



## FRIENDSHIP GOOD NEWS

November 13, 2020

From Pastor Mike...



Here is a song: *"Give thanks to the LORD, for His love endures forever."* This is NOT just any song. This is a song of triumph and victory! This is a song that we use to thank God in advance!

In **II Chronicles 20**, the people of Israel were faced with an insurmountable challenge – not one, not two...but THREE armies a day's march away coming to annihilate them and their families. They were clearly outmanned and apart from the intervention of the Great God of the Universe, they were toast. When it seemed like all hope was gone, guess what?

They turned to prayer as the first resort, not last. They were reminded of all the wondrous works the Lord had done on their behalf and would do again. Then, they did something highly unusual...they put the praise singers at the head of the army to meet the oncoming forces of evil.

**II Chronicles 20:22:** *"As they began to sing and praise, the LORD set ambushes against the men of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir who were invading Judah, and they were defeated."* The attacking armies actually started attacking one another and all the people of God had to do was watch, pray and praise the God of heaven!

What can we learn from this wonderful miracle of deliverance in the Bible? First, God is still on His throne and He will accomplish His purposes here on earth. At 81 years old, elder statesman Benjamin Franklin wrote these words at the Constitutional Convention of 1787 in Philadelphia: *"I have lived a long time, Sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth - that God governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid?"*

Secondly, our job is to pray, believe and praise. Sing this song to Him! Sing it in advance of the victory! Find these same words in your Psalmbook – **Psalms 136**! Meet the enemy head on, but shock the enemy with praise on your lips. Believe, pray, trust and watch God show up and show off! No fear, no doubt, no defeat – just praise!

Finally, focus on being grateful and remember that God's love endures forever. Nothing can separate you from His love. In **Romans 8:38-39** the Apostle Paul writes, *"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

Be encouraged! The BEST is yet to come! I love you all,

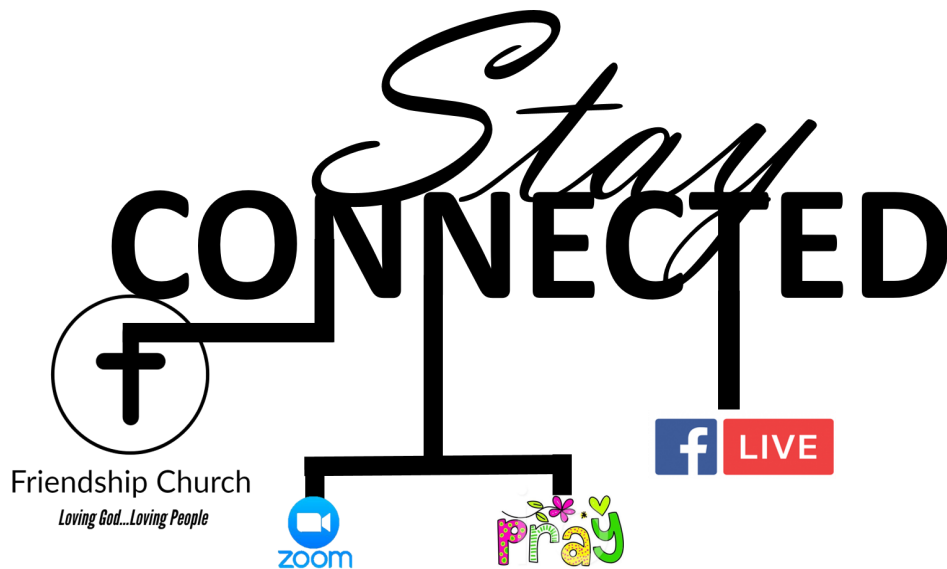
Pastor Mike

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**I n d o o r   C h u r c h   &   S m a l l   G r o u p s**

