We're starting a series of messages today about the family and about raising up a generation. And I want to be really clear at the very beginning, this is a series that will talk a lot about parenting, but I want you to understand this series is definitely not just for parents, it's about how we pour into the next generation. Very little matters more than that. Very little matters more than what we tell kids and grandkids and nieces and nephews and neighbor kids about the world and about God and about truth and about themselves and about each other and about the church. And so we're going to talk over the next four weeks about family and about family values. But I want to challenge some of the ways that you think about that phrase today, about the phrase family values.

Okay. We're going to talk about and just sort of open up with what family values really are according to scripture and what I believe is one of the most important essential truths that you need to know for your family, for your potential future family, for your grandkids and great-grandkids, whoever it is that you influence that you got to know what this is all about. And I want to say I'm sharing this on a really difficult morning for our country. That yesterday what happened in El Paso and if you hadn't seen the news yet, another act of violence in Dayton, Ohio overnight, that we've lost 29 people to violence and that violence we're learning is rooted in ideologies of hate and fear and anger. And so I'm talking about family values on a day when as a nation we're facing this, we're dealing with this. And I believe there's a direct connection between the two. Between the idea of human connection, between the idea of relational closeness and how we overcome that darkness and that evil that is in our midst around us.

So I'm going to prepare you. This is not a series about family values from a political perspective, okay? This is not a series about family values the way grandma would tell it necessarily. This is not a series about family values of us versus them, that somehow we've got family values and they don't. This is a message series about something far more important than those kinds of ways of thinking. This is a series about connection. It is about connection because we are a disconnected society. We are an isolated people and every time another news story hits about an isolated person who has adopted ideologies that lie contrary to what most of us think and believe, we see the fruit of a very disconnected society. And when I look back in scripture, I see that God created this thing called the family and he created it before he made government, before he made the church, before he made anything else, he made families and he said, "I want this to be a place where love and connection gets cultivated." And there's a purpose for that.

There's a reason why I need you guys to be close. And then Jesus comes along and starts the church 2000 years ago, and we're sitting in one today that sort of carries on this tradition. And when you look in the New Testament, you look in the books of Galatians and Romans and First Corinthians and many others, you're going to see over and over and over phrases repeated like there is no more division between people over ethnicity. There is no more division between people over gender. That Jesus's blood purchased something better, purchased something far more precious and it is the oneness and the unity of God's family, and it's able to embrace people. Here's the bottom line. God himself is building a family and he wants you in it. He himself is gathering a family to himself, a family of redeemed people, and he desires that you connect with him and know him and be part of his family.

So we're going to dive in over the next few weeks and we're going to get very practical. Today, I want to cast a vision. Today, I want you to get a hunger in your soul for the connection that we're going to talk about. And then over the next few weeks, we're going to get real specific about how you do that. How you create connection, how you strengthen family relationships, how you get close with one another, because that's really the root and core issue. Okay. Next week we're going to talk about communication.
How do we share? How do we listen? How do we talk? How do we actually connect? How do I get out of my heart what’s in my heart? How do I receive from the hearts of others? How do we do this in a way that builds us and grows as and makes us healthier? And then the following week we’re going to talk about discipline. Discipline.

And in a series of messages on family, you hear the word discipline and you go, "Great, now we get to talk about spanking," you really need to come that Sunday. If you define discipline as correcting kids over behaviors they’ve already done, you definitely need to be here, because I’m going to challenge that. We’re going to redefine what discipline is all about. That discipline ought to be about shaping a future, not just correcting a past, especially correcting a past to meet my own need and out of my own anger and all that stuff. We're going to just sort of wash all that away and say, "What does real biblical discipline look like? How do we shape lives for great futures?" Okay. And then we're going to close the series by just talking about the bond and the sort of unity that we can seek. And we're going to talk in that final message about how families can live on mission together.

How we can see ourselves, our purpose as more than just surviving, as more than just feeding everyone, but that we can see our family as a missionary team in the world and that our purpose is to kind of graduate children into adulthood where they go out and make a difference. We’re going to finish there. But I want to start today by just sharing a big vision with you about the meaning of family, about what the biggest family value of all actually is. And here it is. The single most important family value is the forming of deep relational connection with each other. That is the single greatest family value you can have. Now again, let me be clear. I'm a pastor in an evangelical church.

