

This past week, my wife and I's friend, who we've known since college, had something very unique happen. Both of her parents passed away within two hours of each other... he first... she second. They met in 1947. They'd been married for 64 years. The week before, our friend posted on social media her father singing, "You are my sunshine", to her mother. They both loved God and are now with God.

I don't know about you. But, when I hear stories like that, I am reminded that our life is a gift from God. Our identity, who we are, is a gift from God. Our marriage is a gift from God. Our children and family are a gift from God. In fact, from hearing about my friend's experience and my own experience, I am a believer in this truth... The godly family is the most important building block to human society.

And, yet, when you look around, you will notice... the family is broken. Sin is very real. The Devil is prowling around like a roaring lion, seeking us to devour (1 Peter 5:8). Divorce is rampant. Finances are a mess. Parents worship their children. Abuse and bullying are in every space. Sub-

stance abuse, suicide are increasing. The family feels helpless and hopeless. And, only 13% say faith is important.

Today, I ask, “What if our church embraced the mission of God to transform the families in our community with faith in Jesus Christ?” In 1 Corinthians 13:13 (NIV), Paul says, “These three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.” Ask our friend, “How’d your parents do it?” She’d say, “Their work of faith, labor of love, and steadfastness of hope was in their Lord Jesus Christ.”

As many of you know, we are embarking on a 3-year vision campaign, Jan-Mar, 2018. We'll ask, “**What's NEXT!**” for New Song. We'll focus on faith, family, and transformation. We'll tell the NEXT generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord (Psalm 78:4). And, we'll pray for God to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine by seeking to raise \$300,000. Here's a glimpse! [Show video.](#)

Let's pray! Lord God, we look into our community and we see families from every nation, tribe, language, and peo-

ple. Starting today and into the future, help us go, make disciples, baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all that You have commanded us! Help us transform the families in our community with faith in Jesus Christ!

## Scripture Reading

“1If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. 2If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. 3If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. 4Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. 8Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. 9For we know in part and we prophesy in part, 10but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. 11When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. 12For now

we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. 13And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.” - 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 (NIV)

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

## **Message Series**

What's NEXT!

## **Message Topic**

Faith. Family. Transformation.

## **Message Points**

- The g\_\_\_\_\_ f\_\_\_\_\_ is the most important b\_\_\_\_\_ b\_\_\_\_\_ to human s\_\_\_\_\_. (Answers: godly, family, building, block, society)

- What if our church embraced the mission of God to t\_\_\_\_\_ the f\_\_\_\_\_ in our community with f\_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus Christ? (Answers: transform, families, faith)

NOTES:

### **Memory Verse**

“We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power, and the wonders he has done.” - Psalm 78:4b (NIV)

### **Small Group Questions**

- How would you define the word “family”? What has been your experience with “family”? How is “family” a gift from God to us?
- Read Ephesians 6:10-20, 1 Peter 5:6-11. What do these verses teach about the spiritual battles families face? How do we stand firm?

- Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-13, 1 Thessalonians 1:2-10. What do these verses teach about faith, hope, and love? Why are these important for family?
- Read Psalm 78:4. Why is it important for the church and family to “tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord”?
- How is your family doing in their faith? How can others be praying for your family? How can you be praying for others and their family?

## **YouVersion**

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