

New Man Story

Franklin Graham — “I Just Wanted To Have Fun”

Franklin Graham grew up in Montreat, North Carolina in a log cabin home built by his mother, Ruth Graham. His father, Billy Graham, is considered to be the most influential and beloved evangelist of the 20th century.

Even though he knew the importance of his father’s ministry and was raised in a Christ-centered home, Franklin wanted nothing to do with God as a young man. His interests were in partying, drinking, dating and having fun with his high school and college friends. There was no room in that lifestyle for God. He didn’t want to be shackled by God’s rules for his life.

Then in 1974 (at the age of 22) Franklin experienced a great emptiness, a God-shaped hole, in his life. He realized that he couldn’t fill that hole with the party-life he had been living, repented of all that and asked the Lord to pick up the pieces and make something of his life.

Shortly after surrendering his life to God, Franklin became involved with Samaritan’s Purse—a faith-based humanitarian relief ministry founded in 1970 by Robert Pierce, who also founded World Vision. He became President in 1979, following Robert’s death in 1978, and continues to serve as the organization’s CEO and spokesman. He also serves as CEO of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, founded by his father in 1950.

Franklin might have continued the partying lifestyle and the pursuit of “fun” as his main purpose. Many have made that decision, and continue to do so. They too may be confronted by their emptiness, but ignore the exchanged life offered them by the Lord. Fortunately for Franklin, he made the right choice at a young age and went on to serve Him.

When asked if he had to give up “fun” and “freedom” after surrendering his life to God, he replied...”that’s when the real fun began.”

Discussion Questions

1. There is unhealthy “fun” and harmless fun. What do you do for fun?
2. How can “harmless” fun become unhealthy?
3. Franklin talks about a “God shaped hole” in our lives. What is that?
4. Honestly...do you view your faith-life as “enjoyable” and “fun” or as mostly obligation?
5. What would need to change in your life to make God a more enjoyable experience?
6. Franklin lead a “sinner’s prayer” at the end of the video. Have you ever said that prayer?

Click on the link below to watch Franklin’s 5 minute video

<https://vimeo.com/502880121>