

Spiritual Bootcamp & More Lesson 11 — CAUTION: Your PAST Breaking Generational Curses

*Watch Lesson 11 video(s) on *spiritualbootcampandmore.com*.

Congratulations for reaching the bottom of the wooden pallet. We could cover a variety of topics pertaining to your past, but this lesson we'll uncover the past as it relates to the people or generations in your past. This is the past that you had absolutely nothing to do with. The "PAST" might be listed on the bottom but it can rank at the top as it relates to the enemy gaining a foothold into your life even before you took your first breath. The enemy works hard to keep this topic controversial or hidden. The truth is in the Word. Understanding and applying what the Bible says can be a game-changer not just for you, but for your offspring for generations to come. The enemy will always fight against the principles which result in much freedom, power, and Kingdom advancement. Your heavenly Father knows exactly what you need to know at this stage in your journey. The Holy Spirit in you will guide you into "new truths to you" with exact precision in His way and timing. These truths about how generational iniquities or curses can be affecting you are what can be referred to as some of the "spiritual facts of life" which the enemy fights so hard to keep hidden. Before beginning this lesson's brief exploration into generational curses and generational blessings, please take a look at the photo and pray for wisdom, discernment, understanding, and His timing. Be open and expectant to hear His Voice through His Word and Spirit.



Theme verses (two sides of the "generational coin"):

Exodus 20:5 (NAS) "You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and fourth generations of those who hate me." (In other translations "visits the iniquities" = "punishes the sin.")

Deuteronomy 7:9 (NAS) "Know therefore that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God, who keeps His covenant and His lovingkindness to a thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments."

1) Read Deuteronomy 11:1, 22-28 (NIV) and fill in the blanks: "Love the LORD your God and keep his requirements, his decrees, his laws and his commands always...

If you carefully observe all these commands that I am giving you to follow— to love the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways and to hold fast to him— then the LORD will drive out nations before you, and you will dispossess nations larger and stronger than you. Every place you set your foot will be yours...No man will be able to stand against you... See, I am setting before you today a blessing and a curse — the blessing if you obey the commands of the LORD your God that I am giving you today; the curse if

you disobey the commands of the LORD your God and turn from the way that I command you today by following other gods, which you have not known.”

The above verses should look familiar to you as you saw them in Lesson 8— “CAUTION: SIN & IGNORANCE.” Deuteronomy 11 is that multiple choice test with the answer key! **Blessings flow from obedience; curses flow from disobedience.**¹ It is just that simple. Exodus 20:5 clearly shows that there are “generational curses” for disobedience as well. Jesus is the only answer and He has provided an escape plan by “becoming a curse” for us (Galatians 3:13). His escape plan is however, not automatic, thus many families remain plagued by cycles of destruction passed down generation to generation. Let’s recognize what generational curses really are, take a look at an example of two very different families, and then we’ll briefly explore our own family trees.

Definition of a “Generational Curse”: *an uncleansed iniquity which gets stronger with each generation, affecting family members and those in contact with them.* The Greek word for curse is *katara* (Strong’s Concordance 2671): *what has to go down; liable to the appointed penalty.*

There is no better example of the power of generational blessings vs. the power of generational curses than the well-studied and documented family trees of Jonathan Edwards and Max Jukes. Jonathan Edwards was a Puritan preacher from the 1700’s. He and his Christian wife, Sarah, left a remarkable Godly legacy through their eleven children. At night when Edwards was home, he would spend much time talking with his family and praying blessings over each child individually. An American educator and pastor, A. E. Winship, traced out Jonathan and Sarah’s descendants one hundred and fifty years after their deaths. Not to give all the credit to Jonathan, Winship states, “Much of the capacity and talent, intensity and the character of more than 1,400 of the Edwards family is due to Mrs. Edwards.” From that same time period came an ungodly man, known as Max Jukes. He married a godless woman and their legacy became known when the family trees of forty-two different men in the New York prison system were traced back to this couple. Take a look at these two very different families which vividly represent the “two sides of the generational coin” as you just read in our theme verses.

