

Stand Up For The Truth – Ray Moore 7/14/26

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Good morning. We got a brand new podcast, brand new week. Mary Danielson at the host, Mike. Yeah, good morning. Welcome, everyone, to Stand Up for the Truth. It is July 14th. Ray Moore is back with me. We had him on earlier this year in the spring. We talked about homeschooling and homeschooling laws.

We're going to talk about today The Promise of John Adab, a book that he has written with his wife and very interesting character study of an Old Testament character that maybe you have not heard of. So I'm going to read a Scripture today. We're going to pray and then we are going to introduce Ray Moore. Psalm 78, five to seven. For he established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers that they should make them known to their children, that the generation to come might know them, the children who would be born, that they may arise and declare them to their children, that they may set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments. Let's pray together. Oh Lord, as we begin another day in fellowship and service to you, we're grateful and humbled that you might use us to further your kingdom, to refresh and encourage one another. We ask that you would just take our lives again today, afresh and anew, and continue to conform us into your image by the power of your Holy Spirit. Oh Lord, light our way brightly so that we don't fall.

Give us words to bless and exhort, grace and patience with our loved ones and friends. We lift up our children and grandchildren. You. Draw them to yourself, Lord. Speak to them and protect them as they navigate the life that you have given them. We lift up Ray and his loved ones. Provide, bless, and protect as only you can. Open doors of ministry, uh, to him and his wife. Continue to use them until you call them home. And we ask all this in Jesus' name. Amen. Retired lieutenant, colonel, and chaplain in the US Army Ray Moore has served for over 40 years in pastoral ministry as a campus pastor a congregational minister an army chaplain He is a graduate of the Citadel with a BA in political science and was graduated from Grace Theological Seminary with a Master of Divinity in 1974 and a Master of Theology in 1979. He served 19 years as an Army Reserve Chaplain, retiring as Lieutenant Colonel in 1999. He was awarded the Bronze Star for service in Gulf War number one. Ray is cofounder of Frontline Ministries, uh, currently serves as the president of the board. Exodus Mandate is a project of Frontline Ministries, which focuses on prayer, revival, and Christian education.

He's the author of Let My Children Go and also one of the executive producers of the 2011 award winning film Indoctrination, Public Schools, and the Decline of Christianity in America. And like I said,

today we're going to talk about his book, The Promise of Jonadab, also Jonadab. Either way is acceptable. ExodusMandate.org Ray, thank you for your service and welcome back to Stand Up for the Truth. Thank you, man. Thank you, Mary. And it's great to be back with you again. I especially enjoyed the interview and the program we had maybe a couple of months ago.

As I was mentioned to you before the show, I do a lot of interviews with Christian hosts and podcasts and programs and many of them are very, very good, but sometimes they don't couch the questions and the discussion and biblical or theological terms and I noticed that about you and I commend you that you're certainly a conservative, I'm sure, but you. Define things in terms of the Bible and theology. And we've got to get back to that as Christians because that's our first, first line of defense indeed. Now, I want to ask you about Exodus Mandate and how it supports parents and churches really to enable families to leave the public school worldview in the rearview mirror. Talk to us about Exodus Mandate before we get into the specifics of the book. The Exodus Mandate and that webpage is ExodusMandate.org is over 30 years old. My wife and I started home homeschooling our children when I was finishing up my theological seminary training at Grace Seminary in Indiana. And we started homeschooling our oldest son in 1977. He's now 55. And, uh, it was just a personal decision for me and my wife. I mean, we were just concerned about our children and how they would be raised.

My convictions about public education and the dangers of it weren't as clear then as they are now. Of course, the public schools have really, really deteriorated since the 80s. You know, since the '80s, they would at least tolerate some Christian expression in those days, but not today. So we homeschooled our children usually up through middle school, and then we tended to put them in a private Christian or private school after that. But in 1997, I began to see the need for Christians and churches to do that universally, and we. So I wrote a little pamphlet, a little sermon in 1995 called Exodus Mandate: Let My Children Go," and it was published in a small Christian paper in Greenville, South Carolina. And it was just me advocating getting the kids out in South Carolina. In 1997, I went to the big briefing in Washington in the Judiciary Committee where all the conservative and Christian groups got together and, and, uh.

