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DISCUSSION GUIDE – Based on the 3-minute video at OverflowToday.com titled:

Randy Newman: Sharing Jesus with family members.

Featuring Randy Newman, author of the book BRINGING THE GOSPEL HOME, from Crossway Books.

Section 1

Discuss what you applied in the past seven days from the last OverflowToday show.

Read 1st Timothy 5:3-8. Discuss any concepts you see here that apply to one's family of actual relatives rather than one's spiritual family. How serious, here, is scripture's tone regarding our care of family members?

Section 2

Watch the podcast titled "Randy Newman: Sharing Jesus with family members" at the website <http://OverflowToday.com>

Section 3

What did you think? What stood out to you as you watched this?

Randy Newman said that he is very often asked for advice on how to minister to family members. So much so that he decided to write this book. What has been your experience in trying to explain the gospel of Jesus Christ with your own family members? Give specific examples if you can.

Newman named some of the types of people that our relatives might be that cause us to feel more perplexed in how to offer Christ with them. Can you name a few of them?

What types of people are in your family and what about that makes them a challenge to discuss Christ with?

Newman commented that family is the place where people just assume that they love and that they are loved. But he followed that with several statements in light of that. Which of these do you relate to and why?:

- a. They don't express it very well, or either they don't express it at all. It is just assumed.
- b. Family is where love is craved the most and sometimes received the least.

Newman said that communicating the gospel message to our family members is important. Yet he has talked to many Christians who expressed that they wished they had focused more on loving their family members and really wanting to hear about what they were interested in. What do you think?

What are some ways to do focus on showing our love for them more or in showing interest in their lives?

How did the author say we could be viewed if we are too solely focused on imparting a message to our family members?

Newman discussed how witnessing to our family members can feel like two very different speeds or gears at two extremes of the spectrum, neither feeling quite right. What were those two gears and do you relate?

Either sharing too fast, too soon, too much, all the time, or not sharing the gospel at all.

The author said that sometimes if we see a shred of interest, we tend to flood that family member with everything we know, all in one conversation. Do you think this is sometimes appropriate and sometimes not, depending on the person, or do you think this should be avoided always? Share opinions.

He says that in some cases, we need to "think incrementally" regarding imparting biblical truth to our family members. He also said it is counterintuitive to us to move gradually in this way. What do you think?

Newman closed by saying that sometimes, rather than pushing so hard for their full agreement right then, that it can be wise to leave them at a different stopping point. What was that stopping point and what do you think?

Trying to see them move to the "maybe" category where they could wrestle with the issue of the gospel after our contact with them.

Have you ever heard the concept that rather than always seeing a convert, successful evangelism can be seeing someone, because of our conversation with them, move from a -10 to a -8 in their regard for Christ and the gospel? What do you think?

Let's each name a family member or two who we'd like to see embrace Christ and describe a way we might be able to impact their lives more in light of what we discussed tonight.

Section 4

Discuss and plan a way that group members can apply these principles this week in others' lives.

One suggestion, if needed:

Each group member consider the last question we discussed tonight and apply what you shared with a family member(s) this week. If they live close by, apply that in person. If they live elsewhere, by telephone or Skype. One easy way to do this is to, as Newman recounted, ask a family member about an area of his life that is a strong interest for him. Ask him what he enjoys about it, ask him to explain aspects of it to you, and ask him to describe some of his favorite times of being involved with that interest. Perhaps, just have a good conversation letting your family member share about his life and leave it at that. Another idea would be to look for a way that you could go help or serve a family member in an unexpected way. Remember that Randy Newman said that sharing the message is important, so have an intentional plan to do that or revisit that sooner or later. But try to love them more diversely and fully in the meantime.

OverflowToday sincerely thanks author Randy Newman for being so generous with his content from his book BRINGING THE GOSPEL HOME, as well as his earlier books titled CORNER CONVERSATIONS and QUESTIONING EVANGELISM.