

JEREMY BIXLER: Hello, and welcome to Youth Ministry Academy Radio for the month of January, 2010. And this month we are talking about family ministry. And we've got on the line today Tevis Austin from the Newark Church of the Nazarene in Ohio. Tevis, how are you doing today?

TEVIS AUSTIN: Hey, I'm doing fine. Good to be here.

JB: All right. Tevis, before we get started feel free to introduce yourself to us. Where have you been? What is your current position? And just tell us about your ministry.

TA: Well, I actually graduated from Mount Vernon Nazarene University. I graduated from there in the area of youth ministry and Christian education. I served at a Lima Community Church in Lima, Ohio. From there went out to Kansas City and was at Kansas City First Church and also seminary. I attended seminary there for a couple years and got a masters in Religious Education. From there travelled over to Canton, Ohio, where I was a youth pastor for seven years. Towards the end of that tenure, I guess, I did some invocative pastor work and moved to Newark, Ohio where I've been on staff here for four and a half years. The majority of that's actually been executive pastor, the executive pastor role. But a lot of it is involved in the areas of family ministry. In fact, that's what my role has kind of transitioned into that here lately and I'm actually Family Ministries Pastor here now. Just done some stuff for NYI, held some leadership positions, District/Regional levels, those kind of things, for Big Picture. I actually teach a class, a family ministry class at Mount Vernon Nazarene University now. I sincerely enjoy this whole topic of discussion of family ministry.

JB: All right. So, then, what do you mean by family ministry? How is that defined exactly?

TA: That's actually a great question for us to start off with because I think part of the confusion that comes in talking about family ministries is how you define that or even just how you define the word "family." Because I think there's certain things that come to mind when you talk about family. I remember I asked that question to some of our volunteers here that work with our teens and even some of our other areas of ministry and I remember how some of them, they immediately kind of gave this response about how when you talk about family it means how a person's related to another person either through, you know, biologically or adoption or marriage, that kind of thing. They talk about a married couple or single parent, elderly couple. But then I thought it was interesting that some of the other volunteers they, when they thought of family, they defined it more on how a person relates to another person, how they are in a relationship or how they function. In other words, it's based more on the person shares troubles with or who they journey with, who they share money with together, do life together, take care of each other and stick together even year after year, even if you move away and those kind of things. In our context I think when we talk about family ministry it's more of the functional, the way we function with each other. 'Cause I think for me, a lot of times when your ministry is structured more after family in terms of biologically or marriage, those kinds of things, a lot of times your ministry can end up functioning more as separating everything according to developmental stages or life stages. Whereas if you can function more of like how we should relate to each other, you begin to talk about how can better care for each other, how can better build into each other's lives or share life together, or in other words, be family together? And so we define family ministry, I think it's more in those terms – how can we better be family together?

JB: How has family ministry in general developed in the church throughout history?

TA: That typically goes back to somewhat of a structural kind of thing. I think the way these churches evolved we've been able to develop more ministries – your kid's ministry, your single adult ministry, your senior ministry, and I could go on. It's more of addressing the developmental stages, life stages kinds of things. I think a lot of it for ministry it's evolved into addressing those particular things which, you know, some of that's good and yet the other, maybe sometimes the concern, I think, is that we kind of separate. We come to church and the kids go do their own thing, the teens go do their own thing, and the senior adults do their thing. And even a lot of times when you worship together it might just be the parents and the adults and everybody else is kind of separated, and so you aren't really able to be family and to interact with other generations and build into each other. And so you face some of those challenges, I think, today as far as what teenagers and what kids and I think even adults need as far as being surrounded by other people who are building into their lives or they're building into other people's lives.

JB: I'd like to hear more about the idea of family ministry being in relation to one another. Can you elaborate more on what that means as opposed to the general church belief that family ministry is designed to be fragmented by developmental stages?