There was a seminar and lasted all day. There were about 800 Attendees and about half of them were from Capitol Hill and these were our Top leaders in the Christian and conservative movement. I mean, I would name the groups: the Homeschool Legal Defense Association, CWA, Concerned Women for America, Heritage Foundation, and they all were there together. And the speakers were all saying, "Somebody do something!" Oh, ain't it awful what they're doing to our children and the. The public schools, and the only solution they had was repeal bad laws, and I remember just. It was like a, an awakening in my mind. I said, wow, these are our top leaders in the conservative and Christian movement and nobody's got a plan. And, uh, and. And I knew the left had a plan because they've been indoctrinating our children for 150 years. So I guess my calling came that day, but actually I had written the little sermon called Let My Children Go, Exodus to Exodus Mandate in 1995. So I just put that in motion and made it a national campaign. So that was the beginning and the Exodus Mandate is simply a ministry. A Christian ministry to get children out of the Pharaoh school system into Christian campus schools or homeschooling. And we, we would hope those schools would have a biblical, uh, Christian

foundation and curriculum. And then the second part of our mission statement is that we pray and hope and pray that a fresh obedience, and that's a key term.

An obedience by Christian families and churches To homeschool a Christian school their children will prove to be a key for the revival of our family our churches, and our nation. Yeah. So that's the summary, and I hope it didn't take too long, but the book came later, and it kind of comes out of that, and I could, we could talk about how we came up with this. You know, as we get into the program. Yeah. Yeah. And you must be gratified to some degree at, I think, homeschooling is, and charter schools are exploding around this country, and COVID may have had something to do with that. But, uh, I have never seen anything like it. When I homeschooled my daughter in the nineties Know.

Finding a good curriculum was a challenge. Computers were just coming on now, so getting a home computer was brand new. So you must be gratified with all the homeschooling. It seems to be exploding at least to me. Right. I'd like to say I caused it all. But I didn't. But I'm part of the mix. Yeah. I am one of the national leaders in growing this movement. And we've been around advocating this probably as long Or longer than anybody else. We started in 1995. Even though my wife and I were homeschooling in 1977. We didn't make it a mission until about 95 to 97. So we've been doing it 30 years. Awesome. That's fantastic. The book here, The Promise of Jonadab. You know the Bible is filled with flawed human beings. They both excel and fail spectacularly in various ways. And while we can relate to a lot of them and learn from them, it's also sobering when the details live on for generations to read about. Because what about our lives? Is that something that we would want? But God recorded Jonadab's name. You know because not everyone can be a Jacob or a David or an Ezekiel. And sometimes we mention regarding our exploits for The kingdom, but sometimes when we dig deeply, we can glean from even minor characters like John Adab. How did the inspiration come about to write about this man? Because what an interesting account. Well, I've got two seminary degrees.

And I read the Bible through periodically, and I've been trained, and I knew about the character, but it wasn't important. Yeah. Until about 25 years ago, a friend shared his insights and, and I have that in my book and he put what makes the story explode in your imagination is connecting 2 Kings 10 to Jeremiah 35. And if you look at those passages. It's about a 250 year gap. Um, and it's, and so, Jonadab shows up and... 2 Kings 10 and it's spelled a little different in the English Bible. And I think that throws people off. They look at him and they don't realize that the guy in 2 Kings 10 is the same man that's mentioned in Jeremiah 35. But when you see that, you just say, whoa. This can't be. Yeah. Right. And, and when I did that, it was, it impressed me so much and me and my wife together that we started a study and a journey looking at this character and then came up with this book about I think 2010. It's been around a while. No 12. I'm a little shaky on the publishing date.

But it's we call him the greatest dad in the Bible. And we was so impressive to us that we say he's come to live with us. Yeah, well, his legacy certainly lives on. Now. He was a Rechabite. Let's talk a little bit about his past because we can know a little bit about him through the scriptures. And Rechab was a captain in Abner's army under Saul. So this was a transitional time to the rule of David. Rechab and another captain assassinated Ishbosheth. Saul's son. And David was not happy about that. He was very displeased. He executed the captain not a very good start to this family legacy. Was Rechab his father or

his grandfather? Do we even know if he was? I don't think we know for sure. But he, but it's always he's always mentioned as a son of Rechab. Okay. So I mean.

