

The Global Generation is Now | Oregon Trail | Simple Generosity

Family30

Your best family in **30** days

Family Best

Pastor Rob & Becca Ketterling

Prioritizing Marriage in the Home

Ted Cunningham

Title Waves

A Conversation with Portia Allen



ONE CHURCH MULTIPLE LOCATIONS

APPLE VALLEY | EAGAN | EDINA AREA | FARIBAULT
MINNEAPOLIS | MINNETRISTA | SHAKOPEE | WOODBURY | SWAZILAND | VALENCIA



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Family30 is a River Valley Church sermon series in Fall of 2016, focusing on the concept of your best family. Family30 magazine is a tangible publication with tools to expand your family's interaction with the series.

Published and designed by the River Valley Communications Team.

Share your experience using **#Family30**

BOB GOFF

AUTHOR, SPEAKER & FOUNDER
OF RESTORE INTERNATIONAL

OCTOBER 15/16



Family Best

A letter from Pastor Rob and Becca Ketterling

I imagine a tightrope stretched across the two tallest buildings in the world. What would you be willing to walk across to the other side for? Becca and I asked that very question when we started River Valley Church over twenty years ago. What would we be willing to give it all for? Two things came to mind for us right away: lost people and the next generation.

I believe God has entrusted our church to invest fully in the next generation. Our kids, youth, and young adults are our future, so that's why we are willing to bet the farm on them and on the families that care for and guide them.

We cannot underestimate the value that lies within the family. In fact, family has been God's masterpiece from the beginning.

Think about it: every one of us has a family we were born into. Some of us have families we can't imagine life without. Others of us have families we can't imagine because they were distant or even nonexistent. We are part of biological families and spiritual families.

No matter your family situation, I can't shake how important it is for us to do family God's way, because the next generation is at stake.

Through family, we inspire generosity and a heart for God. As families, we can point people to the loving grace of God, because ultimately God invites every person to be part of the greatest, most loving, family—the family of God.

This is the vision for Family30. I believe God wants to enlarge our vision of family. I believe he wants us to change the world through our families. I believe He wants to use our families to invite others into His ever-growing family.

So over the next 30 days we are going to journey together to explore all that God has for our families. What if we did family God's way? What if your best family could be just 30 days away? What if it



**What if we did family God's way?
What if your best family could
be 30 days away? What if it could
be tomorrow?**

could be tomorrow? It might seem like a tall order, but I believe that God has something special in store for us as we explore his design for family, and I want you to join in with us and invite other families along!

We will have family challenges for the week, questions to discuss, recipes to enjoy together, and prayers to lift up to the God who makes healthy and thriving families possible.

Some of you might be thinking, is this series for me? I want you to know right now that this series is for everyone. If you're single or if you're married, if you are part of a blended, mended, or extended family, God has something for you during this series. Your best family is just 30 days away. Thanks for being on the journey with us. The best is yet to come!

Devotion to Jesus
comes through
devotion to the Bible.

MYDAILYSOAP.ORG

**SO
AP**

YOUR
NEXT
STEP

REGISTER AT THE WELCOME CENTER

A Family Manifesto

ather around family and grab some pens. Look at each other. What are you about? What do you represent as a family? Where do you come from? Whether you're looking at your

immediate family or your friends that feel like family, it's time to declare your best over one another. We have the chance, every day, to choose the best for our families and community.

Take some time to gather and dream together. Dream about making your hopes a reality, dream about what's next, dream about your best family. Write it down and tear it out. Put it somewhere that reminds you every day that God is fighting with you for your best family. May it inspire all who enter your home.

Letting everyone contribute truly makes this a family manifesto that everyone owns and believes in.

OUR FAMILY MANIFESTO

[illegible]



Conflict in the Family

Written by Pastor Justyn and Brieana Smith



This is a guarantee: if there is more than one person in your family, there will be conflict. But do not fear! When approached in a healthy manner, dealing with necessary conflict can draw us together and cultivate our ability to be a more empathetic friend, spouse, co-worker or sibling.

One of our daily challenges is to find the balance between caring for ourselves and caring for others, because selfishness and selflessness butt heads in small decisions and big.

Now, here is our response — we choose to walk towards conflict, and we do not hide from it in any relationship. Conflict, handled properly, reveals that we're human. It isn't natural to admit our weaknesses, especially to our children. When we are able to show that we're far from perfect, we give them permission to be imperfect as well.

This habit can bring unity in all relationships. We believe in leaning into conflict as a young family

because if you wait until adulthood to practice this, it becomes more difficult. So we start dealing with conflict as children, with books and TV shows and even the coveted last Oreo.

The most important principle for healthy conflict is to disagree without damaging one another. Make some rules for your family, for example:

- We treat each other with love and respect, even when we disagree.
- No name-calling or put-downs.
- We never harm each other physically or emotionally.
- We do not manipulate each other by using guilt or shame.
- We do not threaten one another.



