

MORE TO YOUR STORY

Q2 MORE TO YOUR STORY - 01 BEYOND THE FAMILY PICS

PLAYLIST

<https://open.spotify.com/user/campuslife1965>

PURPOSE

The purpose of this club is to give students a chance to see that every family has issues and no one is perfect. We will talk through that God sees each of our families' issues and never leave our side.

NOTE TO SITE DIRECTOR

You will need to prep this by having old family pictures of your leaders.

MINISTRY LEADER EMPOWERMENT

This month, along with hitting key school events, try to provide a couple of Building Times every week. Consider organizing a larger co-ed activity for a large group of students, and then have any of the staff team who can try to hang out with a smaller group of students. Relationships built outside of the weekly Club meeting forms the glue that keeps Club together and helps set up deepened ACSRs with lost kids.

RMA CONNECTION

APPOINTMENTS

After this Club, family issues might come up that students want to share. Make sure you coach your leaders on how to listen to family issues without trying to fix things. We must learn to listen, have empathy, offer love and grace, and take action when needed.

PREP

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Projector & Speaker for Media
- Paper
- Markers
- Pre-Drawn pictures
- Old family photos of leaders

WELCOME

Welcome to our brand-new series: "More to the Story." Tonight, we start back at your childhood - "Looking Beyond the Family Pic." (*IDEA: Share a few photos from your childhood family pics and narrate what was going on*). Our Family Pics usually just show the highpoints of our life, but we all know there is more to our story than the highpoints! We may want to put on a "picture perfect" face, but it's just not that easy. Kind of like this...

CROWDBREAKER

PICTURE PERFECT

SUPPLIES NEEDED: 5 pieces of paper and a marker/pen for each group, Have an artistic person draw simple "pictures from childhood" in advance. *Ideas:* Family Portrait, Fish aquarium, Care Bears, Cat with kittens, Family in a boat with someone wakeboarding.

DIRECTIONS:

Divide into teams of 8-10 and have them stand in a single file line, arms-length apart. Show the first person in each line the drawing. They verbally describe it to the person behind them (in a whisper). Continue on down the line. The last person in line draws what they hear on a full sheet of paper. Have each drawer hold their drawing up for all to see. Hold up the original and pick the one that is closest as the winner. Rotate the line and repeat. Do about 5 pictures

SMALL GROUP GAMES

[VIEW SMALL GROUP GAMES & ACTIVITIES IDEAS HERE](#)

If you are working with smaller groups, we recommend playing **THE FAMILY GAME** and **THE COUNT** for this Club. You can access supplies needed and gameplay instructions by utilizing the link above.

VIRTUAL GAMES

[VIEW VIRTUAL GAMES IDEAS HERE](#)

If you are working with students in a virtual setting, we recommend playing **3 IN 5** and **I NEED A...** for this Club. You can access supplies needed and gameplay instructions by utilizing the link above.

TRANSITION

Simone Biles is widely known as one of the greatest gymnasts of all time and one of the best athletes in the world across any sport. If you watched the Olympics or any kind of coverage featuring her, you will most likely see her grandparents close by, constantly cheering her on. But there is so much more going underneath the surface than loving grandparents and a successful athlete. Check her story...

MEDIA

Q3 MORE TO YOUR STORY - 01 SIMONE BILES

*at 2:35 Simone uses the word "damn" describing the Larry Nasser scandal.

DISCUSSION

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) Hi/Low/Buffalo - what was the best part of your week (Hi), the worst part (Low) and something random you can tell us (Buffalo)?
- 2) Simone Biles seems like she would have a perfect life, but there is so much underneath the surface. What stuck out to you here in her story?
- 3) We moved beyond Simone Biles' family photo tonight and saw beneath the surface. If you had to post 1 family picture, what picture would you post? What's the story behind that picture?
- 4) Are there not so picture-perfect moments that you have with your family? What would those moments look like for you?
- 5) Why is it so easy for us to look at someone else's "picture perfect" family and compare it to ours? Do you think there are any perfect families?
- 6) How do you respond when your story has moments you'd rather forget?