He's a he's a descendant of Rechab, because Rechab was loyal to David so much so that he took the law into his own hands and. Dave was so displeased that he had him executed. Uh, you know. For his crimes. So. Jonadab has a dark past. And that's what makes the story even interesting because his past wasn't so good going back to his either father or grandfather. And yet he has one of the greatest legacy for faithfulness in the Bible. Yes, yeah, and when we trace the story, because there are other characters in this particular time frame, some of the most interesting stories in the entire Old Testament. Ahab and the Misses, Jezebel, the prophets of Baal, Jehu, Jonadab, it really is a key account of this era. Jonadab met Jehu. Just tell us about that general time frame so that people can put this in context. Well, the Old Testament describes Ahab, King Ahab and his wife Jezebel. He was considered the most evil of the Old Testament kings in the Northern Kingdom. Of course.

He married Jezebel who was not an Israeli and she was from a pagan tribe. And so together, they introduced Baal worship into Israel, so much so that it just permeated and poisoned the culture. And, uh, so Jehu was appointed by God, uh, through the prophet Elisha to be the king. Uh, I believe Ahab was dead already, but Jezebel was still alive and Baalism really permeated the culture. Just like humanism or Postmodernism is poisoning the American culture today. You know, we are Christians, we're evangelical Christians, and we are a distinct large body of people, but our views are not controlling and influencing the culture enough. I'm happy to say that there is some good. Some good things going on. So Jehu came up and he knew that he was the appointed king and he was appointed to purge Baalism out of, out of Israel. So we.

We first encounter him riding furiously in the chariot and many of your readers will know the story and he's riding along and there's a man walking on the road and it was Jonadab and he stops and Stopped the chariot and he says, Is your heart with me?" I guess on this project. And we know that Jonadab was, so he grabbed his hand and pulled him up in the chariot and they rode on together and took care of Baal in Israel. So I think Jehu had other helpers, but only Jonadab is mentioned in the Old Testament in 2 Kings 10 and he's the only one mentioned who was his helper to do this job. And. Um, and as I said in 2 Kings 10, it's spelled a little bit different. So if you're reading just the English Bible, you might not make the connection with Jeremiah 35, which we'll talk about in a minute, but he helped him. And, uh, so we know he was a patriot. He, he loved, uh, the law of God. He loved Yahweh. He didn't, he.

He was not a supportive veil. And, um, and, uh then, and I think the Lord is saying, I'm going to show you something. I'm going to introduce briefly a obscure man named Jonadab. He's going to show up in second Kings 10 and then he's going to disappear. I'm going to mention him too. His name is going to be there twice. So if you're not reading carefully. You might miss it at second Kings 10. And then I'm going to take him away and he'll disappear for 250 years. Yeah, yeah. Isn't that something? It is something. Eight generations later. This is Standard for the Truth from July 14th. My name is Mary Danielson talking to Ray Moore today. The promise of Jonadab. Absolutely fascinating little book here. And we're talking about the account, um, in. In Kings about who he was. Um, very, very interesting, pivotal, pivotal point because he was alive for the Assyrian, uh the Babylonian captivityvery difficult days in Israel that he was

around for. And we look at our days, which are very difficult and are going to get more difficult. And so, on even on a very basic level.

I think we can relate to him. But let's jump ahead now to Jeremiah thirtyfive six to ten, and I am going to read this because I think it'll be helpful. Not my listeners may not have a Bible in front of them, and we're going to talk about this. His mention eight generations later. With the prophet Jeremiah, and it says, Jonadab, the son of Rechab, our father. Commanded" us, saying, You shall drink no wine, you nor your sons, forever. Verse 7, You shall not build a house, sow seed, plant a vineyard, nor have any of these, but all your days you shall dwell in tents, that you may live many days in the land where you are sojourners. Verse 8, Thus we have obeyed the voice of Jonadab, the son of Rachab, our father. In all that he charged us to drink no wine all our days, we, our wives, our sons, and our daughters, nor to build ourselves houses to dwell in, nor do we have vineyards or seed. Verse 10, but we have dwelt in tents and have obeyed and done according to all that Jonadab our father commanded us. So those are the specific verses.

Verses 6 to 10. But set this up for us, Ray, because something else is going on here behind the scenes that they are actually feeling that they need to recount this particular story. I think Jonadab in 2 Kings 10 timeframe realized that there was a prophecy against the northern kingdom. And we know that I think around 722. They went into captivity under the Assyrians. So he knew that that nation's time was limited. And so he came up with some plans to try to preserve his legacy. And I think we look at the description of these standards in, in Jeremiah 35 and we don't relate to them because they were, they kind of had a nomadic existence. Right. And that's not the point of the. Of the story. Um, it, you know, we don't have to have a nomadic existence to be able to preserve our, our Christian heritage and our children and our family. But he did things to keep them separate from the pagan culture. And so that when the captivity came, they were able to move To the new southern kingdom.

