



INTENTIONAL IMPRESSIONS

for future generations

john fehlen

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Intentional Impression for Future Generations
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INTENTIONAL *impressions*

“These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the door frames of your houses and on your gates.” Deuteronomy 6:6-8

Checking for Fingerprints

Visit the Holy Land of Israel and you’ll see it everywhere. You can turn in nearly any direction and you discover it. Walk, tour, or explore and you will find what has been there since its foundation – the fingerprints of God. It is clear God was there. You can sense it in the architecture, the traditions, the sights, the

sounds and the smells. Oh sure, many do not see Him. He is obvious and yet neglected. Like the incarnational person of Jesus, God can be in our midst and yet completely ignored and ultimately crucified. Others knew God had some kind of touch upon the land but are unsure of His role today. Still others have turned His fingerprints into an opportunity for profit rather than an invitation to worship. Yet, the fingerprints are still there. They are not leaving. They are permanent.

What in your life displays your fingerprints? Better yet, *who* displays your fingerprints? Who have you made a *lasting impression* upon? Are you leaving fingerprints around you? If a forensics team were to be brought in, how hard would they have to search for evidence of your impact?

In reading Deuteronomy 6 I was struck by the *impression* God wanted the Israelites to leave upon future generations. They were commanded to talk about the Lord when they sat, walked, lay down and got up. In an effort to never forget His decrees, they were told to put them on their hands, heads, gates, and doorposts.

This passage of Scripture became quite real to me in a way that it had not in times past. Previously, I had been tripped up on the overt directives involving door frames and gates and admittedly found them to be antiquated and dismissed the connection of this passage to my current context. After further reading, what began to emerge from the text is a clear *pathway to possession*. The children of Israel were crossing over to a new land and the Lord had given them commands regarding possession so that “you, your children and their children after them may fear the Lord your God...and may enjoy long life” (6:2). They were to take possession of the Promised Land, and yet it was not without challenges and enemies to be faced.

Such is the case today. Our current and future generations face many obstacles and the potential for defeat is great. They need the commands of the

Lord to be firmly impressed upon their hearts. This of course does not just happen naturally – it takes people that are interested in leaving an impression upon future generations. They are the fathers, mothers, leaders and friends that avoid short-term, instant-gratificational thinking, but rather, have a long-view consideration of the *generations*. I am particularly moved to impress the commands of the Lord upon my four children as they continue to cross over into new realms of development and living. How can I give them what they need in order for them to ‘fear the Lord and enjoy long life’? What is a pathway of possession for my future generations – the children that I am leading today?

Pathway of Possession

The children of Israel did indeed go into the Promised Land but they struggled to *possess it* because they continually forgot the commands of the Lord and gravitated deeper and deeper into disobedience and sin. It makes perfect sense then that the Lord would instruct His people to develop multiple systems to remember His laws and pass them onto future generations for preservation.

He knew we would forget. He knew that we would naturally gravitate *away* from Him not *towards* Him; therefore, He gave us clear instructions in order to firmly place His commands upon our hearts, and to impress them upon those within our care. He gave us a *pathway of possession*.

Along the path, Deuteronomy 6 shows us a number of simple markers. They are everyday, commonplace, repetitive acts that draw us back to the commands of the Lord. Sitting, walking, lying down, and standing up. They involve ordinary items like hands, heads, door frames, and gates. These are things that we engage on a day-to-day basis, and it is now being used to illustrate larger truths of God and serve as markers along life’s path. Everybody has times, items

or seasons in life that can serve in a similar fashion. Perhaps it is a location, a song, or a journal. These simple markers serve as reminders.

Over the years I have developed such markers in the lives of my children. I currently have four children (and Lord willing this won't change!), three of which are boys. Deuteronomy 6 has become a template of sorts for me in developing a pathway of possession. I want them to be *impressed* with the things of God and according to Scripture that task falls mainly to me – their father. I could fight this or ignore it but the truth remains: I am the primary tool used to impress right living, biblical understanding, pure thinking, and Christian character into the hearts of my children.

This is particularly true regarding sexuality. How many young people do we know that are left to discover their sexuality from the culture and its perversion? Perhaps you are one who was left to 'find out' from a friend, magazine, or television program. Maybe your instruction was spotty and left very cryptic markers only to breed confusion and shame rather than confidence and wisdom.

This is not how God intended it to be. He wants our children and their children to have an *impression*. He wants our godly fingerprints to be left upon them and that can only happen with *intention*.

CHAPTER

one

Intentional Impressions

One of the only times I recall my father speaking to me about issues of sexuality was the summer before I was getting married. A tad late for sure, I think you will agree! This took place in the battery aisle at a large electronics store in the Midwest. I'm not sure why this location was chosen except that it was probably the place that his confidence was charged up. *Get it? Charged up.* It was a kind of now or never moment. He went for it. It was awkward to say the least. I felt bad for him because he was so uncomfortable – it looked like it hurt! Thankfully, I already had a limited understanding of human sexuality, because if my only education was reduced to what I affectionately refer to as the “Battery Aisle Sex Talk” then I would surely have been ill-equipped!

I made a mental note in the weeks and months that followed that I would work really hard to communicate that subject much differently to my children in the future. There is certainly no disrespect intended towards my father. I have discovered that sex was a subject that was rarely broached in his generation and almost never talked about in the generation prior to him. Unfortunately many within my generation struggle with a healthy understanding of God's design for sexuality. My hope is that this can be corrected in future generations and I believe it can begin with a ManDate.

Get a ManDate!

We must have a ManDate. This term has a two-fold understanding depending upon how you capitalize the word and place emphasis upon certain syllables. A mandate involves clear instruction that flows from authority. This is a good starting point for us as men. We must believe that we have a mandate to *impress* upon our children the things of God. It cannot be left to chance. We must be intentional – this is our mandate. Unfortunately too many men leave the 'spiritual stuff' to the gals or hope that a pastor or mentor will somehow fill the gap. This is presumptuous and downright unbiblical. Fathers are commanded in Ephesians 6:4 to "not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord." Our mandate is to spiritually equip the young ones under our care. Certainly this can be greatly enhanced with the guidance of spiritual advisors, pastors and mentors, and yet, the role ought to be primarily upon the shoulders of the Fathers - this is our mandate.