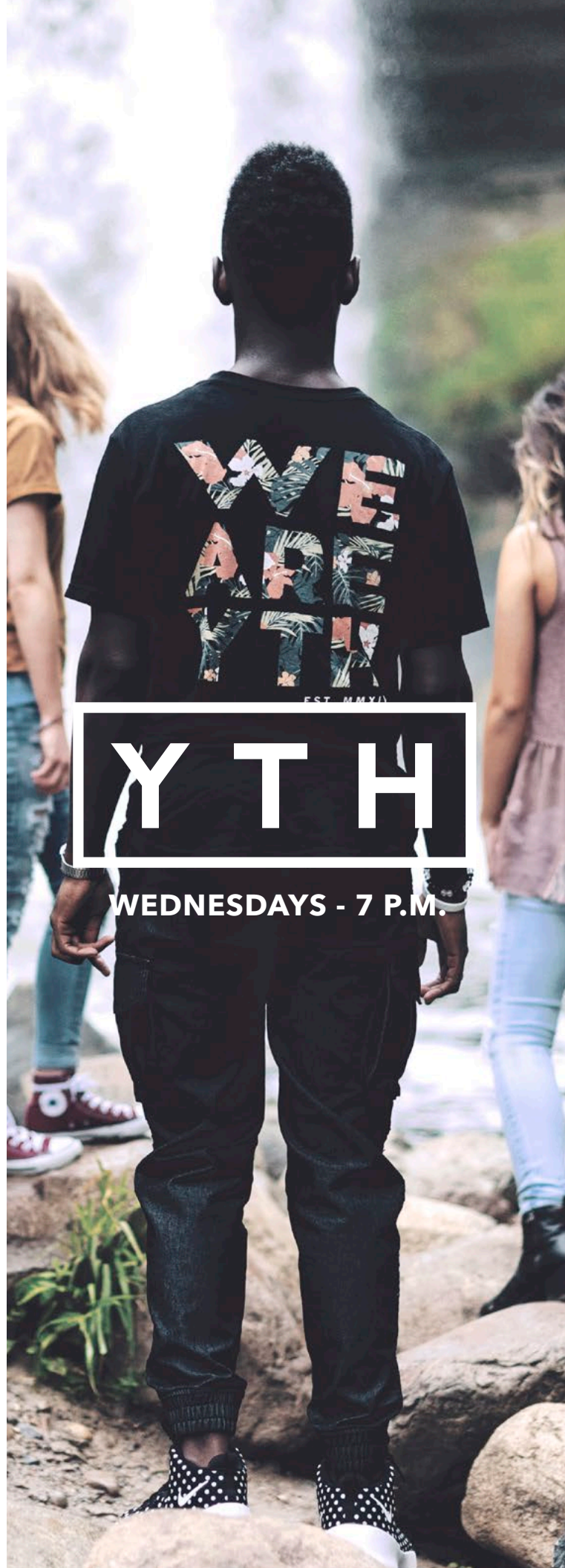
Learn to let go and allow yourself to hear from the Holy Spirit when dealing with difficult conflict. He will absolutely give you the answers you're looking for.

God is no stranger to conflict. There are many accounts of Jesus leaning into tense situations and bringing peace. Let's choose quiet strength that leans into conflict. Let's choose peaceful outcomes. Let's choose to look like Jesus.

TALK ABOUT IT

What conflict in your family could you resolve today?

Justyn Smith is the Family Ministries Pastor at River Valley Church. He lives in Apple Valley with his wife, Brieana and their six kids.



Y T H

WEDNESDAYS - 7 P.M.

Oregon Trail

Written by Sarah Kallies, Guest Contributor



Okay people. Grocery shopping with children has started to feel like playing The Oregon Trail. Remember that exercise in futility, also known as a computer game from the eighties? What happens when the grocery well runs dry? Decisions must be made. The rationalizing begins. “How badly do we really need to eat this week? We’ve got some kidney beans and a tin of pickled herring from ’94 we could get a couple meals out of.” Inevitably though, reality sets in.

So like a boss, a pioneer woman in the flesh, you begin to herd your tribe. The next few hours will determine the fate of your family. Will your wagon collapse in the river with all your supplies for winter? Will typhoid fever, cholera, or dysentery take you out on the way? It takes two hours just to find, dress, bribe, and load the fruit of your loins into the car.

At your destination you strap as many children as possible into whatever rolling contraption the store has made available. Your only goal is to retrieve as many goods as possible before time runs out. This is determined by two things: your LOST grocery list and the ability of strangers to ignore your toddler in aisle three, having a meltdown because you will not let him drink that bottle of soy sauce.

Sarah Kallies is a wife, mother, writer, singer, speaker, mental illness fighter, and most importantly, a lover of Jesus.



