



Week 1: Will Faith Continue to Run Deep?

Bible Passages	Judges 2:6-23; Deuteronomy 6:1-12; Philippians 2:12
Episode Clip	Week 1: FRD Sermon Clip Ep01
General Idea	Faith will only run deep into the future if we take the opportunity to tell the stories of the power of God at work.
Special Thanks for sermon notes prepared by Allan Demond	

Introduction: The future isn't all sunshine and roses. There is a general sense that we aren't heading towards a future we are going to enjoy or want for our children and their children. Often when creators tell stories of the future based on the trajectory of technology, family, faith, climate and health, they don't paint a very favourable picture.

[Share an example of a movie you've seen or book you've read that depicts the future as bleak and dystopic. What factors are contributing to this future? What insights do we gain about the present based on this picture of the future?]

Passage: Judges 2:6-23

Context:

Put this passage in Judges in the timeline of the story of Israel.

- God's people, Israel, after many years of wandering in the desert have finally landed in the Promised Land - the place promised to Abraham in Genesis 12:1
- They spent a generation wandering in the desert, relying on God for daily provision
- They received His covenant and been led by Moses toward the Promised Land but also continually led back to faithfulness to Yahweh
- They've fought battles and seen God bring miraculous victories
- Joshua was God's chosen leader to bring them into this land; the land flowing with milk and honey; the land God had set aside for them.

And now in Judges chapter 2 we read of the generational change in the people of Israel and how that has impacted the faith of the nation.

Judges 2:10: "another generation grew up, who knew neither the Lord nor what he had done for Israel"

Lost stories:

Now this future should not be a surprise to the people of Israel. They were already warned about this.

In Deuteronomy 6:1-12, they are explicitly shown the future. It's like the movie of the dystopic future that we are all warned about and yet we choose to remain on the same trajectory.



[Give context to and read Deuteronomy 6:1-12]

This is a warning that if they don't intentionally pass down the stories of faith, they will be lost. They are encouraged to impress these stories on their children, regularly talk about them, and create visual reminders, or else the next generation will forget.

And this is exactly what happens when we come to Judges 2. A new generation is living in the land of prosperity and ease – they are the recipients of the faith and the commitment of the generations before and yet they don't understand the cost and they haven't held onto the stories of God's rescue, provision and faithfulness.

Are we at risk of raising a new generation who have forgotten?

Ask: I want you to consider, if you were to remain on the trajectory you are on, what does the future look like for you? Is it dystopic like [connect to opening illustration]?

What about the faith of the future generations – either connected to you or connected to this church/community?

Faith Runs Deep is a series that has unearthed the stories of faith from Australia. This series is seeking to tell these stories so that this generation and those that follow don't forget the God of their fathers and mothers; so they don't forget how faith has influenced our country; and so they don't forget the importance of faith in the future we want for our children.

Show FRD Episode Clip (Week 1: FRD Sermon Clip Ep01)

[Reflect on this clip and how you see the changing faith landscape in Australia? What impact does that have on us and the importance of communicating faith cross-generationally?]

How do we pass on faith to the next generation?

1. Pray for them
2. Tell your testimony and the power of God at work:
 - Compare idea of giving a tour of faith vs testimony of faith. Share a story of being given a tour vs told a testimony. How much more impactful is a testimony over a tour?
 - If they can't "see" the power of God at work, why would they follow?
3. Involve them: allow them the chance to test drive
 - Share a story of learning to drive and the importance of giving things a go firsthand
 - How we learn: from "I do and you watch" to "you do and I watch"
 - Unpack Phil 2:12 – "work out your faith"