



Moving Day

Adapted from “Flip this House” series by Sam Rijfkogel

I am the product of a military home. Of the many things this meant, one was that moving was an integral part of our family. I became accustomed to moves about every two to three years. Learning to manage change in schools, friends, and churches became a norm of my life.

When I began in ministry, I had purposed not to move as much as I did growing up. In fact, I have only moved four times in over thirty years of ministry. As a husband and dad, there were things I had to take into consideration. First, my spouse. I needed to make sure she understood the why behind the move and how the move could benefit her. Second, breaking the news to my family. This was often an anxious moment. They were scared, stressed, and fearful about the new adventure for our family.

Leaving people, we had grown to love was never easy. However, we could not dwell in the past but had to settle into the new. A new home in a new neighborhood requires adjustment. Finding new doctors, dentists, barbers, etc. was always a new adventure. However, we always took with us a solid and stable foundation.

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COURAGE

C1: Describe the times in your life when you had to move? What were your thoughts and feelings?

C2: On a scale of 1-4, with 1 being very well and 4 being not so well, rate yourself on how well you lead your home. Write out a plan to improve in the next ninety days.

C3: Joshua led the Children of Israel. Near the end of his leadership and service, he did not speak as a commander and chief but as a dad. Read and answer the following.

Joshua 24:15 (ESV) And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

- What do you think would happen in your family if you made and lived this declaration in your home?

- What is keeping you from making this declaration?

STRENGTH

S1: Read and answer the following.

Joshua 24:14 (ESV)

- What does it mean to fear the Lord?
- Where does your family learn to fear the Lord?
- On a scale of 1-4, with 1 being very well and 4 being not very well, rate yourself on how well you live in the fear of the Lord in your home. Write out a plan to improve.

S2. List all the responsibilities you have in your home. Go back over the list and rank them in order of importance.

S3. Read and answer the following.

Ephesians 6:4 (ESV)

- From this verse, what does Paul indicate your number one responsibility in your home is?
- This verse is a command and not an option. How well are you obeying this command? How can you improve?

S4: Read and answer the following.

Proverbs 9:10 (ESV)

Proverbs 14:26 (ESV)

Philippians 3:8 (ESV)

- From these verses, what are three things you should teach your family?

- From these verses, when you teach your family these three things, what happens when the storms of life come?

ENDURANCE

E1: When you worship God, you become full of God and you want to do something for Him. Read and answer the following.

Joshua 24:14 (ESV)

- From this verse, what is the result of laboring for God?

- What are two ways you can encourage your children to serve the Lord?

E2: It does not matter what you say is important. The way you spend your time and the way you spend your money proves what you value. For sixty days keep a detailed record of how you spend your time and your money. At the end of sixty days, look over your notes. What do you glean from what you have tracked over the past sixty days?

E3: Joshua, the dad, is saying to his family, “If you are under my roof, eat my food, sleep in my bed, then you are under my authority. I am going to lead this family.” Read and answer the following.

Joshua 24:14–15 (ESV)

- What can you glean from these two verses?

- Who are you going to serve in your home? How?

E4: In the next thirty days, find three men with whom you may discuss this lesson. What did you glean from these discussions?