

STONE SETTERS

A Six-Day Devotional Companion

June Sermon Series

LIFT CITY CHURCH

How to Use This Devotional

This six-day guide is designed to move you from Sunday's message into your Monday-through-Saturday reality. Each day expands on one of the themes from the Tone Setters message to push the conversation deeper into your personal and spiritual life.

Each day includes:

- A devotional reading (10–15 minutes)
- Reflection questions to help you internalize the truth
- A practical application step for the day
- A closing prayer

You don't have to be perfect to begin. You just have to be willing. God doesn't wait for polished people. He moves through decisive ones. So open your Bible, settle your heart, and let's build something that lasts.

"As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." — Joshua 24:15

DAY 1

YOU ALREADY HAVE THE AUTHORITY

KEY SCRIPTURE

Romans 8:14–16 NIV

READING

Before Joshua made his famous declaration, he already had something in his possession that most people never fully walk in: God-given authority. He wasn't asking for permission to lead his family. He wasn't hoping the surrounding culture would validate his decision. He spoke from a place of settled authority, the kind that only comes from an ongoing relationship with God.

The Apostle Paul reminds us in Romans 8 that those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons and daughters of God. They are not slaves cowering in fear, but heirs who carry the very Spirit of adoption. That Spirit causes you to cry out "Abba, Father". It is an intimate, familial claim on the God of the universe. You are not a stranger petitioning a distant king. You are a child standing in your Father's house.

This matters because authority that hasn't been internalized can't be exercised consistently. Many believers acknowledge their authority on Sunday and forget it by Tuesday. They know the language of Kingdom dominion but shrink back when the atmosphere of their home, their workplace, or their relationships begins to fill with something they were meant to displace.

Authority you don't believe you carry is authority you'll never use.

Joshua's declaration in Joshua 24 wasn't his first act of authority, it was the culmination of a life lived in obedience. He had walked with Moses. He had stood his ground when the other spies reported giants. He had led Israel into Canaan when the generation before him could not. His words to the people that day came from a place of proven, tested, Spirit-grounded confidence.

The question for you today is not "Do I have authority?" You do. The question is: "Have I made peace with the authority God has given me?"

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. When you think about the authority God has given you — over your home, your decisions, your spiritual atmosphere — do you feel settled in that truth or uncertain? What contributes to that feeling?
2. Romans 8:15 distinguishes between a "spirit of fear" and a "spirit of adoption." Where in your life are you operating from fear rather than from your identity as a child of God?
3. Think about an area of your life where you know something needs to shift but you've been waiting for someone else to do something about it. What would it look like to step into authority there?

✦ TODAY'S APPLICATION

Take five minutes today to write a declaration of authority over one specific area of your life — your home, your mind, your finances, or a relationship. Don't make it a wish or a prayer request. Write it as a statement of what you are choosing to stand for, grounded in who God says you are. Keep it somewhere you'll see it this week.

PRAYER

Lord, I receive the authority You've placed in me, not as arrogance, but as stewardship. I am not a slave to fear. I am Your child, covered by Your Spirit, and called to shape the environments around me. Help me to stop waiting for permission I've already been given. In Jesus' name, Amen.

DAY 2

SETTING THE TONE BEFORE THE ROOM DOES

KEY SCRIPTURE

1 Timothy 4:12 NIV

READING

Every room you walk into already has a tone. A family carries unspoken emotional patterns passed down for generations. A workplace carries the anxieties, ambitions, and assumptions of the people who built it. A community carries the loudest voice that was willing to show up consistently. The question isn't whether a tone exists, it's whether you'll be intentional about what yours contributes.

Paul writes to Timothy, a young leader who may have felt ill-equipped for the weight he carried: "Don't let anyone despise your youth, but set an example." Notice what Paul does not say. He does not tell Timothy to wait until he's older. He doesn't tell him to earn the room's respect before he speaks. He tells him to set the example — to be so rooted in the right things that his life becomes the standard by which others are measured.

You don't set the tone by having the loudest voice. You set it by having the most consistent life.

Joshua understood this principle implicitly. Notice how verse 15 begins: "As for me and my house..." He didn't start with a command to the people. He started with a personal declaration. He set his own tone first. Leadership that seeks to shape others without first shaping itself is manipulation, not influence.

Tone-setting is less about dramatic declarations and more about quiet, daily choices that accumulate into culture. What you allow in your home repeatedly becomes normal. What you model in your relationships consistently becomes expected. What you tolerate in your own heart eventually seeps into everything connected to you.

If you want a home filled with peace, you have to become a person who carries peace, even when the day was hard and the kids were loud and the bills didn't cooperate. If you want a ministry culture of excellence, you have to show up with excellence even when no one is looking. The tone you set privately is the culture you create publicly.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What is the current tone of your most important environment — your home, your team, your closest relationships? Is it one you intentionally set, or one that formed by default?
2. Think about someone whose life has set a tone you admired. What specific habits or choices do you think created that culture around them?
3. Paul tells Timothy to set an example in speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity (1 Tim. 4:12). Which of those five areas is your strongest? Which is your biggest opportunity for growth right now?