TA: Well, it's a lot of, like even in our setting where we've kind of evolved here in Newark. A lot of times its kid's ministry does their own thing. They plan their own activities; they plan their own calendar; they do their own worship service. And so it's kids with kids. And then we have our teenagers doing their own youth ministry planning their own calendar, doing their own thing, all their activities. And we have the same thing happening with adults. They're kind of doing their own thing and their own ministry and

even sometimes senior adults. In our context, you know, I think that's, at the beginning even four years ago there was some of that happening with our kids and teens and adults in general. So you're just separated, you know. Everybody's busy and I think with families today they have a hard time actually just finding time to be together. And they come to church and it also separates them. The kids are doing, the teens are doing their own things and the adults are doing their own things and they can't even be family. And so I think what we're talking about here, what I'm talking about is more of when we're talking about family ministry is how can we all of a sudden begin to realize how can maybe our planning, how can maybe we plan things that we all at different ages can actually be together or maybe sometimes worship together and experience life together, serve together rather than always being separated.

JB: Being that we here at the Youth Ministry Academy try to focus on more of the Youth Ministry side this is a more broad topic. So how influential are families in the lives of that age group?

TA: Well, and that's probably why I believe so much when we talk about family ministry and the importance of family ministry is because families are so critical in the lives of students. I know that there's been research done recently even over the past several years really on just to graduate and they end up abandoning their faith and I've watched that happen in my own experience with youth ministry, just my own personal ministry and I've wondered why does that happen? And it's interesting, I think, that some of the studies that have been done on that and one of my search institute just looking at the most significant religious influence in the life of students and, you know, it's mom and dad. I remember the first time I saw that I was shocked because as a pastor, a youth leader, I

actually barely made the top ten list on that. And it was so much that the importance of mom and dad and even other relatives in that. I know there's a book called "The Family-Friendly Church" that talks about some of this. The author actually, he says it's a great quote. He says, "Parents are the key faith developers for their children and they can have either a positive or negative impact on their kids as far as faith growth. Either way, they'll have the biggest impact. And you can have strong faith-shaping programs for kids at church but if you're not partnering with homes you risk producing kids who have weak faith." I remember reading that and just how that struck with me in realizing the significance of parents and also just realizing that when it comes to the amount of time that myself or other youth leaders are able to spend with kids it's usually just a few hours a week whereas the majority of the time the kids are at home or in other settings rather than just with us. And so this just became evident to me just the importance of wow I need to somehow figure out a way to partner with homes in helping kids spiritually and raising them spiritually, especially how we're talking about when it comes to youth ministry and teenagers.

JB: How then does that affect how a youth pastor goes about his job in ministering to his youth group?

TA: Well, I think it affects a lot of things. For me a lot of it was just looking at things and realizing, wow, when it comes to family ministry and realizing I needed to partner with families, probably my mindset was like, well I don't have time to add another program to what I'm doing or another ministry, if you will. So part of it was kind of shifting my mindset and I know that there is, Mark Penner who does like a book, I think it's called like a handbook on partnering with parents in family ministry. But I went to a workshop

at Youth Specialists Convention with him and I remember him talking about this very thing. And there were some different basic things that he talked about as far as how we could better partner with parents and it's not necessarily adding something major thing to our plate. And so for me that affected things by wondering how can I better communicate with parents as far as helping them to understand what we're trying to do, why do we do what we do, how can I affirm the value of parents and the students hear that and so the parents hear that. Sometimes it's just acknowledging when I'm planning my calendar and doing things in ministry, acknowledging the importance of parents and realizing wow, I need to take families into consideration when we plan things. I still remember at one point we're going from the high school, or we're going from the middle school and high school being together in our ministry to actually developing a middle school and high school ministry. We structured that back to back and the program was going to 9:00 and it was a great thing, I thought for high school students to be able to go until 9:00 but I didn't take into consideration that some of those families had younger kids and it made it really rough on them. And so I realized just to acknowledge the importance of parents sometimes just providing encouragement to them, writing them notes. I think sometimes even doing things like I remember adding, just trying to add workshops or different things to help educate parents. Parents can all of a sudden begin to see that what we were trying to do is we're trying to partner with them and help come alongside them in raising kids spiritually and making a difference that'll last past graduation. And so it was a paradigm shift, I guess in a sense as far as how we do things.