But this is life or death. So you soldier on. You will fill your wagon. You will tame your tribe. Because you are a mother. And this is not The Oregon Trail. This is real life. Let all the people stare. Unlike the game, you are making it home. Dinner is served at six.

Tips for the Modern Tribeswoman

- Take a picture of your grocery list with your phone before you leave the house.
- Have a small pre-packed bag of tolerable toys and favorite snacks to occupy the wild ones on your trek.
- Depending on age, make small lists of items for the older kids to retrieve on their own.
- Explain that each child will get a reward for good behavior (i.e. pick an item from the \$1 section or 10 extra minutes of screen time).
- Invite a close friend or family member along. You get help and some face time with a loved one.



ALL NEW - BEGINS SEPTEMBER

Partnering with parents by
providing resources and encouragement
for their children at every phase.

Go Kids University was created to team up with parents
to provide world-class teaching so that a child's number one
influencers (their parents) are equipped to guide their
kids through their spiritual journey.

WK 1 PARENTING*

These monthly classes are designed
to help you become a better parent.

WK 4 GO NIGHTS

An action-packed night for your kids
that they will not want to miss.

WK 2 MILESTONES*

Baby Dedication, Commitments to
Christ and Water Baptism classes.

WK 5 LOCAL PROJECT

During the fifth week, you can serve
your community as a family.

WK 3 AT HOME

An activity for parents and kids to do
together at home or on the go.

***REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED**

For campus-specific class times and to
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gokids.rivervalley.org



Photo courtesy of BethCath

Life has, to so many of us, offered inexhaustible varieties of change. Within those transitioning seasons, joyful or difficult, what is our response? God is indeed walking alongside us through it all. He even goes before us to set the foundation. That fact does not diminish though, that change can be strenuous. Here, Portia Allen talks openly about the many changes she's walked through as a woman just hoping to follow God's plan.

WHEN I TURNED 27, A LOT OF PEOPLE STARTED ASKING ME WHY I WAS NOT MARRIED.

You've had a lot of change in the last 6 years; family, career, moving, marriage, children. Those have all transitioned in your life, but let's back up. What did your twenties look like for you?

Going into college, my plan was to be married by 24 and start my family because that's what everyone did. Right after graduation I was single and started my career as a teacher. As 24 came and went, I felt fine. I didn't need to be married right at 24. And then 25 came. Then 26, 27, and I started to wonder.

During this time, something that stuck out to me so clearly as a single woman wanting to be married was something that a mentor said to me, "Portia, don't wish away your single years." I took that advice and filled my time. I had a successful career and travelled a lot and was very independent.

When I turned 27 a lot of people started asking me why I wasn't married. Though this was definitely a challenge, I did feel like I was a treasure being hid away for a specific person and purpose. It wasn't until 4 years later, when I was 31, that I got married.

Was it difficult learning to share your life with someone else after being so independent?

Though I had spent more than a decade as a single adult, I was really excited to transition into a wife, especially to be Mrs. Clinton Allen.

But one thing I will say; I wanted so badly in those first few months of marriage to be the perfect wife that I developed some bad habits. I wasn't being true to myself, which meant that my husband was missing out on big parts of who I am. That phase didn't last long.

You two being so different, how has your husband changed you for the better?

I would be so different without the title of a wife and especially Clinton's wife. I'm more of the naturally type A, straight laced type. Then, Clinton enters the picture and teaches me how to have fun and truly how to enjoy the moment. That is unbelievably important.

So we've been married for 7 years now and it hasn't really been until these last 2 years that I've learned to embrace that. It's special because now my kids get to see the playful side of me. Clinton and I have balanced each other out in our marriage. I'm learning to let go and embrace the moment and he's coming into a more responsible role as a father.

Was adding the title of "mom" natural for you since your career had been with kids for so long in the past?

When we decided to start having children we expected it to take longer. It didn't. We got pregnant with Cayden within our first year of marriage and then had Malachi about a year and a half later. Though I've always loved kids and was really excited to become a mom, I was terrified that I was going to do something wrong.

When you first became a mother, what was the most helpful thing to you during that time of transition?

When you first have a baby, your emotions are out of whack. The baby blues and postpartum depression are VERY real. It helped so much to have honest conversations with my husband and other people around me.

I remember sitting on the couch when Caden was 6 weeks old and I was just feeling "blah." I was always so worried about him and I wasn't sleeping. On

the couch that day I really felt the Lord say, "That's enough, Portia." Kind of like a father to a child. Right then and there I started declaring life over myself and giving all of my anxiety to Him. It's so important to just choose to get over yourself.

In no way am I diminishing the realness of depression, but what I needed was to know that God had my child and God has me. My anxiety wasn't helping the situation at all.

What I needed was to know that God had my child and God has me. My anxiety wasn't helping the situation at all.

You had three years of healthy boys, what came next?