Which would have been the kingdom of Judah and they survived. And, uh, so it was all about survival. So that's the main point that we want, we make in the book. We don't try to say, Hey, you have to only have sheep and cattle and can't live in houses. We don't make those comparisons. So that, that's the point was that they, he made. He set standards for his family and they were following them 200 Yeah, that's amazing. And, and actually, uh, Jeremiah 35 starts out with, and I got a little ahead of myself there, the word of the Lord, which came to Jeremiah from the Lord in the days of Jehoiakim, the son of Josiah, king of Judah, saying, go to the house of the Rechabites. Speak to them and bring them into the house of the Lord into one of the chambers and give them wine to drink. That interests me because what was Jeremiah's purpose? And you ask someone, they might say, well, is it.

Was it to trap them into having wine to drink or what? What exactly is your take on why the Lord told Jeremiah to do this? Because that's very interesting. I think it says in the context. Jeremiah 35 that he was putting a test before them but he wasn't trying to tempt them. Okay. And we're not arguing for some limited wine drinking. Or not my wife is a man with leucanin. I was Baptist and so she grew up in a family that every now and then would take a glass of wine but we're not advocating that. But I'm just saying that this is not about not drinking any wine, it's about maintaining a standard. So he was setting before them to make them an example to Judah. And so he goes further and say, Look at this family of

Jonadab; how his descendants are honoring his instructions and his standards that he set for this family 250 years earlier."

And you, the people of Jerusalem and Judah, are not. Honoring and following the words of the living God. And that was the point. He was using them as example, I guess in a way trying to shame the people of Judah because they were not obeying God. Yeah, and when you think of all the, all the changes they were going through with the Assyrians and the Babylonians, uhm. Could it be for a hedge of protection that, because we don't see in the future, God knows what we need when we need it, even in 2026 here, right? Nothing has changed that way, uhm, to survive a lot of cultural changes. I think, you know, a parent obviously knows best for their family, but, you know. God would have given him possibly wisdom considering the times. What do you think about that? That's what I think, and my wife and I, we tried to make some, you know.

Transfer the principles of Jonadab to our time. Yeah. And we had already been doing some of the things in our book and some of the kind of things that he was doing and that's what made the discovery. So wonderful because we just sort of merged what we had been doing raising our children with the principles of Jonadab and our book is very practical in. That respect. It is a joint book. It was a message that I got told 25 years ago and I put it in a little pamphlet, you know something like this and then 10 years later. My wife and I expanded into a small book which is a copy here and of course if your audience wants to get one they can contact us at exodusmandate.org and order it hopefully for a recommended donation of twelve dollars and we'll send out an autographed copy. So we basically tried to make it practical. It's not just a bible study but it's what you can do today, Mary.

With your children and grandchildren to assure, uh, a Christian legacy in your family. So the title, the subtitle is building a Christian family legacy in a time of cultural decline. We're living in a time just like Jonadab's time in the Northern Kingdom and we're declining, uh, rapidly. A lot of Christians are waking up now and doing things. But some of the things that we're doing today like homeschooling and Christian schooling is about 20 years late, but at least we're doing it now. So you've got to figure out a way to pass on the torch of a Christian faith to your children and your grandchildren. That's what it's about. Sandra: Yeah. Here's what struck me as I'm reading between the lines here in Jeremiah 35. 610 You may live many days in the land where you are sojourners. I look at what he told his youngsters and I'm thinking, that notion of being pilgrims and strangers is also lost in the church we plant Our roots deep in the culture, in maybe it's conservatism or whatever it is we're doing.

And we don't have the pilgrim or the sojourner mindset. And part of me is saying, this is what John and I was saying as well to his kids, is you are sojourners. Don't eat green bananas. I mean, you know, we don't know when the Lord is coming back, so we occupy, but nevertheless, with that attitude of being pilgrims. We have about two minutes before the break. Do you have any thoughts on that whole idea that we are sojourners? Well yes and if you look at some of the great experiments even the pilgrims they were sojourners and they founded a nation. So, yes. That is a great connection there. And we'll talk more about some of the details on the other side of the break. But ask your audience to go to my webpage, ExodusMandate.org Yes, and it will be linked in the podcast post. So when they go to the podcast, they can find this particular link as well. Interesting. We live in such interesting days.

