

LEVEL UP: WHAT IS THE NEXT RIGHT MOVE?

We "level up" in our faith by standing for righteousness in love, praying to be more self-aware and submitting to the process of becoming like Jesus.

KEY POINTS

- ❖ During the time of Black slavery, history records the fact that Black individuals were viewed as property – not as image-bearers of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- ❖ Some white Christians argued against baptizing slaves because accepting them as part of the body of Christ, as heirs of God and joint-heirs with our Lord Jesus Christ (see Romans 8:16-17), would challenge their unjust acts (which contradicted the Word of God).
- ❖ Let us all be reminded and encouraged that no matter our race, ethnic background, economic status, and sex, we are all made equal in the beautiful, wonderful image of God. (See Genesis 1:27; Galatians 3:28.)
- ❖ Our faith history is founded on being confident and sure in Christ alone. Our faith influencers referenced in Hebrews 11 (such as Moses) are people who were still living by faith when they died. They didn't receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth (Heb. 11:13).
- ❖ Many of the decisions made before and after Moses' birth were acts of faith from those who came before him. The faith of his parents saved not only their son, but led to the freedom of all the Israelite slaves.
- ❖ In our current climate, what can we learn from an influential leader like Moses? We can learn to "level up" by standing out for righteousness. We can learn to not judge a person by their appearance, but to judge what is right in the eyes of God. It is right to advocate for racial equality. It is right to respectfully confront racial (and other forms of) prejudice.
- ❖ So, what is the next "right move"?
- ❖ Standing for righteousness is to believe in the name of Jesus Christ and to obey God's command to love one another (see 1 John 3:19-24).
- ❖ This is how we level up in our faith.
- ❖ Obedience is a posture of righteousness with God. We must stand for what is right and not "sit in the palace" enjoying the luxuries of life while our brothers and sisters of colour are suffering; while our brothers and sisters are encountering systemic racism right in front of our eyes.
- ❖ Moses loved God and his people. Love propelled him to stand up and speak up in faith to help his people receive freedom. And this is how we level up!
- ❖ Moses experienced great signs and wonders: an encounter with God at the burning bush, the ten plagues of Egypt and the parting of the Red Sea.
- ❖ He led an entire nation out of slavery. He met with God on Mount Sinai and received the Ten Commandments.
- ❖ But Moses' area of weakness was anger, which we see several examples of in the book of Exodus.

KEY SCRIPTURES: 1 John 3:19-24; Psalm 139: 23-24; Hebrews 11:17-29

- When he was about 40 years old he killed an Egyptian man for abusing an Israelite (2:12).
- When Pharaoh insulted him, he took it personally and left Pharaoh's presence "burning with anger" (11:8).
- When the Israelites decided to worship a golden calf rather than the Lord, Moses threw down and broke the tablets God had carved out of rock (34:1).
- He burned the golden calf, ground it to powder and sprinkled it in the Israelites' drinking water (32:20).
- He disobeyed God, striking a rock twice in front of the whole nation, when God had told him to *speak* to it (Numbers 20:7-12).
- ❖ He was a man of greatness, yet didn't enter the promise land because of his anger issues.
- ❖ Moses may have struggled with rejection and abandonment issues due to the absence of his biological parents in his childhood. He may have had an identity crisis during the first 40 years of his life as he lived in Pharaoh's palace. He may have suffered from survivors' guilt – all these things, even though he was called to be a great leader.
- ❖ Moses prayed a prayer after his rage of emotions, which is recorded in Psalm 90. He realized that 'tomorrow' is not guaranteed and that it is important to be wise in thought and action (Psalm 90:12).
- ❖ What is the next "right move"?
- ❖ We can learn that when a negative emotion and/action arises in our lives it is wise to pray to God and ask Him to search our thoughts and our hearts immediately (Ephesians 4:26).
- ❖ It is wise to take the time and address the painful past experiences and focus on our areas of weakness so that we can receive emotional healing and be more self aware.
- ❖ We level up by trusting God with our problems while we advocate for racial equality in our communities, in love.
- ❖ We level up by submitting our lives to His process of becoming more like Him.

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. Share and discuss Biblical examples and instructions of how to address problems in our society, using specific references.
2. Reflect: What will your next "right move" be?

PRAYER TIME

Search me, O God; know my heart. Test me; know my anxieties. Show me anything that offends You and lead me. In Jesus' name.