A Cursed Family= A Cursed Tree
(Max & Mrs. Jukes)

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7 murderers
60 thieves
190 prostitutes
130 other convicts
310 paupers
440 alcoholics
300 premature deaths

A Blessed Family= A Blessed Tree
(Jonathan & Sarah Edwards)

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1 US Vice-President
3 US Senators
3 governors
3 mayors
13 college presidents
30 judges
65 professors
80 public offices held
16 doctors & lawyers
100 clergyman

Let’s put a Bootcamp phrase on this: **“RIGHT hand=Blessed Tree; left hand=cursed Tree”**

¹ Jo Hancock, *His Vessel Ministries* ©

Time to get personal:

Your family tree probably has little resemblance to our vividly contrasting examples above, but more likely than not, the enemy has done some “stealing, killing, and destroying” in your family tree because of “uncleansed iniquities” from generations ago. This word iniquity means to bend or distort (the heart). There will be a bend or predisposition toward certain sins. This generational sin is a sin judgment which moves through families causing patterns of sin, disease, addictions, failures, etc. Picture in your mind a large tree. You can only see what is above the ground, but as you know, the health and strength of the tree is in the roots. The roots occupy way more territory than the above ground portion. This same principle applies in the spiritual. There are many Bible verses about trees, fruit, and roots. As the saying goes, “Show me the roots, and I’ll show you the fruit.” If there is a defect in the roots of a tree, the tree will not be completely whole or ever reach its full capacity. Diseased roots will cause diseased branches and diseased branches will cause diseased trees.

Praise God if you have come from a “Jonathan & Sarah” blessed tree on both sides. You should be well on your way to producing amazing fruit for Kingdom purposes. If you are like most, your family tree in comparison, is well, should we say, “somewhere between Edwards & Jukes.” Most of us have a little root work and pruning to do when God shows us some things from our past. Before starting with a little tree exercise, please fill in the blanks below.

The Bible is clear about God knowing and ordaining your WHEN, your WHERE, and your TO WHOM. We will never be able to wrap our finite minds around His infinite Sovereignty and His limitless love for us. This might be a great time to take a look at your thumb and remind yourself of exactly who you are.

1) Write Acts 17:26 “From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live.”

2) Write Jeremiah 1:5 “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.”

3) Before looking at the root system of your family tree, take a few minutes in prayer and reflection and make sure that there is absolutely no unforgiveness towards anyone, alive or dead. As you know by now, nothing can be quite as toxic or “curse producing” and “blessing blocking” as unforgiveness. ***Unforgiveness grants legal permission for demons to torment you.***

Write Matthew 18:32-35 “Then the master called the servant in, ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I cancelled all the debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn’t you have mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. “This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart.”

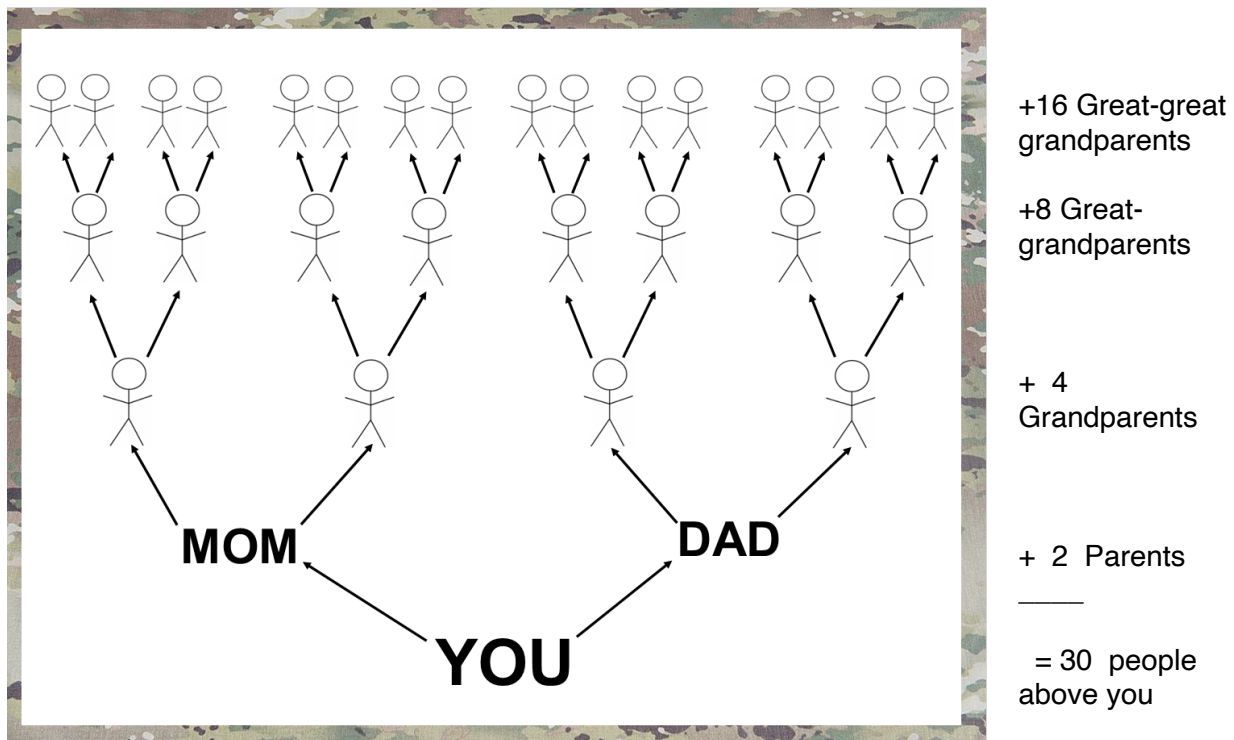
4) Share below any personal testimony concerning the toxic effects of unforgiveness in your family vs. the healing effects of forgiveness. _____