JB: For many youth ministers, especially in North America and in your local context right there in Newark, youth ministers serve alongside other members of a staff at a church. So as

you talk about family ministry I see that intersecting with many different ministries that are headed by oftentimes a full-time staff member at a church. So how does that then affect your relationships and your work with other people on staff?

TA: Well, you know, that's a whole issue that can actually be a barrier at times to family ministry or can be an asset depending on how your relationship is with your other staff because if the other people who are key ministry leaders, whether that's paid or non-paid, if they don't believe in the importance of families then they're going to kind of not take that into consideration. And so that could be a challenge if they're kind of wanting to do their own thing, planning their own things, and everybody's getting the calendar busy, in other words, you're having a little bit of conflict with each other. But so it can be a positive thing, though, you begin to have conversations and begin to get on the same page about how can we better plan things together and so in our setting it's been great because all of a sudden we were having conversations now about, wow whatever the sermons we're going to have, is there a way that we can teaching kids and teens with maybe the same kind of things sometimes on, you know, just on developmental, different level. But are there ways that we can worship together sometimes and teach something and be intentional about our worship gathering so that all ages can understand it and so that families can actually go home and talk about the same thing, that they're learning the same kinds of things, so you can actually have conversations around the table about the same kind of faith issues and stuff. And so and even just the planning of activities, you know, rather than being so busy with it all. Can be more intentional about...you know we're still going to have a youth ministry activity here or there or we're still going to have a kids' ministry or adult ministry activity, but are there some things that we can

actually do where we could actually come together and maybe it's a serving kind of project that families, you know, of all ages could actually serve together and come alongside of each other and get to know each other and build into each others' lives. So it's definitely a challenge, I think, when it comes to your staff and other ministry leaders. But through conversations and actually being intentional about planning you can kind of overcome some of those and you can actually begin to work closer together which can be a great thing.

JB: Earlier you spoke about the often widening as we've seen in recent statistical studies gap where students abandon or leave the faith after their graduation. And so my question for you is what are some of the key factors you've seen that are required to help students in their spiritual development while they are in your youth ministry?

TA: Part of that for me and what I've seen has come out of the Lutheran denomination did a study that looked at what are the most they were asking that what are the most important factors that help us to, that help students have a faith that lasts? And I remember just looking at their top three which, you know, were in the area of well, the number one was that faith was integrated in family identity and practice. In other words, that parents they are practicing their faith at home and living it out and talking about faith with their kids. Another key factor just had to do with just that students were surrounded; students who were surrounded by three or more adult mentors are more likely to have a faith that lasts past graduation. The third key factor just had to do with serving, that students were actually involved in serving, serving with their families. And so some of the things in our ministry and things that I've come to believe in is just that how can we then help families talk about, how can we help them talk about faith at home? If that's important that

families are doing that how can we help them do that? How can we provide them resources and things? In fact, referred to that search institute study earlier that they actually went a little more in depth and did some research about our parents and our families actually talking about a scripture and praying together at home. And it's interesting when they actually did the study it was like 11,000 students over about 550 congregations in 6 denominations they looked at. And so most of these are church students and they found out that only twelve percent of them said that they actually talked about faith with their mom and five percent, just five percent, said they talked about faith with their dad. And so for me I'm like, ok that's not necessarily, it looks like it's not happening at home and so how can we then, how can we help families do that? And the other thing is that I think is interesting is that when it comes to I think students today they often need families and a lot of them, you know, when it comes to students today, a lot of times they need somebody to come besides mom and dad somebody to come alongside them and build into their lives and so I've found that that's a key thing is how can we help students have, you know, either for instance spiritual grandparents, aunts and uncles, and brothers and sisters, like to use kind of that language. And how can we come alongside them? Which, you know, that's what youth ministry's a lot about – is relational ministry, coming alongside parents and how can we help even broaden that – different ages come alongside students? And then the third thing that I right along with that say that we've kind of done in our own ministry is then how can we do the serving factor? How can we help students realize the importance that they can serve with their family in ministry at our own church and how can we help them serve in the community and provide opportunities for them to know how to serve in their neighborhoods and with

