

# Welcome to New Life !

We are very pleased you are here. It is an honor to have you worshipping with us today! This information is provided to help you feel welcome and "at home."

## Worship in Singing & Giving

- We leave how to worship up to you as an individual. During **singing** worship some people remain seated, some stand, others kneel, many clap, and some lift their hands. The outward expression is not the issue - it is what is in your heart that counts. Just relax and enjoy the presence of God.
- If you would like to receive personal **prayer** during worship with singing, you may go to one of the Prayer Teams located at the back of the sanctuary.
- Invitation is given for **tithes and offerings**. If you are our guest, please do not feel obligated to contribute when God's tithes and offerings are received.

## Worship in Sharing God's Love

Expressions of greeting and God's love are extended to all, especially to our guests.

## Worship in Meditating on God's Word

Teaching from the Bible for about 35 minutes.

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We encourage you to use our **staffed Nursery** [which has a private nursing room] and **Children's Churches** during the service. Please ask an usher for assistance in locating the various rooms.

{turn page over}

Connie Wine

May 10, 2009

## UPSTREAM

"Mother's Day Message"

Joshua 1:6-9

*"Remember, a dead fish can float downstream, but it takes a live one to swim upstream." - W.C. Fields*

- Magnificent fish, after their marathon swim UPSTREAM, is a picture of instinctive passion!!!
- **Visualize** traveling upstream -- to the place of confidence, rest, assurance, and peace -- our place with God.
- While life gets muddier and thick with debris and many voices, we will have to stay strong to continue traveling upstream.

**Joshua 1:6-9** **"Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their forefathers to give them. Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."**

### 1. Be strong and courageous to **LEAD**

v. 6 - "Be strong and courageous, because you will **lead** these people ..."

- "Lead" means ... "to show the way", "to guide", "to direct", "to persuade"
- Moms, parents, Christians -- you are showing the way. You are guiding and directing!
- The question is how ... from the **world** or from **God**?
- What kind of a filtering system do you have in place?

*Remember, you cannot take your children any further than where you are with the influences of your life.*

- Set some **goals** -- the main goal (where you place most of your guiding and directing) for your children would be in their godly character or heart!
- **Character** -- the structures and abilities within ourselves that determine how we operate in life.

• As you give your child character training experiences, over time his character will gradually increase and expand.

## 2. Be strong and very courageous **TO OBEY**

v. 7 & 8 "...**obey all the law**—don't turn from the right or left...Meditate on it. So you may be careful to do everything written in it."

**Psalms 119:127-129** "Because I love your commands more than gold, more than pure gold, and because I consider all your precepts right, I hate every wrong path. Your statutes are wonderful; therefore I obey them."

• As we obey God's Word, we are really passing on our heart and love for God and His Word.

• Our children will hear our words -- but most of what they will remember is what they see us DO.

• How do you discipline your children -- **grace** OR **truth**?

• Jesus is grace AND truth.

**John 1:14** "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of **grace and truth**."

• Parenting needs to have both as well.

- **Grace** is letting them know they are totally and completely loved
- **Truth** is guiding them in what to do and become

## 3. Be strong and courageous -- do not be **terrified** or **discouraged**

v. 9 "... Be strong and courageous—**do not be terrified**; do not be **discouraged**, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

• Be strong ... you do not need to be terrified or discouraged!

• God wants you to enjoy this journey of being a parent (even a grandparent or a mentor.) You are not in this alone.

• A child comes ...in the image of God ... with a sin nature ... not already assembled.

**Psalms 127:3 NLT** "Children are a gift from the LORD; they are a reward from him."

**2 Chronicles 16:9** "For the eyes of the LORD range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him."

## - Digging Deeper - "UPSTREAM"

For personal or small group study

Week of May 10, 2009

Did you have an "AHA" moment from the sermon or sermon notes? If so, what was it and how has it impacted you?

### GROUP DISCUSSION or PERSONAL REFLECTION

1. Have you ever found yourself traveling downstream in life? Describe this experience and how you felt. What constitutes an upstream journey versus a downstream journey?
2. Read Joshua 1:1-9. Was Joshua facing an upstream or downstream situation? How was God providing help for him? What can you learn from this passage in Joshua that can help you succeed in your spiritual journey?
3. In the journey of being a parent or a mentor to someone, what are some ways that help you overcome the feelings of discouragement? ... the feeling of being all alone? What do you think your role is in overcoming and receiving support? How does not knowing or doing the requirements, revealed in the scriptures listed below, change the way you may do things or receive your help from God in the days ahead?  
[2 Chronicles 16:9; Deuteronomy 10:12-13, 20-21; 11:1; Joshua 1:9]
4. What are some of the benefits and rewards of swimming upstream toward the headwaters? In the days in which we live, why is it more important than ever that we not allow ourselves to slide back downstream, but to keep moving forward -- upstream? Spend some time and take an inventory of where you are in your spiritual journey with Christ.
5. In groups of two or three, discuss what it will take to keep moving upstream ... personally ... as a parent ... as a mentor/disciplemaker. How are you doing in this process? What do you need to change or work on? When and how are you going to begin making the adjustments? [Refer back to the three main points in the sermon notes based on Joshua 1:6-9 ~ Be strong and courageous to lead ... obey ... and do not be terrified or discouraged]