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HYO Writing Contest

How Faith and God is Shown Through My Family's Daily Life

God was not always number one for my parents. They met God when they met each other at a local church. My mom did not grow up in a christian household and my dad had not personally encountered God until they were in their late 20s. During a revival sermon, God encountered them and He started becoming number one for both my parents. They became very devoted to God and He was the only being that they looked upon. They learned how to listen to His voice and follow His Word. The love of God in our family came down to my brothers and I when we were born. We went to church every Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday. We started learning more about His kingdom and His world. He started to show Himself in our daily lives also. We would see miracles happening in our lives such as a sick family member regaining perfect health and financial problems solving itself. We read the Bible and we have a devotion book to record what God was trying to say to us, what God wanted us to do with His Word, and what we should pray to Him about. This is how our daily lives look like.

The Holy Spirit moved in our families and there are all personal encounter testimonies. And through these encounters, God has shown us how to live.

It is by helping other people in Jesus and serving them. Just like how Jesus showed us in the Bible when He was washing the feet of his disciples, on how to serve the people around us, ranging from the closest to farthest, our family learned to serve other people. It can look like fellowship. Where, we all in our own areas and positions of our lives have fellowship with other people and evangelize. For me, it can be my friends, my teachers, or just acquaintances that I

meet on whatever occasion. I can talk about God and share my story and personal testimony with him. Or to people who do not know who Jesus is, I can plant a seed in them that will later grow into a tree of faith. During fellowship with others, I gain and learn a lot of things. One of the most important things that I consider is how God is looking at me during that specific time frame and what He is trying to say. Sometimes, He gives me an opportunity to enjoy sharing and talking about God. Sometimes, He gives me a harder time sharing the gospel. Looking back at events and encounters as such, I have realized that there were things that God wanted to teach me for every different season in my walk with Him.

Another way our family shows love to our neighbors is through serving them. Through missionary trips and local outreaches, our family has had the opportunity to interact with the community and serve them. It may be cooking meals for people or practicing skits for months to perform to the people of Mexico since our language is not the same. It may also look like personally praying for them in our own time. Serving is how Jesus lived His life on Earth and it's how we should too. However, without faith and without the love that God gives us, I think that the ways our faith shows in our family is impossible.

It was because Jesus loved us first and it was because He died for us, that we can serve others in Him. Although some things that God asks us might be questionable or not make sense, trusting Him is how our family maintains faith in God. Whenever there are questionable things that God asks us to do, we go to the Word. Opening the Bible and reading it shows us His immense plans for us. No matter how painful or suffocating the situation might be, during the process, we are being refined and carved by God so that at the end, we can turn out to be a good vessel for God to use.

My parents said that there is no greater joy than to serve Him and live by His plans because His plans are perfect. In Jeremiah, He says that He knew us from the beginning of time and before we were in the womb. He planned everything out for us and He knows everything that will take place in the future, so learning how to trust in Him is a benefit for us. Our family got to learn about this and His intentions through reading the Bible and meditating on His Word.

A way that our family encounters God is through worship. Worship is what pleases God and it's one of the ways that God talks to us. David danced and sang until his clothes ripped and fell off. We jump and dance and sing like how David did. This is possible because God gives us joy. Overflowing joy is given when we worship God with our bodies and voices. We often go to revival retreats and jump and sing because it is one of the ways that we can express our love and thanks to Him with our physical bodies. During a time of extreme crisis or chaos, when we worship, our family feels energized or strengthened by God. It is natural that when we seek to find God, He will answer and fill us. Through praise and worship, we could see joy filling us in any circumstances and we could find peace and stability again in God. Faith is something that can be found because God gave what He had to us first. So whenever someone asks our family about our relationship with God or how faith shows in what we do, we can answer this in multiple ways. We can talk about when we encountered God or when we found out what true love was, we can talk about the activities we do in the church community such as missionary trips or local outreaches, or we can talk about how we read the Bible and meditate and praise God, but ultimately, we can do all of these things because God gave us the strength and the correct posture of heart to do so. If God never encountered my parents in their late twenties, they would have never been able to serve God and have faith in Him. My brothers and I would have

never had the opportunity or the family environment to get to know Him. It all comes down to His love and how He reached out to us so that we could enjoy the freedom that He gives us.