

# THE CONNECTION

KINGSTON *wesleyan* CHURCH

## HOW TO BE A DUCT TAPE DAD

by Pastor Len

With Father's Day just around the corner and the recent news of the passing of Phil Robertson (patriarch of the hit TV series DUCK DYNASTY), I thought I'd share some lessons from a series I taught on several years ago.

When talking about creating a dynasty, there are two important things to keep in mind. The first thing to know is that dysfunction happens. It's the natural progression of things. In other words, nothing gets better with neglect. It's true for your car, your hair, your marriage, & your family. The second naturally flows from the first truth — dynasty takes work. One must be intentional, persistent, and resilient. By the way, these truths apply to the family and the church family.

Joshua in the Old Testament is a great example of one who was seeking to lead in a way that honored God and served as blessing for generations.

He famously encouraged the Israelites to choose whom they would serve. As for him and his household? They would serve the Lord. Joshua was calling them to being intentional, persistent, & resilient. Kind of like duct tape.

While there's many things that would be helpful, for now I'll just suggest one thing that I think benefits every family. **MAKE A COMMITMENT TO COMING TOGETHER FOR FAMILY TIME.** I understand it's not always convenient; that's why it requires a commitment. Research for years has shown that regular family dinners are associated with lower rates of depression, anxiety, substance abuse, and eating disorders, etc. The University of Michigan found that a regular family mealtime is the single greatest predictor of improved achievement — more than studying, sports or other school activities. For those with younger children, a study of preschoolers found that mealtime conversations with children helped to build vocabulary more effectively than listening to stories or even reading aloud. Based on research, I recommend that families do everything they can to eat together at least four meals per week. Or, if meal time just can't happen — improvise. Being a duct tape dad means taking the lead on this.

Coming together for family time isn't just about gathering at the dinner table. As the Hebrew writer encouraged, "Let us not neglect meeting together, as some have made a habit, but let us encourage one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching." I also recommend a minimum of attending one church service/group per week. Again, being a duct tape dad means taking the lead on this.

Doing these two things (gathering at the table as a family at least four times a week and gathering with the church family at least once a week) does two things for the family. The first thing it does is it helps center the home on Christ. Without being intentional, persistent, & resilient, a home will not be centered on Christ. Secondly, this will help make talking about God and pursuing Him normal in your home. There are a variety of things that become "normal" for different families. We've probably all discovered that not all families "do that." Sometimes the "that" we find out is really weird. Other times, we find out that our family had something special that others only wish they had. What could be better for a family than to make Jesus the center so that talking about Him and pursuing Him is normal! *Continued other side*



On June 8, KWC will be saying farewell to the Woodruff's who have moved out of the area. We know they will be a blessing to their new church family!

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Every episode (to my memory anyway) of Duck Dynasty ended with the family gathered around the table and a time of prayer. Somewhere along the road, Phil Robertson didn't just learn how to build a duck call and turn it into a great business, Phil learned the importance of committing to come together for family time.



## Local Church Conference by Pastor Len

Our annual local church conference is scheduled for Sunday, June 8 at 6pm. As usual, this is a night for us to gather and reflect on and celebrate what God has done in us and through us during the last fiscal year. God has been so good!

As I shared previously, we have one significant item on the agenda for this year. After much prayer, deliberation, and consulting with the Buildings and Grounds Team, the Local Board of Administration voted to recommend to the Local Church Conference that KWC sell the River House (formerly known as the Youth Parsonage).

Beyond that, I'm super excited to share about a project that is in the very early stages of planning that I believe has the potential to be a huge blessing to our community and a vital ministry that is preparing to launch after the summer. We'll also be sharing an update on the parking lot and more!

As you can tell, it's a very important night for KWC. That's why all members are encouraged to attend and all who call KWC "home" are invited.



## Mobile Pantry by Pastor Len

Huge thanks to everyone who helped with the May distribution! Our next mobile pantry is scheduled for Friday, July 11. The distribution is scheduled to begin at 11am and we're asking volunteers to be at the church by 10. Lunch will be provided!

Please sign up to serve at the Connection Center.

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