Ray. And I think that before the break I have an opportunity to go to 2 Timothy 3 and I want to read the verses and then when we come back I want to talk to you about those because Paul saw Timothy as a son and maybe some of our listeners don't have children and grandkids but some of these directions from Paul are very interesting. And they can translate very easily into how we talk to our kids. Let me just read these and then we will but 2nd Timothy 3 10 to 15 he says but you have carefully Matthew 3, 10 to 15. Uh, he says, but you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, long suffering, love, perseverance, persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium. At Lystra, what persecutions I endured, and out of them all the Lord delivered me. Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of.

Knowing from Whom you have learned them and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus these are such a loaded verses here like I said Paul saw Timothy as a son so we can listen in on these verses. And apply them to our spiritual family you know we have five less than a minute but what do you think about this transition of things and Do we say these things to our own kids? Yes, you might. Yes, you, yeah, you, you must, uh, you have to teach your children to be in the world, but not of the world. Yeah. Exactly. Sometimes we're too much in it and not, uh, enough of it too much and and not enough of it. So we've got to be more of it and not enough. Yeah, absolutely. We've got to teach it. We've got to live. We've got to be engaged. You know, God doesn't want us to be nomads. Right. You know, I think we have to be engaged.

But we have to live separate lives. Right. Agreed. The doctrine of separation from unholy behavior is very important. And I think we need to be in churches that are teaching sound doctrine. We get in churches that have got Gotten in liberal theology. And on that thought, I'm not going to ask you to go any further on that because we have to take a break. A two minute break. And we have Ray Moore with us today. He's back with us. We're talking about homeschooling. We're talking about the book, The Promise of John Adab. Great little booklet. I encourage you to get it. ExodusMandateorg So again, we're going to take a two minute break and we have a lot more to talk about with Ray. So stay with us.

Talked briefly before the break about 2 Timothy 3, that Paul had seen Timothy as a son.

And he gives a great list of things to tell our children that there will be evil men and imposters. Be careful about being deceived. But continue on the things that you've been taught. This is so important, uh, to teach our kids. But I didn't want to miss this point. I want to get back to Jonadab because in Jeremiah 35. 19 is the end of a thing. It is the end of the story there, although it's not the end at all. But please, uh, Ray, talk to us about what it says in Jeremiah 35, 19. And if that doesn't get your brain going, I don't know what does. Well, it's a verse in the Bible that I had read, but it didn't connect. Okay. In years. I think 25 years ago, I saw it in the ways to be interpreted. And basically, uh, after Jeremiah has put a test before the family and they've passed the test, and then he says, I'm holding you up as an example to the people of Jerusalem and Judah of a family that's fathering, father, uh.

Following the instructions of their dead Father. And yet the people of Jerusalem are not following the instructions of the living father, the living God. Wow. So then he puts a blessing on the family and you can miss this if you're not careful. And, uh, he says, therefore he puts a blessing on, Jonadab's family. He says, Jonadab, the son of Rechab, there it goes again, Rechab. He was a, a murderer. Um, Jonadab It was a murderer. Uhm, Jonadab, the son of Rechab, will not lack a man to stand before me forever. And I looked at that and I said, no, no, I don't think it could be saying that, but it was. And what he was saying was, hey, in a way that we cannot understand. There is a godly perpetual line of believing faithful people throughout of all of human history in that family. Now we don't know who they are today. We do know apparently some of them came back from the exile. I don't have that text in front of me, but we see some of them named. And we can imagine that they were around in, you know.

In the times of Jesus. And so I let my imagination run a little while with me. And, you know, you can do that as a preacher sometimes. Exaggerate a little bit Since nobody knows, but I can imagine they went, someone might have been in the upper room when the Holy Spirit came on the day of Pentecost. Um, you know, some of them could have been, you know. With Augustine, you know, and, and, uh, maybe, maybe one of them was with the pilgrims when they came ashore, you know, in 1620. So we just don't know. Uh, but they're in the world today and I don't know that all of his descendants are believing, but when I saw this, I began To ask myself, Mary. Could there be a Jonah Dabb type legacy anywhere in the world today? So I discovered and found six examples and families and I'll give you two of them. I have a good friend who is Egyptian. He's Coptic. And you know, the Coptic people in Egypt are really the Christian Egyptians and they make up about 12 Of the population in Egypt. And this young man.

