



Links Players

Waste Land to Promise Land Andrew Putnam Leads His Family on Faith's Journey

And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise (Deuteronomy 6: 4-7, ESV).

You never know what you might discover once you peek behind the public persona of a PGA player. Andrew Putnam may not be a household name, but with a glance behind the curtain, we see a "salt of the earth" guy!

Not only was he a two-time winner at Pepperdine, he was also a three-time All-American. With two Web.com victories to his credit, he graduated to the PGA Tour.

In ten years on the PGA Tour, he has one win, four second-place finishes, one third-place finish, 14 top-five finishes, and 23 top-ten finishes. This guy can play!

When we hear his story, nothing is more special than realizing that he accomplished all this while juggling a growing family—Andrew is married with three kids!

Other players struggle with the demands of family and competing on the Tour. Still, Andrew's story is unique in that he is committed to "keeping God #1 and leading his family to follow Christ."

He admits he was "born on second base," meaning he had a head start understanding what living for Christ means. Raised in a Christian home, attending a Christian school, and observing his parent's commitment to Christ made a significant impression on his life.

Although, he admitted, "I had to own the faith for myself." In other words, just because his family believed in Jesus didn't mean he would automatically enter God's kingdom. He understood that he needed to commit his life to Christ personally.

Andrew's desire to lead his family in the ways of God is quite noble and, in some ways, out of the ordinary. It should be obvious that we have seen the tragic breakdown of the traditional family across America for decades.

From almost every angle, the nuclear family is under siege—a mother and father living together in enduring love, guiding their children through the ups and downs of adolescence, and teaching them the things of Christ are rarer than one might think.

In study after study, sadly, we find that young men and women, even those raised in church, reject the faith once they land at college. Ultimately, a commitment to Christ falls to the student, but the parents' lifestyle frames a child's perspective and convictions.

Training your children and grandchildren in righteousness doesn't guarantee that they will grow up to follow Jesus. Just as a wayward child running away from all that is right and good doesn't mean they can outrun Jesus.

For many, it might seem too late to make a difference in your children's lives. Perhaps you are saying to yourself, "My children or grandchildren are grown and have families of their own; I missed my opportunity."

Throw that thought aside. It's never too late for Jesus to intervene. He specializes in the most challenging cases. Our Great Shepherd knows how to find lost sheep!

Prayer: Lord! We pray without ceasing for those who have wandered from the "ancient paths."

READING: Deuteronomy 6:4-7; Ephesians 6:1-4; Proverbs 6:20-21

1. Who taught you the game: your dad, mom, or a local teacher? Did you ever disregard instructions that you later regretted? Discuss.

2. Avoiding the temptation to read these and other verses in a legalistic way, what is God the Father ultimately after through our parent's instructions?

3. For those older and with sons and daughters out of the house, what might be some strategies for investing in your children's faith journey? Strategize together.