And so when I say family values, some of you immediately think in terms of us versus them, this issue, that issue, protesting something, standing for some particular issue, and that's fine. We need people to stand and work for issues. But we automatically think family values, okay, so we’re talking about issues like abortion. I’m unapologetically pro-life in my perspective on how God has created us, that every life from conception is valuable and precious to him and is definitely worth protecting. But the problem is sometimes we take family values and what we do is we go, "Yeah, they really ought to hear this stuff," right? And we talk about family values in terms of what the other people need to learn, what the other people need to hear.

But then I come to these moments in my life when I realize I desperately need deeper connection. There's a family value that affects me, it affects my family, it affects my kids, and I can't just come up with issues with which I can use to yell at people outside the church. That family values are not just issues that are in the news right now. That family values have to do with what families value.

And I want you to value more than anything else the connection, the human relational connection that is possible between moms and dads and kids and grandparents and communities and extended family. That human connection is more important than the issues politically speaking that we often will stand for. So in other words, the church has this opportunity to lay a foundation that affects future generations and it may not tackle and affect every single issue that's on the ballot this year, but it affects the future of a nation and the future of a culture and the future of a society when we explain to people and help people to really genuinely form connection with each other. Now I want to get into something else that we’re not talking about. So I’m spending a lot of time day preaching about what we’re not going to be preaching about.
But when I talk about doing a sermon series on family, if you don't go in the direction of political issues, then you might go in a different direction. All right. We're going to have a series about family rules, family roles, family responsibilities. And those are all worthy topics. They all have a place. But for some of us we can have all of those things and miss the bigger point, okay?

So if you look in the Old Testament and you look at the story of Adam and Eve, he puts them in the garden of Eden. He gives them one rule, they break it, and out of their shame for breaking that rule, they hide from God. They lose their intimate connection with God. Connection is broken as a result of breaking that one rule. And so in the Old Testament, what you see is the building of the nation of Israel and the solidifying of a set of laws that start, and you have the 10 Commandments, you have other commandments, you have the ceremonial laws, the moral laws, you have ritual laws, you have additional commandments that are written about the commandments, you have over 640 different commandments spelled out in the Old Testament.

And so the idea was if we get enough rules, if we get enough issues settled, if we know where we stand on all these right things, then we'll have a healthy situation, right? But Jesus comes into an extremely unhealthy situation where there was a strong sense of religion, there were plenty of rules, and there were plenty of discussions about roles and responsibilities. And yet there was something significant missing from the heart of Israel, and it was this idea of human connection. They were divided, they were prideful, they were separated, they were using their religion as a tool of superiority over other people and division within the ranks. And so they had the rules right, and the roles right, and the responsibilities right and yet they missed out on human connection.

And you might even think, well great, series on the family, we're talking about roles, we're going to learn who should bring home the bacon and who should wash the dishes and who should do the laundry, because the mom or the dad will argue about those things. And the way I grew up was right, not the way my spouse grew up and finally the pastor's going to sort it out. No, I'm not. Okay. I'm just not because I don't think that the Bible gets into the specifics of who should sweep the floors. In fact, I've heard men in my life say things like that's woman's work, and I want to go, "All right, you have completely missed, completely missed this truth of the Bible in which it's all about connection between people and servant hood." Servant hood. One of my great mentors in my life, great prayer warrior and pastor for many years, comes from a very conservative perspective and he would sit down occasionally, "Brandon, how's life going?"

"Oh, it's going okay." And then he would say the strangest thing. He would say, "Are you doing your chores?" And I would say, "Well, what do you mean?" He goes, "Are you helping with the house?" And I'm like, "Well how is this relevant to like life and ministry and stuff?" But in his mind it was that you're here to serve your spouse. And so yeah, if you want to come for that message, come. We'll correct that way of thinking. So we're not going to focus on a bunch of rules and a bunch of roles and a bunch of responsibilities and a bunch of political issues. If that's what you want from a family series, I can almost guarantee that what you really need underneath that is a better understanding of human connection. That if you use those things as a means of dividing and separating, you really got to get this.