He's not so young anymore because I got to know him in 1982 when I made a trip to Egypt. But, uh, he's the son of a Presbyterian minister. And I have not given the right name, uh, because he, you know, he's in a, his family's in a Muslim culture and they, I didn't want him to be persecuted. So I gave him a name, Luke. But that's not his real name. And, um, and he says they can trace their Christian family legacy back to the 13th century by name. I mean, they can go back that far with a genealogy. He says in the 13th century, some of the records are lost, but they believe, uh, that his family goes back to the first century era when John Mark, uh. Came and preached in when John Mark came and preached in Alexandria and founded the church there, John Mark, the gospel of Mark. And so there's been a Christian church in Egypt since that period. And that's a pretty long time. I've got a friend that's from India, and he is part of the Mark Thomas Church in India. And of course.

The legend is that Thomas the Apostle went to India In 52 AD and preached and evangelized and founded seven churches and then was martyred. And the, what they call them, the MaliAlam Christians from India, you can tell them by their names because they all have Christian names like John, Philip, Thomas. Abraham. They adopted Christian names. And he comes from that background and he believes that they Their family heritage as Christians go back to 52 AD. So it's possible to maintain a legacy like that. So that's the point of my book. I want to encourage American Christians to think, well, you've got to teach your children in such a way that they will teach their children, your grandchildren. And then your grandchildren will teach Their children and can pass the Christian legacy down through the centuries. In the book, which I have right here, my wife is quite a poet and in the back of the book she

has a ballad. It's not a poem, it's a ballad, which means there's pages open and she writes about Jonadab and the key phrase in the book.

Poem is about the children and she's The key phrase is with the child of his children for God as the prize. So Jonadab wasn't thinking about his children alone, but he was thinking about his grandchildren. His great grandchildren and so my wife says the prize for us as believers and Christian parents today is to have the children of our children as the prize. And so we have right now I have four adult children and most are married and we have nine grandchildren and my grandchildren are into faith. My children are definitely into faith. Strong Christians and my grandchildren are being raised in the Christian faith. They're faithful Christians, they're very successful and so I'm We're waiting to see our greatgrandchildren but we don't know if we'll be around then. So that's the idea behind the book. Sandra: Well, you know. It's interesting because it seems to be that there's some sort of disconnect going on in our culture here because I have known many parents who have lived lives for the Lord, devoted to the Lord, service, you know, growing in grace and knowledge.

But it's not transferring to the children. And I don't know what is going wrong there. Were there gaps in their application of actually doing the word? Um, you know, not just being hearers, but doers as well. Uh, children often don't follow their parents' faith. We live in a time of apostasy as well and syncretism. Um, parental influence, you know, that strong leadership. What I suppose we could list things that we think might be wrong with that, but I want to get your thoughts on why it seems that way. Go ahead. I'm glad you brought that up because my wife and I, we've been married 56 years. Our oldest son is 55. He's a faithful Christian. He's a deacon uh, not right now, not currently a deacon, but a deacon at a Baptist church, which is conservative. He put his kids in Christian school, uh, he homeschooled for a time, but his wife got hired to teach in a Christian school. So she had to put the kids, you know, in school because that's where she was. But, uh, we, we, I hate it that I have to say this, but we made an observation, Gail and I, my wife that evangelical Christians don't do a good, really good job of raising their children.

We see it and we've asked ourselves why. And so our book sort of addresses that a little bit and how you can correct it. I had a friend, he's a pastor here in the state, and He went to a Baptist seminary many years ago. He told me this story. And he said he and his wife. When they were newly married in seminary, at a Southern Baptist seminary, they hung out with three other couples. All of them went into the ministry, all four couples. But he said he and Donna determined that they were going to give their children a Christian education. And indeed they did. They had two boys and both of them were, went to a Christian school and now I think they teach in a Christian school. But the other three couples who went to seminary, these were Biblebelieving evangelical men, put their kids in public school, and every one of those men and their wives had prodigal children. And then I asked Jay, the pastor, I said, he said, and we also had family worship every day in our home, and so they did Christian schooling, and then they. Had family worship, and that's what we did.

We had the same plan in our home. And, uh, and so I told Jay, I said, you need to preach that more. And, uh, because, uh, you'll find some families today, Mary, they, Christian families, it's just a dormitory where they live in the same house. They don't fam, they don't have family worship. They talk to their kids 15 minutes a day. Um, they don't They don't instruct them if you look at Deuteronomy 6 it says

when you lie down when you rise up you were instructed kids and the way of the Lord and the scriptures So they the kids are not even being communicated and they think the church is going to take care of them You know.