✦ TODAY'S APPLICATION

Choose one environment you're a part of — your household, your workplace, your small group, or even your social media presence — and identify one specific tone shift you want to make this week. What would it look like to walk in differently? Decide on one concrete behavior change that reflects the tone you want to carry, and practice it today.

PRAYER

Father, forgive me for the times I've let the room set my tone instead of the other way around. Teach me to carry Your peace, Your presence, and Your standard wherever I go. That I would not perform for others, but genuinely formed by You. Let my consistency become someone else's permission to believe it's possible. In Jesus' name, Amen.

DAY 3

CONVICTION VS. CONVENIENCE

KEY SCRIPTURE

Daniel 1:8 CSB

READING

One of the most overlooked tensions in the life of a believer is the gap between what we know is right and what is simply easier in the moment. Joshua named it directly: Choose covenant over compromise. Choose conviction over convenience. He knew that Israel was surrounded by a culture that made spiritual drift comfortable.

The Babylonian court made Daniel a similar offer. Eat the king's food. Fit into the system. Make your life easier. And Daniel "resolved not to defile himself." One translation says he "purposed in his heart." That word purpose is doing a lot of work. Daniel's conviction wasn't reactive, it was preemptive. He had decided who he was and what he stood for before the test arrived.

Conviction decided before the moment of temptation is exponentially stronger than conviction invented in the moment of temptation.

This is one of the most practical pieces of spiritual wisdom available to us. Most moral failures don't happen because someone woke up one day and decided to abandon everything they believed. They happen because someone never pre-decided where the line was and convenience wrote the answer in the moment.

Culturally, the pressure has never been more sophisticated. We live in an era that reframes compromise as growth, calls surrender "nuance," and labels conviction "rigidity." You need something more durable than a feeling to navigate that environment. You need a settled, Scripture-grounded, Spirit-confirmed set of values that function as your household's constitution.

Joshua called the people to choose. Not to drift. Not to hedge. Not to wait and see. He understood that a family without decided convictions is a family at the mercy of whatever the surrounding culture decides is acceptable this season.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What is an area of your life where you have been choosing convenience over conviction, perhaps gradually, in ways you've barely noticed?
2. Daniel "purposed in his heart" before the test came. Are there convictions you need to decide on today before a future moment of pressure forces the question?
3. How has the surrounding culture offered you an alternative to a biblical standard in a way that felt reasonable or even virtuous? How did you (or how could you) respond to that?

◆ TODAY'S APPLICATION

Write down three convictions — values that are non-negotiable for your home, your relationships, or your personal walk with God. Not aspirations or goals, but decided positions. Keep them specific and grounded in Scripture. Share at least one of them with someone who will hold you accountable to it.

PRAYER

God, give me the courage of Daniel — not arrogance, but settled conviction. Help me to pre-decide who I am before the culture asks me to be someone else. Let my values be rooted deep enough that they don't move when the pressure comes. And where I've already drifted, give me the grace to come back without shame. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

DAY 4

THE DANGER OF DOUBLE-MINDEDNESS

KEY SCRIPTURE

James 1:5–8 NIV

READING

James is not gentle with the double-minded person. "Such a person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord." That's a striking statement and it's worth sitting with before we rush past it. The double-minded person James describes isn't someone who doubts occasionally or wrestles with a hard question. This is someone who has built instability into their identity. They fluctuate not because the answer is unclear, but because they haven't yet decided who they want to be.

Joshua made a decision. He didn't issue a survey. He didn't wait for the elders to reach consensus before he committed. He made a decisive, public declaration of where he stood and then invited the people to respond. His decisiveness wasn't recklessness; it was the fruit of a life walked with God. He knew what God had done. He knew what God had promised. So he could speak with clarity.

Indecision is itself a decision — it just hands the outcome to someone or something else.

In households and ministries and organizations, double-mindedness is one of the most corrosive forces there is. Chronic indecision creates a culture of uncertainty that drains the people around you. Children who don't know what the standards are cannot meet them. Teams that don't know what the leader actually believes cannot align behind it.

The gift of decisiveness isn't that you'll always make the perfect call. You won't. But a decision made in faith and revised with wisdom is far more generative than a decision endlessly deferred. James frames it in terms of wisdom: ask God for wisdom, believe He will give it, and then act. The person who asks but doesn't act as if they've received anything has forfeited the wisdom they asked for.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Where in your life have you been double-minded — knowing what you believe but refusing to commit to it fully? What has that cost you or the people around you?
2. James connects double-mindedness to a lack of trust in God's willingness to give wisdom. Do you genuinely believe God will direct you if you step out? What makes it hard to act on that belief?
3. Think about a leader or parent in your life who was consistently decisive. How did their decisiveness affect the people around them? What can you learn from that?

✦ TODAY'S APPLICATION

Identify one decision you have been delaying — spiritual, relational, practical — that has been creating uncertainty in your life or your home. Today, make the decision. Write it down, tell someone, and take one concrete action that reflects your commitment. You don't need every answer to take the first step.