The second way this can be understood is as a *Date for Men* – ManDate. At first blush it sounds a bit girly, I know. That is largely because the concept of a date has been feminized. It has also been sexualized. In our current culture many

jump to the conclusion that dating involves sex, and media strongly reinforces this concept. This doesn't have to be the case, however. Nor does a date have to be limited to the notion that it is a singular event. I would much rather it held the imagery of a *journey* of discovery. When two people are dating they are in essence attempting to discover more and more about each other while expressing values, goals and beliefs. In the case of ManDates, a Father and son endeavor to get to know each other in an ever-increasing way, while creatively exploring values that shape men spiritually, relationally, and sexually.

ManDates serve as markers along the *Pathway to Possession* for my boys and me. In Deuteronomy 6 we are instructed to have conversations with our children at the juncture of four specific postures: sitting, walking, lying down and getting up. We are then instructed to supplement those conversations with reminders at four specific points: our hands, our heads, our door frames and our gates.

Understandably these are just examples and not meant to be taken conclusively nor specifically in today's culture. However, building from the four postures and reminder points, I have developed Four ManDates that are being experienced with my boys at specific seasons in their development into manhood. Each of these ManDates are flexible and fluid. They are only markers along the pathway to helping your child possess their future. ManDates are intended to provide the opportunity for *intentional impressions*. They are designed to connect with our children at the various levels of their maturation with specific goals and outcomes. These are radically different from the "Battery Aisle" in that they are both focused and fruitful...while maintaining a sense of flexibility and fluidity.

It is my conviction that ManDates should take place in a *special context*. The context I am referring to is a unique environment or activity that lends itself to discussion *and* distraction.

A ManDate ought to happen while *doing* something – anything. Set aside time to do anything that is special to you and your son and during that time always be looking for opportunities to intentionally impress the things of God upon that young heart. The reason for doing something active is that discussion happens best when there is the occasional distraction. It is like an air valve that lets the pressure out periodically. Believe me, you'll be grateful for the distractions. They are not only times of potential *learning* but also times of *leaning*. Let me explain.

CHAPTER

two

Learning and Leaning

My first ManDate with my oldest son was a trip to a Petting Farm in a nearby city. None of us had ever been to it so it was exciting to plan and dream about going. This was no ordinary petting farm with the obligatory calf, sheep or goat. It had rare animals like Ostriches and Emus – very cool! Little did I know the value that this trip would be to our first ManDate. I was able to have an important discussion and yet it had some strategic distractions which allowed my son to *learn* and for me to *lean*. He was able to learn about sexuality as we walked and talked. I was able to lean upon the distractions all around us. Each animal cage we came to gave me an opportunity to catch my breath and reframe my thoughts then flexibly proceed in our discussion. This is particularly valuable for *boys*. We

need periodical distractions for our own sanity! Case in point, watch a group of boys interact with each other: they rarely look each other in the eye, they have always got their hands on a rock, ball or something, and they are constantly moving around. This is the nature of boys and we would be smart to capitalize upon our natural dispensation for distraction and use it to our advantage. Frankly, doesn't a ManDate with built in distractions sound much better than sitting in a living room with a pop-up book on human sexuality? The walls would start to close in on both father and son. We would both want to RUN! It's just not pretty! So, let your discussions be full of distractions – it is helpful for learning and gives a place for leaning.

Mobile ManDates

Unless your ManDates are in the back yard, I recommend piling into a vehicle and going mobile. For the male species, nothing is quite as awesome as a good ol' fashion *road trip!* I recommend taking journeys of varying lengths for each ManDate. There is a level of excitement that grows when taking a road trip and it has the element of distraction built in already. You can have discussions with your son as you are driving and at any point you can learn from or lean upon the viewpoints, rest stops, eateries, or simply relish in the silence together as you travel. Remember: *the journey is the destination!*

Look at Jesus and his disciples in the Gospels. Much of the spiritual and ministerial training the Messiah did with his upstart church-planters happened while they were *going somewhere*. In Luke 9 Jesus taught about the rigors of discipleship “as they were walking along the road (9:57).” More times than not, miracles were performed while they were heading somewhere. The Gospels

(Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) show Jesus and his disciples walking, talking, learning, and growing...with the journey being the destination.

This *journey* concept is very foreign to an event-mindedness culture. We too often want to “just do it and be done.” When it comes to sex education we would like to just “have the talk” and check it off the list. Not only is this ineffective but it is counter-productive to the postmodern, younger generation. Our young people are by and large suspect of pat answers and formulaic event-based thinking. They are looking for relationships not rules. They connect through conversation.

A Mobile ManDate develops the subtext of *journey*. You are communicating directly and indirectly the value of journeying through life together as father and son. This is so important to express with words *and* with actions. Think back to your upbringing. Do you remember much? For me, what is fondly remembered are the times of going places together: talking, laughing, or just sitting quietly.

My oldest son’s second ManDate took place when he was 13 years old. We took a four day road trip through the Olympic National Forest. Most of our strongest discussions happened in the truck as we made our way along the beautiful Washington State coastline. This sure beat staring at our living room ceiling while struggling for the next words to speak. We had lots to talk about because God gave us a wonderful slideshow out the window of the truck and it served as a starter for both discussion and an excuse for distraction – aiding both our learning *and* leaning!

Let you think that a ManDate is completely unstructured and “fly-by the seat of your pants,” let’s now look at how to prepare for a ManDate.

CHAPTER

three

Prepare to Impress

As a man, I have discovered that preparing for a vacation or trip, either personally or with my family, is almost as fun as actually going on that trip. I enjoy the process, the planning, scouting and researching. Call me weird, but in my opinion, this part of the experience is as valuable as the actual journey. What is so great about the preparation period is that it makes a trip that may be reasonably short (say 2-4 days) and stretches it out to weeks or months. Excitement builds as the preparations take place. My second son and I were recently brainstorming about his second ManDate at the age of 13. Even months out we were capitalizing upon the natural momentum of planning, scheming and preparing together.

A simple structure for preparation is one that we are all familiar with: who, what, where, when, and why. This classic grid is a wonderful starting point in preparing for a great ManDate.

