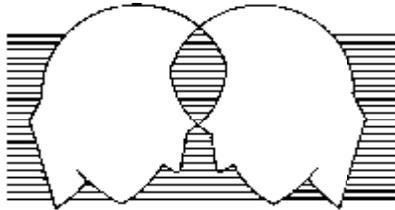


INTERVIEWS

Some of your greatest and most underused resources are the people whom the Lord has sovereignly placed in your life. Imagine the centuries of untapped wisdom and life experience around you every day just waiting to be passed on to you? Think of the insight, counsel and encouragement that could be yours through a small investment of an hour or two.

PEOPLE who are wiser, older, experienced, and seasoned! People who have walked with the Lord for decades, grown strong through weakness, softened their character through brokenness and loss, gained perspective through perseverance and been deepened by temptations. People who have integrated life's invaluable lessons into every facet of their being through failure... failures you just may avoid if you listen intently to their hearts and zealously process their lifetime of understanding.



HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF YOUR INTERVIEW!

First, think of just one person whom you respect and who seems to model your focus word. This person should authentically and consistently display your word through their character, integrity, heart for God and life experience. Please realize that these people do not need to be famous, successful, local, or perfect. In fact, some of the best interviews will be the humble heroes of the faith who are quietly slugging it out every day in total dependency upon the Holy Spirit for strength. Perhaps you should interview someone who has failed greatly yet has been victoriously restored in the area in which you are struggling. Look for those who are **growing**, **progressing** and **authentic** (I Tim 4:15)! You might know these folks well or maybe you've admired them from a distance. We encourage you not to interview someone who is easy to get to or with whom you are already familiar. Take a risk! Get to know others in the Body of Christ. Realize also that, not only will these interviews be valuable to you, but will be encouragement to those interviewed!

Example 1: If your focus word is 'commitment' 'humility' or 'joy', **Robertson McQuilken** may be a great man to interview. This former president of Columbia International University proved his love and commitment to God's design for marriage by caring for his wife who suffered from Alzheimer's for 25 years.

Example 2: If your focus word is 'prayer' then perhaps a **prayer-warrior widow** would be a wise choice or a **missionary** who faced hard times overseas and survived only through persistent prayer. Or maybe there is a church member whose prayer life draws you ever closer to the Lord when they pray.

Example 3: Perhaps your focus word is a role such as 'nurturing father'. Then interview a **grandfather**, **step father**, or **dad** whose children are grown and could pass on to you a few secrets of parenting. Or, better yet, interview them along with their own children to gain a full orb'd perspective as well as detect both positive and negative patterns.

WHOM WOULD YOU LIKE TO INTERVIEW AND WHY?

When you set up your time to meet, make sure to choose a friendly, comfortable, convenient environment. Perhaps a meal at a quiet restaurant or a walk in a park. If appropriate, invite your spouse and even older children if they are at all interested in the topic. A joint interview with your Contractor or Sub-contractor may work. Once you set the time and place, send the person to be interviewed a list of specific questions you wish to discuss so that they can be pre-prayed and prepared for your time together. Emailing them might work best. Not all of your questions have to relate to your focus word. For instance, questions like 'How do you maintain your spiritual vitality?' Or 'What parenting tips would you pass on to me in my season of life?' might really be on your mind. Have your SALT binder with you so you can record each answer and your insights. End your time together in grateful prayer for the things gleaned through your conversation. And don't forget to write a 'Thank You' note mentioning the things that impacted you the most.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS FOR YOUR INTERVIEW

These are provided to stimulate your thinking. Feel free to craft your own questions.

1. My word for the year is “_____”. What principles has God taught you about this area of your life? What process or experiences has the Lord used to develop this area in your life?
2. What does your devotional time look like? (i.e. when, where, what)
3. What have you found to be the most fruitful way of leading your family spiritually?
4. In terms of your children, how do you balance love and discipline?
5. What advice would you give to us as young fathers?
6. How do you maintain your romance with your wife?
7. What does a typical Sabbath day look like for you?
8. Are there any "must read" books in the area of discipleship, marriage, parenting etc. that you would recommend?
9. How do you specifically resolve conflict with the various members of your family?
10. Who are some of the people who have had the most influence on you spiritually?
11. Do you have any hints on how to help a child learn how to share things?
12. What is the greatest truth the Lord has taught you in the past few months?
13. How do you get and stay motivated for God?
14. How do you maintain your spiritual vitality? ie. Practices or disciplines?
15. What do you think my generation really needs to hear from God?
16. Have you ever been discipled? What was it like? Have you ever discipled someone else? How?
17. What has been your greatest success in life? To what do you attribute it?
18. What are the most important lessons you learned growing up which you are determined to teach your children?
19. What three questions will you most likely ask Jesus when you meet face to face?
20. What has been your greatest failure in life? What would you do over and why? How would you do it?
21. What is your favorite passage of Scripture? Why?
22. Who is your favorite Bible character? Why?
23. What has been the biggest test of your faith in the past few years?
24. What do you do as a couple when you are not unified with each other on a particular issue or decision?
25. Who handles the finances in your home and how do you develop and stick to your budget?
26. How do you avoid child-centered parenting?
27. What do you do to make Sunday a special day for your family and for the Lord?
28. What have been some of the most difficult decisions of your life? Why?
29. What do you do to reduce the negative effect of TV on your family?
30. Who are your heroes and what makes them a hero?
31. Do you have a habit of memorizing scripture and how has it changed your life?
32. How do you balance the different demands and pressures of life?
33. In your sphere of influence who do you most desire to come to Christ? What ways have you found to be effective in sharing the Gospel with your friends?
34. Is there anything you perceive I need to hear or learn but have not asked?

Additional Questions

NOTES FROM MY INTERVIEW

Person interviewed _____

Date _____

Be sure write a personal thank you letter to them for investing in your life.