5) In your own words, ask God to guide you in uncovering any roots that may have led to cycles of sin or tendencies in the wrong direction for either you or your offspring. Thank Him for giving you Jesus who was “crushed for our iniquities” (Isaiah 53:5).

6) Unhealthy roots in your family tree (both your mother’s & father’s sides): Use the space below to write down any *patterns* of sin, disease, unhealthy habits, addictions, failures (marriage, financial, etc), premature deaths, chronic infertility, unusual tendencies, etc. from each side of your family tree. Include parents, grandparents, great-grandparents and their offspring. Look for “*repeating patterns*” such as divorce, alcoholism, mental illness, “chronic incurable diseases,” etc. Anything that “slowly sucks the life out of you” can be suspicious for a generational curse. Please remember that it is a “*repeating pattern*” you are looking for. This is also a wonderful time to remind you of “The Three ‘You’ll Never Understand Verses’ ” on p.46.

Involvement with the occult affects the family tree. Some of the ways doors are opened are obvious, but many entry points are very subtle. Generational curses can also be passed down in complete ignorance through the joining of certain “secret societies.” Many sincere believers take vows and oaths that are unscriptural, thus cracking the door. Most of us do not know the affiliations of the majority of our family tree. Just a few of the hundreds of “secret societies” include Freemasonry, Eastern Star, Mormonism, Druids, and even some secret collegiate societies. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you anything that has previously been hidden. You can be the one God uses to break off generational curses in your family tree.

This is four generations:



Isn't it interesting that there is so much interest in ancestry in the natural? Although that can be very intriguing, what's paramount is for each of us to invest some time doing some business in the spiritual realm as it relates to these thirty people accounting for four generations above you. Word of warning: Don't go looking back to dig up stuff. Let the Holy Spirit be your guide into the truths He wants to reveal to you in this season. If you have a green light to ask relatives questions, you might be surprised to find out about involvement in secret societies, Freemasons for example. Most are totally ignorant of the demonic door this opens. Again, you don't have to ask questions; you simply stand in the gap in faith and pray. Recognizing the truth about generational curses is just the starting point. Of course, there is certainly no formula for God's deliverance from generational curses, but there is an order. You have recognized the truth and you are ready to take responsibility. When you pray you will repent and renounce on behalf of your family. The "generational curse breaking prayer" on the following page is a great starting point in dealing with "repeating patterns of sin" in your family line. You pray in faith but only righteous living will keep you free. There are no shortcuts. Praying is powerful and very needed, but always remember that the greatest spiritual warfare for your family tree going forward is obedience to all of God's Word. Read this out loud: **Blessings flow from obedience; curses flow from disobedience.**² It is time to reverse any curses. Let us never lose sight of who has all of this in His Hands and remember again that our minds cannot comprehend His ways. "I am the living one. I died but look—I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and the grave!" (Revelation 1:18).