WHO: If you have only one son then this is a no-brainer. But with multiple children in your family you will have to make the decision about who the ManDate is for. It is important that your son knows and feels that the ManDate is about them *only*. There is something special about your son knowing this is a time designed exclusively for him. This is particularly tough for parents that have multiple children. Understandably, men have limited time available and it becomes necessary to “multi-task” so that each and every child receives love and care. In an effort to be fair, a father may want to include siblings in the Mandate. Resist this temptation – it will defeat the purpose. The goal is to have a private and dedicated focused time with only ONE child for the purpose of interaction, impartation, and blessing. You will have to be exclusive rather than inclusive. This is tough but vital.

WHAT: After you have determined *who* is going on a particular ManDate with you then you are able to give consideration to what the particular focus will be. I have personally utilized ManDates to instill into my boys a proper understanding of sexuality, relationship and purity. That has been the baseline objective for each of our ManDates and yet, in each case there are variables. Children are all different and consideration must be given to the uniqueness of each. Perhaps one may struggle with inferiority or another with pride. Maybe one is interested in sports and another in music. There are no cookie-cutter kids! As you are preparing, keep in mind the uniqueness of your child and craft an experience that matches.

WHERE: This is where the fun begins! After you know *who* is going on the ManDate and you know *what* the particular focus will be, you can then start to think together about *where* to go on your ManDate. Many factors will be at play: cost, time availability, school schedules, etc. However, do not let all the NO's get in the way of the GO's. Dream big – that is what guys do! Perhaps your son is athletic and loves basketball. You may want to dream about going on a ManDate road-trip to a NCAA Tournament game. If your son loves nature then dream about hiking or climbing a mountain together for your ManDate. Dream on. Do not be limited in this initial process. Later in the planning you will want to bring reality to bear, but now it is all about igniting your hearts together as father and son.

When you have established a location then you can start researching and planning. An example of that was a ManDate with my second son to the Oregon Coast. This road trip had a particular focus: aquariums. He loves aquariums. He lights up around marine life, so we planned a 4 day trip to the Oregon Coast. We stopped at just about every place that has to do with marine life, which included just simply pulling off to the side of the road and wading and splashing in the coastal tidewaters. The fun for us, however, began months in advance as we researched and plotted out our journey. Please do not short-cut this process – let it fuel your excitement and deepen your connection to each other. Call it bonding; call it whatever you want. It is important to share experiences as men and that goes far beyond an “event.” It is about the journey; a journey that can begin far before you jump in the car and head down the road.

WHEN: It has been said that the three most practical words in the English language are: *Write It Down*. This is so true. For me, it is not real until it is written down. If you are a slave to your calendar, iPhone or Daytimer like I am, then you will need to give your ManDate a...well...*date*. Block out a section of time in which you are able to give focused concentration to your son. For busy men this is

tough. There are a number of pressures and demands upon our time and there is much to do at the office or around the house. The ‘honey-do’ list is always staring us down. It is vital to schedule the time into our lives so that nothing encroaches upon our ManDate. This, of course, doesn’t mean that it is written in stone (or worse, blood!) but, it does express a deep value upon this important time in the developmental process of our boys. They will sense the value, believe me.

If a cancelation must happen then make sure it is quickly rescheduled so that your young person does not become discouraged or feel devalued. For me, ManDates take on a similar weight as birthdays and anniversaries. It would be extremely rare to have something thwart a ManDate because I believe so strongly in the value of this time with my boys.

WHY: Perhaps it is due time to reiterate the purpose of an intentional impression such as a ManDate. As I talk to older gentlemen that have grown children, the common sentiment is that they wish they would have had spent more quality time with their kids. Notice the adjective: *quality*. I think many guys feel like they are spending *time* with their children but wonder if it was really *quality*. All too often relationship is left to chance or reduced to passing encounters with little emphasis upon character development and spiritual growth.

Intentional Impressions are to be thought out, planned, calendarized, purposeful journeys for a father and a son to delve into the deeper things of life, holiness, character, sexuality and integrity. Bottom line: discipleship.

Jesus’ plan for Kingdom expansion was, is and will always be through intentional discipleship. He recruited 12 crazy men and the rest is history. If you wanted to start a movement that would deeply affect all areas of life and would flourish for over 2000 years would you go about doing it the same way? I doubt it! But Jesus did. He began with those 12 men and disciplined them closely over 3

years with the sole purpose of handing the whole deal off to them (and to others that had joined their ranks). The goal with my sons is that I may be able to “send them out” equipped and ready to be Kingdom world-changers.

Sadly, much of the weakness we are experiencing in the American church and in American families is in the area of intentional discipleship. Most fathers have been ill-equipped and will subsequently poorly (or never) disciple those within their care. Therefore, this simply cannot be left to chance within the heart of a young person. The life of Christ must be formed and shaped in young people by godly parents and mentors. The world and its culture of promiscuity and perverseness will gladly fill the gap. As fathers, our primary role is to ensure that the next generation has everything it needs for life and for godliness. This is why intentional impressions, such as ManDates are so important. Now, once you have prepared for your ManDate, the time must come to actually do it. So, here we go...our first ManDate!

CHAPTER *four*

HANDS // ManDate #1

Following the pattern set in Deuteronomy 6:8, the first marker or reminder involves our *hands*. The text goes onto to refer to “heads,” “doors,” and lastly “gates.” Each of these four aspects are utilized to remind future generations of what the Lord has done. They are told to tie them as symbols around their hands, heads, doors and gates. If you have ever been to Israel or seen devout Jews then you will recognize one way the commands of this verse have been interpreted.

Again, this first ManDate engages the “hands” of your young person. In a literal sense, it is very hands on. This Intentional Impression takes place around the age of 7 or 8 in a boy’s life. Consider it an introductory level day with Dad. Of

course, our kids will spend many days with us, but what makes this unique is the purpose. It is one of the first times that they will clearly hear about sexuality from their father. This will often be one-sided, as can be imagined. Usually, the young boy will either be embarrassed by the topic of conversation or simply not have many questions due to unfamiliarity. This will make the father feel a bit odd, like a fish-out-of-water, but please press on. Do not give up because it is so vital that your young boys hear about these issues from YOU – and preferably FIRST!

We would be fools to think that our children will only hear about important issues such as sex, intimacy and purity from only us. That simply will not happen unless we keep them cloistered in our homes forever, never allowing them to interact with society (which sounds appealing sometimes!). But because they are out in the world they will most certainly be exposed to a great deal of things from a perspective that may not meet our approval. Therefore we need to try to be the *first* and *primary* voice they hear. We can set the standard, and as we will see later, we can maintain the standard.