local service organizations to make a difference, just to teach them the importance of that's who we are as Christ followers as we serve. And so there's some of things as far as that have been key factors, I think. Students' spiritual faith development but also things that we're trying to do to help address those.

JB: In looking at the big picture, then, what would you say family ministry overall means to the entire profession of youth ministry? What does family ministry mean for youth ministry?

TA: I think it means first of all that the youth leader, the youth pastor needs to recognize the importance of the home, the importance of partnering with parents. Because if home is an incredible influence as far as faith development goes, you've got to recognize that and then ask yourself how can we, how can you better come alongside, build relationships with parents, partner with them so that you can speak in to what's going on in the home. I think the other thing is as far as what family ministry means for youth ministry just goes into realizing the importance of how can we help parents by providing people who are really building into their kids' lives. How can we surround them with...if that's that spiritual grandparent, aunt and uncle, older brother, older sister kind of concept that there's other people of other ages that are speaking in, they're speaking the same language as far as when it comes to a spiritual journey, the importance of one's relationship with God. And even just for youth ministry how can we, you know, that's the serving, other part of the serving aspect, I think. How can we help families and parents understand the importance of serving – serving together in ministry and serving the community and teaching kids, teenagers how to serve?

JB: What have you found, then, to be some of the challenges and struggles of doing family ministry?

TA: Well, when it comes to probably youth ministry, you know, talk about specifically that area, I think there's several challenges that come into play. And part of it is, I think, as soon as parents just want to drop, I felt this, parents want to drop their kids off and they're looking for somebody just to be a babysitter. Or, they're looking at, they're saying, "Hey, we want the youth ministry or the youth leader to raise our kid spiritually," rather than taking responsibility for it. And so I think that's a challenge when it comes to youth ministry as far as it can make family ministry hard. The other, I think, sometimes is just even students; some of the students can be resistant. They're like, "We just want our own thing. We don't want to be around mom or dad." And so you have that little bit of a challenge. But I think because just the natural tendency of a youth worker or a youth leader to be involved in a teen's life there's sometimes where parents can feel like, you know, youth leaders have kind of the inside scoop on things with what's going on at home and so that can be a barrier to things. And youth leaders, I think youth leaders sometimes can be a barrier in the sense that, you know, there's times when I think youth workers like, you know, they love being needed if you want to say it that way. Or we can be too busy and we can be too busy with everything that's going on that we just feel like we can't we don't have time to partner with parents. And so those are some of the things, I think, that make, that can make family ministry hard and difficult to do.

JB: How can youth leaders overcome these challenges then?

TA: Well, a lot of that is because it deals with the youth leader and the parent, their relationship, a lot of it is again, I think, for me it was a paradigm shift that Mark Penner covered in that workshop that I went to and the book, it's Youth Worker's Guide to Parent Ministry is actually the name of that book. And he talks about ten different levels of things that you

