

RELATIONOLOGY #2 – The Family Relationship

Sermon by Todd Lester

May 22, 2016

FOUR TRAITS OF AMAZING FAMILIES

1. AMAZING FAMILIES ARE _____

Ecclesiastes 8:15, Ecclesiastes 11:8a, Ecclesiastes 9:9, Psalm 127:3



2. AMAZING FAMILIES _____

Luke 2:52, Proverbs 24:16, Deuteronomy 6:6-7

“Jesus grew in wisdom (_____) and in stature (_____) and in favour with God (_____) and all the people (_____)”



What we learn from our family:

1. how to handle your _____
2. how to handle _____
3. how to handle _____
4. what _____ matter most
5. good _____

3 basic temptations: lust of the eyes, lust of the flesh, the pride of life

(1 John 2:16) (hedonism) (materialism) (secularism)
s____ s_____ s_____

3. AMAZING FAMILIES _____

Matthew 5:45, Ecclesiastes 4:9-10



4. AMAZING FAMILIES _____

Hebrews 10:24, Acts 10:2, Joshua 24:15



Family Ties

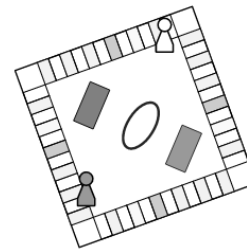
Think about the family you grew up in. In what ways was it amazing? How was it average? Mmm, did it ever get below average? Consider some of the memory joggers below to get you thinking about the different aspects of your family. Then share a few of the ideas with the group, especially focusing on times when your family was amazing.



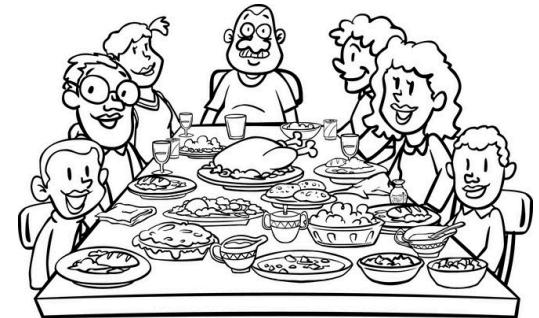
Special family vacation



Birthdays



Favourite board or card game



Great meal your mom (or dad) served

How mom and dad expressed their love for one another

Trials your family faced

Bedtime rituals

Special memory of your parents



Memorable holidays (eg. Christmas)

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FOUR TRAITS OF AMAZING FAMILIES

1. AMAZING FAMILIES ARE PLAYFUL

Ecclesiastes 8:15 So I recommend having fun, because there is nothing better for people in this world than to eat, drink, and enjoy life.

Ecclesiastes 11:8a When people live to be very old, let them rejoice in every day of life.

Ecclesiastes 9:9 Live happily with the woman you love through all the meaningless days of life that God has given you under the sun. The wife God gives you is your reward for all your earthly toil.

Psalms 127:3 Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from him.



2. AMAZING FAMILIES ENCOURAGE GROWTH

Luke 2:52 Jesus grew in wisdom and in stature and in favour with God and all the people.

Proverbs 24:16 The godly may trip seven times, but they will get up again.

Deuteronomy 6:6-7 And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today. Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up.



Jesus grew in wisdom (intellectually) and in stature (physically) and in favour with God (spiritually) and all the people (socially)

What we learn from our family:

1. how to handle your feelings
2. how to handle conflict
3. how to handle loss
4. what values matter most
5. good habits

3 basic temptations: lust of the eyes, lust of the flesh, the pride of life

(1 John 2:16)	(hedonism)	(materialism)	(secularism)
	<u>sex</u>	<u>salary</u>	<u>status</u>

3. AMAZING FAMILIES PROTECT ONE ANOTHER

Matthew 5:45 For (God) gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust alike.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble.



4. AMAZING FAMILIES SERVE GOD AND OTHERS

Hebrews 10:24 Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works.

Acts 10:2 He was a devout, God-fearing man, as was everyone in his household. He gave generously to the poor and prayed regularly to God.