And Jesus's life, he came into an era when there was strong presence of religion and a strong emphasis on rules and a strong presence of ritual within the Jewish people. And he got into a lot of arguments with the Jewish leaders about this. One of them is recorded in Mark chapter 12, and I want to see what he said because I think it's vitally important for us to understand as families or however we relate to...
families. And so in Mark 12 the Bible says this, "One of the teachers of religious law," so this is a scholar, this is someone who has spent their life studying the Old Testament and many times scholars in Jesus’s day would have memorized at least the first five books of the Bible, Genesis, all the way through Deuteronomy. They would know that much of it by heart and be able to write it on a scroll from memory.

So these are people that study it and know it, right? And so one of the teachers of religious law was standing there listening to the debate that Jesus was involved in. He realized Jesus had answered well. Okay. He realized Jesus had answered well. So he asked, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?" Let me just stop. A lot of us have this kind of discussion often, which of the commandments is most important? Which of the rules do we value most? Let me lay down the law in my family. And a lot of us, sadly, and as a dad, I think us dads are particularly susceptible to this. That we feel like we've done our job if we've laid down the law, that we've communicated what's right and what's wrong and what's acceptable and what's not and what's within the boundaries and what's outside the boundaries and what we're going to allow here and that won't happen in my house and as long as you live under my roof.

And we've laid down the law and a lot of times what we are doing is raising kids that don't understand and there's some anger and there's some misunderstanding and there's all these questions and all these differences, and we're standing back going, "But I told you what was right and what was wrong, and I punished you for the wrongs and I taught you these right values." And what we've missed is the very same thing sometimes that the followers or the religious teachers in Jesus's day had missed. So they asked, "Which is the most important of the commandments." Jesus replied, "The most important commandment is this. Listen, o’ Israel," and he's quoting from Deuteronomy chapter six, a foundation passage that is often called the Shema of Israel. He's saying, "The Lord is one, the Lord our God is the one and only Lord."

And then here's the commandment he gives, "And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength. The second is equally important. Love your neighbor as yourself. No other commandment is greater than these. No other commandment is greater than these." The teacher of religious law replied, "Well said, teacher. And I know that it is important to love him with all my heart and all my understanding and all my strength and to love my neighbor as myself. This is more important than to offer all of the burnt offerings and sacrifices required in the law." Realizing how much the man understood, Jesus said to him, "You are not far from the Kingdom of God." And after that, no one dared ask him any more questions. I love that. It's a shut down moment.

When the Bible says that no one dared asked him any more questions, there's a lot to be said here for the teacher of the law giving verbal credence to Jesus. Jesus was a teacher, but he didn't have all of the same qualifications of many of the Pharisees and Sadducees. And that's one of the problems they had with him is he didn't get their credentials, right? And so he's teaching and people are following him in droves, but he doesn't have all the right paperwork. And here's the guy with the right paperwork who is affirming verbally before the crowd, "This guy's got it. Jesus understands it." And so Jesus, when he sees that this guy gets it, that love is more important than law, Jesus says to him, "You're not far from the Kingdom of God." But what does he mean by that? I think what Jesus is getting across is that what the Kingdom of God, the dominion of God, the rule of God, the reign of God, God, what his purpose is on this earth has far more to do with love than with law.
Now that doesn't mean God doesn't have rules. He absolutely does. Doesn't mean he's not righteous. He's perfectly righteous. It doesn't mean God overlooks or just kind of turns a blind eye to sin. No, he confronts it head on. So God is righteous. God is holy. God is just. Absolutely nothing changes that. God is a god of law. But lets us know that if you love, if you become love, if you cultivate love, if you practice love, if you go after love more than anything else, everything else is going to be okay. It's going to fall in line and fall in place. If you mimic and embody divine love, God's kind of righteous love for other people, and you seek that connection with God and that connection with your neighbor in which you're choosing love over anger, love over hate, love over division, love over fear, love over pride, love over division.

When you're choosing love and cultivating love and seeking love, then the law is going to take care of itself. In other words, the written law is in a sense wrapped up in this command to love God and love people. Now everybody just take a breath for a second because this is very simplifying. It's like what do you have to do today to really honor God and live a life worthy of his calling? And we can come up with all kinds of things. Oh, I need to pray every day and read my Bible and go to church and give to charity and be nice to people and let people go in front of me when I'm in line sometimes, I need to help people that are in need, and I need to remember the poor. And I mean, the list goes on, right? There's all kinds of things I'm supposed to do.