can do in your ministry. You can help parents. If you say your first _____ is a co-nurturer as a partner, so those are things that were mentioned earlier about just all of a sudden now in your planning and acknowledging families and the importance of families and just affirming them. He talks about communication, encouraging them, consulting their input and getting their input in stuff you're doing. And I've done that at different points in time in our ministry where we've actually sit down and going, "Hey, what's going on? It's the first of the school year," and with families and all of a sudden you have they feel like you're taking the time to hear them out and get their input. And sometimes parents can be your actually greatest defenders in what you're trying to do with your ministry. But you need to equip parents and connect parents sometimes together and even involve them in ministry. And I think that's a fear sometimes – involving parents in ministry. We think wow, students; they don't want their mom or dad around. And occasionally, you know, I'll come across that, but the majority of the times it's been a great thing is to get a parent involved because they see what we're doing; they learn about what we're doing and they can talk about that at home then. And it becomes a great asset. They also begin to see how we are partnering with them and trying to help them as far as when it comes to raising their kids spiritually.

JB: So far today we've talked about a lot of the theoretical elements of family ministry and how it connects with youth ministry. But before we wrap things up today I would really love to hear some personal stories from your journey with youth ministry, maybe serving to encourage others who really buy into this and really see the importance of this, particularly not only in their youth ministry, but in their church in general to bring about

this paradigm shift that I hear you talking about. How has family ministry then become important in your local church?

TA: Well, again, some of that's been definitely a journey. It's not like we've got everything together as far as everything's perfect or anything. By no means is it like that. But a lot of it's been a lot of conversations with key leaders. A lot of it's been pulling key people together that have the same kind of heart. But a lot of it, again, conversations with leaders, conversations with parents, just talking about what do we really believe? What do we believe about students and faith development, about people in faith development? And as we ask those questions trying to figure out, ok, then how can we build a team that understands the importance that we've got to not just partner with families but function as family and stress that language that it's more than just the individual family? I know that's probably even in our time together it seems like it's about the individual family at times but it's a lot about how can we function as family? How can we help families, even, function as family and care for each other? And so it's pulling the right people together and begin to talk, have those kinds of conversations and to plan accordingly and to realize...I always like to think of it as that no matter if you're a volunteer, no matter if you do music ministry, youth ministry, I think everybody can be a family ministry leader in the sense that we can be an advocate for families and we can remind people of the importance of functioning as family that we need each other. We can raise the question in a sense that the question of what impact is what we are doing does it have on families in our congregation, in our community. And those are some of the things that I think can challenge people to think, to think differently and can take those steps towards shifting our way of thinking.

JB: In your personal experience, then, what have you found to be some of the big challenges and obstacles that you've faced in bringing about a shift in focus upon family ministry?

TA: Well, my own personal ministry, I mean, it's just the one we just even just talked about as far as leadership. I think leadership can be, when I say leadership it could be staff, it could be other ministry leaders, because if you're not working together as a team, if everybody's kind of doing their own thing that's definitely can be a barrier because you got to, somehow you've got to figure out how can we work together through our planning in what we do and how can we help address transition points, you know, from kids to teens, teens to adults? How can we help each other to communicate to people the importance of being family? And some of that's been, I know definitely for us it's been how can we help leaders to get on the same page? And we've, you know, we've had to address that and come a long ways with that. The others, you know, I have to acknowledge, I mean we're starting out. When it came to our youth ministry here, when we talked about how we were going to do a family worship gathering where we're going to have all ages together, you know, it affected our weekly or Wednesday night student community, our youth ministry program we were doing. Our teens are like, "What? We don't want to do that. We want to do our own thing." But we went ahead and pushed forward with that and had a lot of conversations with teenagers and got our teens actually involved in our family worship gathering that we're doing. And now, you know, our teens talk about that and our teens have wanted to be a part of that and have all of a sudden understood some of the importance of that and the importance of them building into kids and other people and so they're serving and taking a role in that. So students, you know, is a barrier that we've had to overcome and that. I think sometimes you have