Well, I think I started to take the fact that we had gotten pregnant so easily for granted. I just thought that if we ever wanted to have another one, we would.

So last year when I took a pregnancy test and saw that it was positive, I was over the moon excited. Clinton was going out of the country on a Global Team the next day, so I didn't know if I should tell him! But of course, I told him. I dropped a bomb on him the day before he leaves the country. He got home from work that day and walked in the door and I said, "Well, I'm pregnant!" To say that he was in shock is an understatement.

Slowly but surely, he gets excited about the baby. A week and a half later, Clinton returns and life starts to get back to a normal routine. Shortly after Clinton returned, we had a staff dinner with people at the church. At the dinner I started having some serious signs of something having gone wrong with the baby, to keep details at a minimum.

I walked out of the bathroom and told Clinton that we need to go to the ER right then. The final diagnosis that night was that I had had a threatened miscarriage, which means that we were in limbo for about five days before we found out that I had indeed lost the baby.

Before we found out, I kept praying, “God you created the universe. You can save this child.” I had a lot of people praying, and I told them that if God says yes to saving this life then praise the Lord and if he says no, I know it’ll be okay. Five days later He said no.

There were moments where I was completely gripped by fear. I wondered if the baby would make it, or if there would be something wrong with the birth.

How did you feel about God saying no?

I was thankful that people knew that we were walking through this. We didn’t walk through it alone. When I had to start telling other people after the fact, one of the executive pastors of the church came up to me and said, “We love you guys and praying for you. I think you need a big brother hug.” He then enveloped me in a huge bear hug.

It is awful to walk through a miscarriage but this huge community that we had made those first few weeks bearable. It made the six month mark bearable. It made the due date bearable. I grieved each of those marks, and the last time that I just really grieved the loss of my baby was when we went to the empty chair service at church.

In that service I heard the Lord say, “You know I have you. And I have your child. And it’s going to be okay.” So I just chose to be thankful for what I did have: Two healthy boys and a strong husband.

I had quietly been hoping to get pregnant again during that grieving process, but I didn’t. It all forced me to learn to totally trust God. So I told The Lord, “Okay. If this is what you have for our family, I’m thankful for our two boys.” And then one month later I was pregnant.

Were you nervous at all about this pregnancy?

There were moments where I was completely gripped by fear. I wondered if the baby would make it, or if there would be something wrong with the birth.

Then I thought, “So what if something does go wrong?” I knew that we would walk through it. I knew that God would provide and be right next to us. But here I am, due in a few weeks and the baby is completely healthy and whole.

You’ve been through so many seasons of transitions in less than 6 years. How do you go through these transitions well and faithfully?

Honestly, every single day I need to rely on what God says. He is our protector and provider and equips us for everything we’re ever going to face. He has brought me to the end of myself so that I need to rely on him, and that’s the best place to be.

What I’ve learned through each big change is that there is new grace for every season. When I was single, I couldn’t imagine being a wife because I wasn’t one. Then I became a wife and was given the grace to do it well. Same with motherhood and being a grieving mother. There was new grace to go through it well, provided completely from God.

TALK ABOUT IT

Talk about a difficult time of transition for your family. What good came from it?



Portia Allen is the Local Service Project Director at River Valley Church. She lives in Minneapolis with her husband, Clinton and their soon to be three kids.

Does My Kid Need a Phone?

Written by Pastor Justyn Smith

The million dollar parenting question is, “When should I buy my kid a phone?” First of all, let me acknowledge that there is no ‘right’ age for a child to have a phone. The answer differs for every family and for the individual children in your family. There are great benefits to your kids having a phone. Just being able to reach them when you aren’t together is a huge benefit. It can give both parent and child a sense of security, and allows space for the child to practice more freedom.

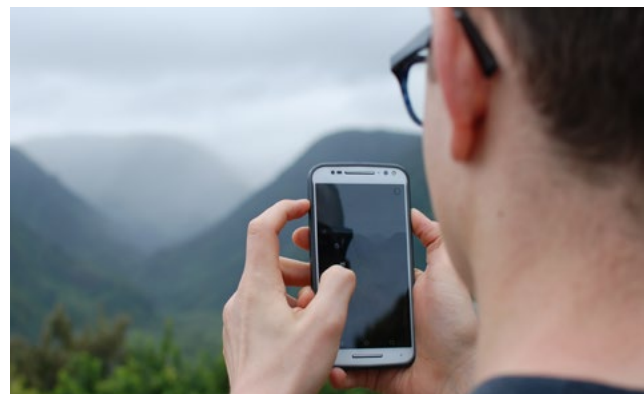
But at what point do those benefits outweigh the potential danger?

We can all agree that a major point of debate involving phones is the child’s access to the Internet. You may trust your children, but neither you nor they can always control what is sent to them and what they see. There are ways to limit your child’s Internet access but you will need to be prepared to take on the responsibility of monitoring their usage. Are you prepared for that? Are your children?

