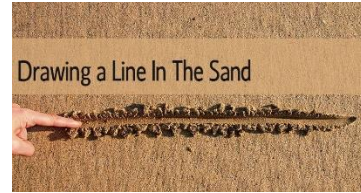


The Line in the Sand

What does the line in the sand mean?

- Metaphor for a point beyond which one will not go; a limit to what one will do or accept.
(can be either physical as in a dare or challenge for someone to cross or for a decision made and the consequences will not be changed.)
- Scripture is full of lines in the sand: Abraham, Moses, Joseph, Daniel, David, Esther, Ruth and all of Israel.



Points to Ponder: What are the lines we should not cross? What are some of the decisions (lines in the sand) which you will not cross? On what do we base them?

Pinchas – Phinehas ~Numbers 25:10-13

¹⁰ Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: ¹¹ “Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, has turned back My wrath from the children of Israel, because **he was zealous** with **My zeal** among them, so that I did not consume the children of Israel in **My zeal**. ¹² Therefore say, ‘Behold, I give to him My covenant of peace; ¹³ and it shall be to him and his descendants after him a covenant of an everlasting priesthood, because he was **zealous for his God**, and made atonement for the children of Israel.’”

What is Zeal?

- Great energy or enthusiasm in pursuit of a cause or an objective (Passion, Fervor, Ardor)

Points to Ponder: What do we give our energy and enthusiasm to? What do we pursue with passion and love?

Skits are here

What have we learned this year so far?

- We practiced studying and discussing God's Word
- We talked about our responsibility to God and Godly Counsel in Spreading and Serving
- We talked about Building a Place for Him (God) to Dwell by doing what He has asked us to do and staying away from things he has warned us about
- In Holiness in the Wilderness we talked about complaining and grumbling
- In Taming the Tongue we talked about blessing and cursing and how life and death are in the tongue.

Points to Ponder: Are we following through with what we learned? Is the Word of God changing us? How? Write how you have been doing with these teachings.

Haftarah: Elijah ~ Who will you serve? 1 Kings 18:20-40

- ²¹ And Elijah came to all the people, and said, "How long will you **falter between two opinions**? If the LORD *is* God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him." But the people answered him not a word.
- ³⁶ And it came to pass, at *the time of* the offering of the *evening* sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near and said, "LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that **You are God in Israel and I am Your servant**, and *that* **I have done all these things at Your word**. ³⁷ Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that You *are* the LORD God, and *that* You have turned their hearts back *to You* again." ³⁸ Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood and the stones and the dust, and it licked up the water that *was* in the trench. ³⁹ Now when all the people saw *it*, they fell on their faces; and they said, "**The LORD, He is God! The LORD, He is God!**"

Why would you serve God?

- Micah 6:8
He has shown you, O man, **what is good**; And what does the **LORD require** of you But to **do justly**, To **love mercy**, And to **walk humbly with your God**?
- As Jesus did
 - John 4:34 ~ Jesus said to them, “My **food is to do the will of Him** who sent Me, and to finish His work.
 - John 6:38 ~ For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, **but the will of Him** who sent Me.
 - John 14:23-24 ~ Jesus answered and said to him, “If anyone loves Me, he will **keep My word**; and My Father will love him, and **We will come to him and make Our home with him**.²⁴ He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father’s who sent Me.

Choices: We can choose right here in the Sanctuary to act on what Yahweh is saying.

- Worship should not be based on who is here, who is speaking, who is leading worship, or if we like the song.
- Take the main point of the Torah portion or one song and ask God to speak to you about it all week. How can you put this into practice in your life?
- Why else are we here? What do we come for?
- Make notes to self rather than fold them and forget them.
- We tell the kids to watch the adults in service. What are they seeing?
- James 3:17 Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead being by itself.
- We can so easily cross the line and find ourselves running the wrong race.



How would you serve God?

- Jesus’ Prayer -John 17:13-20 ~ But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves. ¹⁴I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁵I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. ¹⁶They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.¹⁷ Sanctify them **by Your truth. Your word is truth**. ¹⁸As You sent Me into the world, I also

have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth.

- James 3:2- 10 ~ For we all stumble in many things. **If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body.** ³ Indeed, we put bits in horses' mouths that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body. ⁴ Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires. ⁵ Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles! ⁶ And the tongue *is* a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell. ⁷ For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind. ⁸ But no man can tame the tongue. *It is* an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹ **With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God.** ¹⁰ Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, **these things ought not to be so.**
- “Christ Jesus does not impart peace to make us passive in life; He calms our inner tempests and conquers our terror of God to enable us to become active in the affairs of God’s Kingdom.” – Judson Cornwall
- The promise of help – John 14:15-18 ~ “If you love Me, keep My commandments. ¹⁶ And I will pray the Father, and **He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever**— ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. ¹⁸ I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

Point to Ponder: What can the Holy Spirit help you with while drawing the line for your worship of Him?

