in everyday life, through ordinary conversations that continually pointed children back to Him.

Unfortunately, every generation faces the temptation to assume that someone else will teach the next generation. Parents often hope that pastors, youth leaders, Christian schools, or Bible studies will provide everything their children need spiritually. Those ministries are invaluable gifts from God, but they were never designed to replace the influence of the home. They are called to reinforce what parents are already building.

Perhaps one of the saddest verses in the Old Testament is found in Judges 2:10:

"And there arose another generation after them, which knew not the LORD, nor yet the works which he had done for Israel."

Judges 2:10, KJV

Think about how tragic that statement really is. The generation that crossed the Jordan River had personally witnessed God's miracles. They had seen walls fall, rivers divide, and the hand of God provide for them again and again. Yet somehow the next generation grew up without truly knowing Him.

The problem was not that God had stopped working.

The problem was that His works were no longer being intentionally passed down.

That warning should speak to every Christian family today.

It is entirely possible to love God sincerely and still fail to intentionally transfer our faith to the next generation. Faith is not inherited automatically. Every generation must personally know the Lord. Our

responsibility as parents is to create an environment where that relationship can flourish.

Pastor Tisdale gives a practical illustration that every parent immediately understands. He says that if parents never teach their children about God's design for life, someone else will gladly teach them a different version. If parents never explain biblical morality, culture will define morality for them. If parents never establish a biblical identity, the world will gladly provide one.

That is exactly what Paul warned about in Romans 12:2 when he wrote,

"Be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind."

Romans 12:2, KJV

Notice that Paul assumes the world is constantly attempting to shape us. Culture is never standing still. It is always discipling, always influencing, always inviting us to adopt its values. If we are not intentionally renewing our minds through God's Word, we will gradually begin thinking like the world around us without even realizing it.

This is why spiritual conversations inside the home are so important. We cannot simply tell our children what to believe. We must patiently explain why we believe it. They need to understand why we pray. Why we worship. Why we forgive. Why we pursue holiness. Why we value God's Word. Why we gather with the church. Why we trust Scripture above culture. Children who understand the "why" behind biblical convictions are far more likely to carry those convictions into adulthood.

Pastor Tisdale beautifully reminds us that separation from the world is not motivated by fear or superiority. We do not live differently because we believe we are better than anyone else. We live differently because we belong to God.

That changes everything. Holiness is no longer about merely avoiding certain behaviors. It becomes the joyful response of people who understand whose they are.

Habakkuk gives another important instruction that fits perfectly into this discussion. God tells the prophet,

"Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it."

Habakkuk 2:2, KJV

Pastor Tisdale asks a simple but profound question: How can anyone run toward a vision that has never been clearly communicated?

The same is true within our families.

Have we clearly communicated the vision for our home?

Do our children know what kind of family God has called us to be?

Do they know what matters most to us?

Could they explain the values that guide our decisions?

Or are they left trying to figure it out by watching a world that does not know Christ?

Every family has a mission, whether it has been spoken or not. Some families unintentionally build their lives around success, sports, education, careers, or entertainment. Those things all have value, but none of them are capable of producing eternal life. As believers, our greatest vision must always be that our family knows Jesus Christ, loves His Word, serves His church, and faithfully passes that same faith to the generations that follow.

The truth is both encouraging and challenging. We cannot control every decision our children will one day make. Each person must eventually choose to follow Christ for themselves. But we can faithfully create a home where God's presence is welcomed, His Word is honored, His truth is explained, and His love is demonstrated every day.

When we intentionally build that kind of home, we are doing far more than raising children.

We are preparing another generation to know God, love His truth, and continue proclaiming His faithfulness long after our own voices have grown silent.



SECTION 8

The Vision You Live Today Becomes the Legacy You Leave Tomorrow

08

As Pastor Tisdale begins bringing the message toward its conclusion, he moves beyond the individual and returns to the family. Throughout the sermon he continually reminds us that our choices never affect only us. Every decision we make creates a path that someone else will eventually walk. Our children are watching. Our grandchildren will one day benefit from—or struggle because of—the spiritual culture we establish today. That is why he repeatedly reminds the church that the choices we make today become the path our families walk tomorrow.

This principle is woven throughout the entire Bible. God has always thought in terms of generations. When He called Abraham, He was not simply blessing one man. He was beginning a covenant that would bless his descendants and, ultimately, every nation of the earth. When Moses instructed Israel, he continually reminded parents to tell God's works to their children and grandchildren. David declared that "one generation shall praise thy works to another" (Psalm 145:4). Even the Great Commission assumes that disciples will continue making disciples from one generation to the next. God's work has always extended beyond a single lifetime.