If you are prepared to hand your child a device that gives them access to the expansive Internet, you need to be ready to have some deep conversations with them about pornography, the effect of screen time on their developing brains, self control and gaming addiction. If you’re prepared to give them access to social media you must also be prepared to talk to them about self-esteem and how damaging social media can be. You’ll need to be ready to discuss bullying, self-harm and even suicide.

On the other hand, you can also discuss the potential benefits of social media and Internet usage - developing community, forming new friendships, learning new facts and exploring the world in a new way.

From one parent to another, please do not purchase a phone for your child simply because their friends have a phone. Prayerfully consider the pros and cons, and make sure that they’re ready. Make sure you’re ready! As the parent, you’ll know when the time is right.



Justyn Smith is the Family Ministries Pastor at River Valley Church. He lives in Apple Valley with his wife, Breianna and their six kids.

Family30 Daily Soap

We believe reading the Bible is a life-long journey in developing your relationship with Jesus Christ! Reading the Bible with your children instills this value in them from a young age and it refreshes God's Word in your mind. **SOAP** is an acronym for River Valley's daily Bible reading process – Scripture (read the passage), Observation (think about what God is telling you in this passage), Application (personalize what you have read and how it applies to your life), Prayer (ask God to help you apply what you've read). As a part of Family30, commit to read the daily passages together. You can follow along using our app, visiting mydailysoap.com or asking for a monthly SOAP card from your campus' Welcome Center.

By reading your Bible,
you get to know Jesus
on a deeper level.

Family30 Bingo

16	8	21	4	14
1	24	13	22	6
18	5	FREE	10	17
11	20	9	2	23
3	15	7	19	12

1. Participate in a Takeout Hangout
2. Visit Go Kids University
3. Attend a weekend service
4. Rake leaves
5. Scavenger Hunt
6. Create a Family Manifesto
7. SOAP 5 days in a row
8. Neighborhood prayer walk
9. Family game night
10. Device-free dinner
11. Make dinner together
12. Go apple picking
13. Have a campfire
14. Go for a nature walk
15. Go on a bike ride
16. Draw pictures of each other
17. Bake cookies/take to a neighbor
18. SOAP 30 days in a row
19. Help a neighbor with a chore
20. Read books together at the library
21. Look at family pictures/tell stories
22. Mail a letter to a favorite relative
23. Take a family picture
24. Plan a family getaway

Scavenger Hunt

Scavenger hunts are a great activity for family members of all ages (yes, even adults) that are easily customizable to fit each family. We have a fall-related scavenger hunt, but feel free to develop your own ideas!

To create your own scavenger hunt, think about the activities your family likes to do, wants to do or places you want to go. Consider locations like zoos, parks, malls and cities; activities like hiking, driving, apple picking; and themes like things that are a certain color or shape, and things that start from A-Z. Will the first person to complete their list receive a prize? You choose the prize! Most of all, have an adventure together!

Flower
Smooth stone
Yellow leaf
Orange leaf
Red leaf
Acorn
Mushroom
Twig
Pinecone
Animal tracks
Something fuzzy
Something red
Feather
Ladybug

Pastor Rob's Favorite Childhood Recipe:

Tortellini Soup – from the kitchen of Isabel Ketterling

Brown the sausages and drain the grease. Add remaining ingredients (except for tortellini) and simmer 2-3 hours. Before serving, cook the tortellini according to package directions. Drain and add to soup. Great for freezing (without the tortellini)

1 lb each Hot and Mild Bulk Italian Sausage
10 C Beef Broth
2, 14.5 oz cans Diced Tomatoes
1, 15 oz can Tomato Sauce
3 C Sliced Zucchini
2 C Sliced Carrots
2 Onions, Chopped
2 Green Peppers, Chopped
1 C Water
1 C Apple Cider
4 Cloves Garlic, minced
6 tbsp Chopped Fresh Parsley
1 tsp each Dried Oregano & Dried Basil
16 oz Cheese Tortellini

ALPHA

Alpha is a 10-week Lifegroup that covers the basics of Christianity. It answers questions like: Who is Jesus? Does God heal today? Each week, we gather for about two hours. We share a meal around a table, listen to a talk on how Christianity approaches the question at hand, and then have discussion as a table based on the talk. If you are looking to connect or explore your faith, this is the group for you! Alpha meets at the campus and dinner and childcare are provided.

