

April 16, 2014

EXTREME FAITH

Family

““The people that God uses to shape you and mold you to become the best you can be.”

Name:

Take me home!



FAMILY

The Myth of the Perfect Family....

What comes to your mind when you think about your family? How often do you just think about your family and what it is made of? For most of us when we think about family we probably don't think that we have the perfect family. Yet in the back of our thoughts we might be searching for the perfect family. Them family that never ever fights, that always agrees with what you want to do. As we go through life we experience it with our family, we learn and grow in life with our family. But what is family? How does one define family? Well for some of us a family is a Dad, Mom, brothers or sisters and us. But not ever family is made up the same. So what is family? So for practical purposes we will define your family as the people who you live with day to day. The people who are connected with the common purpose to be a family. So what does family look like for you? Well, only you can answer that question. We all have family, and we all will be shaped by our family experiences.

Family life can be hard but it does not have to be hard. Chances are that family was not so hard a few years ago. When you think back to elementary school, family might have seemed easier, a more happier time. So what has changed? Why has family life maybe become more difficult? Well, to put it quite frankly you are changing. As you go through Middle School you are changing and things about you are changing the family.

So what about the perfect family, it might appear that it was the perfect family years ago, but now things have changed. The first thing we want you to understand is this. There is no perfect family. Family is made up of people, and people are not perfect. So you can't get a perfect family from imperfect people. That is just the way it is. If there is no perfect family then what are we to do. As you read this you might be thinking about that family that you know and you might be saying they are a perfect family. But that is not possible since it is made up by imperfect people. So why do they look perfect to you? They look perfect to you because they are not your family. They might do family different than you and they might do family in a way that you would want to do family but in no way are they perfect. The best thing for you to consider is how can you make a positive impact on the family that you have. How will you be the change in your family. As you grow and change, you will need to play a more active role in your family.

So ask yourself these two questions:

What role do you play in your family?

How do you influence your family?

Then after you start to process these questions get ready to talk, yes talk to your family. As we look at family we will be pushing to talk and communicate with your family. Scared, don't be we are going to help you in the journey!



Living Extreme means...

Family is something that you think about... It is something that you are apart of and you are determined to have an impact in a positive way. It's like this, you can be an influence for good or for bad. The choice is yours. How you see yourself in your family is completely up to you. How you relate to your family is up to you. Being extreme means that you seek to have the most positive influence that you can on your family. It means that you take all that you are and apply it to the family. Trust me I know from experience that family can be tuff to crack and to understand. But what if you attempted to first make the best impact that you can on your family and then worry about understanding the whole family puzzle. Too many times we want to understand everything first before we commit to being a positive impact. Your family is your family. You choose how you will impact them, Believe it or not it is your choice.

CHARACTER

EXTREME APPLICATION

How does your character live out in your family? What influence do you have on your family. Character the person we are when no one else is looking. How do you react to your family members? How do you communicate with them and explain what you are thinking. Our character can lead us to be a positive influence in our family, when we actually listen to our character instead of our feelings. Feelings change and come and go but our character remains the same and can lead us to be positive in all situations.

Think About it The tension of (Talking with your parents)

Okay so I am not going to tell you that living with family and growing up with family is always easy. Yes there are times that it can be downright hard. But why why is it that way? What is the deal with family dynamics? Well lets start with this simple thought. No one knows you like your family knows you. We have heard this before, that we are truly who we are when we are around the people who know us the most. But here is where the tension comes in, your in middle school and the culture tells you that your parents don't know you. The culture tells you that the only people who truly know you are the people you are doing life with, who would that be? Your friends because for some reason once you hit middle school you stop talking and sharing with your family, mostly your parents. What you don't believe me, well think of this who knows your most deepest secrets...Your family, your parents or your closets friend. There is a shift that happens as you grow up, you share more with others and less and less with your family. Why, well you believe the lie that your family doesn't understand you, and only your friends understand you.

This of course is a lie the real truth is that you are having a hard time understanding you so you pull away from your family and you find comfort with your friends who don't really understand who they are as well. So how can you change this process?

For starters, don't stop talking, let the people in your parents and family know what is going on in your life. When you were little you always asked your parents questions, and wanted to know what they think about things. Don't stop now. Keep the questions coming! You will find that the more you talk about things with your parents the more they will understand you and what you are going through and you will find that the more they understand you, the more you will understand you. Parents are on your side, and they want the best for you, but it is tough being a parent, so give them a break. Think about it when was the last time you asked your parents for some advice, or even asked them a question. Come on talk it up and be an influence in your family. No family is perfect and no family will ever be perfect but we must be a part of our family, and being part of our family involves talking and communicating with one another.

So what's going on in your life right now that you could talk to your parents about? I am sure there is something....If you just give it some thought.

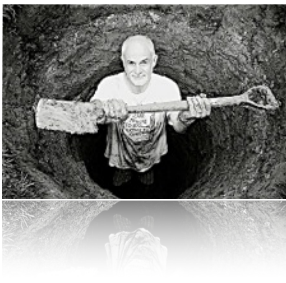
What is a Family Anyway?

You'd think that coming up with a definition of the family would be a no brainer, wouldn't ya? Believe it or not, there are lots of opinions out there on what, exactly, makes a family a family. The dictionary defines a family in a couple of ways. One definition in the dictionary is "a social unit living together." The dictionary also calls a family "a primary social group; parents and children." There's lots of talk these days from certain groups about the need to protect the 'traditional family' that, in their minds, would mean a mom and dad living together under the same roof with their children. There's certainly nothing wrong with that definition of a family in fact that's probably the clearest picture of what a family was originally supposed to be, but we all know that if the only definition of a family were "a mom and dad living under the same roof with their children," a whole lot of us would be left out! To be totally honest, it's probably impossible to define family in a way that fits everybody. Because families come in so many shapes and sizes, there really isn't a way to define what a typical family should look like. But since this book is written to help you survive middle school day-to-day, we're going to define family as the people you live with day-to-day. You may live with your mom and dad and a brother and sister...that's your family. You may live with your dad, stepmother, and stepsister...that's your family. You may live with your aunt and uncle or grandma and grandpa...that's your family. You may split your time between two households...those are your families. The bottom line is this: All of us live somewhere with someone. The people we live with and share life with day-to-day make up our families. In his wisdom, God has put you in the family you're in, and your family is going to help mold you and shape you into the person God wants you to become.



The above is an excerpt from My Family.

Great book you should check it out and give it a read. Especially if you like what you read above. We will be highlighting from this book each week as we talk about families. You can purchase this book at Barnes and Nobel.com



DIG IN

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

1. What do you think is there a perfect family?

2. Describe your family? (using adjectives and verbs only)

4. Tell us what is the happiest memory that you have had with your family?

4. Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 How could you apply this verse to your family life.

Discuss this in small group.

Challenge for the week:

Have a discussion with your parents: (Pick One)

Talk with them about the hardest thing in your life right now.

Talk with them about what you are learning in XGT.

Talk with them about what you dream of doing with your life.

Talk with them about the changes that you have faced in middle school.

Talk with them 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 and how you think it applies to your family.

TAKE SOME TIME AND JOURNAL.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.

Living life with Extreme faith and Extreme vision

EXTREME FAITH MAGAZINE

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