"One generation shall praise thy works to another."

Psalm 145:4, KJV

That truth should change the way we evaluate success. Our culture often measures success by careers, income, possessions, or accomplishments. While none of those things are inherently wrong, they were never intended to become the primary measure of a life well lived. One day every house we build will belong to someone else. Every vehicle we purchase will eventually wear out. Every career will come to an end. But every prayer we pray over our children, every biblical truth we teach, every act of obedience we model, and every example of faith we leave behind has the potential to impact generations we may never meet.

Perhaps one of the greatest examples of this is found in Timothy's life. When Paul writes to him, he does not begin by praising Timothy's gifts or abilities. Instead, he points back to his grandmother Lois and his mother Eunice. He reminds Timothy that the sincere faith living within him first lived within them (2 Timothy 1:5). What a beautiful testimony. Before Timothy ever became a pastor, he first became a disciple inside his own home. His ministry was built upon the faithful influence of previous generations.

That should encourage every parent and grandparent reading this study. Many of the most important investments we make will never receive public recognition. The world celebrates celebrities, athletes, entrepreneurs, and influential leaders, but heaven also celebrates mothers who faithfully pray for their children, fathers who consistently lead their homes with integrity, grandparents who refuse to stop interceding for the next generation, and families who quietly choose obedience day after day. These moments may never make headlines, but they are shaping eternity.

Pastor Tisdale challenges us to think carefully about what our children are seeing every day. Are they watching parents who genuinely love the presence of God? Do they see us worship when no one else is watching? Do they hear us speak with kindness and forgiveness inside the home? Do they know that

God's Word has authority over our decisions? Or do they see faith become something we practice only during church services?

Children rarely become what we merely tell them to become. More often, they become what they consistently observe. If they grow up watching parents who value prayer, prayer becomes normal. If they grow up watching generosity, generosity becomes natural. If they grow up watching repentance, humility becomes part of their character. Likewise, if they repeatedly observe anger, compromise, or spiritual indifference, those patterns can quietly become part of their own lives. Whether intentionally or unintentionally, every family is leaving a legacy.

This is why Joshua's declaration remains so powerful centuries later: "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." Joshua understood that spiritual leadership always begins with someone willing to make a decision before everyone else fully understands it. He did not wait for culture to agree with him. He did not allow public opinion to determine the direction of his home. He chose God's path first, trusting that his family would follow the example he consistently lived.

That same responsibility rests upon every believer today. We cannot control every circumstance our children will face, nor can we shield them from every influence in the world. Eventually they must make their own decisions and develop their own relationship with Christ. But we can give them something priceless before they ever leave our homes. We can give them a clear picture of what it looks like to genuinely love God.

One day our children may forget many of the gifts we bought them. They may forget the vacations we took or the toys they once treasured. But they are far less likely to forget seeing Mom praying in the living room early in the morning. They will remember Dad opening his Bible before making important decisions. They will remember hearing their parents ask one another for forgiveness. They will remember gathering around the table to pray before meals. They will remember hearing worship music filling the home instead of constant chaos. Those memories become anchors that the Holy Spirit often uses years later to draw prodigal sons and daughters back to the Father.

The greatest inheritance we can leave our family is not found in a bank account or a will. It is found in a life that consistently demonstrated what it means to follow Jesus Christ. Long after our voices have become silent, the example we lived can continue speaking through the lives of our children and grandchildren.

May that be our prayer. Lord, help us to live today in such a way that future generations will find it easier to know You because of the legacy we left behind. May our homes become places where faith is seen, truth is loved, prayer is practiced, and Christ is honored. And may the vision You have given us today continue shaping our family for generations to come.

SECTION 9

Jesus Came to Restore Our Vision and Our Voice

09

Every great Bible study should ultimately lead us back to Jesus. Throughout this lesson we have talked about vision, our words, our decisions, our families, and the responsibility of parents. But none of these things begin with us. They all begin with Christ. The beautiful truth of Matthew 12 is not simply that a man was blind and unable to speak. The beautiful truth is that Jesus was present. Wherever Jesus is present, what the enemy has stolen can be restored.

The man in Matthew 12 could not heal himself. He could not give himself sight, nor could he loosen his own tongue. His condition required divine intervention. Pastor Tisdale reminds us that in this particular miracle Jesus connected blindness and muteness with demonic oppression, and with one encounter Jesus completely reversed what hell had done.

That should fill every believer with hope. If the enemy has spent years trying to blind our vision or silence our faith, Jesus is still able to restore both.

