

## 5-DAY DEVOTIONAL

Higher Purpose Church | Pastor Lawrence Williams

Based on the message “The Shoulders of Shechem” | Joshua 24:14–15

### DAY 1: The Weight of What You Remember

Scripture: Joshua 24:13 — “I gave you a land on which you had not labored and cities that you had not built, and you dwell in them. You eat the fruit of vineyards and olive orchards that you did not plant.”

Devotional: Before Joshua ever asked anything of the people, he made them remember. He knew that gratitude is not an emotion — it is a discipline. When we stop marking what God has done, we stop trusting what He will do. Every blessing your family enjoys today has a story behind it. Somebody prayed. Somebody held on. Somebody refused to quit. That history is a gift you are responsible to pass down.

Reflection Question: What is one specific thing God brought your family through that the next generation needs to hear?

Prayer: Father, forgive me for forgetting too fast. Help me build memorials in my home — stories, conversations, moments that remind my family that You have always been faithful. Let gratitude become the foundation we build on. In Jesus’ name, amen.

#### Notes:

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### DAY 2: Nobody Passes On Nothing

Scripture: Deuteronomy 6:6–7 — “These commandments that I give you today are to be on 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.”

Devotional: The research is clear — two out of three parents, including churchgoing parents, do not consider passing on their faith a high priority. But neutrality is a myth. The moment you decide not to shape how your children think, you hand them to

whoever else is willing. Nobody passes on nothing. You are always training your children in something. The question is whether that something is intentional.

Reflection Question: What is your house currently teaching your children — intentionally or not?

Prayer: Lord, open my eyes to what I am actually modeling, not just what I mean to model. Give me the courage to be intentional — to speak about You at the table, in the car, in the ordinary moments. Let my home be a training center, not a rest stop. In Jesus' name, amen.

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**DAY 3: Name the Idol**

Scripture: Joshua 24:14 — “Now fear the Lord and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your ancestors worshiped... and serve the Lord.”

Devotional: Joshua didn't say “try to balance God with the other things you love.” He said throw them away. The word decide literally means to cut options. A real decision eliminates the alternatives — it doesn't manage them. An idol doesn't need to replace God to do its damage. It just needs a seat at the table. Most idols in our homes don't announce themselves. They look like peace. They look like rest. They look like everyone else's normal.

Reflection Question: What in your house has a seat at the table next to God that shouldn't be there?

Prayer: Father, give me the discernment to see what I've allowed to compete with You — in my time, my attention, and my home. I cut the alternatives today. I choose You. Not as one option among many, but as the one. Help me hold that decision. In Jesus' name, amen.

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### DAY 4: Earn the Right to Say It

Scripture: Joshua 24:15 — “But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”

Devotional: Joshua could make this declaration because he had lived it. He had earned the right to speak for his house. The plaque on the wall means nothing if the life in the house doesn't match it. Your children are not watching your Sunday — they are watching your Tuesday. They can survive your imperfections. What they struggle to survive is your inconsistency. The gap between what we preach and what we model is exactly where the next generation gets lost.

Reflection Question: Is there a gap between what you say you believe and how you live at home this week?

Prayer: God, close the gap. Let what I say on Sunday show up in how I live on Monday. Make me the same person in my house that I am in Your house. I want to earn the right to speak for my family — not just claim it. In Jesus' name, amen.

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### DAY 5: Lift Your Head

Scripture: Isaiah 40:31 — “But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.”

Devotional: The name Shechem means shoulder. The entire nation gathered on the shoulder of a mountain stretching toward heaven. And when Joshua spoke, the elders carried the word outward through the crowd — from shoulder to shoulder to shoulder. That's how legacy travels. Your children are standing on your shoulders right now. Whether your head is up or down determines how high they can see. You don't have to be perfect. You just have to hold your head up and let them see the fireworks.

Reflection Question: What would change in your home if you lived this week like your children were watching from your shoulders?

Prayer: Father, lift my head. Steady my shoulders. Let what You have built in me become the foundation my children stand on. I may not have done everything right — but I will show up. I will lift my voice. As for me and my house, we will serve You. In Jesus' name, amen.

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