

News Story Summary

Matthew Centrowitz Jr. is the son of a former Olympic athlete. In July of this year, Matthew Jr. earned a spot on the 2016 U.S. Olympic team to run in the same race his father had run in the 1976 Olympics. Both men attended the same school (Oregon), had the same major (sociology), ran the same race (the 1,500), qualified for two different Olympiads, and have the same first name. When interviewed after making the 2016 U.S. team, Matt Jr. revealed a tattoo across his chest that simply reads “Like Father Like Son.” During the Rio Olympics, Matt Jr. won the gold medal in the 1,500 meter race, being the first American to win that event since 1908.

(For more on this story, search the Internet using the phrase “Centrowitz like father.”)

Focus Attention

Share the news story with the group. Ask: *What do Matt Jr’s actions reveal about how he feels about his father? What factors do you think contribute to him wanting to follow in his father’s footsteps?* Emphasize how children emulate their parents in some way.

Explain that in today’s study, Peter will emphasize the importance of the children of God emulating the character of their Father, especially His holiness. Challenge the group to look for reasons Peter gave for believers to live holy lives.

Challenge

Remind the group of the story of the Centrowitz family, emphasizing the son following the father. Ask: *What needs to change in your life for you to claim “like Father like son” in your spiritual life?* Challenge the group to consider what they need to do to reflect God’s holiness to a greater degree. Invite volunteers to highlight actions called for by Peter, reminding them that Peter was asking others to do the same thing he was striving to do. Close in prayer, asking God to help the group demonstrate His character.