

Message Series: **You and Your Family**
Message Title: **'Axioms for Life... Show Up, Step Up, and Speak Up'**
Scripture Source: **Ecclesiastes 3:1,7**
Teachers: Pastors Paul, Stephen and John
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Axiom: "a universally accepted principle or rule"

This Father's Day Sunday we will examine three axioms that have a 'ring of truth' to them and can intersect and enrich any man's life...if understood and acted upon.

Show Up

Axiom: Make your top relationship your top priority.

"Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to him, those he wanted, and they came to him. He appointed twelve that they might be with him."

Matthew 3:13-14a

- "I may gauge my love for you by how I feel about you, but you will gauge my love for you by how I spend my time."
- "As I have loved you, so you must love one another." ~Jesus
- We must lean into the heart of God.

Step Up

Axiom: Don't assume that someone else will be the spiritual leader to your children.

"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads."

Deuteronomy 6:4-8

- Are you a source of spiritual wisdom and nourishment to the younger generation?
- God has gifted you to be a spiritual leader/example, and beyond that, he has resourced you by surrounding you with others on the same journey.

Speak Up

Axiom: Keep Short Accounts and Speak Up...with God, yourself, and others

"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak,"

Ecclesiastes 3:1,7

Psalm 32:3-5; Ephesians 4:25-26

- What 'accounts' do you need to address and speak up to?

Guys, you have been encouraged to take time to think about three critical attitudes and actions that are essential for a healthy family life.

Which axiom do you need to grow up in? Which axiom do you need to act more decisively on?

Show Up

Step up

Speak Up

Heavenly Father,

Thank you for your grace and the gift of your forgiveness. Thank you that your mercy flows to me in spite of my faults and failings. Thank you that you love me more than I will ever know, and that You say to me, "Come as you are."

Lord, I confess that I have spent my time in ways that have caused those who need me most to experience disappointment and hurt. Please forgive me for not "showing up" in ways that those closest to me have needed. Lord, grant me strength and wisdom to make godly and gutsy changes in how I choose to spend my time.

Lord, I confess the times when I have not let my heart and my hands be fully yours, and when I have made decisions rooted more in fear than in faith. Please forgive me for not "stepping up" when others have needed what I can give. Help me replace my safe "no's" with courageous "yeses" on a path to being more of a difference-maker.

Lord, I confess the times when I have spoken negative or harsh words, or taken the path of least resistance, or chosen silent withdrawal; failing to speak with candor and kindness. Please forgive me for not "speaking up" in ways that foster trust in my close relationships. Please transform my thinking and change my habits. May I increasingly speak words marked by grace and truth, as You help me become a man whose words bless and build others up according to their needs.

Father, may the reality of Christ in my heart guide me into the freedom of forgiveness and the power of transformation, for the sake of others. These things I pray in the name of Jesus, Your Son and my Redeemer. Amen

"Each day that we awake is a new start, another chance. Why waste it on self-pity and selfishness?

Roll that day around on your tongue, relish the taste of its freedom. Breathe deeply of the morning air, savour the fragrance of opportunity. Run your hands along the spine of those precious 24 hours and feel the strength in that sinew and bone.

Life is raw material. We are artisans. We can sculpt our existence into something beautiful, or debase it into ugliness. It's in our hands."

~Cathy Better, *Community Times*, Reisterstown, MD