

Sermon Title: **For the Next Generation**

Bible: Joshua 14:6-12 & 2 Timothy 1:1-7

Where & When: Sunday Service at Gilroy UMC on July 28th, 2019

Audience: about 35 English-speaking Church Members

## **Opening Prayer**

Gracious God, thank you so much for giving us time. You gave us yesterday. You give us today. And you will give us tomorrow. You are always with us, and you always love us. Thanks to your love, we are here. With our love, we want to be with our next generation. Use us, and use me, according to your love and your will. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## **1. A History of the Phone**

Because I grew up in Korea, there are some cultural differences. But I believe that we have a similar history of the phone. There are a lot of cellular phones. Now, I have a smartphone. I can listen to music or watch Youtube. I can take photos and videos. I really appreciate this smartphone, because I can skype or facetime with my family who live in Korea. I can see their faces, while talking on the phone. I used to use the basic cellular phones. I can answer a phone call, anywhere and anytime. But I remember when I used the public pay phone with coins. Usually, I used the pay phone to leave voice messages on friends' pagers. I do not have any home phone now, but I remember when my family had a wireless home phone, and a wired home phone. Both of the home phones had buttons for dialing. When I was young, I used the rotary dial style phone. Have you used this phone? I would need patience to dial this phone. The phone has changed a lot, and is still changing. But the main purpose of the phone has not

changed. What is the main purpose of the phone? It is to talk, to connect with each other, even long distance.

## **2. What changes Vs. What does not change**

Many things change. But many things cannot change. This is the same for people. Let us look at Caleb. The first scripture that we read has Caleb's short testimony. Caleb was one of the leaders with Joshua, after Moses. He is now eighty-five years old, but he is as strong as he was at forty years old. He still has the same vision and the same passion. When he was forty years old, he had the vision of the mountain. And at eighty-five years old, what he said is the same: "Give me this mountain." In 166 years, our Gilroy United Methodist Church has changed a lot. There have been many pastors and many church members. Our church building has also changed. The location and the building itself were both changed after the fire in 1938. But nothing can stop God's grace and love. God's grace and love remain the same. Our love and our mission for Gilroy do not change. We love each other, and we care about Gilroy! I am getting older, thankfully. This means that I have more experiences of love and grace. Of course, I have experienced mistakes, failures, suffering, sadness, and anger. But God's love does not change. God's calling does not change. My passion for the church and my love for the Lord is the same as when I said Yes to the Lord, when I was a junior high student.

### **3. The Movie “The Intern”**

How did I become who I am now? I became who I am with the help of my grandparents, my Sunday School teachers, my parents, my mentors, and my wife. Thankfully, I have Gilroy United Methodist Church, all of you here, including those who could not come today as well. It is you who help me to be who I am and whom God intends me to be. Every Sunday, every meeting, every visitation, you help me to be a better pastor. I am so grateful to have you as my congregation.

We watched the movie, “The Intern” last Friday night. Who is the boss and who is the intern? In this movie, the intern is the friend of young people. He hangs out with young people. He has his own beautiful life. He is the friend of children. He always wears suits, but he is not bossy. He is the intern. But who makes the difference? Who influences others? The boss or the intern?

### **4. Prayer for Our Students**

Jesus has many disciples. Jesus is the boss. But what he did is like an intern. He loved them, and served them. Then the disciples became great bosses later, who served others. We can see Jesus’ love and the ethos of Jesus’s internship in the second scripture that we read, which is from the apostle Paul’s letter to Timothy. Even though Paul is the boss, and even though he can be bossy, Paul loved and served Timothy more. When Paul was writing the second letter to Timothy, he might be in prison. He might be abandoned by many of his friends, and facing his

coming death. Even though he was in difficult situation, amazingly, Paul wrote the letter to Timothy. Even though Timothy is not the son of Paul, Paul regarded Timothy as his beloved child. He remembered Timothy constantly in his prayers night and day.

Thankfully, we have some students in our congregation. So, I would like to have a time to bless our students, and a time to pray for them. I will show their names and their faces. (with Slides) Moreover, we have more than 300 children of God in our community, who are in need of backpacks. We will give them what they need; backpacks, school supplies, and most importantly, our love and our prayers. Oh! You applied to our Gilroy UMC's internship! Congratulations! You are accepted into our internship program. It will start right after this worship. In coffee time, we will be the interns to serve our young bosses. We will write down our prayers to our students on the cards, and we will fill up backpacks for our children. Let us enjoy our internship.

### **Closing Prayer**

Gracious God, we are so grateful to have connections to many of our students. We have many experiences. We still have love and passion. With all of these, we want to be interns, to serve our young bosses. We want to bless not only our students, but also your children of God in our community. Please listen to our prayers, and bless our backpacks. In Jesus' name. Amen!

### **Possible Qs.**

1. Are you a boss or are you an intern? How?
2. What can you do for the students?