And then there are several things I'm not supposed to do. Right. And our list of don'ts kind of varies across the room and from generation to generation and culture to culture. And there are things that I might think you're not supposed to do, and so if you really want to be a good Christian, if you really want to follow Jesus and be kind of that spiritual person, then you can't do this, you can't do that. I mean, I've heard it all. I remember growing up around people that wouldn't play cards because cards get played elsewhere and people gamble, so you can't have a deck of cards. You can have Rook or Uno, just not actual cards. So we've got these rules, right, that we come up with concerning entertainment or the way we dress and we get these shame statements happening on Facebook and Twitter about people shouldn't wear this or that.

And so we get all of these rules, okay. All these things that we think I'm better, I'm more spiritual, I'm more mature if I keep more rules than you. And Jesus comes along and says, "Listen, the heart of the law, the heart of the rules is all about love." So let me take us back for a second to the big truth from today. This is repeated. The single most important family value is the forming of a deep relational connection with each other. That doesn't mean it's the only family value. In our family, we might value excellence, we might value ambition, we might value compassion, we might value being a good example, we might value speaking in a way that's encouraging and not using profanity, or we might value ... I don't know. There's a long list of things you might list out as family values, right?

We value spending time with each other. We value getting along with our siblings. And that always goes well, doesn't it? And so we've got all these values that we would spell out and there's nothing wrong with any of those. Those are great. In our family we've got a couple of different things hanging on the wall just as reminders. These sort of family rules or family values and they're like, we're going to show a lot of grace and we're going to forgive and we're going to laugh a lot. And all of those things are wonderful. Nothing matters more than developing a deep connection rooted in love. Nothing matters more than developing a deep connection rooted in love. You can say all the right things and go to church every day of your life, every time the doors are open, and your kids might leave your home not knowing beyond the shadow of a doubt that they are loved and you've given them all the right rules.
That would be tragic because at the root of it all, I mean you look at the way Jesus developed the early church. He gets the initial 12 disciples, he calls them out of various walks of life. You got Simon the zealot, a zealot in his day was like a nationalist, like someone who was a populist. He was angry at Rome and he wanted a rebellion. And so Jesus picked him and said, "I want you to come be my friend. Why don't you be one of my friends? Travel with me, learn from me, it'll change your life. I'll teach you how to be a fisher of men." Then he walks by the tax collectors table and he sees Levi, Matthew, and he calls him, he says, "Why don't you come be my friend?" So now we've got a zealot, a nationalist, a populist, someone who is angry and wants rebellion, and we've got an IRS agent, and we're pulling them together and going, "Hey, let's start a church together."

You see how God does these things? I think he has a sense of humor, right? And so he gets the two of them and he gets educated John, and he gets rough and tumble Peter the fisherman with the calloused hands and putting his foot in his mouth and using language that includes quite a bit of profanity at times, even uses profanity in his connection to Jesus when he denies him at the cross. And so he gets these 12 guys and they're from all walks of life and they're all different, and he pulls them together and what he essentially says is, "You guys come stay with me." When you read in the early chapter of the book of John, John chapter one, and the initial disciples, the first four follow Jesus, there's an interesting trail. The Bible says they follow and they watch him from a distance.

And he turns to them, he says, "Why don't you follow me more closely?" And they do. And then he says, "Why don't you stay with me?" And so there's this getting closer, getting closer. And eventually, "Why don't you sleep where I sleep? Why don't you make camp with me? Why don't you," and essentially what he's saying is, "Why don't you do life with me? Why don't you do life with me?" And then he spends three years living life with them. Does he share some rules along the way? I'm sure he does. I mean, he teaches Peter about tithing and taxes, right? So he gets into those things. In the sermon on the mount, he talks about marriage and he talks about lust and he talks about anger and he talks about revenge. And yes, there are morals, there are values, he's teaching them.

But what we miss sometimes is that the way Jesus did this was to do life together with them. And out of that connection comes the teaching. On the basis of the relationship comes the conveyance of values. On the basis of them being together like family comes the ability to teach with authority in their lives. In other words, loving them and living with them and showing them love repeatedly throughout their lives and being there for them and hearing their hearts and sharing his heart and talking about deep things, connecting, connecting, connecting was the basis for teaching them all the things they needed to know about being his people and about being a church. Nothing matters more. Out of this passage, let me give you three big truths because I want you to walk away from here going, "Okay, but what do I do with this? How do I connect?"