²Jo Hancock, *His Vessel Ministries* ©

Breaking Generational Curses Prayer (read out loud)

“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your Kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever (Matthew 6: 9-13).

Lord Jesus Christ, I know and I believe that You are who You say You are— the very Son of God, and the only Way to God. You died on the cross for me and all my sins, past, present, and future, and you rose again on the third day, and are seated at the right hand of the Father. I know who I am, Your child, fearfully and wonderfully made, and I know where I am, seated in the heavenly realms. I know what I have in You, and that is authority and power to overcome all the power of the enemy. You must increase; I must decrease. I know that I have been crucified with You Lord Jesus, and it is not me who lives, but You who lives in me. I know and I believe that the same power that raised You from the dead lives in me. I know and believe in the power of the blood of Jesus Christ. I know and I believe in the power of forgiveness. I know and believe that You have conferred on me a kingdom and that You have made me a priest to serve You.

I renounce all my sins and I turn to You Lord Jesus, for Your mercy and Your forgiveness, and I believe that You do forgive me. I want to live for You alone and I want to hear Your Voice and promptly obey. I want to obey the first commandment to love You with all my heart, all my soul, and all my strength. I know that blessings flow from obedience and that curses flow from disobedience. In order to receive Your blessings and be released from any curses over my life, I confess any known or unknown sins that I have committed, or that my ancestors or any related to me have committed (*add any personal details or names here as the Holy Spirit reveals them*).

Lord, I thank you and I believe that You have forgiven everything I have confessed, and I want to say that I have forgiven all persons who have ever hurt me or wronged me in any way. I forgive them now just as you have forgiven me. Specifically, I forgive and release... (*add any names here with any details as the Holy Spirit guides*).

Lord Jesus, I also renounce any contact by myself, or anyone related to me, with Satan or any occult power in any form, however innocent it may have seemed. I renounce the evil contact with any kind of secret societies. Forgive our family line for such abomination. I repent from joining in on anything that is not holy in Your eyes. I also repent of believing any evil vows spoken over me by family or others or myself. I also commit myself with Your help to remove anything from my home, business, or properties that honors Satan and dishonors You. With Your help, I will remove all unholy things as You show me. I will put no “vile” or worthless things before my eyes any longer.

By the authority of the name and blood of Jesus Christ, I now rebuke any and every demonic generational curse or evil influence over me and my family, and I declare that we are released from any trap of the enemy. I thank You Lord Jesus, that you have heard my prayer and every curse has been cancelled. Satan has no more claims against me or my family. I thank you Lord that from now on, as I walk in obedience, your blessings will come and overtake me. I ask now for a fresh infilling of Your Holy Spirit to do what only You can do. In the name of Jesus. Amen.”

Spend time now praying with your understanding and in the Spirit. Spend some time in personal worship. Allow Him to do whatever He wants. Listen closely. DO NOT RUSH. Use the space below to journal as He leads.

Time to wrap it up:

The “Generational Curses Breaking Prayer” is simply a sample prayer. The prayer was quite lengthy but the fact is it may have just scratched the surface of how the Father would have you pray. Principles of prayer are important. Forgiveness and repentance, renouncement and replacement are paramount, but there is no cookie-cutter prayer. The Holy Spirit will continue to guide you into all truth for you in this season as you continue to seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness. Together we have only scratched the surface of the depths the enemy goes to gain footholds into our lives and the lives of our children through uncleaned iniquities of past generations. There is always more to learn about God’s perfect redemption and freedom plan for each of us. Much of the time, if we do not understand something, we simply ignore it, or even worse we fight against it. **God wants you very aware of what we have covered.** To help you with this, included on the website at the end of Lesson 11 is a list of excellent teachings from very balanced and reputable pastors. Please be careful as you navigate any waters as it pertains to the demonic. There are lots of blood-thirsty sharks in those waters. Focus on Jesus, and drink from the streams where He leads. Remember, the Holy Spirit in you will guide you with absolute precision. Thanks for taking this journey into a subject that must be dealt with in every family. A Most High Five for allowing Him to teach you deeper truths and mainly, for continuing to “pray through” to your destiny. “From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful men lay hold of it” (Matthew 11:12).