



## **Weekly Parent Update**

### **News to Know**

#### **1) July Events**

##### **Guys' and Girls' Bible Studies: July 16**

Even though the high school students will be at MFuge on this particular Wednesday, we'll still meet. We will have separate Bible studies for guys and girls.

##### **Serve Day: July 22**

We will serve at the Mercy House in Montgomery from 9:30 to 3:30. We'll feed the homeless and also do children's ministry. I need a few extra adults for this event.

Sign up [here](#) by this Friday

##### **Six Flags: July 26**

We're going to spend the day at Six Flags. The cost is \$40 plus money for meals. This trip is for incoming 9th graders to outgoing seniors.

Sign up [here](#) by this Friday

##### **Refuge at the YMCA: July 30**

We'll close out the summer by having Refuge at the Y.

We'll have fun, worship, and eat good food.

Sign up [here](#) by July 27

**2) Refuge Wednesday**

Refuge is still meeting this week! Join us in The Harbor at 6:30 PM. We'll look at the faith of Joshua. After, we'll meet to eat at Chickfila. If your student is going to MFuge Philly, I'd love for them to be there.

**3) Sunday Morning Small Groups**

Even though a lot of our group will be gone to MFuge on Sunday, we will still have small groups. The 9:45 group will be led by Caleb and Tori in Grace Cottage. There will be a guys' small group at 11 led by Jimbo and a girls' small group led at 11 by Angie. Both of those will be in Building B.

**4) MissionFuge Philadelphia**

Please meet at the church at 5:15 to leave at 5:30. Make sure to pack in one suitcase and one overnight bag. When you arrive, place the suitcase under the bus (guys on driver's side and girls on passenger side). Continue being in prayer for our students!

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**Refuge this Week**

This week, as we continue our journey through Hebrews 11, we're focusing on Joshua. Interestingly, there's only one story from his life

mentioned and the writer of Hebrews doesn't even name him. But his faith is unmistakably woven into the story of Jericho.

Before we dive into what happened at Jericho, let's go back to an earlier moment in Joshua's story. It's one that sets the tone for the rest of his life. It's the story of the 12 spies. When Moses sent them to scout out the Promised Land, ten returned with a fearful, discouraging report. But Joshua and Caleb stood out. They acknowledged the challenges, but their focus was on God's faithfulness, not the size of the opposition. They saw obstacles as opportunities for God to show His power. In that moment, Joshua proved he was willing to lead God's people into God's promises, no matter the risk.

Forty years after the spies' report, the Israelites are once again on the edge of the Promised Land, and this time, it's Joshua's job to lead them to victory. But there's one major obstacle: Jericho. The city was like the front door to Canaan, and it was heavily fortified. Some scholars believe its walls stood up to 40 feet high. It looked impossible to conquer. One night, as Joshua considers his next move, he encounters a man. Joshua asks whose side he's on, and the man replies, "Neither." He is the commander of the Lord's army. This was no ordinary man, this was God Himself. And in that moment, we're reminded of something powerful: the Lord doesn't come to take sides; He comes to take over. He doesn't just want to be your guide, He wants to take control of your life.

God then gives Joshua a battle plan but it's not what anyone would expect. The Israelites are told to march around the walls of Jericho once a day for six days. Then, on the seventh day, they are to march around seven times, blow their horns, and shout. To Joshua and his army, it must have seemed completely illogical. But in God's Kingdom, action begins where logic ends. Many of the things Jesus calls us to do seem crazy or counterintuitive. The path of obedience often looks foolish to the world, but it's where God's power shows up most.

Why did God have the Israelites march around the city for six days, and then seven times on the seventh day? It was a test of perseverance. God doesn't honor passive belief, He honors active, living faith. A faith

that moves. A faith that keeps going, even when nothing seems to be happening. I imagine as the Israelites marched day after day, they started to wonder if it was all pointless. Nothing was changing. No cracks in the wall. No sign of progress. But they kept walking, and on the seventh day, the walls came crashing down. Maybe you feel like you're just walking in circles. You're trying. You're praying. You're asking, "How much longer, God?" Keep walking. Keep obeying. You don't know what day you're on. You might be on day six and not even realize it. What feels like repetition might be preparation. God may be working in ways you can't see yet. His timing is perfect, but it rarely looks like ours. Don't give up just because you don't see immediate results. Obedience isn't about quick outcomes, it's about long-term trust. The walls don't fall before the obedience, they fall because of it.

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### **Resource of the Week**

This week's resource is titled, "Why Gen Z Men Are Staying in Church." You can find it [here](#).



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