**Sunday November 15, 2020 — 9:30 AM**

**Small Groups — 10:30 Church Service**



## SERVICES LIVE ON FACEBOOK

Every Sunday morning at 11am

## ONLINE LIVE PRAYER MEETINGS

Every Friday, Saturday and Sunday evening at 7pm

## SUNDAY SCHOOL GROUPS

Check with your Sunday School teachers for times

## Get updated prayer requests and announcements.

To sign up, text your name to 479.422.1079

## This Sunday's Gospel Project Lesson (small groups)

### "Jesus the Savior (Gospels)"

**Sunday's lesson** "*Jesus Encounters Two Disciples*" - [CLICK HERE](#) to download your Sunday School lesson!

In the beginning, the all-powerful, personal God created the universe. This God created human beings in His image to live joyfully in His presence, in humble submission to His gracious authority. But all of us have rebelled against God and, in consequence, must suffer the punishment of our rebellion: physical death and the wrath of God.

Thankfully, God initiated a rescue plan, which began with His choosing the nation of Israel to display His glory in a fallen world. The Bible describes how God acted mightily on Israel's behalf, rescuing His people from slavery and then giving them His holy law. But God's people—like all of us—failed to rightly reflect the glory of God.

Then, in the fullness of time, in the person of Jesus Christ, God Himself came to renew the world and to restore His people. Jesus perfectly obeyed the law given to Israel. Though innocent, He suffered the consequences of human rebellion by His death on a cross. But three days later, God raised Him from the dead.

Now the church of Jesus Christ has been commissioned by God to take the news of Christ's work to the world. Empowered by God's Spirit, the church calls all people everywhere to repent of sin and to trust in Christ alone for our forgiveness. By God's grace in Christ, repentance and faith restores our relationship with God and results in a life of ongoing transformation.

The Bible promises that Jesus Christ will return to this earth as the conquering King. Only those who live in repentant faith in Christ will escape God's judgment and live joyfully in God's presence for all eternity. God's message is the same to all of us: repent and believe, before it is too late. Confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe with your heart that God raised Him from the dead, and you will be saved.

**Most classes meeting online using Zoom. Check with your Sunday School teacher for dates and times.**

## Friendship Birthdays

November 16 – Loyd Skaggs

## Friendship Anniversaries

November 16 – Dave and Mary Ann Brinkman

## Friendship Attendance, Nov 8

Small group Bible study - 51

Celebration worship - 86

## Tithes & Offering

Sunday, Nov. 8—\$3,066.84

**Online giving is easier than  
ever!**

[CLICK HERE](#) to try out our new online giving  
service.



Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

**2 Corinthians 9:7**

A banner for the Thanksgiving Offering. It features a decorative border at the top and bottom with autumn leaves in shades of green, orange, and red. The title "Thanksgiving Offering" is written in a large, elegant, black cursive font. Below the title, the text "2020 Thanksgiving Offering" is followed by a paragraph about praying and giving for the Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries. A bulleted list of ministries is provided, followed by a paragraph about learning more and a link to the website. The final paragraph encourages giving and mentions the amount given last year.

## Thanksgiving Offering

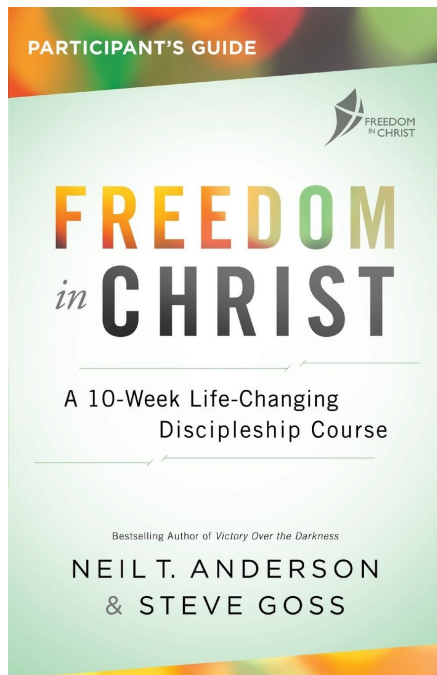
2020 Thanksgiving Offering

Join us in praying and giving for the Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries. Each year at Thanksgiving, we commit to pray for the many ministries of the ABCH including:

- Arkansas Baptist Homes for Children
- Arkansas Baptist Ranch
- Connected Foster Care
- Desired Haven Family Care
- And Living Well Counseling

To learn more about the Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries, visit <https://arkansasfamilies.org>

Last year, Friendship gave a little over \$1,500 to these ministries. Pray and ask the Lord how you can help exceed this amount this year. It is the season of Thanksgiving – let's be generous!



