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from www.familyteams.com

WEEK 5

INTRO FROM TEAM PRYOR & TEAM BETHKE

Anyway, how fun has the challenge been?!

I know for us it's been so life-giving and just the spark we needed in this season.

Ok, let's just jump into it.

One cultural behavior that always strikes me as strange: how serious we take non serious things, and how non serious we take serious things.

Let me explain. Take investing in things we care about for example.

When I was a kid I played baseball pretty seriously and competitively my whole life.

And to do that we invested *so many hours and so much money*.

Honestly over the course of my childhood it had to be tens of thousands of hours and thousands of dollars on equipment.

I legit played every single day except maybe Sunday, from age 10 until age 22.

I gave my entire life for more than a decade to be a better baseball player.

But here's the strange part. That isn't weird! And that doesn't sound out of the ordinary!

In fact, this is what we do in our culture. We invest in things we care about.

But here's where the strange disconnect is for me.

We don't even come close to doing the same thing for the things that are *more important*. We will hire a life coach or buy an e-course on how to start a small business or we will get a bunch of equipment to learn a new trade.

But investing in your family and marriage, (the most important thing!), feels strange. Almost like working on it and investing in it is a bad thing!

But what if that's actually the secret to a family on fire? A family isn't any different than anything else we do in life. It takes work and focus and investment. But more than any other venture it's worth the pursuit! It's where we come alive, it's where God wants to bless us, and it's where His kingdom comes on earth as it is in heaven.

How cool is it to think that God wants to bless the world through you and your family?

But we can't get there until we stop having marriage and families by accident. And start having families of intentionality.

But here's the best part: marriage and family weren't meant to be walked through alone. We can invest in each other. In mentors. In communities that will take us where we want to go.

In fact, you look at any family you look up to and most bets are that they didn't become that way without serious investment, and serious apprenticeship.

We are wired to be formed via apprenticeship (a long multi year journey in close relational proximity to others as life is shared and spilled over into ours).

Why do we feel like we need to try and fail with all the newness that comes with building a marriage and a family? Instead we could ask someone 15 years ahead of us who have probably already gone through something similar?

So, here's the final challenge.

DISCUSSION & CHALLENGE

Talk with your spouse and make a game plan for investing in your family by making a plan to find mentors (or a like minded community) for your marriage and family. Ask about who could be that mentor couple or community for you two. Here are a few questions to ask to help start the conversation:

1. Do you see the importance of marriage and family mentors?
2. Does our life reflect the fact that a strong and healthy family is worth investing into? Do signs of our life point towards that?
3. What do we invest in right now with more focus or intentionality that might actually be less important than the type of family we want?
4. What are the one or two main questions you wish you could ask a mentor couple right now?
5. What's the area in your marriage or family you feel 'stuck' in currently?
6. What's one thing the last few years you think would have turned out different had you had an older couple walking alongside life with you?
7. Is there anyone in your immediate circle you could begin to start a relationship with?

Now please share with someone how it went! Did you guys have the same answers on the questions above? What stood out to you about your conversation?

BTW, as many of you guys know, our close mentors are Jeremy and April Pryor. They are incredible and we can honestly say we wouldn't have the marriage or family we have without them. We are forever indebted to them and for them taking us in the past five years.

I don't mean this as hyperbole: the family and marriage we are today is DIRECTLY because of their impact on our lives the last few years.

And we know that that type of mentorship is really hard to find these days, and so that's also why we created Homeroom. Honestly it's one of our favourite things and it's like this five week challenge but on steroids and more permanent and detailed. What would it look like to create a community and program where not only were we getting incredibly deep and rich and meaningful mentorship but also doing it alongside hundreds of other couples so we can all share secrets and sharpen each other even more?

Team Pryor & Team Bethke

Additional Resources

[Day 5 podcast](#) as we chat about why a community is so vital to your family!

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