This first ManDate then is the standard setter. During this time you will want to broach the subject of human sexuality and God’s heart for us and our bodies. This is a wonderful time to simplistically talk about where babies come from. You can also share how Mommy and Daddy love one another and how God has given mankind a great gift to express that love. In your communication, I encourage you to begin to integrate terms and concepts into the conversation that may stretch you beyond your comfort level. It will feel awkward to speak of certain “unmentionable” body parts with such frankness, but it will help your child understand that it is OK. This will encourage them to be open and forthright with you in the future. It is fine to be generic, giving an overview rather than getting highly specific. This is not the time to pull out a college anatomy book! Remember, it is introductory.

This first ManDate will potentially feel like a failure. You may not feel as if there was much in terms of interaction between you and your son. You may even have wished that you had waited until your boy was 12 or 13 to have this initial discussion. Fight this urge. It is so important to “break the ice” at an early age and set the framework for future discussions. Often parents wait entirely too long to talk about sexuality with their children. In the meantime, others less noble will have stepped into the gap and have improperly informed your son about their version of sexuality. So, just do it. Set the date, plan it out together then go for it. Now we will consider what to do and what to give them – both important aspects of this first ManDate.

Gift that Keeps On Giving

Consider this a “Special Day with Dad.” If you have more than one son then each and every ManDate you have with older siblings will generate a mystique and thrill for the younger boys. For example, my youngest son Isaac is so excited to go on “his ManDate” that he can barely contain himself! Just a few weeks ago, his two older brothers and his sister were all gone doing “older brother and sister stuff” and Isaac and I spent the day together. We drove around doing errands. We did some pretty simple tasks and I was not thinking much about it. My desire was primarily to get some stuff done! But Isaac, on the other hand, was giddy. He said to me in an almost secretive, hushed tone: “Dad, maybe today could be *our* ManDate.” He is feverishly ready. All the promotion for our special day has been done for me because of the ManDates I have already had with his two older brothers.

On this special day with Dad I recommend that you fully engage the “hands.” Go hiking, visit an aquarium, or spend a few hours at a petty zoo. Do

something somewhat aggressive, tangible, memorable, and if possible, just slightly over their head. During each of the ManDates you will want to build into it a challenge of some sort. This could be as simple as getting purposely lost, climbing a semi-steep hill, running out of gas, etc. For boys, this is huge and will give you something to talk about together in the future. It will have the “remember when?” factor that you want in order to nurture a level of anticipation necessary for future ManDates. To this day, my oldest son and I will laugh (and nearly cry) thinking about our 2nd ManDate when my truck almost went over a cliff, we were then chased by a logging helicopter and I mildly cursed. Sorry, I cannot divulge anymore. We are both sworn to secrecy!

In order to tap into another level of using our *hands* I determined that the first ManDate would end with jointly picking out and purchasing a tangible gift or memento. Much like the children of Israel that went back into the parted waters to gather up rocks to serve as a monument to the Lord’s faithfulness and as a reminder to future generations of the miracle they just experienced, we too need to have a symbolic point of remembrance for our sons (see Joshua 4).

I stumbled upon this gift idea when my first son and I were on our first ManDate. I would like to say it was a part of a well thought out plan but it really was not. I was punting at the last minute and this is what I came up with, and now I have chosen to continue the tradition for each of my boys. We pick out and purchase the biggest Swiss Army Knife in the world! If you ask me, just about every boy wants a big ol’ knife to call their own. It is a part of the man-code. I am not sure why we think this way but we do. It is a lot like the childhood phenomenon of making mock guns out of whatever we can get our hands on: sticks, pipes, carrots, bologna! It is just how guys think.

Part of our “hands on” ManDate is that we take some time to learn about the knife and use it together. Amazingly, this discussion dovetails nicely

into a broader discussion regarding human sexuality. My boys learn how to care for their knife, keep it out of the hands of others, clean it, use it properly and not leave it laying around. I will let your own imagination connect the dots to human sexuality - but, I don't think it's a very big leap!

Periodically, I will ask my older boys where their knife is. They often have it hidden away in a trinket box or under their mattress. I briefly ask them how they are doing at taking care of it and it becomes a reminder of the conversations we had years prior. It is fun to watch how their minds recall that time, and how they connect the knife to a broader discussion.

Now in hindsight, I have not regretted getting my boys the knife as a memento of our first ManDate. Each subsequent child has therefore wanted to have their own knife and I have been able to hold them off with a simple response: "You'll have to wait until your ManDate."

CHAPTER

five

HEAD // ManDate #2

At around the age of 13 it is time for your next ManDate. I recommend connecting this ManDate with a thirteenth birthday, as a launching point into the teenage years and adolescence. Because of timing issues this may happen earlier or a bit later, but please do not allow too many years to slip by because at about 13 years old most boys are in need of some clarity on the subject of sexuality.

On the first ManDate the focus was on “hands” - a very practical “hand’s on” event for father and son to experience together. This ManDate will be similar and yet it will have an increased mental element. This is about the “head.” At this stage in a young person’s life you will be able to have a slightly more sophisticated conversation around topics that are becoming more familiar. They may still not

want to talk openly and freely due to embarrassment, yet the terms and subjects will at least have a level of association to your son.

The context for this ManDate is still the *journey*. Life is best lived “along the way,” so set aside 2-3 days for you and your boy to really be together. Conversations do not have to be constant. Let topics come up freely and without forcing. Use your surroundings to stimulate dialog. As well, your surroundings will give you natural and much needed distraction. Perhaps it is while hiking up a hillside you may say something such as, “You know, this is a tough hill to climb. In your life you are gonna have a bunch of situations that are pretty tough. Maybe you are starting to find it difficult to understand what is going on with your changing body or you are thinking more about girls and it is confusing. It’s OK, let’s talk about it a bit while we are hiking.” A lengthy conversation may spring up or it may not. Do not force it. Ask a few questions. Do not be too pushy. If interaction is slow then use the open door to communicate your personal and family values about important topics. Believe me, they are listening.

