

# MCLAUGHLIN



*Be Strong | Stand for Truth | Live for Eternity*



*We were in Dallas for my Grandfather's funeral (My Dad's Father) for a few days but were able to get over to the bluebonnets for some family photos. Grandparents and all their grandchildren*



*On our layover in Atlanta the kids were soaking up their lunch time watching planes and playing games...the "fourth" child was Lucia's doll who made the trip with us.*

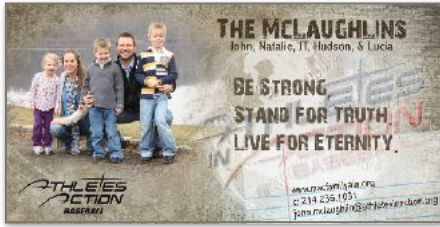


*We had some good friends come in town to visit so we headed down to the Ark Encounter...this is obviously the door portion of the Ark.*

## MINISTRY RESOURCES

The most exciting part of our summer for me is when we get together as a team and begin to talk about how the truth of God's word intersects with each area of our lives. This begins with a clear presentation of what the Gospel is and how we can communicate it to others. It also entails helping each team member to share the story of God in their lives with others. Since I am mapping out our entire discipleship schedule for this coming summer, I thought I would share the topics and even resources I am using so that you could either use them yourself or use them as a way to pray more specifically for the players and coaches as we work our way through them.

1. *Gospel*: I utilize Evantell ministries for teaching a clear and simple understanding the Gospel, our role and God's role in the process. This is a four session discipleship schedule that includes Perspective on the Evangelism, the Message in Evangelism, the Presentation, and Overcoming Fear.
2. *Testimony*: Once we have established a good foundation of the Gospel, we spend a few sessions on *3 Parts of an Effective Testimony*, also by Evantell. This is a great aid to help the guys get their evangelistic testimony down to about 5 minutes. We usually spend anywhere from 2-3 sessions on this - most of which is the guys spending time writing and developing this with a handful of revisions! :)
3. One change I made this year was to use a segment from *One to One* by BEE World on Fellowship with God or *The Principles and Practice of a Quiet Time*. I really wanted the guys to be on the same page of how this works so they could establish a consistent schedule through the month.
4. Next we will talk about how faith and sport specifically intersect. This material is known as the *Athletes in Action Principles*. In a basic sense it is really the gospel applied to sport, spoken in the language of sport and experience through sport. We cover topics of identity, motivation, perspective, etc. This takes about 5 sessions or a week to cover.
5. Another adjustment this year will be how we approach our study of Theology proper. I have historically moved into a session on the Church and the importance of a local church, especially to these athletes who through the sheer nature of the sport miss a lot of church attendance & participation. I did not want them to come out of college without a deep conviction for the local church. This year I will address the topic "*Can you trust the Bible?*". This was in response to a free eight-week online course that Dallas Theological Seminary has provided. This will really instrumental in setting the stage for our study of *Understanding the Bible* and *Bible Study Methods* as we will work through the book of Philipians. These two studies will comprise of 5 sessions of discipleship.



*Just a reminder to download our Family prayer card from our website: [www.macfamilyaia.org](http://www.macfamilyaia.org)*

## Family Updates

- Lucia and Hudson are playing soccer this spring through Upwards. They are excited to run and have already been decked out in their gear playing out back.
- JT is set to play baseball this spring and has already had a few practices. He has been utilizing the pitch-back his Paw-paw gave him a lot.

## Prayer Requests

1. Prayer for John as he is entering the season where his work days get longer, especially as he prepares for all the discipleship times during the month of June. Pray for guidance, wisdom, creativity - to reach the hearts of the players and coaches with the truth of God's Word.
2. Prayer for Natalie as she continues to lead her women's Bible study, finish strong with homeschooling, & preparation for my departure.

6. We will then move to the topic that always keeps their interest - Sex. Actually I label it as Sexual Integrity, Dating and Marriage. This portion is typically a 3-4 part series and includes 1-2 Q&A sessions with Natalie and me.
7. Following this I have us venture into the world of media and culture. The idea is how to appropriately navigate these waters: 1-2 Sessions.
8. Next is a short series on the local church - what it is and the necessity of it in the Christian faith. 1 Session.
9. We then have a few talks on Biblical Manhood. This is where I open up the opportunity for our leadership staff to teach something close to their heart. This is typically 1 Session/possibly 2 Sessions.
10. If we have time we have the guys work through some of Paul's prayers. It is a great way to give them some spiritual food as they prepare to return. - 1 Session.
11. Lastly we do some debrief on their return and how they can begin to communicate all that God did in and through them. 1 Session.

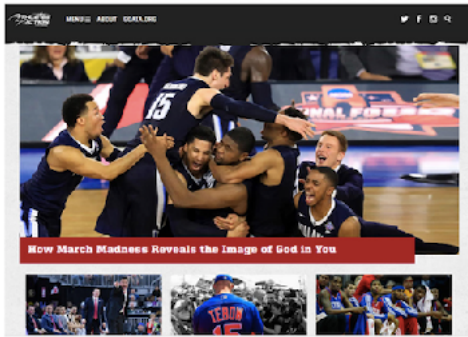
## GRANDFATHER'S FUNERAL

Thank you for all your prayers through our travel to Dallas for my Grandad's funeral. It was simultaneously a time of sorrow and rejoicing. The travel time was brief in Dallas, however the surrounding events with family were lasting! I am so thankful for hearing stories of his legacy and investment in people for the Kingdom of God.



## ATHLETES IN ACTION'S WEBSITE

### Athletes in Action's New Website



AIA created this website with one primary purpose in mind: To help sports-minded people think and live biblically at the intersection of sport and Christianity. This site represents our attempt to resource an underserved population—the athlete, coach, and spectator interested in allowing God to shape their thinking in every

aspect of life, including their interaction with sports. We want to engage the issues surround sport culture by opening a door for thoughtful but accessible Christian analysis of sports. We also want to offer daily spiritual content for those concerned with the redemption of both sports and those who love them.