WRAP UP

It's so easy to look at our news feed on social media and see everyone posting picture perfect family photos. Maybe you think you're the only one in your groups of friends, in your grade, in your school that has some not-so-picture perfect family moments. I don't think Simone necessarily wants pictures of the family moments talked about in this clip in her camera roll - going hungry all the time because her mom spends all of the money on drugs; being ripped away from her siblings and placed in foster care; her mom in and out of jail. But that doesn't mean that those images aren't in her head, or that they never happened.

So often we think we are the only ones with stories behind the family portraits, with the fake smiles and closeness because we only have the chance to see other families at their best while ours always seems at their worst.

Share a time where your family was "at its worst"

You may even think that the Bible is only filled with picture perfect people and moments, but the Bible isn't just cleaned up family pic moments - there's a lot of mess in it too! That's one of the reasons I believe it's true - the authors wrote what was actually happening, not just the photo ops.

One of the most famous stories in the Bible is David and Goliath. David was just a young shepherd boy, but when someone needed to face Goliath, the giant, he stepped up for the challenge. A definite scrapbook moment! *(Have a little fun with this - consider getting a pick sketch pad and have a leader on the night illustrating the story or draw it ahead of time).*

After that, David became the King of Israel and one of the most powerful people in the world! More scrapbook pages (anointing, inauguration, palace, battle victories, beautiful wife, etc.)!

But there was junk in David's life too! The Bible says that when the Prophet Samuel was looking for the next king, God led him to the Jesse's family. Jesse was David's dad. Samuel knew that the future king would be one of Jesse's eight sons [of which David was the youngest] so Samuel went to his house to interview them. Jesse had all of his sons ready and presented them each to Samuel. When Samuel was finished talking with the first seven, he didn't feel like any of them were who God was leading him to, so Samuel asked if there were anything others. Jesse said (1 Samuel 16:11): "There is still the youngest. But he's out in the fields watching the sheep and goats." Samuel replied, "Send for him at once. We will not sit down to eat until he arrives."

Once David arrives at the house, Samuel knew right away that this is who God had chosen as the next king - even though David's own father hadn't even bothered to bring him to Jesse - just assuming there was no way he could become king.

This probably isn't a moment David would want to put in his family scrapbook! But we all have messes in our lives, whether you're Simone Biles, Olympic Gold Medalist, King David - one of Israel's greatest kings or one of us. Sometimes those messes, the hurt, beyond our family photo isn't caused by us. Many times, we have to learn how to live with someone else's mistakes rubbing off on us. That's exactly what happened with King David, his dad, Jesse's mistake of underestimating someone young, rubbed off and cause pain for David.

Maybe you feel David and you suspect you aren't the "favorite" child. Beyond your photo could look like a divorce that didn't end well and your parents can't even be in the same place without fighting. Or, let's say a sibling could always get into trouble, there are drugs in your family, or there is abuse. You fill in the blank.

Many times, we try to cover up that pain and keep it a secret, so we don't actually have to talk about what is really going on. Even if we keep this mess a secret and try to keep it from the family scrapbook or our friends, God knows about it. He isn't afraid of the secrets we try to keep just to ourselves. He may be displeased, or He may be brokenhearted for the families we are growing up to be, but he still loves you very much. He is waiting for you to admit your mess and let him show you the love that He wishes our families would give us.

RESPONSE

If you want to talk about something going on with your family, talk to a leader after Club tonight. We will be available to talk and set up a time to meet with you over the next week! We want to listen, and we care about you beyond your family photo.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SITE DIRECTOR - list any announcements here that you need to communicate to your group before Club concludes!

HEAD'S UP

NEXT WEEK | MORE TO YOUR STORY: BEYOND THE HIGHLIGHTS

In life, we normally just share the highlights. Life is way more real than just filtered, good moments and we want to help students be open and vulnerable.

2 WEEKS | MORE TO YOUR STORY: BEYOND SOCIAL MEDIA

Social Media can be messy. We want students to know it's effects and begin to take steps to protect themselves from living a filtered life.