

MILITARY FAMILY EPISODE with a special guest, an Army chaplain

FOCUS VERSES

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. 1 John 3:16

One who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother. Proverbs 18:24

Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Romans 12:10

DISCUSSION

- 1. Upon returning from an oversees deployment, this service member struggled with posttraumatic stress, relationship deterioration, depression, and suicidal tendencies.
 - a. Have you ever experienced a season of depression?
 - b. What actions did you take to help you cope?
 - c. Is there anything you do regularly to help prevent a reoccurring season of depression?
- 2. The guest mentions that a time when he was most content was when he was leading a military college ministry and how that helped shape what he was called to pursue for a career.
 - a. Reflect on your life. When was a time you were most content, most certain, most fulfilled?

b. Are the essential elements of what made you feel that contentment and fulfillment still active in your life?

c. Write out a one sentence purpose statement for your life. What do you think God has you here to uniquely do?



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- 3. The guest quotes his mentor saying, "Instead of sacrificing my family on the altar of ministry, we make sacrifices as a family for the sake of the ministry and the Gospel."
 - a. What do you and your family sacrifice for the sake of the Gospel?
 - b. Have those sacrifices changed over the years? If so, how?
- 4. Self-care and boundaries are two areas the guest feels are especially important.
 - a. What are some things you do to care for yourself (mentally, physically, and spiritually)?
 - b. What boundaries do you set in your life?
- 5. The guest mentions the importance of intentional relationships to develop a sense of community, people to go through life with.
 - a. What intentional relationships do you have in your life?
 - b. In what ways do you engage and nurture these special relationships?



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