

THE GIANTS IN OUR LIVES

10/31 & 11/1

[Hebrews 12:1-3](#) – Who poured into your life to make you who you are today? It could be a variety of people. It probably starts with your parents and extends to teachers and mentors. Some friends have helped shape you. For some, spouses and children have been instrumental in helping you grow into the person you are today. In Hebrews 12:1-3, there is this “cloud of witnesses” that has paved the way. Who are the clouds of witnesses? When you go back to Hebrews 11, you will read about several people who were instrumental in living out their faith and being examples of faith. Our cloud of witnesses might be different, but their effect on us is similar: our faith is not what it is without them.

Who are your cloud of witnesses?

What have they taught you?

Whose faith are you shaping? How are you doing that? Why are you shaping their faith?

Sermon Notes



Our Journey for October 26 November 1, 2026

November is filled with moments of gratitude. The biggest moment is Thanksgiving at the end of the month. There are others, such as the opportunity to vote in elections. We may get tired of all the political ads or tired of the political system, but we have the opportunity to change our government each time we vote. We can be thankful for this opportunity. Veterans' Day is an opportunity to thank those who served in the armed forces. They gave us the protection we needed in times of conflict and peace. There is a common theme throughout this time of gratitude: people sharing their resources for the good of others. As we walk through November, we will be looking at generosity. We begin by looking at the people who surround us and see their encouragement and sacrifice for us. The author of Hebrews paints a very appropriate picture: a cloud of witnesses.
~ Pastor Seth

WISE WORDS

Mon. 10/26

[Proverbs 3:1-35](#) – One definition of wisdom is the application of knowledge and life experiences, meaning that out of our understanding and life experiences, we know what to do and share that knowledge with others. Proverbs 3 is a great example of wisdom. A father is sharing with his son what he has observed and experienced so that his son will not repeat his mistakes or the mistakes he has seen. If this son listens and obeys, he will be better off than many of his peers. Through the words and warnings, you can feel the father's deep love for his son. The father wants his son to avoid the mistakes that he saw and experienced. It is not just the son who learns this wisdom. We are given the opportunity to learn from them as well, because every time we read the father's words, we can put them into practice.

When did you put Proverbs 3 into practice?

Who are you sharing your wisdom with? Are they listening? Why?

WHO ARE YOU?

Tue. 10/27

[Exodus 3:1-22](#) – When you meet someone new, how do you describe yourself? Do you share your family's details? Do you introduce yourself as a friend of so-and-so? In Exodus 3, we read about God introducing Himself to Moses. God had been silent for some time, as the people were enslaved. The cries of pain and suffering were deafening in God's ears, so He sent Moses to lead the people from Egypt to the Promised Land. The struggle was that Moses didn't know God intimately. He knew of God from some of the stories of his youth, but he did not know God personally until a bush that was burning but not burning caught his attention. God introduced Himself as the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The relationship between Moses and God would grow and deepen over time, but it started with Moses not knowing God.

What names do you use to identify God?

Why are those names important?

NO BOUNDARIES

Wed. 10/28

[Jeremiah 3:14-4:4](#) – Friends can steer us towards the wrong path. Each of us can think of a time when our friends led us to a place where we didn't want to be. We had a choice to make to continue following or stop. The prophet Jeremiah was given a message to share with the people of God. They were to return to God and receive the forgiveness He had for them. At this point, the people surrounded themselves with bad advice. They stopped following God and did what they wanted. They took God's law and manipulated it enough so that their actions would be seen as correct instead of rejecting God's law. They surrounded themselves with others who would not challenge their actions or beliefs. Yet God gave them opportunities to change their ways and people who would help them see the error of their ways.

Who has God provided in your life to keep you following Him?

Who is God putting in your path that you can help?

NOT ALONE

Thur. 10/29

[Luke 10:1-12](#) – Have you ever tried to do something on your own? It is challenging to do things by yourself. There comes a point when you will need others to help. Jesus understood that we need others to help us. He sent his disciples two by two to do what he was doing. They would go into different towns and heal people. They were to share that the kingdom of God is at hand. Jesus knew the difficulties that would come, which is why he sent them out two by two. They could encourage each other and fill in the gaps that they had. We need to see the beauty of what Jesus is doing so that we won't be tempted to go out on our own to do ministry. The ministry is hard. There are times when we are discouraged because no one is listening. We need the encouragement of others who are working with us.

Who is standing in your corner as you follow Jesus?

Who needs you to stand in their corner as they follow Jesus?

STANDING UP FOR HIM

Fri. 10/30

[Philemon 1:1-25](#) – When was the last time someone stood up for you? Paul wrote a letter to his friend Philemon about Onesimus. Onesimus was Philemon's slave, and he ran away. Somehow, Onesimus connected with Paul and gave his life to Jesus. As he followed Jesus, his life transformed. He began working with Paul and sharing the good news of Jesus. Over time, Onesimus became like Paul's right-hand man. There came a time for the next step in Onesimus' spiritual development, which was to go to Philemon and ask for forgiveness. As we can imagine, Onesimus was scared. So, Paul stood with Onesimus and encouraged him to make things right with Philemon. We don't know how Onesimus was received, but that is not the point. The point is, we need people in our lives who will be with us when we are scared. Who is standing in your corner?

Whose corner are you standing in?