WEEK OF SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2021

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

✓ (Reminds me/Confirms) 💡 (New idea) 🧠 (Think about)

! (Do this) ❤️ (Speaks to my heart) ↔ (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

Go deeper with your Life Group family.
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD
Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline

Start-up: What is the kindest thing you can remember a classmate or workmate doing for you?



ANNOUNCEMENTS

TO SUBMIT A BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENT

Obtain approval from Head of Department and send to announcements@faithsanctuary.com by Wednesday @ 4:00 p.m. (If projection is desired send to media@faithsanctuary.com.)

FAITH SANCTUARY DONATIONS

To donate online, please go to www.faithsanctuary.com/give
For email transfers, please use donate@faithsanctuary.com

FAITH FOUNDATIONS

GOD

We believe there is only one God: the eternal, holy, loving, all-knowing, all-powerful, omnipresent Spirit, creator of all (Deuteronomy 6:4; 1 Timothy 1:17; Leviticus 19:2; 1 John 4:8; Hebrews 4:13; Revelation 19:6; Jeremiah 23:24; John 4:24; Isaiah 44:24; Colossians 1:16).

GOD'S WORD

We believe the Holy Scriptures—The Bible—is God's true and complete Word to humanity, verified most notably through fulfilled prophecies concerning Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Isaiah 41:21-23, 42:8-9, 46:9-10; Luke 24:25-27; John 17:17).

GOD'S CREATION

We believe all people were created in the image of God for His pleasure, to be His children, His church and His bride, living in eternal love and fellowship with Him (Revelation 4:1; Genesis 1:27; John 1:12-13; Romans 8:16; Ephesians 5:25-32; Revelation 19:7).

HUMANITY'S FALL

We acknowledge that we have all sinned and failed to fulfill God's plan and purpose for our lives, through willful disobedience to the word of God and our own conscience. All sinful acts lead to separation and alienation from God's pure, holy presence, eventually resulting in both physical and spiritual death (Romans 3:23, 6:23a).

THE GOSPEL

We believe that Jesus Christ is the Almighty God, fully divine and fully human (1 Timothy 3:16). He came to Earth and suffered death by crucifixion, willingly substituting Himself for us in receiving God's judgment against sin (Isaiah 53:5). But God raised Him from death (Acts 5:30), and He now offers eternal life to all who will believe in Him (John 3:14-17, 6:29; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21; Romans 6:23b; Ephesians 2:4-9). Faith is sparked within us when we hear the gospel, the "good news" that Jesus died, was buried and rose from the dead for our benefit (Romans 10:14-17; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

OUR FAITH RESPONSE

Hearing the gospel is intended to lead us to repentance, a divinely inspired change of heart that causes us to turn away from our sins and turn to God (2 Corinthians 7:9-10; 2 Timothy 2:24-26). Faith and repentance lead us to obey the scriptural command to be baptized in Jesus' name for the forgiveness of our sins and to receive His gift of the Holy Spirit. His Spirit gives us the power to live a righteous, godly life, joyfully sharing the good news of our new life in Christ with others (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38, 4:12; 1 Peter 1:22-23).

CHRIST'S RETURN

We believe our Lord Jesus Christ will soon return to Earth to receive His people to Himself and establish His righteous, eternal kingdom (John 14:3; Matthew 25:34).



Know Jesus, Love Jesus, Share Jesus

2021 ~ Live It! ~ 2021

Pastor: Rev. Granville E. McKenzie

"Let brotherly love continue...³ Remember the prisoners as if chained with them—those who are mistreated—since you yourselves are in the body also."

Hebrews 13:1, 3 NKJV

SUNDAY SERVICES

Worship: 8:00 a.m. • 11:00 a.m. • 6:30 p.m.
Sunday School/Bible Study: 9:45 a.m.

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Oh to be His hand extended
Reaching out to the oppressed
Let me touch Him
Let me touch Jesus
So that others may know and be blessed

You're my brother, you're my sister
So take me by the hand
Together we will work until He comes
There's no foe that can defeat us
When we're walking side by side
As long as there is love we will stand

FAITH SANCTUARY ON-LINE SERVICES

SUNDAY @ 10:15 a.m. – Sunday Bible Study
SUNDAY @ 11:00 a.m. – Worship Service LIVE
SUNDAY @ 3:00 and 8:00 p.m. – Worship Service
Rebroadcast
MONDAY @ 6:30 p.m. – Berean Bible Study on
Zoom, Facebook, YouTube
WEDNESDAY @ 7:00 p.m. – Worship Service
Rebroadcast