And again, over the next couple of weeks, especially, we're going to talk next week, almost entirely my wife Angie is going to share because she's way smarter than me about certain things. So part of the message she's going to share about this idea of communicating on an emotional level. And some of you guys just went, "Great, we're going to have to share our feelings." Yep. You're going to have to write all your feelings down on a card and turn it in. No, we're not. We're just going about how you do this and how healthy it is. And how instead of growing slowly cold and calloused and angry about everything, that maybe there's a barrier there we could get out of the way and actually open up and do some healing. So we'll talk about that next week. How do I communicate listening and talking and sharing the right things.
So we're going to get really practical in the next couple of weeks, but I want you to hear these three big truths today that flow out of what we’re saying, out of what Jesus said about love being first, human connection mattering more than anything else. Big truth number one is this: Nothing matters more in this world than connecting with people. Nothing matters more in this world, in this present age than connecting with people. And some of you say, "Well, what about evangelism, sharing the gospel with the lost?" Yeah, we do that on the basis of relationships. We do that on the basis of friendships. We do that as we connect with people. And sometimes I see a guy on a street corner and he's holding up a sign that says something like, "Turn or Burn, the judgment is coming." And some of us go, "Oh, he's out there doing a good thing. I wish I had the courage."

And I'm going, "I guess what he's doing is okay, but it doesn't seem like he has much of a connection with the people he's yelling at." So we share Christ on the basis of human connection. Jesus did that. The early church did that. We're supposed to do that. We do that. So nothing matters more in this world than connecting with people. Nothing matters more in your family and your household than human connection. Let me say it this way, my kids, the most important thing they will see growing up is that I love their mother and that their mother loves me. Because even if we get some of the rules wrong, they will grow up learning and understanding what love looks like and what connection looks like. And so nothing in this side of eternity matters more than connecting with people.

Second big truth is this: Nothing powers connection better than love. Nothing powers connection better than love. And we live in a society where we wear the shirts and we hold the signs and we tweet stuff and post stuff on Snapchat, and it's our strongest opinions about all these people I don't know. But sometimes you see two people who are polar opposites in their views, who actually start to listen to each other's stories and the hate begins to crumble. Because human connection matters and nothing powers connection more than love. It is the root of building relationships. It is the root of a family. It's the root of the church. It's the root of God's family. It is that when I love people enough to connect with them and hear their stories and share my stories and let our stories start to intertwine, then we can talk about truth.

We can talk about what matters beyond just a relationship. But nothing matters more than that connection and nothing powers connection more than love. I think we say these things at weddings and then we forget them after that, right? We'll talk about how love is the foundation and go back to the garden of Eden and there was love and we quote first Corinthians 13 and Ephesians chapter five and the other passages about marriage and husbands and wives, and we'll say, "Love is greater than anything else." And Paul says in First Corinthians 13, "Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and though I know all the doctrines and though I'm able to speak eloquently, and though I have all the wisdom and words of knowledge and I'm able to practice all the spiritual gifts, though I have all of that, if I don't have love, it's worth nothing."

And we forget that verse sometimes, but love powers connection which matters more than anything else. And the third big truth is this: There's no greater example of love than Jesus. There's no greater example of love than Jesus. Nothing matters more than connecting with people, nothing powers connection greater than love, and there is no greater example of love than Jesus Christ. That he set the tone. That he lived his life to prove and demonstrate and illustrate for us what love actually looks like. In Romans chapter five, verse eight, the Bible says, "God clearly shows and proves his own love for us by the fact that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." So the purpose of Jesus's life was to
accomplish the redemptive work of God. That we were lost and we were in sin and Jesus came to be the savior and the sacrifice that we needed.

To redeem for God a family of people who are saved by grace, who are changed by his spirit, who are born again. Right. Jesus came with a great purpose. The greatest purpose anyone has ever lived for, Jesus lived for and went all the way to the cross and died to accomplish the purposes of God. And in doing so, God showed and proved his love. His love. That Jesus laid down his life for his friends, that he lived self sacrificially, that Jesus was willing to do anything, whatever God would require, whatever God's holiness demanded, whatever justice demanded, Jesus would do it. If somebody's got to die for sin, Jesus would do that. He would die for the whole world so that we could be, as the Bible says, reconciled to God. Reconnected. Brought back into relationship. Brought back into knowing him. He didn't die so we could form an organization called the church and do something religious that hasn't really gotten the world very many good places, right?