REGISTER AT THE WELCOME CENTER

Marriage ♥ Ministry

Did You Know? We have had over 450 couples take their marriage to the next level through our marriage mentoring program. For more info email marriage@rivervalley.org



Lifegroups

lifegroups.rivervalley.org



Lifeteams

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Sisterhood

An inspiring and engaging group environment for women of all ages.
lifegroups.rivervalley.org



RIVER VALLEY MEN

Join men of all ages to listen and respond to the Word of God.
lifegroups.rivervalley.org

Live

ALBUM RECORDING

JANUARY 2017

the light tearing through the darkness
Hear the roar of the rumoured cross
Jesus Christ You alone saved us
We worship You

See the light tearing through
Hear the roar of the rumoured cross



EDGE OF HEAVEN

AVAILABLE ON ITUNES & GOOGLE PLAY



The Global Generation Is Now

Written by Pastor Terry Parkman



Take a walk through your local mall and watch as teenagers pass you by. What do you see? Most likely you'll see them looking at their phones as they text/tweet/post/snap/comment on one of over a hundred social media platforms available today. Roughly one-third of the world's population, that's around 2.307 billion people, are connected via social media right at this moment.

What's more is that number is projected to grow by 10-14% every year for the next 10 years. You see, when your teenager looks at their phone and they access everything from the Internet to social media, they are being influenced by a voice that's louder than their peers at school, their bosses at work, and yes, even their

parents at home. That voice is the voice of the world's first "global generation."

No longer are teenagers only being influenced by who they sit next to in class, or flip burgers with at their place of employment. They are being influenced by the exact same videos, blogs, and trends as other teenagers are in Europe, Asia, South America, and Africa. They all laugh at the same things, take social cues from the same people, and dress like the latest sensation on platforms like Instagram and Snapchat. People all over the world are becoming part of one tribe and one culture based on what they can access through the window of their smart phones. Young people are not only finding community with their peers in school, but with their peers that live halfway around the world. Think about it, the last time

everyone in the world acted like one another was at the Tower of Babel...and we know how that ended.

Now before we light our torches, grab our pitchforks and storm the gates of Facebook, let's take a moment and look at what this means for us. This article is not about how "evil" the Internet is, it's about who is instilling values into the hearts of teens today. It's about your family. What this generation sees coming, the next generation (which begins with those who are currently in 6-8 grade) will fully take hold of and realize.

Our role, as parents and mentors, is not to battle what the next generation will experience, but to recognize that the walls and boundaries that kept us from the rest of the world are crumbling through avenues such as the Internet and social media and our kids will have an unprecedented opportunity to reach the world and proclaim the name of Christ.

One Instagram post from a teen in America with a caption that shares what Jesus did for that person can be seen and "liked" by another teen in a religiously oppressed country. Our role then is to instill three things that will be crucial to seeing your teen stand strong for Christ as they are a part of the emerging global generation.

1. Communicate value. It's important to understand that teens aren't accessing value on their smartphones. They are accessing information, and then forming their personal values from that information. The reason many teens find their values online is because value is largely absent from the home. Unless value is communicated by the parent it is never embodied by the teen. Communicating value is communicating the "why" behind what you believe as a family. If you do that, no social media platform will ever be able to speak louder than your voice.

2. Invest time. While it's impossible to dominate your teenagers' time, it is possible to capitalize on the time you do have with them. Please know that whatever your teen spends the most time with, smartphones included, will also have their greatest loyalty. Their values are not only formed by what you communicate, but also by the time you spend with them.

3. Encourage engagement. With a greater global community at the fingertips of nearly every teen, you can guarantee that engaging content is being created everyday to grab at their attention.

While many suggest it wise to completely discourage engagement with the content that's out there, know that not all content is bad. In fact, the majority of it is positive. What makes it negative is how an individual approaches it. Content like social media can either be a great shrine to our ego or it can be the greatest ministry tool the world has ever seen, but it can never be both. By encouraging positive engagement, you can ensure that your teen uses it as the latter.

While all this may be a little scary and may even make you want to build a bunker in your backyard and keep your family in it until Jesus comes back, rest assured in the fact that God knows what's happening and that He saw it fit for your family to be brought into this world for such a time as this. With this in mind, be confident that both you and your teen have what it takes to define what it means to be a Believer in a global generation.

TALK ABOUT IT

What positive value do we instill our family?



Terry Parkman is the Next Gen Pastor at River Valley Church. He lives in Burnsville with his wife, Christina and their daughter, Avalie.



Simple Generosity

Written by Pastor Chris Book

From as early as I can remember, I was taught that there was the Biblical way of doing things and then there was the wrong way of doing things. That idea extended into every area of our lives, including our finances. I began receiving an allowance in first grade. I remember it like it was yesterday. Fifty cents. Even then you couldn't buy a lot with fifty cents. What made it tougher was that the fifty cents, was not mine to spend. I got to spend 45 cents, because the first 10%, a whole nickel, went to God.

Now, what I didn't understand at the time was that my parents were doing more than teaching me a Biblical approach to money management. They were cultivating a posture of generosity towards other people and God. You see, I also grew up in a generous family. I have vivid memories of conversations that my sisters and I had with my parents that all re-enforced the same theme, we've been blessed as a family so that we can be a

blessing to others. The worst thing we could do is keep all of our resources to ourselves.

