

## Reflection Questions for Doug Tooke's Webinar on Family Ministry

Doug speaks of the spiritual 'brokenness' that exists in parents' lives and our need to address this in our work. What has been your ministerial experience with the spiritual lives of parents?

What is your reaction to this quote from the webinar?

*"We want [parents] to become primary catechists for their children, but they first need to be able to evangelize their children...so therefore they need to be evangelized themselves."*

Doug stated, *"If we are not contagious, compelling and enthusiastic (about the good news that Jesus has risen) then we are not evangelizing...and if we are not evangelizing, then we **can't** catechize."* Do you hear truth in this statement? How does this inform your ministry? Do you feel you have been leading with a contagious, compelling and enthusiastic outlook?

Kerygma is the Greek word for the Good News of Jesus (the Gospel). It is the most essential message of our faith. Doug equates the lack of success we are having with some parents to the idea that the *"basics of sharing the good news might have been omitted from some of the higher level catechetical programs."* What are your thoughts on this? How can 'kerygma language' become more incorporated into our interactions with families?

Contemplate this statement from the XIII Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops in October 2012

*"The New Evangelization guides us to an authentic pastoral conversation which moves us to attitudes and initiatives which leads to evaluations and changes in the dynamics of pastoral structures which no longer respond to the evangelical demands of the current time."*

Now reflect on Doug's response to this Synod statement:

*"Change is part of formation. For those of us who work as formers of the faith, revisiting pastoral structures is exactly what we are supposed to be doing. Not skirting around them and just trying to find materials that make it more functional. Church leaders are saying that if a pastoral structure isn't serving families, then we have to change the structure."*

Doug speaks quite a bit about the need for parents to have "a vocabulary of faith" in order for them to grow themselves and their children spiritually. This vocabulary of faith will allow parents to *"welcome all of the gifts and fruits of the Spirit into their homes to drench their kids with the Spirit and allow the Spirit to do its thing."* How can we help parents build a 'vocabulary of faith'?

What did you make of this statement of Doug's? Does it cause you to look inward at your own personal prayer life?

*"It sounds threatening to us that our job is not necessarily to pour out a resource on mom and dad as much as it is to BE the resource. It assumes automatically if we are spiritually centered, that we're willing to walk with mom and dad in that spiritual walk."*

Doug was rather unapologetic in his suggestion to reach out on the phone to connect with parents as a way of building relationships. He clearly feels quite passionately about relational ministry and its effects on families. Reflect on this quote:

*"But when we do draw parents into a deeper spirituality where they can grow spiritually and are in relationship with them and walking with them over the long term, their openness to the language of a teaching resource quintuples in size and the quality of the domestic church experience grows. And it's hard work that demands good relationships."*

How can we work towards making this next thought a reality in our parishes?

*"Our dream is for parents to emphatically share prayer language at home, using the language of faith at home by praying at home, creating a space for encounter at home and then genuinely accompanying their children at home."*

Doug is really asking for catechetical leaders to make a huge paradigm shift of the mind and of the heart. What about this shift makes you excited? Uncomfortable? Uncertain? Does your attitude and/or outlook of parents need to change at all?



## Doug Tooke Webinar on Family Ministry Follow-Up Discussion

- July 7, 10:00 a.m.: Click on [this link](#) to join the discussion. You can also dial in by phone: 1 (312) 757-312; please use access code: 591-021-037
- July 7, 7:00 p.m.: Click on [this link](#) to join this meeting. You can also dial in by phone: 1 (646) 749-3122; please use access code: 762-679-365

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