students in youth ministry that are students who are without family or they have unchurched parents and so the parents, you know, don't come or their parents just don't have a church or Christian background. And so that seems like it's a barrier, I think. Although, I think family ministry is a great thing because all of a sudden now you're providing people who are coming alongside these students and can talk about functioning as family who are going to build into them and take on the important role of "I need to be a mentor to this student." But if you're doing other things to help parents see that you want to partner with them, what I found sometimes is that the parent who's unchurched or doesn't have the Christian background, they all of a sudden have a different outlook on what our ministry is about and they realize that we want to help them and we want to partner, I mean care about their kid. In some cases it's been a key thing to help, I guess, have an impact on those unchurched parents spiritually. So those are some of the things I think in our setting that we've had to face. I probably would add to that language. I think as far as, again, this whole thing when we talk about family, family ministry. A lot of people want to think of it, "Oh well, it's just for mom and dad and their kids." And so we have to constantly talk about what we need together around is how we say it. We need to be family. 'Cause otherwise there's non-traditional families that get left out. And so, like this isn't for them and they don't understand their role that we need them too. You know, we want to help them.

JB: I want to jump onto something that you just said that I find incredibly important. You talked about some of the language that comes with family ministry and I think one of the important things to keep in mind when talking about family ministry is that families can mean anything to anyone. To the girl in your youth group who grew up without a father,

whose father left her at a very young age speaking about God as father means a lot different than the teenage girl that has a stable home life. How does that affect your language and how does that affect how you minister to students in your youth group, keeping in mind that families can mean many different things?

TA: That probably is, that's the way I like to stress the importance of saying we need to function as family that we need to care for each other and be there for each other. And so, you know, there's this whole aspect of, you know, how can we come alongside someone and be a spiritual grandparent or an uncle or aunt, or brother or sister? How can we gather around, again, that's a phrase that we sometimes use? How can we, we all need to gather around because not everybody has an immediate family that's there for them. And so that's for our setting how we've chosen to try to address it. And still if you talk about the girl who has, as far as her father maybe hasn't always been there, you know, that can be a barrier, but that's where if somebody could come alongside and love and care for that person, it can help change some of that and teach them the mindset. It can help change the person's perception sometimes about what they might perceive God as as father. But you know, have the right mentors building into that person and being family for that person.

JB: That's a beautiful thing. I find it incredible how the church can help redefine some of those roles that otherwise you'd think that the person is required and has to live in due to their circumstances. That's where the church can really make a great transformation in lives that need transformation. What are some examples of how your church is ministering to families?

TA: Well, part of it is, I think there's been some different questions that have helped us to do that which then helps us to do some practical things. One is we've helped parents. First question is how can we help parents see our ministry as a partnership? And that's some of the things that we've been talking about as far as acknowledging parents and affirming them and encouraging, those kinds of things. The other thing I think we've asked is how can we help _____ faith families? You know, we talk about how we need to be family and so what we've said is, "Ok then, what does that mean? How do we provide, what kind of activities or events or programs or things, what kind of things can we do that can bring people together and help them to interact and be family?" And so, we've done things from, we've done things as simple as a bowling activity where we've said we want to bring everybody together and parents together to miniature golfing or...I mean, we had a fishing derby...a pond a few months ago where different people showed up and different people were teaching different people how to fish and we gave out prizes and all that stuff. It just brought different ages together. We had a thing, we called it a Barnyard Hoedown but it was out in the country and it was just a great time where all kinds of people came together and we had music and games and activities, but, you know, it's about being intentional, trying to pull people together and trying to allow different families to connect as far as individual families but also different generations to connect with each other. And then we've done some things like in our setting, you know, for some people who think, wow, how do we transition into this kind of stuff, too? I know we talk about worshipping together with all generations. For us, we started out with we called it "merge" and it was a gathering for families and others who we said you want to build into the lives of people. And so we came together and it was, we had music. And

we kept it moving because we had every, you know, we had infants all the way up to, you know, to elderly people and that and we had key people that would help people to have conversations and to interact with each other. And so they did things together and worshipped together. But it was through doing that on a, probably not, it wasn't a Sunday; a normal kind of worship Sunday celebration but it was a different night. But it was through doing that that we showed that wow, you know, all generations can worship together if we're intentional about this. It's allowed us to; we have three sites that make up Newark Nazarene. We're a multi-site and one of our venues every Sunday now it does a family worship gathering, has all ages together. And then another one of our locations has started doing that once a month and then our third location is starting to embrace some of that, too, and do some of those kinds of things. So those are some of the things that we've done on a practical level and there's things that we're even planning right now that we hope will create some more people to be mentors and to build into other people's lives.