That was just how things were in my house. Generosity was a habit from a young age. Honestly, I don't know if I have that generous of a heart, but being generous is a priority because I've never known it not to be a priority.

Thankfully, I've come a long way since that fifty cent income. I've been married for twelve years now and have three kids; ten year old Dalaney, eight year old Greta and five year old Brody. Needless to say, Brody is well taken care of, and bossed around.

Similarly to how we grew up Lindsey and I have always given our kids allowances. Our perspective changed a bit when Dalaney turned ten and we read the book "Smart Money Smart Kids" by Dave Ramsey together. In his book, Dave introduces the idea of giving our kids the chance to earn "commissions" instead of merely giving them an "allowance."

Throughout the week the kids do their assigned jobs and earn a commission for each one completed. Each Sunday night before bed, we pay out their earnings for the week based on how many jobs were completed. Before leaving the table, they put their earnings into three categories – Give, Save and Spend.

People often ask us if our kids ever push back on the idea of budgeting their money. They don't. The power in this is that our kids have never known anything different, so they assume giving and saving are natural things to do.

Now trust me, we are not as angelic as we sound. We're just intentional. Giving should become part of our DNA, something that comes natural to us. Our goal as a couple is simple. We listen to the Lord about how much He wants us to give and then stretch to do that. We do this because at our core, we believe that a generous life, is a happy life.

Because we want that same life for our kids, we've made the decision to cultivate that in them now, and not wait until they are "old enough" to understand.

All three of our kids made Kingdom Builders goals this year. The amounts aren't huge by any means, but their hearts want to give. That is what matters!

GIVING SHOULD BECOME A PART OF OUR DNA, SOMETHING THAT COMES NATURAL TO US.

TALK ABOUT IT

As a family, what things could we be more generous with that do not include money?



Chris Book is the Executive Pastor of Central Ministries at River Valley Church. He and his wife Lindsey live in Lakeville with their 3 children.

Kingdom
BUILDERS

GLOBAL | LOCAL | FUTURE



Prioritizing Marriage in the Home

Written by Ted Cunningham, Guest Speaker



My daughter, Corynn, is my princess. My wife is the queen. One of my primary parenting tools is showing my daughter every day how a queen should be treated. One day I will stand at the back of church looking down the aisle at a young man. I'm not walking Corynn down that aisle to become his queen until I know he loves her and will care for her as much as I do. For this reason, marriage is a priority in our home.

Amy and I strive to paint a beautiful picture of marriage for our children, family and friends. We do not run each other down, make fun of each other or criticize each other to others. We believe marriage should be enjoyed, celebrated, praised and shouted from the rooftops.

Part of honoring marriage is honoring each other. Amy is personally autographed by God, and I want to show her that value each day. God did not ordain marriage to be a miserable weight you wear your entire adult life. A fun, loving marriage starts by raising the value of marriage and your spouse.

Ecclesiastes 9:7-9 says, "Go, eat your food with gladness, and drink your wine with a joyful heart, for God has already approved what you do. Always be clothed in white, and always anoint your head with oil. Enjoy life with your wife, whom you love, all the days of this meaningless life that God has given you under the sun—all your meaningless days. For this is your lot in life and in your toilsome labor under the sun."

Our children have a front-row seat to our marriage. Our kids are watching and listening. They see everything we do. They hear everything we say. Then, they repeat.

My question for you: Do you have a marriage worth repeating? Do not overlook your marriage as one of your

A GREAT MARRIAGE IS A GIFT TO YOUR CHILDREN.

greatest parenting tools. A great marriage is a great gift to your children.

I look forward to returning to River Valley Church in October. This family series is designed to prepare singles, encourage couples and equip parents. Plan on laughing and learning as we talk about the marriage and family.

TALK ABOUT IT

As parents, are we portraying marriage well to our children?

TED CUNNINGHAM

Pastor, Author & Marriage Expert

OCTOBER 8/9



Ted Cunningham is the founding pastor of Woodland Hills Family Church. He and his wife, Amy, live in Branson, Missouri with their two kids, Corynn and Carson.



Writing a New Story

Finding redemption, unity and peace in family

Written by Clynt Reddy

W

hen my family and I immigrated to the frozen tundra of Minnesota from the year-round sticky heat of South Africa, we came with dreams for a fresh start. We came hoping to escape the previous hundred years of racial tension that began in the 1860s when my great grandparents, along with 150,000 others, were brought as indentured servants to Africa by white colonizers.

Unsurprisingly, animosity quickly festered and continued to grow as Indians were displaced from their homes and moved to townships. My grandparents and parents had their movement restricted, and I grew up living in a neighborhood where every person I saw or knew looked just like me.

