

1. Here's my heart, I Will Love NOC women's retreat 5/29/19  
My Family & Friends

What's the difference between family & friends?

Choice—family-no choice; friends we choose

The truth is however, that we need both

## 2. FAMILY & FRIENDS

How easy is it to love our families?

### 3. Look @ Jesus family

\*Mk 3:20,21—out of his mind

Jn 2:1-5—do what he tells you

Mk. 6:4—not without honor except in home town, among his relatives and in his own home

It's hard because Our family usually knows us better than anyone. At least they're around us the most; they see our good sides and bad sides. Siblings are annoying, frustrating & tattletales. Parents are too tough on us or not enough...Growing up in a family is hard. But we're stuck with them.

But no matter how hard or bad our family is, there is a natural love & loyalty that just comes from being family. I think one reason is because with family this is where we can learn, forced, in some ways, because we're stuck with them, how to really love, if we let them. Some of my best discipling has come from my kids.

### 4. FRIENDS—refer to verses

Family & Friends are a gift from God- \*Eph. 3:14,15; Ps. 68:6

How does God want us to love our family & friends?

What kind of heart does God want us to have for both?

Two areas for both

### 5. 1. By being Wholehearted—wholeheartedly love them

\*2 Chron. 25:2—not wholeheartedly

2 Chron. 31:21—worked wholeheartedly...& so he prospered

Eph 6:7—serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people

If not wholehearted, what are we? Halfhearted or hardhearted

Our love needs to be wholehearted, because our family members aren't always lovable

When they don't love you—Teri; siblings won't speak to each other

When they disappoint you—Jason; Brooke

When they're disobedient—they don't follow you're advice

When you don't agree with what they're doing, LOVE—sometimes it will with encouragement, sometimes with correction or rebuke—both are elements of love. & if we don't do both, are we really loving???

Jesus loved Judas, his betrayer; he washed all of his disciples feet  
He loved by saying the hard things to Peter & the rich young ruler  
He loved by empathizing with where people were @--mary & martha

Wholeheartedly means we Keep loving, being there, listening, sharing God's love—help them know God by loving them like God does—he's not pushy, he doesn't force, doesn't put down, doesn't belittle, he waits for us to reach out to him. Always be there for them, but also, giving our heart means. EX. GRACE GUERRO, JEAN ALEXANDER

6. 2. **Being Honest—Honestly love them.** Two sides of a coin, same with love—grace & truth. EX. KARI & NIRVANA
  - a. Honestly care about them--Love by demonstrating care
    - i. About their lives, children, etc
    - ii. Meet physical needs—take meals, have over, listen to them
  - b. Honestly Speak the truth-What did Jesus say to ...
    - i. Rich young ruler
    - ii. Woman caught in adultery
    - iii. Woman with demon possessed daughter
    - iv. Woman who poured oil on jesus' feet
    - v. Woman with 5 husbands
    - vi. Jesus always spoke the truth—even to friends—mary & martha
  - c. Friendships need to be built. It takes time. But speaking honestly should not only be dependent on being friends. Speaking the truth in love should be our love language. We speak the truth because we love. Helping people know God should always be a part of our friendships.
    - i. Can you be friends without ppl becoming Christians? Of course, but our heart should always be to want & make efforts for them to do that. If we truly believe what we have is the best life ever, then we will want that for others-family & friends alike
    - ii. Some friends come from a lifetime of being together, some come from meeting a specific need, some come because you have a lot in common, some come from wanting people to know God.
      1. We need all these kinds of friends. Don't let satan deceive you into thinking there is one kind of friendship. Not all friendships are alike, but you can be friends with all. Isn't that what Paul is saying \* 1 Cor 9:22...I become all things to all men?
      2. With evangelism, we need to see that it's not just converting people, it's building God's family
      3. I've helped a lot of ppl become Christians, but mostly people who are friends of others in the church.

- a. I've personally converted some—2 in college, 2 or 3 couples in Florida, 1 on our block in Irvine, but mostly I've helped people I didn't personally meet. That could discourage me or I can be grateful that God gives me all kinds of ways to help add to his family. It's not about me, it's about God & it's about my heart being like God's. My heart is to always be looking for ways I can help ppl know God. Personally, I'm always building rel with ppl wherever I am (have 5 ppl in our neighborhood right now I'm doing that with). They're not ready yet to study, so, in the mean time I can help sisters study with friends they have because it's in my heart

To give your heart to family & friends, you must keep your heart. Wholehearted & honest

How?

By being wholly devoted to God & His will for you and the ppl you love, never divided, never letting it become hard or apathetic, never compromising your love for God or His will for your family or friends. Being true to God will enable you to love your family & friends in a way that will never fail.

By being honest-learning to speak the truth in love. This takes work. You have to keep praying & searching for the best way to say things, seeking lots of advice when you don't know, you're not sure or scared.

Only way to do this is by being this way with God

Does God have your whole heart?

Are you honest with God & do you let Him be honest with you?

We love because He first loved us; we can't love without God constantly purifying our hearts

When you sin-obviously but what about when you're tempted? Do you ask God to purify what's in your heart before anything even comes out?

Like when you don't want to go to church

When you don't want to call someone

When you feel like you're being taken for granted

When you want to give up

When you're grumbling, complaining...negative

When you're annoyed, frustrated

When you're halfhearted, apathetic, weary or hardhearted

These & many more are all things that need to be constantly cleansed from my heart in order for me to be able to love family & friends more.

7. Sisters, let's say it together, Here's my Heart, I will love, wholeheartedly & honestly my family & friends, to build the FAMILY OF GOD