JB: Awesome. I've got to say that hoedown sounds like it was a lot of fun. Then looking ahead, now, before we finish up today, looking ahead to the future, what are some of the things that you'd like to see happen for family ministry in your local church and also in general for the church?

TA: What I've seen as far as it's been exciting even is that more people are talking about, I think, family ministry and I know that I saw a recent article. It was in a children's ministry magazine _____ Magazine. And they were talking about some of the top trends even in children's ministry and one of those had to do with family ministry, that the role of the children's pastor's changing, now that they now put children's ministries understand the

importance of partnering with and doing ministry with parents rather than for parents. And so, in fact their next edition is going to be on family ministry. And these kinds of conversations I'm seeing more curriculum and more things that are out there that can help the kinds of things we've been talking about in our time together here happen. And so for me I'm excited to see some of our leaders and, you know, begin to work together more and what we're trying to teach and what we're trying to do and how we're trying a variety. I'm excited about there's resources that are out there. We have a website. It's gatheraround.org; gatheraround.org. And what we try to do even with that is place practical things to help people be family, you know, whether it's mentor or adopt a grandparent or there's resources on there just to help families have conversations during the week about faith, about scripture, about prayer around mealtimes. There's even ideas about serving and so those are kinds of things that get those resources and hopefully help parents kind of change maybe their mindset as far as how they have a role to play when it comes to raising their kids spiritually. And we want to help with that. And so I'm excited to see some of those kinds of things take place. I'm excited to I think see the opportunities for other people and to build into other people's lives. I just think about our teens here recently. They got a list of elderly people that are connected with our church in some way and they were like, "Hey, we want to do an adopt a grandparent kind of deal." And on their own they're planning this and so now they're making calls and going just trying to connect with some elderly people just to try to have conversations and to show that they care. And so those are the kinds of things that I'm excited about as we just kind of move ahead in family ministry.

JB: Then before we wrap this up, can you recommend some books or resources for youth workers out there who would like to learn more about family ministry?

TA: Sure. I know that one I referred to earlier which I think is a great book just to start on; an easy read is called The Family-Friendly Church, The Family-Friendly Church. The reason I like that is because it's about a guy's journey on the way ministry was taking place and how his mindset began to shift in some of the things that he did. And it just gives some great practical things that you can do in a local church, how things can look differently if it were to be more family, family-oriented. There's a book, it's called Building a Faith at Home. That one's actually by Mark Homan. And that's been a good one. I mentioned Mark Penner earlier for youth ministry and as far as it's more geared towards definitely youth ministry. It's a Youth Worker's Guide to Parent Ministry. That's just again that's a great book as far as to start on, too. Those are three of them that I would probably highly recommend.

JB: Well, thank you so much for joining us today, Tevis. And for our listeners, make sure that you're checking out youthministryacademy.org. and featured on the site this month is a special article that Tevis has written that is especially beneficial and I think really sums up a lot of what we've talked about today very well. And so, make sure you're checking that out. And check out our Facebook and Twitter throughout the month as we continue to converse and talk about family ministry and how that works with youth ministry in particular. And please feel free to send your feedback and questions through our Facebook and through the contact information on the site, and also through our blog. There are many chances to interact with the community at the Youth Ministry Academy. Well, Tevis, thank you so much for joining us.

TA: Thank you.

JB: And we will catch you again, later. Thank you.