As a result, I was unsure of what to think of those with white skin. Were they my friends? Or my enemies? I brought all that baggage, much of it

subconsciously, with me when my family and I made the trek across the Atlantic twenty years ago. As we settled in Minnesota my differences were starkly apparent. I spoke with an accent. I spelled words differently. I surely did not look like everyone else.

But God, in His goodness, began to change my perspective. Through His people, many of whom were white, God extended hospitality, peace, and hope to our family. Year by year, my skepticism regarding those who did not look like me began to melt away.

Year by year, my skepticism regarding those who did not look like me began to melt away.

God was healing my heart and my mind, and in doing so, He was healing a century of generational pain. I love that God works in this way. He is in the business of redemption and fresh starts, not just for individuals but also for whole generations and families.

That reconciling and uniting work continues to this day. It continues in my family of origin who now have best friends who are white, and it continues in the family I now call my own when I married Annie.

Back in 2009, Annie and I met through mutual friends and we began a friendship. I quickly hoped that friendship would turn into something more. Although, in the back of my mind, I wondered if it ever could, or even should, work...because Annie is white. Those feelings had nothing to do with her. It had everything to do with me.

Could God bring together two people from such different cultural stories and backgrounds, especially with all my baggage? He surely did, and I am so thankful for that.



Clynt Reddy is the Connections Pastor at River Valley Church. He lives in Burnsville with his wife, Annie, and their newborn son, Laker.

GLOBAL PROJECT

RIVER VALLEY CHURCH

UPCOMING GLOBAL TEAM REGISTRATIONS

MARCH 2017 TEAMS

CHINA - OPENS SEPTEMBER 11
LOS ANGELES - OPENS SEPTEMBER 11
GREECE - OPENS SEPTEMBER 25

APRIL 2017 TEAMS

INDONESIA - OPENS OCTOBER 9
MEXICO - OPENS OCTOBER 23
ROMANIA - OPENS OCTOBER 23

RIVERVALLEY.ORG/GLOBALPROJECT



We believe that God created you for a greater purpose and gave you the desire to accomplish something significant. As an emerging leader you will need to grow, both personally and professionally, as you develop the character and competency necessary to advance God's Kingdom. With this in mind, we designed engaging ministry-tracks with intentional and practical leadership development to aid you in your journey of becoming a world-changer.

VISIT **RVLI.ORG** FOR MORE INFO

SPARKLE
WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Anchor

FOR MY SOUL 

OCTOBER 6-7 | 7-8

SPARKLECONFERENCE.ORG



Takeout Hangout



As a church community, we thrive on Lifegroups. We're shaking things up for the next five weeks. We are starting a new tradition. We're calling it Takeout Hangout, and it's exactly how it sounds.

Grab another family or a few friends after church, or sometime during the week, decide on a meeting time and place and go grab whatever you're craving. No cooking or cleaning needed. You can show up in your sweatpants or that ratty t-shirt that your wife keeps trying to throw away. We'll tell you when you have cilantro in your teeth, because this is community. You can show up barefoot and hungry for more than just food. You can bring the nice candlesticks out and keep on your Sunday best. It can be at a park under a tree, on a patio, on the kitchen floor, in your dining room. That's the beauty of Takeout Hangout, you can make it exactly what you want.

To the right are some questions that revolve around the topic of family to spur on your Takeout Hangout conversation. If you prefer a more structured group guideline, you can get one at rivervalley.org/sermon-series/family30.

Takeout Hangout spaces are completely safe spaces that are meant to bring people together in a familial manner. Because the topic of family is not an easy topic for everyone, we encourage you to be intentional about honest conversation.

For more lifegroups visit
lifegroups.rivervalley.org

- Was your family close growing up? Are you close now?
- What is something that you feel like you're talented at?
- Are you named after someone in your family? If so, what were they like?
- What do you think children are better at than adults?
- What do you daydream about?
- What are your deepest hopes for your family?
- Do you think one family can change the world?
- Have you had a prayer answered lately? What was it?
- Do you have any fears revolving around your family?
- What do you think Jesus was like as a child?
- What was your earliest memory as a child?
- What was your parents relationship like with your grandparents?

COMING IN OCTOBER

NICK IN D.C.

FEATURED IN OUR WEEKEND SERMON SERIES



ONE CHURCH | MULTIPLE LOCATIONS

Apple Valley Campus

Saturday – 4:00 & 5:30 p.m.

Sunday – 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.

Eagan Campus

Sunday – 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.

Edina Area Campus

Sunday – 9:00, 10:20 & 11:35 a.m.

Faribault Campus

Sunday – 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.

Minneapolis Campus

Sunday – 9:30 & 11:00 a.m., 6:00 p.m.

Minnetrista Campus

Sunday – 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.

Shakopee Campus

Saturday – 5:00 p.m.

Sunday – 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.

Woodbury Campus

Sunday – 10:00 a.m.