## MEN'S STUDY

It's not too late to join in with us!

**Wednesday, Nov 4 at 6pm**

"Freedom In Christ: A 10-Week Life-Changing Discipleship Course"

Some of the areas we will cover in the course include:

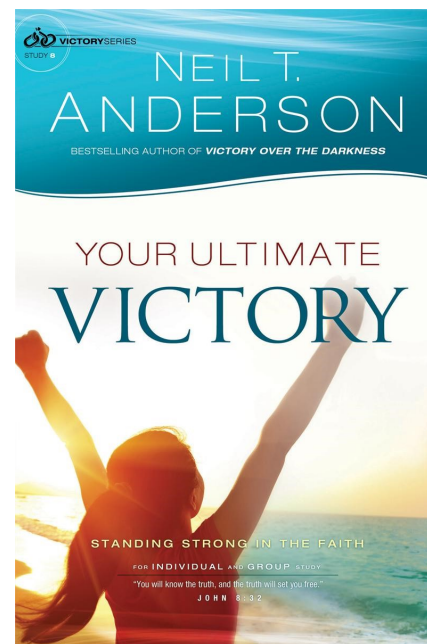
- how we became brand-new people from the inside out when

we became Christians

- why we can go boldly into God's presence any time we like without fear
- how nothing we do can make God love us any more or any less
- how to resolve the effects of even the deepest issues from the past
- how to deal with repeating patterns of sin
- understanding what God's purpose for your life is (it may not be what you think!)

We meet at the church on Wednesday evenings from 6:00-8:00pm. Study guide is \$6.00 for the 10 week discipleship course. Everyone is welcome!

**John 8:32** *"You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."*



## WOMEN'S STUDY

**Victory Series Study 8—"Your Ultimate Victory"**

**Session Three: Overcoming Temptation**

**Location:** Zoom

**Date:** Thursday, Nov 19, 2020

**Time:** 6:30 PM

Become Equipped to Withstand the Enemy

In Your Ultimate Victory Dr. Neil

Anderson shows you how to win the battle for your mind and stand strong in the faith.

"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood" (Ephesians 6:12)--rather, it is against things unseen, things often kept secret out of fear and shame.

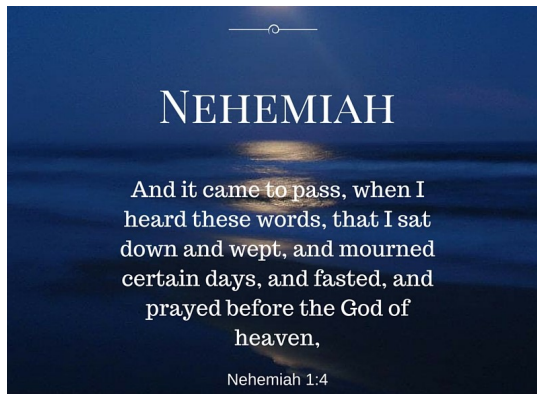
In Your Ultimate Victory, Dr. Neil Anderson shows you how to win the battle for your mind and stand strong in the faith. In this last of eight Victory Series studies, you will learn how Satan attempts to influence your mind and how he tries to lure people with false knowledge and power. You will explore the tactics he has used from the beginning and how you can overcome his temptations, accusations, and deceptions. You will discover how to identify false teachers and false prophets and how to resist demonic influence, possession, bondage, and control.