On this ManDate you will undoubtedly need to talk about the effects of puberty, girls (they’re not so dumb and ugly anymore!), dating, lust and perhaps masturbation. Even in saying this last term (affectionately known as *The M Word*) you may have just cringed. Let me encourage you to say the word out loud right now so you can get the strength to say it again with your boy. You may think: “He is not dealing with that.” Well...you would like to think that is the case and hopefully it may be true BUT don’t bank on it. Adolescence is powerful. Hormones are intense right now and this is the most common and confusing time in a young boy’s life, therefore masturbation is likely a result. Talk about it without condemnation. Scare-tactics and guilt will not curb the desire. Neither should you be worried that by broaching the subject you will somehow be planting the thought in your son’s mind. Similarly, years ago, our culture had the

foundational misunderstanding that if an adult talked to a young person about suicide or suicidal thoughts they might be inadvertently opening the door to that reality. That has since been debunked. We should and must talk to our young people about difficult subjects, because if we don't others certainly will.

You may wonder what the Bible says about the subject of masturbation and the answer is...nothing. Pastor Mark Driscoll jokes about one college student that quoted the following Bible verse in affirmation of masturbation: "*Whatever your hand finds to do, do with all your might* (Ecc. 9:10)." Funny, but not quite the best interpretation of that verse! The Bible, however, has much to say about the subject of lust, and I have never known anyone that has been able to masturbate without lusting. Try to prove me wrong. On second thought...don't!

This book is not intended to be a treatise on lust or human sexuality, so I encourage you to do your own study so that you are comfortable with what the Bible says on the subject. Try to memorize a few verses on purity so you can express the scriptural value to your son. Mark Driscoll has written a helpful (albeit frank) resource on sexuality, porn and masturbation. It is called *Porn-Again Christian* and it is available at http://relit.org/porn_again_christian/. Again, it bears repeating that this is an openly frank look at sexuality, perversion, masturbation and purity. Be forewarned!

In talking about these, and other, important topics, do so with the utmost confidentiality. I tell my boys that we are having "Grave Talks." Grave Talks are discussions that I will take to my grave. I commit to them that there are some deep things that will be discussed and that I will not share them with their mother, or use them as illustrations at church when I am preaching! This level of confidentiality will hopefully give them comfort and the freedom necessary for open relational dialogue.

CHAPTER

SIX

DOOR // ManDate #3

In Deuteronomy 6:6-8, the writer encourages the older generation to impress the commands of the Lord upon the heart of their children. In a nutshell, every Joshua needs a Moses. Young people desire to have older, wiser individuals impart blessing and instruction. Fathers, both biological and relational, are so vital. In today's culture, fathers are often deemed unnecessary and deadbeat, when in reality they are the key to our next generation. The opening words of Deuteronomy speak to this: *"But your assistant, Joshua, will enter. Encourage him, because he will lead Israel to inherit it [the Promise Land]"* (Deuteronomy 1:38). Moses would not live forever, and it was vital for him to intentionally impart all he could into his young apprentice. In Joshua 1:2 we discover *"Moses my servant is*

dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land..." (Joshua 1:2). Notice the text: "*Moses my servant is dead...*" (vs. 2). In no translation or paraphrase does this denote that Moses is no longer to be honored or esteemed for his incredibly valuable contribution to the Kingdom. All throughout the Book of Joshua we read of a blessed man that led the Israelites as far as God would allow. In no way are we given permission as Christians to speak negatively about our forefathers and those that have paved the way for the next generation. We're not to "rag on" Moses, nor our fathers. Rather, they are to be honored.

Moses was told to *encourage* Joshua, his assistant. Do your young people receive your encouragement or do they only get your chastisement and ridicule? In the New Testament, Barnabas was known as the "son of encouragement." In other words, his name denoted his nature. His designation was his demeanor. Acts 11 records just one of many examples of Barnabas' encouraging spirit and this time it involved a young, upstart named Saul. We know him now as Paul the Apostle. I often wonder if he would have ever become a *Paul* if it wasn't for the encouragement of Barnabas and the interest that he took in the "long-shot" with the dicey reputation.

How many potential *Paul's* are there within our sphere of influence that are trapped in the externals of *Saul* – complete with a history; recognized as a troublemaker; and misunderstood by the populace? Can we be a Barnabas? Can we be a Moses? Can we be an encourager of future generations? Encouragement is needed more than ever when our young boys become teenagers. They are of an age in which our instruction must come in the subtle form of encouragement. This brings us to the next point of imagery that we see in Deuteronomy 6: a doorframe.

God's people are told to write the commands of the Lord upon the doorframes of their homes. What would it look like if we still did that today? Imagine if someone walked up to your house and the first thing they saw is a bunch of graffiti writing all around the front door. The writing may include key scriptures, values and governing principles of your particular home and family. Everyone coming to your dwelling would know right away what makes your family tick and what values you live by. Perhaps on the doorframe leading into the entry way of your home one would discover such traits as love, compassion, kindness, peace, and respect for one another. Do you know what your family values are? Can you state them? Are they clear and understood by everyone in your home and lived out in front of those that enter your home? I encourage you to take some time to determine what your governing values are. You may want to call a family meeting or go out for a nice dinner together and ask the questions: "Who are we?" and "What do we want to look like as a family?"

Like a coin, there are always two-sides to every door. Imagine standing in front of the door as you're preparing to exit outside. Better yet, imagine your young person doing that. Almost anyone who has raised children can remember the first time they left for school or went to spend the night at a friend's house. I don't think any parent will ever forget the first time they watched their teenager walk out the door, hop into the car and drive off shortly after getting their driver's license. It is a surreal feeling, to say the least!

Go back to the front door with me now. You and your teenager (say about 15 or 16 years old) are standing there looking at the doorframe. What would they see? What characteristics and values would be clearly thought through and adopted before that young person goes out the door? What Biblical imperatives are a part of that teenager's thinking as he or she goes out into a worldly environment each and every day? Would you want your teenage boy to

be godly? Live with integrity? Sexually pure? Honoring and respectful? The goal of this third ManDate is to talk about those kinds of values together.