Perhaps some parents reading this lesson feel discouraged because they recognize mistakes they have made. Maybe there were years when prayer was absent from the home. Maybe work became more important than family discipleship. Perhaps anger, bitterness, or distraction slowly replaced peace. Others may look at their children today and wonder if it is too late. The enemy loves to whisper that we have missed our opportunity, that our failures are permanent, and that our family can never become what God intended.

That is one of his greatest lies.

Throughout Scripture, God specializes in restoring what appears to be lost. Joel declared God's promise when he wrote, "I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten." Our God is not only able to forgive yesterday's failures; He is able to redeem them. He can rebuild what has been neglected. He can soften hearts that have become hard. He can heal marriages that seem beyond repair. He can awaken children who have wandered far from Him. Nothing is impossible for the Lord.

This is why the enemy works so hard to steal our vision. If he can convince us that restoration is impossible, we stop praying. We stop believing. We stop speaking God's promises. Eventually we surrender before the battle has even begun. But Jesus never asked His followers to place their confidence in themselves. He asked them to place their confidence in Him.

Paul reminds us in Ephesians 3:20 that God is "able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think." Think about those words. God is able to do more than we ask, and even more than we can imagine. Our vision is limited, but His vision is not. We often see only the present struggle, while God already sees the future He is preparing.

That should completely change the way we pray for our families.

Instead of praying with fear, we begin praying with expectation.

Instead of saying, "Lord, I hope my children make it," we begin praying, "Lord, use my children for Your glory."

Instead of saying, “I don’t know if my marriage can survive,” we begin declaring, “Lord, build our marriage into a testimony of Your grace.”

Instead of believing that our greatest days are behind us, we begin trusting that God is still writing our story.

One of the most encouraging truths in Scripture is that God often accomplishes His greatest work through ordinary people who simply choose to trust Him. Abraham was an old man when God gave him a son. Moses was eighty years old when he led Israel out of Egypt. Hannah prayed for years before Samuel was born. Zacharias and Elisabeth believed they were beyond the years of having children, yet God gave them John the Baptist. Again and again, God demonstrates that His timetable is not limited by human circumstances.

The same is true for our families.

No matter what season we are in today, God is still able to restore vision. He is still able to restore prayer. He is still able to restore worship. He is still able to restore marriages. He is still able to restore children who have wandered away. The same Savior who opened blind eyes in Matthew 12 is still opening spiritual eyes today. The same Lord who loosened a silent tongue is still giving His people boldness to speak faith over their homes.

Pastor Tisdale closes the message by praying that God would restore our ability to see what He sees about our families and to speak what He says about our future. I believe that is the prayer every one of us should pray.

“Lord, help me see my spouse the way You see them.”

“Help me see my children the way You see them.”

“Help me see my future through Your promises instead of my fears.”

“Help me stop agreeing with the voice of the enemy and begin agreeing with Your Word.”

As God restores our vision, He also restores our courage. We begin making different decisions because we see a different future. We begin speaking differently because our hearts have been filled with hope again. Little by little, our homes begin changing. Conversations become healthier. Prayer becomes more natural. Worship becomes more sincere. Our children begin seeing parents who genuinely depend on God rather than merely talking about Him.

This transformation rarely happens overnight, but it always begins with one decision: allowing Jesus to restore what the enemy has tried to steal.

“Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.”

Philippians 1:6, KJV

What God starts, He finishes.

That promise applies to individuals.

It applies to marriages.

It applies to parents.

And it applies to families.

No matter where your home is today, Jesus is still able to restore your vision, strengthen your voice, and lead your family into the future He has prepared. That is our hope. That is our confidence. And that is the beautiful promise found at the heart of Matthew 12.

CONCLUSION

The Future of Your Family Begins Today

As we come to the end of this study, one truth should remain firmly planted in our hearts: every family is moving toward a destination. The question is not whether our home is influencing the next generation, but what direction that influence is taking. Every decision we make, every word we speak, every priority we establish, and every example we live is quietly shaping the spiritual future of our children.

Throughout this lesson we have discovered that the enemy's strategy has not changed. Just as he sought to keep the man in Matthew 12 blind and unable to speak, he still works tirelessly to blind believers to God's purpose and silence the voice of faith. If he can convince parents to lose sight of God's calling for their family, he knows they will eventually stop leading with intentionality. If he can fill a home with fear instead of faith, criticism instead of encouragement, and distraction instead of worship, he has already begun influencing the next generation.

But this is not where the story ends.

