



TRANSFORMED

DEVOTIONS CONNECTING TEENS TO CHRIST

Anyone who does not provide for their relatives, and especially for their own household, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

1 Timothy 5:8

All in this together: Your family needs you

I love my kitchen hutch, but not just because it holds all of our dishes. My dad built it in his high school wood-shop class. He built it so that his parents could have a place to keep their dishes. They used it for over 40 years. Now it sits in my kitchen and reminds me of my dad. I'm amazed at how well it's built. My dad had some serious skills, even at a young age!

He put those skills to use in other ways to help his family in high school. My grandpa was a carpenter who built homes, and my dad helped him build them.

My dad's family needed him.

I admire how my dad took 1 Timothy 5:8 to heart, even as a teen. "Anyone who does not provide for their relatives, and especially for their own household, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever." My dad used his skills to help provide for his family. He put his faith into action.

Here's even the better part. My dad carried this attitude into his own family as he got older. He never stopped providing for us. He built upon the attitude he had way back in high school.

I have to admit that I focused a lot of my time on myself in high school. I often thought I was too young to have to think about anyone but myself. I thought that being young gave me the right to be selfish. I believed the lie that my family didn't need me.

What about you? Do you find yourself making excuses for your selfishness? Do you think your family doesn't need you?

They do. Maybe they don't communicate it well, but you're an important part of your family. They need your help. They need you to put your faith in Jesus into action.

The good news for you and me is that we're not alone in this. We have our brother, Jesus, who brought us into God's family through his life and death. You and I needed Jesus. Our lives depended on it. And he delivered! He promises to be with you always.

So, what can you do for your family? I figured out that my family didn't need me to build them a hutch or a house. Those weren't my skills. I discovered that God gave me gifts in communication. I learned my family needed me to listen to them. They needed me to talk with them. And it felt pretty cool to use my gifts to make a difference in their lives!

What gifts has God given you? Think about something right now you can do for your family. If you're not sure, ask your family and friends what you're good at. They'll tell you.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for making me part of your family. When I needed you, you delivered! Help me discover and use my gifts so that I can help my family. Amen.