

## 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Devotional 2



### Read Ezekiel 22:30-31

Jack was raised on the wrong side of the tracks. Broken families and broken lives were as common as the broken down shanties where they lay their heads. Early in life his dad chose a bottle full of stupor over his family and while his step-father stayed around, he was a slave to the bottled spirits as well.

Jack was introduced to alcohol at the age of two because some of the adults in his life thought it would be funny to watch a drunken toddler try to walk. He says he gave up alcohol and cigarettes at the age of six because he knew he could not do that while he was at school.

Life was a struggle for him in many ways and learning was on that list. His plight captured the heart of his sixth grade teacher who decided he would learn to read and do his multiplication tables if it killed them both. She grew so fond of him that she kept him in her class for an extra year to be sure she accomplished her goal. She did something else for him that had a greater impact than his two-year education; she introduced him to Jesus.

He still faced struggles and difficulties as he made his way through the rest of his years of schooling, but he held fast to the One who had hold of him and grew to become a fine young man.

As God brought a perfect bride and a family of his own into his life, he never lost sight of the One who had changed his life and given him a purpose for living.

Now in his eighties, Jack is the patriarch of a growing tribe that includes his lovely wife of nearly sixty years, five children, thirteen grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren who all know and experience the glorious benefits of being part of a family where God is honored and his commands are obeyed as a way of life.

God told Ezekiel, *"I looked for someone among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found no one."* God continues to look for those who will stand in the gap and say, "enough is enough, the bondage and destruction stops here. From this point forward I will say as Joshua said, *"for me and my house we will serve the Lord!"*

Each new generation is presented with that challenge. I'm glad that Jack made that decision years ago because, as his son, it changed my life and life of my children and grand-children as well.

### **Parents:**

Share with your student the people that have had an impact on your life spiritually.