He died so that we could have a relationship with God again. So we could be restored. Now let me just say for some of you in the room, and I've struggled with this. When I talk about connection, that's something I've struggled with because there's a deep part of me that I've had to face and acknowledge and I keep having to face and acknowledge that I struggle sometimes with human connection. And part of it I think is that I spend a lot of years of my life growing up on into early adulthood where I kind of just learned to do it on my own. If somebody else wasn't going to love me, if somebody else wasn't going to help me, I'll figure it out. Right? And at the root and the core of that is this very unhealthy missing out on human connection. So sometimes I'm not real good at it. Sometimes somebody'll ask me a question about, "Who are your closest friends? Do you feel like you cultivate a lot of relationships?" Or basic kind of question, and part of me bristles and starts to get defensive. And what do you mean, they think I don't have any ... and the reason I get defensive and the reason I get protective is because they're asking me something that if I answer it, it's going to require me to get pretty vulnerable. Now if I get vulnerable, we're going to be more connected.

But I don't know if that's safe because I might get hurt again. Any of that sound familiar? It's epidemic in our society. So we're going to unpack that next week. But here's what I want you to know. Here's what I want you to know. Even if you struggle with human connection, if you struggle with relationships, if you struggled in every relationship in your life, you need to know that the relationship you can have with God is possible because God has taken all of the initiative first. He's gone ahead and he has seen you and he has known you and he has loved you and he has planned, he has desired to have you in his family. He has set his affection on you. You didn't have to set your affection on him first. Okay? We love him in fact, because he first loved us. And so he loved first, he went first.

The cross is his act of redemption on our behalf that we didn't know we needed until it was already done. And so here we are. You can begin, even if you are desperate and you go, "I don't have a relationship with God and I don't have a relationship with anybody else and I didn't know I needed relationships, but I can acknowledge stuff is broken and I can't seem to get over it. So I got to start somewhere." Start here. Start by saying, "God, I want to see what you did on the cross as the first step towards me and I just want to receive it. I just want to receive it. I don't know how to do this, God. I don't know how to connect with you. I don't know how to pray yet. I don't know how to study the Bible.
yet. I don't know how to talk about my problems and issues and pain and I don't know how to confess my sins in all of their details and I don't know how to recover from all the things that I've been addicted to and struggled with.

I don't know how to do all that God, but there's one thing I can do. I can receive what you've done for me and we'll start there to build something new. I'll start there." Would you bow your heads with me? Father, I want to ask you right now to lead us to relational health, to connection. And let it be, God, a connection starting with you. You have gone first. Your son Jesus has died on the cross to make possible a restored relationship between fallen people and a holy loving God. So Lord, we start there. I pray for anyone in this room who has been separated and isolated from God, Lord, I ask you to save them now, to draw them in close, to hold them tightly in this moment as they receive you. As they receive you. If you're here this morning, you're sitting here listening to all of this and it's dawning on you, this is for you, this is about you, this is your big first step.

You need to come to Jesus today and say, "I want to receive you. I want to receive what you did for me. I don't know how to begin, but I'll start here. I'll trust Jesus as my savior," and would you just pray from your heart, God, I turn from my sins. I trust in Christ alone. I receive what you did. I want to know you. I want to be in your family. If you're praying that, if you're making that decision today, would you also make a declaration and lift your hand and say, "That's me. I'm trusting in Jesus as my savior for the first time today. I'm entering a relationship with him." Father, I pray that you just lead us to restore relationships. That for those of us in the room who are believers, that God, we would understand the prominence and the importance, the vitality of connecting with people, that we would drop everything this week on our to do list if it does not first include connecting with my spouse, my kids, my parents, my people, my friends, that relationships matter more than anything else.

God lead us as believers to practice that, to show the world what love really looks like when we accept and receive and prefer one another. When we give place to others. When we consider the needs of others before our own needs, God, let us show the world what love can do in a world filled with hate and anger. God, I pray you'd raise up a generation, a generation, God. It is secondary whether the next generation is wealthy or not. It is secondary whether they're educated or not. But God, I beg you to use us to raise up a generation that loves. A generation that loves, that believes in truth and grace, that understands your love for us. God, we praise you in Jesus name. Amen.