## The Friendship Food Pantry needs:

- Spaghetti sauce
- Spaghetti noodles
- Peanut butter
- Jelly
- Soap
- Toothpaste
- Dish soap
- Single serving:
- Cereal
- Apple Sauce
- Fruit cups
- Juice boxes
- Fruit snacks



## Nehemiah 4

... **4** Hear us, our God, for we are despised. Turn their insults back on their own heads. Give them over as plunder in a land of captivity. **5** Do not cover up their guilt or blot out their sins from your sight, for they have thrown insults in the face of the builders. ... **9** But we prayed to our God and posted a guard day and night to meet this threat... **14** After I looked things over, I stood up and said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, "Don't be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your families, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes." **15** When our enemies heard that we were aware of their plot and that God had frustrated it, we all returned to the wall, each to our own work. **20** Wherever you hear the sound of the trumpet, join us there. Our God will fight for us!"



### Your Kid Wants a Cell Phone for Christmas By Tracy Lane

I wanted to be shocked that my 5-year-old kid wants a cell phone. But it's the world we live in. Mandy at NextTalk says the digital world changes parenting.

So your kid wants a cell phone for Christmas?

Mine, too. But they're 5 and 7 so that's not happening.

At first, I wanted to be shocked my 5-year-old kid wants a cell phone. Then I realized it's the world we live in. And well ... she sees mine in my hand and in my face probably way too much.

It's normal to our kids.

Which is why Mandy Majors, founder of Next Talk, says we all have to "agree that the digital world has changed parenting, but [we] don't know what that really means."

Personally, I wonder, has it changed parenting because now we as parents have an excusable distraction? Or has it changed parenting because we as parents can now offer our children an excusable distraction?

[NextTalk](#) intends to support and educate parents on how the digital world is changing our job. Because, "We've lost the art of conversation in between the watching and behavior."

I have to agree.

A friend of mine wrestling with similar issues around tech and parenting, grabbed some time with Mandy to get her insight on what to do if your kid wants a cell phone. Here is what Mandy said.



### When your kid wants a cell phone, how do you know they're ready?

*First, you have to decide if you're ready to do the extra work as a parent. You have to perform random phone checks, and know the social media platforms your kids are on. I also have all of my kids' accounts saved on my phone and logged in so I can see any direct messages they receive. The second question to ask is if your child already tells you about inappropriate things he or she sees online or from friends. Are your kids comfortable coming to you to talk about what they've been exposed to?*



### Your Kid Wants a Cell Phone for Christmas (continued)

#### How much technology use is too much?

*Now everything is done by screens, so you have to decide what you consider to be screen time. I think of screen time as a kid being on social media in an open space but by herself. (Watching TV as a family is not considered screen time in our house.) If I see one of my kids' attitudes change after being online more than usual, I have a conversation with him or her about it. Your kids need to see how their feelings and attitude change when they've had too much screen time. The goal while kids are under my roof is to teach them how to have a healthy balance with screens. Sometimes, we do screen-free Sunday so we can all reset.*

#### What about bullying?

*We've always been aware of bullying at school, but now with phones, it never shuts down. Did you know, kids who are cyberbullied are twice as likely to commit suicide? (Suicide is the second leading cause of death for kids ages 12 to 24.) As parents, we think we're protecting them by not giving kids a phone, but if they don't have access to social media, they may worry even more about what's being said about them. Sometimes it becomes even worse in their head than what's actually happening online.*

#### What about stranger danger?

*Online strangers are just as sinister and real as the kidnappers we feared when our children were toddlers. Kids can literally be sitting next to us on the family sofa thinking they're chatting on their game with a 12-year-old boy, but it's really a sex-trafficking pimp trying to groom them.*

#### And everyone's legitimate fear: pornography

*It used to be quite the covert operation for a teen to get their hands on a magazine. Now with just the touch of a button on the device in their back pocket, they get to videos. Not just photos. It also used to be just woman-on-man porn, but there's a huge rise on homosexual porn and threesomes. At NextTalk, we're getting calls from parents of 6- to 8-year-olds whose kids have found it. Sometimes it's not at their house. It's at a neighbor's house or they have a kid telling them about it in great detail on the playground or even at church.*