Jesus entered that man's life and completely reversed what the enemy had done. The blind man saw. The mute man spoke. What had been stolen was restored. That same Savior is still working today. He is still restoring marriages. He is still healing families. He is still awakening parents to their God-given responsibility. He is still calling prodigal sons and daughters home. He is still opening spiritual eyes so that we can see the future He desires for our families.

Perhaps the greatest lesson of this study is that vision must always lead to action. It is not enough to dream about having a godly home. We must intentionally build one. It is not enough to hope our children will serve the Lord. We must model a life that makes following Christ attractive. It is not enough to attend church faithfully while neglecting discipleship inside our homes. God has entrusted every parent with the incredible privilege of becoming the primary spiritual influence in the lives of their children.

This does not require perfection.

In fact, one of the greatest lessons our children can learn is watching parents who humbly repent, ask forgiveness, and continually depend upon God's grace. They do not need flawless parents. They need parents who genuinely love Jesus and are committed to following Him every day.

As we reflect on Pastor Tisdale's message, perhaps each of us should ask ourselves a few simple but searching questions.

What vision do I have for my family?

Can I clearly describe the kind of marriage I believe God desires for us? Can I explain the spiritual legacy I hope to leave my children? If someone asked my son or daughter what matters most in our home, would their answer reflect the Kingdom of God?

What words are shaping the atmosphere of my home?

Are my children hearing faith more often than fear? Do they regularly hear me pray? Do they hear me speak life over them? Do they hear gratitude, forgiveness, encouragement, and hope? Or have criticism, anxiety, and frustration become the loudest voices within our walls?

Do my daily decisions support the future I say I want?

If I desire children who love God's Word, do they see me reading it? If I long for them to become worshippers, do they see me worship? If I pray they will become generous, do they regularly watch me give? If I hope they will one day lead their own families spiritually, am I demonstrating what spiritual leadership looks like today?

These are not questions meant to produce guilt. They are invitations to renewal.

The wonderful news is that every family can begin again.

Today can become a new starting point.

A father can decide that tonight his family will pray together.

A mother can begin speaking God's promises over her children instead of their failures.

A husband and wife can choose forgiveness over resentment.

Parents can intentionally create moments where God's Word is discussed naturally around the dinner table.

A family can decide that the presence of God will become the greatest priority within their home.

Small decisions made consistently over time produce extraordinary results.

One day our children will establish homes of their own. The question is not whether they will remember us. They will. The greater question is what they will remember about following Christ because they watched us.

May they remember parents who loved God's house.

May they remember hearing prayers offered around the dinner table.

May they remember parents who honored one another.

May they remember Scripture being read, worship filling the home, generosity practiced with joy, forgiveness extended quickly, and faith remaining steady through every season.

May they grow up knowing that Jesus was not simply Someone we talked about on Sundays but Someone who truly lived at the center of our family.

And may they one day stand before their own children and confidently declare, just as Joshua did,

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

Joshua 24:15, KJV

May that declaration continue from one generation to the next until the Lord returns.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Restoring Vision, Voice & Legacy

1. Where the Enemy Attacks

Pastor Tisdale taught that the enemy attacks our vision and our voice because they influence our destiny. Looking at your family today, where do you think the enemy has tried hardest to cloud your vision or silence your faith? How can you begin resisting those attacks through God's Word and prayer?

2. Your Family's Greatest Priority

If someone observed your family for one week, what would they conclude is the greatest priority in your home? Would they see a family intentionally pursuing Christ, or would they see other priorities competing for first place?

3. The Words You Speak

Think about the words that are most often spoken in your home. Are they words that produce faith, hope, encouragement, and peace, or have criticism, fear, frustration, or negativity become more common? What practical changes can you make this week to begin speaking life over your family?

4. Today's Choices, Tomorrow's Path

Pastor Tisdale reminded us that “the choices we make today become the path our family walks tomorrow.” What is one daily habit you need to begin—or one habit you need to change—to better lead your family toward the future God desires?

5. As for Me and My House

Joshua boldly declared, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." What does that declaration practically look like in your home today? What specific steps can you take to make your house a place of prayer, worship, and discipleship?

6. Discipling the Next Generation

Consider your children, grandchildren, or the younger people God has placed in your life. Are you spending more time correcting their behavior or speaking God's purpose over their lives? How can you intentionally encourage and disciple them this week?

7. The Legacy You Want to Leave

Imagine your children or grandchildren describing your spiritual life twenty years from now. What do you hope they will remember most about the way you loved God, loved your family, and led your home? What decisions do you need to make today to leave that kind of legacy?