That church's job is to instruct the children one hour a week in Sunday school. So there's a great In the evangelical church and we've seen churches where evangelical families that are godly, you already mentioned it, like following the Lord and their mom and dad love the Lord and they have a prodigal child or two in the family. And now you can't absolutely guarantee that your children will be saved. They've got to accept Christ and come to Christ on their own, which you can pave the way, lay a pattern, and you can instruct them so that they normally would be converted.

Right, and I think there are some other things that go on too, because there is a flood of apostasy in the church, and not everyone even cares about sound doctrine anymore, so they aren't teaching the Bible as though it is the truth, it is the word of God, they're not teaching that, The kids are going and getting a different world view in the public school system. I mean it's a world clash of world views worldview in the public school system. I mean, it's a clash of worldviews. Some parents are very legalistic with their kids because they've been told by programs, if you do this and this, your child will be a Christian. Of course, we know that's not true. Psychology also enters into a lot of families. If we could just get back to the pure teaching of God's Word, that would make a huge stride in whether or not the kids are saved, um, ultimately.

But, and also they have to, uh, get saved. Uh, they have to, uh, be led by the Holy Spirit, listen for the voice of the Holy Spirit. Um, and so that's not always even the case. Kids might resist conviction in their lives as well. So we live in some pretty perilous times, don't we, Ray? Right. And of course, we, we Try to address it practically in this book. We give steps and things that families can do, you know, to protect their children. But as I said earlier, you teach, you've got to teach your children to be engaged in the world, but not of the world. Sure. You have to walk and live. You've got to work. You've got to go to school. Uh, you're going to be around, you know, potentially harmful Potentially harmful influences, but you've got to teach them how to navigate that. Absolutely. And I think also when choosing, and I can't emphasize this enough, I worked in the church for almost 30 years, I know how this works. I can't emphasize enough. When you choose a mate that you're going to spend the rest of your life with and you're going to have children, be equally yoked.

Because a lot of marriages, churches are marrying young people where the two men and women are not the same page for spiritual things or maybe they have deceived one another yeah I'm a Christian You bring children into this mix. Well, mom doesn't believe this. Dad believes this, or vice versa. And they're getting mixed messages, and they don't know what to believe. And so when you get married, let's start with the foundation of that marriage. Make sure you are equally yoked, or you are asking for all kinds of trouble. And the Bible already says that, right, Ray? Right. And again, I mentioned you need to have some kind of family worship. Now, when our children were young, it was brief, you know, 15, 20 minutes. We would sing a song or two. Um, you know, they, their attention span was not very long. Read a text. Sometimes we'd read a Bible story or something like that. And then we'd have prayer. So it was short enough that would keep their attention span. Then we would always pray with them, you

know, at night when we go to bed, tell a story. My son, when he was in college, um, a 21 year old man and every Now and then he would call us up at night and want us to pray with him about some issue at school.

We taught our children to pray so that it was like breathing or drinking water. You just couldn't exist without prayer. To go to the Lord on a momentary basis, not a formal. So these are things you've got to teach your children where they really depend on God and they depend on prayer. As a way to reach God. I want to say one thing. My wife has taught for 35 years off and on a class for young married women called the Biblical Principles of Child Rearing. And we see a terrible failure in the believing church. And I think having prodigal children should be rare, even though it's going to happen some. And so part of the reason is that they don't have family worship. They may put their kids in public school. They don't regulate the internet or the TV content of their children. And so the children are being corrupted right in the home. And then they, like I said, they sleep in the house together, but it's not really a Christian home. This is a dormitory where mom and dad are Christians and the children are, and they may go to church shown sunny and maybe sunny school which is sometimes that's not enough the public schools have 30 Hours a week and Sunday school one hour, who's going to win that war?

Yeah. Yeah. So, and then also our book has been published in Mandarin and China some years ago, and I think it's sold a lot better in China and Mandarin than it has here right now because of the recent persecution, the crackdown on churches in China. We're not sure how it's doing. There are six publishers, pretty there's six publishers, Christian publishers in China, and we had the second or third largest that owned bookstores around China. So our book is in, in Mandarin, and uhm, which is the main language of mainland China. And it was published in China by a Chinese publisher. And uhm, when, when it first came out, my wife was actually teaching a class for young mothers at the local Chinese church. We have two evangelicals. Chinese churches in Columbia where we live. And she was teaching a class of young mothers and they don't have any background in, uh, Christian famine. So they were really loving our book. And so she was telling them about the book and she was teaching the class and the book had just come out. And so she showed up at the Sunday school for the Young Chinese women mothers.