PRAYER

Lord, I repent of double-mindedness. I repent of the times I've let fear, comfort, or the opinions of others keep me from committing to what You've already made clear. Give me the wisdom I need, and give me the courage to act on it. Stabilize my house by stabilizing me first. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

DAY 5

CLEAR CULTURES PRODUCE HEALTHY PEOPLE

KEY SCRIPTURE

Habakkuk 2:2 NIV

READING

God told Habakkuk to write the vision plainly, so plainly that someone running past could read it. Clarity was not incidental to the vision; it was essential to it. A vision that cannot be communicated is a vision that cannot be carried. Joshua understood this too. He left no room for ambiguity. His family knew where he stood. Israel knew what the expectation was. The clarity of his declaration was an act of leadership, not merely an act of piety.

Think about the organizations and families that thrive over time. They tend to share a common characteristic: people within them know what matters. They know what excellence looks like here. They know what is celebrated and what is corrected. They know the values are real because they've seen them lived out and not just posted on a wall or recited at the start of a meeting.

Clarity is not control. Clarity is kindness. People thrive when they know what's expected of them.

Part of your stewardship as a tone-setter is making the implicit explicit. What do you assume people know about your values that you've never actually said out loud? What standards are you holding people to that you've never clearly articulated? If a new person entered your home, your team, or your life this week, what would they conclude about what you stand for based on what they observed?

Culture isn't what you intend. Culture is what you tolerate, what you celebrate, and what you model consistently. Clear cultures don't happen by accident. They are built, word by word and decision by decision, by people willing to say plainly: this is who we are.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What values do you hold strongly that you have never clearly communicated to the people in your household, team, or ministry? Why haven't you said them out loud?
2. Is there something you've been tolerating in your environment that contradicts what you say you believe? What would it take to address it?
3. How can you make the vision for your home or community more visible and accessible, not as rules posted on a wall, but as a living culture people can see and experience?

✦ TODAY'S APPLICATION

Have a "House Rules" conversation with someone in your closest circle — a spouse, a child, a roommate, a ministry partner. Share one or two values that are important to you and ask for their honest reflection: do they see those values lived out in your shared space? Listen without defending. What you learn in that conversation is data for building a clearer, healthier culture together.

PRAYER

Father, give me the courage to say clearly what I believe and the consistency to back it up with how I live. Let the culture of my home reflect Your character — not because I demand it of others, but because I'm genuinely becoming someone who carries it. Write the vision plainly in me before I try to share it with anyone else. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

DAY 6

SHAPE THE ENVIRONMENT, DON'T JUST OCCUPY IT

KEY SCRIPTURE

Genesis 1:28 NIV | Matthew 5:13–16 NIV

READING

The very first commission God gave humanity was not to observe the earth, but to fill it, govern it, and cultivate it. Dominion was built into the design from the beginning. God did not create human beings to passively inhabit a world He made. He created us to be active participants in bringing order, beauty, and His image into the environments we touch.

Jesus extends that commission into the New Covenant with striking imagery: You are salt. You are light. Salt doesn't hope the food will eventually taste better on its own, it makes contact. Light doesn't wait for permission to shine in a dark room, its very presence changes the conditions. Jesus wasn't describing something we do occasionally when we feel spiritually motivated. He was describing what we are.

You were not authorized to merely occupy space — you were authorized to shape environments and influence atmospheres.

This is the closing challenge of the Tone Setters message, and it is the most personal one. It's easy to agree that homes need culture, that leadership matters, that decisiveness is valuable. It's much harder to sit with this question: What tone is currently emanating from my life?

Not the tone you're aspiring to. Not the tone you used to carry before life got complicated. The actual, present, honest answer: if someone spent a week in your home, followed you through your workday, observed your private moments — what would they sense? What rules would they assume you live by?

You don't have to be perfect to set the tone. You have to be intentional. You have to be consistent. You have to be willing to stand up in your own house, the house of your heart, your home, your calling and say clearly: This is where I stand. This is who we are. As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. At the end of this six-day series, what is the one area of your life where you most clearly need to become more intentional about the tone you set? What has God been highlighting this week?
2. Jesus says salt that has "lost its taste" is no longer useful. What does saltiness look like in the specific environments you inhabit? What would make you less effective there?
3. What would it look like, practically, for your home — or your life — to look measurably different six months from now because of decisions you made this week?

✦ THIS WEEK'S APPLICATION

Write your own version of Joshua 24:15. Begin with "As for me and my house..." and finish the sentence with the specific, honest, Spirit-led declaration of what you are committing to in this season. Make it personal. Make it specific. Make it a prayer as much as a statement. Then find one person and read it to them. Ask them to check in with you in 30 days.

PRAYER

Lord, I don't want to merely occupy the spaces You've placed me in. I want to shape them. I want the atmosphere of my home to carry the weight of Your presence. I want the people around me to sense something different not because I'm striving, but because I've genuinely given You permission to build in me. As for me and my house we will serve You. In the name of Jesus, Amen.