I remember growing up in the frozen tundra of Wisconsin. As a young boy, my Mom would bundle me up before I went outside and got onto the bus. When I say bundle, I really do mean *bundle*. I looked like the Pillsbury Dough Boy. This memory has scarred, I mean *marked*, me. I often think of it as I send my kids off to school, an event, or a friend's house. What are they bundled up with? Not in terms of layers of clothing, but rather, in terms of Biblical values. In the letter to the Colossians, the Apostle Paul implores the church in Colossae to "put to death whatever belongs to the earthly nature...take off your old self with its practices..." (3:5,9). He goes on to then challenge them to "put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator...clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience (3:10,12)." Some things are taken off...and other things are put on. What are those characteristics in your home? What do you value and want your boys to bundle up with before they leave the house? The third ManDate focuses upon these discussions.

When your teenage boy becomes 15 or 16 years old, plan for a 1-2 day ManDate. This does not have to be as long or intense as the 13 year old one nor the 18 year old one to come. It can be thought of as a refresher of sorts. I do recommend that it be an overnight excursion however. An overnigher allows there to be adequate time and focus given that cannot be achieved otherwise. Have late night discussions. Do something fun together. Laugh a lot. Talk about important things.

This ManDate will give you a great opportunity to catch up with one another. When a boy becomes a teenager it is natural for their schedule to increase due to sports, activities, church events, friends and potential dating relationships. As a father, it is important to have regular times to simply catch up

with life. I recommend, however, that this happen more often than just at a ManDate. For me, the most strategic opportunities are at bed-time each night. No matter how old or big our kids get, we insist that they have to let us tuck them into bed each night. It is there that we catch up with their day, ask them questions, respond to their concerns and pray with them. This is vital and consistent.

Then at our scheduled ManDate we can do the “big catch up.” I ask questions like, “How are you, really?” and “How are you doing with God?” Over a day or two period we can unpack those questions and line them up against our values. This is so important because, at this age, our boys are being bombarded by conflicting messages. High school can be brutal and confusing and many a teenager has shipwrecked their faith during these years. We, as fathers, are *clarifiers* of our values. We stand with them in front of the proverbial doorframe and remind them of the important things before they walk out the door. Hopefully, due to our investment, they will become all that God has destined for them to become...men of God!

CHAPTER

seven

GATE // ManDate #4

As of this writing, I am just beginning to prepare for this ManDate. It will happen soon because my oldest son will soon be going into his senior year in high school. This is a perfect time for me to begin thinking seriously about this ManDate because it will take some prayer and planning. My hope is that this final ManDate would take place during the summer following graduation and last for 5-7 days. Depending upon finances and time, it would be wonderful for this ManDate to be EPIC. I want to have a time with each of my sons that will never be forgotten by either of us.

Why should this be epic? For all intensive purposes, this could very well be the last opportunity that a dad has to really connect with his son before he

heads off to college, gets a full-time job, finds a bride and/or begins a family. Does this mean you will never see each other again or never have a significant moment together in the future? No. Absolutely not. Hopefully there are many epic times together in the years ahead. But think back to when you were 18 or 19 years old. This is a wild time of change for any young adult. For many, it is a time of picking a school for secondary education, a mate or an apartment. If you have raised them right, they will be making decisions on their own and you as a dad will play a diminished role. This is the way things are supposed to happen, by the way. During their early years, children are highly dependent, then there comes a switch in the game plan, when they begin to forge their own path and discover independence. Most parents fight this but it happens whether we like it or not!

This final ManDate draws from the symbolism of a gate. Deuteronomy 6 tells the people of the Lord to impress the commands of the Lord upon our children and to tie them as symbols to our hands, heads, doors of our houses, and now upon the gates of the city. This imagery is particularly sobering to me. With emotion, I can visualize that time in which my boys will go out into the “wild blue yonder” and forge their own way. I pray that they will be equipped for the journey. Prayer is important and can never be underestimated. Yet, I also believe it’s vital to have direction and a plan for their journey. Simple intention is not enough. Direction determines our destination, not intention.

Case in point: I could have the great intention of going to Canada. Currently, I live in Oregon near Interstate 5. What would happen if I got onto the *southbound* freeway in my effort to get to Canada? Well, frankly, I would end up in Mexico! Great intention but wrong direction. How many fathers have wonderful intentions of raising godly young men? I’m certain the answer would be “lots.” Unfortunately, only a small portion of those guys have a plan on how that can happen. Again, direction determines our destination, not intention.

The goal I have with my sons is that I can “send them out” as equipped disciples for Kingdom purposes. When they leave our city gates, I want them to be able to function in a godly manner, prepared for marriage and able to live on their own. In all fairness, I know this is a tall order. Most lofty goals are. However, I would much rather set the bar high than look back in years and discover that I didn’t aim for much.

Investment, Immersion and Instruction

Jesus had some lofty goals for the twelve disciples that he trained for three years. Interestingly, none of his goals involved them being with him forever. The goal of discipleship is *going*. This was a necessary step in their discipleship. Likewise, at some point our disciples (our kids) must be sent out. They won’t have us around to make decisions for them. They will be on their own. What will they go with?

Luke 9 says this: “When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick. He told them: “Take nothing for the journey—no staff, no bag, no bread, no money, no extra tunic. Whatever house you enter, stay there until you leave that town. If people do not welcome you, shake the dust off your feet when you leave their town, as a testimony against them.” So they set out and went from village to village, preaching the gospel and healing people everywhere” (emphasis mine).

Let’s look at each of the bolded phrases in this text. First, Jesus gave them some things. He *invested* in them before they went out to minister. The text tells us that he gave them power and permission. Jesus gave them ability and authority. He invested in them the power to drive out demons and cure diseases,

and also gave them permission to minister. What kind of investment are we making in our disciples? Are we empowering them to make godly decisions and live righteously? During this ManDate you will be reaffirming the values that you've been giving your son for some time. Hopefully, you have had years to train them and now you get the opportunity to seal those values into their hearts before they are sent out.

That's what Jesus did next: he sent them out. I call this stage *immersion* because it's similar to jumping into the deep end of the pool. You have taught your kids to swim, but now you get to find out if they really can! It can be scary because you won't be there to help when they get over their head. When Jesus sent the disciples out to proclaim the Kingdom of God and heal the sick he undoubtedly had to wonder if it would work. But, he sent them out nonetheless. So must we.

Lastly, Jesus gave them some important *instructions* before they went on their journey. His instructions had to do with what to bring and where to go. I love how Jesus addressed very practical issues. During this ManDate we can talk to our sons about practical concepts such as school, dating, job hunting, finances, marriage, faith and family. At this season of their life these topics are on their mind so you have a wonderful opportunity to address them according to a biblical perspective, with the hopes that when they leave your gates they will be equipped.