Joshua 24:15 But if you refuse to serve the Lord, then choose today whom you will serve... But as for me and my family, we will serve the Lord.



RELATIONOLOGY #2: THE FAMILY RELATIONSHIP

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Icebreaker/Introduction

The 'Family Ties' activity is meant to get people thinking about the kind of family they grew up in, and especially ways in which it was (hopefully) amazing. Give some time for individuals to reflect on some of the ideas included on the page and then take turns sharing about your families.

Ask if there was anything from this week's message that stood out – either a point that was made which really resonated with them, or perhaps a question or difficulty that came up for them.

Todd mentioned that there are many forces in society today that work against our families. What would be some examples of this? (he mentioned economic, social, spiritual, moral, and cultural forces) What are some ways that you have found to fight back against some of these specific negative forces?

Discuss Todd's statement: 'it's never too late to make your family better.'

FOUR TRAITS OF AMAZING FAMILIES

1. AMAZING FAMILIES ARE PLAYFUL

Focuses on Ecclesiastes 8:15, Ecclesiastes 11:8a, Ecclesiastes 9:9, Psalm 127:3

Can you identify with Todd's statement that families can often be too busy, too serious, too tired, too negative, too worn-out?

Does it surprise you that the Bible (in Eccl. 8:15) recommends having fun? Is it hard for you to accept that God wants you, as Todd said, 'to enjoy life'?

What are some things that bring joy to your life?

Do you agree with Todd's statement that families should be fun? What are some ways that this can happen in a family?

Todd said that the greatest gift you can give your children is your time. Do you feel that you give enough time to them? How could you find more time? Do you play games together?

2. AMAZING FAMILIES ENCOURAGE GROWTH

Focuses on Luke 2:52, Proverbs 24:16, Deuteronomy 6:6-7

Jesus grew in wisdom (intellectually) and in stature (physically)

and in favour with God (spiritually) and all the people (socially)

Think about these 4 types of growth – is one more natural for you? How do you try to provide for your children in each of these areas?

Todd asked the following us the questions: Do you know anymore than you did a year ago? Are you closer to God than you were a year ago? Are you more loving than you were a year ago?

What we learn from our family:

1. how to handle your feelings Are you able to recognize, name, own up to, and express emotions? Who taught you?
2. how to handle conflict How have you learned how to deal with differences, problems, with what to do when angry/upset?
3. how to handle loss How do we teach children (or adults) the importance of not giving up (ie. resilience)?
4. what values matter most The world values beauty, success, money, sex. What values are most important to you?
5. good habits When have you found it to be a good time to have 'critical conversations' (ie. teachable moments)? [the passage in Deuteronomy suggests 1. On the road 2. At home 3. Before going to bed 4. When you arise]

3 basic temptations: lust of the eyes, lust of the flesh, the pride of life Think of some popular advertisements – how do they use these basic temptations to try to convince us we need their product?

(1 John 2:16) (hedonism) (materialism) (secularism)

sex salary status

3. AMAZING FAMILIES PROTECT ONE ANOTHER

Focuses on Matthew 5:45, Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

Todd pointed out that the passage in Matthew shows us that good and bad will be experienced by everyone no matter how they live.

Do you find this concept comforting, frustrating or neutral?

Recall the kinds of storms that Todd mentioned every family member may have to face. (emotional, financial, moral, physical, relational) Which of these resonates the most with you?

What strategies have you used to protect your children from the many media influences present in today's world?

Todd said that the storms children face will include rejection, change, and harmful ideas. What other things do children need protection from?

4. AMAZING FAMILIES SERVE GOD AND OTHERS

Focuses on Hebrews 10:24, Acts 10:2, Joshua 24:15

Why is it probably easy, or common, for many families to stay pretty focused on just pouring energy into their own family?

Read Acts 10:2. What 4 qualities did Cornelius model which are important for amazing families? (Todd said: dedication, service, generosity, prayer) Are there some ways that you have tried to model some of these important values (for example generosity)?

What legacy would you like to leave for your family?

Do you agree with the old adage that 'more is caught than taught'?

Discuss Todd's statement that amazing families are not perfect but they are intentional.