And this book was laying on the counter for her to see for the first time. So it was exciting to have a book published in Mandarin. And it's been translated into Spanish and we're working on a Polish version. Great. But it's slow, slow going. Yeah, yeah, no doubt. I've heard that. I've talked to other authors who say that the translation business is very, very slow going. Parenting is exhausting, right? And it requires consistency. Sometimes when they're little we wonder if the constant Repetition is even making a dent in our kids but the one thing we need to do is make sure they know that they need a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. God has no grandchildren. You know it is something that they need to have for themselves. I hope we're communicating that because I don't want parents to feel like well I really feel like I did the best I could with what I knew at the time.

Maybe they got saved later after their kids were in school. There's a rough road there or if they got saved later and the kids were already preteens. And so we don't want to paint a broad brush here because sometimes mom and dad or one isn't saved even when they have children. So how can we

encourage parents because they feel they're doing the best they can with their maturity in Christ and yet they're having struggles. But we don't want parents to be discouraged because God loves their kids more than they do. And I want to make sure parents know that.

I think a lot of it has to do with the local church and the pastors I'm talking about the evangelical pastors are pretty weak on this. Recently, we had a guest preacher at our church. I don't want to get too specific here, but he was very sound and very good, came from a church nearby, it wasn't our church, it was a substitute. And I enjoyed the sermon. I said, Boy, this guy is so good and so Biblebelieving and so after the service, I was talking to the twice on them and this came out that they were public school and their kids.

And I was, I caught myself. I was nice. I didn't rebuke her, but it shocked me so much. I think if she told me they were committing adultery, I wouldn't have been more shocked. And this guy's sound. And so there's a failure in the clergy and, uh, I'm a graduate of two seminaries, a graduate of one, and now I went through it seminaries a graduate one and now I went through in the 70s but we had classes on Christian education and it was about Sunday school. Well I'm interested in Christian education Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. I don't want Sunday school I want Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday school. Now that was in the 70s but they had Christian education and it was never about homeschooling or Christian schooling. So a lot of our seminaries are not for preparing the pastors to do what they need to do in the churches. And then another thing that's coming back into the church, which I think is a good trend, is there's a reinstitution of Christian catechism. Now, a lot of our liturgical churches, the Lutherans, the Presbyterians, Anglicans, and Catholics even, have had catechism. My wife was raised Lutheran.

She had catechism when she was growing up, but she wasn't converted. She wasn't really saved. And she got saved through a of an independent Bible church as a 15yearold So I think I have a Baptist background. We didn't have formal catechism, but we had scripture memory. So I learned a lot of scripture as a young child, and they still are with me. But my church right now, a local church, we've got a new pastor coming in, and he's going to institute catechism. Now, catechism won't work save you but it's a good thing to have learn scripture and learn theology.

So I'm in favor of that being instituted in evangelical churches. Yeah, absolutely. And I think it's good to remind pastors, they have so much on their plate, to remind them to encourage the homeschool families. And a lot of churches are part of homeschool coops and I think that a lot of parents have questions am I even able to homeschool I don't have a degree well you learn with your kids. So it's not as hard as parents think it is. It's time consuming. You have to pick curriculum and you have to be present with those kids all the time. But, you know, how can we just help come alongside, I guess, churches and help them to, from the pulpit, talk about how to raise godly kids? Because I think that's missing. Our church, we're small, but our pastor is I think Homeschooling four children. They're young.

I think merely school age, I think one or two might be school age. We have a lot of young families in our church and everybody is homeschooling or have their kids in a private Christian school. And I think that is a really great trend. And I think it is a trend. And we think right now there could be 4 million children

being homeschooled and we work with a couple of them. That are starting up new Christian schools, and one of them has got 40 schools in the hangar right now. Well, these are very, very exciting times to live in, very challenging times to live in, and God is still making humans, so there's something to be said for making sure that we are in the faith and we are bringing up our children in the ways of the Lord, Raymore what a blessing to have you back with us.

The promise of Jonadab is the book Exodus May You have less than a minute. Any last words? Well, I've got a lot on my Web page. OK, they can go and see the very second item at the top is my wife and I giving an interview. OK, five minutes about the book and about the character. OK, we'll link. Yeah, we'll link. All right. We we got to be done. I'm sorry. I hate to cut you off because there's so much we could talk about.