CHAPTER

eight

The Journey is the Destination

Previously I mentioned the phrase “the journey is the destination.” I want to expound upon that truth somewhat, because I believe it bares strongly upon the concepts of a ManDate and our Intentional Impressions for Future Generations. Life cannot be reduced down to an “event.” It is so much grander than that. It is a journey. Relationship takes time, energy, thought, prayer, money, and commitment. Aren’t our kids worth it though? If we truly believe that the spiritual vitality of our future generations is paramount then the journey is well-worth our investment.

The journey is our life. The whole of our existence becomes the pathway for the journey to unfold. Nothing is exempt. All is integrated into the fiber of who

we are and who are children are becoming in Christ. The longer a person lives the more nuance, progress and broadening of experience one will discover. Consider the phases in human development: birth, childhood, adolescence, young adulthood, middle age, older adulthood, and senior adult status. Each of these stages builds upon the previous stage developmentally. Likewise, spiritual formation cannot be limited to only one event. It must be thought of in terms of stages of faith in which the Christian believer transitions progressively. Perhaps the finest biblical portrayal of the journey is found in the personhood of Abraham, and his call to leave the land that he knew so well to discover a land that he knew nothing about. Along the way, Abraham, made a journey of epic proportions – one that serves as a potential model and reinforces the premise that Intentional Impressions are to be couched in a deeper journey rather than a singular event.

Abraham's Journey

Genesis 12 begins with this directive from the Lord Almighty to Abraham: “Leave your country, your people, and your father’s household and go to the land I will show you.” There is a corresponding blessing that follows Abraham’s sheer obedience. It is one in which he will be made great, blessed by God, and become a blessing to the nations. This promise, though yet to be seen, was his motivation to respond to the Lord and “leave as the Lord told him (12:4).”

To Abraham, the journey was worth taking because it was in obedience to the Lord and the resulting destination was expressed as the Lord’s blessing. Even though Abraham did not know where he and his family were going, there was a strong sense of trust in God’s purposes. He and God had developed a relationship; he trusted God and did what God asked, no matter how bizarre it must have seemed. Abraham’s relationship, founded upon trust, would take him

on a journey – one that can become a template for others taking similar journeys of faith in their Christian maturity. This journey for Abraham involved five specific stops in which he “built an altar there to the Lord.” Each of these altar times contains a theme expressing spiritual formation as a stage within the spiritual journey. Each of these “altar times” could be integrated into our ManDates with our boys.

Altar of Direction

Abraham took his wife Sarah, his nephew Lot, all the possessions he accumulated, and the people he acquired and set out from Haran to a land the Lord would show him. Genesis 12:6 details Abraham’s travels through the land to the great tree of Moreh at Shechem (about 40 miles north of Jerusalem). It was there that the Lord appeared to him and said: “To your offspring (seed) I will give this land.” In response Abraham “built an altar there to the Lord, who had appeared to him (12:7).”

Having left Haran, Abraham, Lot and their sizable community moved south, crossed the Euphrates and followed the main route through Aleppo and Qatna. This journey covered some 400 miles, to the Jordan Valley. The twisting valleys led to the pass between Mount Ebal and Mount Gerizim. This was not a quick, easy jaunt. Undoubtedly Abraham was in for some disappointment on this long journey.

It is in times such as these that one must look to the Lord for direction and instruction. The journey is full of confusion and indecision. A starting point for Christian pilgrims is asking the Lord this important question: “Where am I going?” The answer does not often come quickly and yet the questions continue to be asked. The journey of spiritual formation is full of decisions. One of which is the

initial decision to become a follower of Jesus Christ. But that is not the end. Spiritual formation is a series of decisions. As we seek to intentionally impress the life of Christ onto our children, one of the primary things to discover is if they are going in the right direction with Jesus.

Altars of Doubt & Dependence

From Shechem, Abraham continued south and pitched his tents with Bethel on the West and Ai on the East. There he built another altar and called upon the name of the Lord. This is an interesting location rich with illustrative value. The Hebrew meaning for each of these cities is descriptive and provocative. Bethel means “house of God” and Ai means “heap of ruin.” It is noteworthy that Abraham pitched his tents between those two extremes, and it is there that he called upon the Lord. It is at the altar between Bethel and Ai that we find Abraham in a season of doubt. He failed to understand that the Lord who could provide *a land* could provide necessary *food*. He doubted the Lord.

Scripturally we know that it was during this stop that there was a famine in the land that drove Abraham further south into Egypt. Egypt was where his doubts grew into fear of losing his wife because she was a beautiful woman. Because of her beauty and because Abraham deceptively referred to his wife as his sister, Pharaoh took her into his palace. It is here that she and Abraham were treated well and acquired many things including maidservants. One of the maidservants acquired may have been a woman named Hagar. When Abraham and Sarah doubted that the Lord could give them a child, they conspired for Abraham to take Hagar in order to conceive. The child that would come from this union was Ishmael, a man that would one day be the father of Islam.

In the spiritual journey of our children there are many doubts. Many find themselves between Bethel (house of God) and Ai (heap of ruin) and struggle to trust the Lord.

Abraham, having learned some valuable lessons, left Egypt towards the Negev and made his way back to “where his tent had been earlier and where he had first built an altar (Gen. 13:3,4).” This is what will be referred to as an *altar of dependence*. He found his way back because the Lord had not given up on him any more than He would abandon His servants today. Instinctively, Moses knew of his need for forgiveness and renewal, and therefore, he came back, and the Lord received him despite his previous doubts. Abraham’s journey is much like the journey of saints throughout history. Spiritual formation often involves returning to places of clarity and truth. That which is known to be trustworthy must be reclaimed and restored following times of doubt. As Abraham did, so must all pilgrims go back to the altar of dependence.

Altar of Separation

The remainder of Genesis 13 follows Abraham and his nephew Lot as they navigate both the land and their relationship. Lot became enamored with the lush gardens of Egypt and found similar characteristics in the plain of Jordan. It was by the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah that Lot pitched his tents. Abraham chose to part ways with his nephew because the land in which Lot resided was wicked. Abraham moved his tents and went to live near the great trees of Mamre at Hebron. It was there that another altar was built unto the Lord. This was an *altar of separation*.

