

Upcoming Schedule:

10/9 – Discipleship night

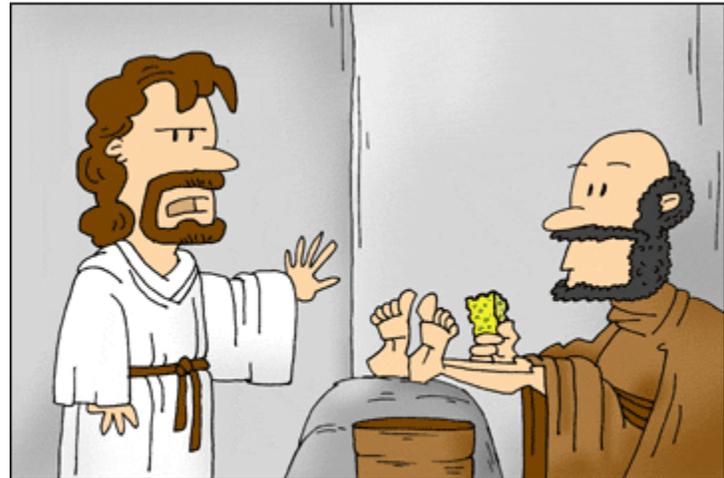
10/16 – Service night

10/23 – DWU youth night featuring the Skit Guys

10/30 – Fun night

11/3 – Community Dodgeball

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(See John 13:1-11)

10-19-2004

I WAS MAKING A POINT THE OTHER DAY ...
YOU STILL NEED TO BE ABLE TO WASH YOUR
OWN FEET SOMETIMES

* You can see our full schedule up to Christmas on the church web site:

<http://www.firstreformed.com/youth/index.htm>

You can get a feel for what the Skit Guys are like at their web site: <http://skitguys.com/>

Do Hard Things by Alex and Brett Harris

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, I plan to share some excerpts from “Do Hard Things” by Alex and Brett Harris – a book for teenagers by teenagers:

“Most people don’t expect you to understand what we’re going to tell you in this book. And even if you understand, they don’t expect you to care. And even if you care, they don’t expect you to do anything about it. Well we do. This is a different kind of teen book. Check online or walk through your local bookstore. You’ll find plenty of books written by fortysomethings who, like, totally understand what it’s like to be a teenager.

This is a challenging book for teens by teens who believe our generation is ready for a change. Ready for something that doesn’t promise a whole new life if you’ll just buy the right pair of jeans or use the right kind of deodorant. We believe our generation is ready to re-think what teens are capable of doing and becoming. And we’ve noticed that once wrong ideas are debunked and cleared away, our generation is quick to choose a better way, even if it’s more difficult.

We’re nineteen-year-old twin brothers (the book is about 10 years old now, but still applicable) born and raised in Oregon, taught at home by our parents, and striving to follow

Christ as best we can. We've made more than our share of mistakes. And although we don't think 'average teenagers' exist, there is nothing all that extraordinary about us personally. Still, we've had some extraordinary experiences. At 16, we interned at the Alabama Supreme Court. At 17, we served as grass roots directors for four state wide political campaigns. At 18, we authored the most popular Christian teen blog on the web. We've been able to speak to thousands of teens and their parents at conferences in the US and internationally and to reach millions online. But if our teen years have been different than most, it's not because we're somehow better than other teens, but because we've been motivated by a simple, but very big idea.

It's about rebelling against low expectations. It's a movement that is changing the attitudes and actions of teens around the world. We invite you to explore some radical questions:

- Is it possible that even though teens today have more freedom than any other generation in history, we're actually missing out on some of the best years of our lives?
- Is it possible that what our culture says about purpose and potential of the teen years is a lie and that we are its victims?
- Is it possible that our teen years give us a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for huge accomplishments – as individuals and as a generation?
- Finally, what would our lives look like if we set out on a different path entirely – a path that required more effort but promised a lot more reward?

We describe that alternative path with three simple words – 'do hard things' (p. 3-7)."

A Little Humor...

WHAT MY MOTHER TAUGHT ME

My mother taught me RELIGION: When I spilled grape juice on the carpet, she instructed, "You better pray the stain will come out of the carpet."

My mother taught me LOGIC: From her decisive words, "Because I said so, that's why."

My mother taught me FORESIGHT: "Make sure you wear clean underwear, in case you're in an accident."

My mother taught me IRONY: "Keep laughing, and I'll give you something to cry about."

My mother taught me about STAMINA: "You'll sit there 'til all that spinach is finished."

My mother taught me about WEATHER: "It looks as if a tornado swept through your room."

My mother taught me THE CIRCLE OF LIFE: "I brought you into this world, and I can take you out."

My mother taught me about BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION: "Stop acting like your father!"

My mother taught me about ENVY: "There are millions of less fortunate children in this world who don't have a wonderful Mom like you do!"

<http://www.sermoncentral.com/Illustrations/SearchResults.asp?Category=Humor&Page=1&Sort=rank&keyword=life&ScriptureBookA2=&ScriptureVerse2=&TopicID=0&since2=0>

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Thanks to Mikel Rice (See Genesis 6-8) 10-06-2004

**GEE DAD ... I HOPE THAT PEOPLE IN THE
FUTURE WON'T BE LOOKING FOR THIS ARK**