#### How should parents navigate our high-tech world with their kids?

*My daughter was told about porn at the lunch table in fourth grade. As a Christian parent, I thought as long as I don't give her a phone, I won't have to worry about it. But here's the thing. You can delay the phone as much as you want, but **you cannot delay the conversations.** Kids can still be exposed when they don't have their own phones, so they need to know how to respond when these things pop up. You actually have more control if they have their own device, because you can teach them what to look at and what not to look at. **Thinking no phone means no exposure is really a false sense of security.** We can't put our heads in the sand. This is affecting all of us no matter how good of parents we are.*



### Your Kid Wants a Cell Phone for Christmas (continued)

**How can parents keep communication lines open with kids and encourage them to talk about what they see online?**

*You have to maintain your confidence. It's important for your kids to know they can trust you and that you're not going to immediately make a post about it or call their friends' parents right away. The other thing to be careful about? Preaching at them. A lot of times when our kids are simply asking questions, we launch into 20-minute rants about why that subject is wrong. Then they tune us out. The car is a great time for these conversations, too, because our kids aren't forced to look at us. Sometimes I'll say that my opinion doesn't matter, so they should look up verses on that subject to see what God says. We want our kids to see God's character in this and understand that He is actually protecting us by giving us boundaries.*

### **How do you respond when they do tell you they've been exposed to inappropriate things?**

*It is important to praise our kids when they share with us. I reward my kids and let them download a new app—obviously one I've approved. Kids are not going to want to tell us things if we panic in response and take away their technology. Instead, we should reward them.*

### **What do you ask your kids to report to you?**

*I ask my kids to show me when they come across anyone wearing a bathing suit or less. Also anything violent, threatening or bullying. Cuss words. Anyone asking them for personal information online. Also, I'd like to see any new word that they don't know.*

Okay, wow. I don't know about you, but I'm reminded that I am not giving in when my kid wants a cell phone for Christmas. Not yet. But that's easier for me to say with early elementary kids.

If you feel it's time to oblige when your kid wants a cell phone for Christmas, now Mandy and NexTalk have you set with some boundaries that will help it work.

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Tracy Lane is a writer for FamilyLife. She is the author of numerous articles, coauthor of *Passport2Identity*, and guest on multiple FamilyLife Today broadcasts. Tracy and her husband, Matt, live in the Philadelphia suburbs with their two daughters. Follow her special needs motherhood journey at [HeartForAnnie](#). Find her on instagram @HeartForAnnie.





# Reclaiming the **SMARTPHONE**

## 4 Important Conversations

Join the Axis team for this free 3-part video series where they will show you:

- What is the good & bad of smartphones
- How to build trust with smartphones

How your family can build healthy habits

### **Don't Tackle Smartphones Alone!**

**Walk away with answers to the 4 vital questions all parents are asking about their teens' smartphones:**



*"When should I get my kid a phone? If at all?"*



*"What do I do if they already have one and it's out of control?"*



*"Is there a way for me to not always be seen as defensive or 'the bad guy' when it comes to phones?"*



*"How can I think Biblically about our families' phones?"*

## We will help you start the 4 conversations every parent needs to have about Smartphones:



### Conversation #1:

How is are smartphones good, how are they cursed, and how can we as a family redeem them?



### Conversation #2

What are they for, and why are they important to our teen?



### Conversation #3

Having a smartphone is a *journey* not a *destination*.



### Conversation #4

Feeling confident your teen knows:  
*"You can tell me anything and I will be fair"*

These 4 conversations will help you take back control of the smartphones in your life...

In this free series we will help you start these conversations, build trust with your teen, healthy habits for their future, and build amazing life-long relationships

Click the link <https://axis.org/reclaiming-the-smartphone> to sign up for these 3 videos to be sent to your email address on the following dates.

Dates:

Video 1: November 17<sup>th</sup>

Video 2: November 18<sup>th</sup>

Video 3: November 19<sup>th</sup>

Blessings, Mary Ann