In order to understand this decision, one must recall what Joshua 24:2 asserts: “Your fathers, including Terah, the father of Abraham and the father of

Nahor, dwelt on the other side of the River in old times; and they served other gods.” Potentially, two of the gods that were served by Abraham’s extended family were Nanna, the moon god and Enki, the god of fresh water. How much of this polytheistic mythology Abraham absorbed is not known, but one must wonder if Lot ever fully rejected the idol worship of his family’s past. There seems to be a character flaw in Lot. He is drawn to the wickedness of Sodom, in that he once lived *near* Sodom and then progressively moved *into* Sodom. Genesis 19 elaborates upon Lot’s elevated degrees of familiarity with sin. Potentially, Abraham felt compelled to separate from Lot for these reasons. Separation most usually involves pain. The spiritual journey is full of grief and separation. This is an important stage in Christian formation in which the believer moves away (not just physically) from that which restricts growth and embraces the fullness of God through the person of Jesus Christ, whereby entering the place of the fullest presence.

Part of the vital discussions a father has with his boys can be about relationships that are not helping the student grow spiritually. Sometimes a young person must make the decision to separate from those that are pulling them down. This can be difficult and painful. Fathers can help their sons sort out the feelings, frustrations and next steps.

Altar of Sacrifice

The final altar that Abraham builds is found later in the biblical text and yet is so closely connected to Abraham’s spiritual journey especially in light of the covenant promise God made regarding fruitfulness and increase. Abraham was to be the father of the nations, and yet he and Sarah had no children. The word of the Lord to Abraham and Sarah was that they would have a son (Gen. 17:16). This

was met with disbelief and human resolve as seen in Hagar and Ishmael. However, God's way proved superior, and Sarah gave birth to a son named Isaac. In Genesis 22 it is recorded that Lord demanded that Abraham take his long-awaited son to the region of Moriah and offer him as a burnt offering. Abraham took the wood, the fire, and a knife to the mountain along with his son Isaac. Scripture tells us that "when they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar (Gen. 22:9)." This will be referred to as an *altar of sacrifice*. We know from the biblical account that the Lord stopped Abraham from completing his task because indeed he had proven his obedience. Yet for all intensive purposes the sacrifice had been made in his heart. Sacrifice is a stage in spiritual formation in which the disciple "offers his body as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God (Rom. 12:1)." This becomes a spiritual act of worship that realigns priorities, reveals insecurities, and reassures one's trust in the Lord who will provide.

Start Small but Start Right Away

Like any journey, such as the one Abraham took, it begins with one small step. It's common to get overwhelmed and remain immobile. Often times, fathers will not take active steps in their children's development because the task can seem daunting. Don't let that happen. This journey is far too important. Your role is so vital. Take the step. Start small...but start right away.

For those that wonder if it's too late, I tell you it is not. Start right now. Perhaps years have slipped away and your child has gotten past the age of some of the earlier ManDates - that's OK...start now. Maybe you have a student that has little interest in relationship, purity, spirituality and the like. That's OK...start

small, but start right away. Don't let more time pass. The task only gets harder as the calendar pages turn.

Maybe you are a man that questions whether or not you really have the authority or morality to talk to your son effectively. "I have a pretty messed up past," you may say. "I've done everything wrong, so who am I to try to talk about what is right?" you could argue. These are all smokescreens that keep us feeling less than empowered to be the fathers that we should be. Don't let excuses keep you from your God-given role and responsibility. Because of excuses such as these, generations have gone by with little to no godly influence, leaving a huge vacuum of spiritual character development. We can't have this for future generations. We must leave our spiritual, moral and ethical fingerprints upon our children. If we don't, someone else is sure to do so.

WHAT *about girls?*

Some have asked this question to me: "What about girls?" Denise and I do indeed have one daughter and we give great thought and focus to her spiritual formation. The scope of this book, however, has been about fathers and their boys. There is much to be written on the topic of girls, and a number of authors are contributing wonderful and valuable resources to this area. Briefly, I want to tell you of one idea for girls that is similar to that of a ManDate. It's called 3D.

We all know that 3D is the rage right now. Well, this idea has little to do with wearing goofy glasses at an overpriced movie. My version of 3D is a Daddy Daughter Date. This is a special and regular series of events in which I and my daughter go out on dates. I specifically ask her out on a date and it goes firmly on my calendar. We dress up. I buy her flowers. I will even sneak out the garage door and come back up to the front door, ring the bell and wait for her on the porch.

We take pictures. We go someplace special, often arm in arm. Oh, and I always have her home by 9pm!

On these special Daddy Daughter Dates we will talk about whatever is on her mind. I will, in turn, model to her what a Godly man should be like. We talk about character and integrity. We laugh. We dream together. It's amazingly fun, worthwhile and can bear incredible fruit in the future.

A MESSAGE *from john & denise*

Thanks for reading my thoughts. They most certainly are a work in progress (like all of life). I hope to make revisions to this material as the years unfold. Our kids are still growing. As of this printing, one of them is in his final year of high school, and our youngest is in his opening years of elementary school. So, Denise and I have many more years to grow, and lots of lessons to be learned.

I would love to hear what you are learning as well. How are you leaving an impression upon future generations? Send me your thoughts, ideas, dreams and plans to johnfehlen@gmail.com.

Blessings on your journey,
John & Denise

“These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the door frames of your houses and on your gates.” Deuteronomy 6:6-8

What in your life displays your fingerprints?

Better yet, who displays your fingerprints?

Who have you made a lasting impression upon?

Are you leaving fingerprints around you?

**If a forensics team were to be brought in,
how hard would they have to search for evidence of your impact?**

Intentional Impressions for Future Generations will take a closer look at how men can leave a lasting legacy upon future generations.



John Fehlen is the Lead Pastor of West Salem Foursquare in Salem, Oregon. He and his wife Denise are privileged to serve a great church in a great community. Together they are blessed with four children: Jordan, Joshua, Anna & Isaac.



For more resources please visit West Salem Foursquare at www.wsfc.org. If you are in the Salem, Oregon area stop by and say hello or worship with us at one of our weekend gatherings. 3094 Gehlar Rd NW • Salem, Oregon 97304 • 503.391.4346