

A HIKING FAMILY. TRANSCRIPT

My name's Randall Davis, and I'm originally from the state of Indiana in the United States. When I was 19 years old, I moved to Venezuela in South America, and later returned to the United States, where I attended Brigham Young University in the 1980s. I majored in Spanish education and TESOL, or teaching English as a second language. After graduating from college, my wife and I moved to Japan where we lived for eight years. Now, I work back in the States in Utah.

However, my greatest interests are my family. Years ago, I wanted to make something of myself in my profession . . . you know . . . get ahead in life. However, I realized that the most important things in life lived within the walls of my own home, and today, I try to put them first. My kids wouldn't remember me for the work I did outside of the home; they would only recall the moments we spent together.

Therefore, I enjoy spending time with my family. I have four children, and we go hiking and camping together, usually in Utah. On our hikes, we often talk about life, and I tell stories or share personal experiences. When I do this, I can focus on the kids without the distractions of video games or the Internet. Telling stories sounds easy, but when you have to think of a new story on a hot, 12-kilometer hike through the desert, you have to come up with ideas off the top of your head.

Now, this doesn't mean we don't have problems, all families face challenges in their lives, and our family is no exception. However, we try to talk openly about our problems, and we try to solve our problems together. Building a strong family takes time, but it is worth the effort.

VOCABULARY

distraction (noun) - something that takes your attention away from another activity

focus (verb) - pay careful and direct attention to a particular person or thing

get ahead (phrasal verb) - become successful in the business world

make something of oneself (idiom) - become successful in a career or other activity

off the top of your head (idiom) - think of something immediately without preparation

realise (verb) - understand the importance of something

recall (verb) - remember something from the past

QUESTIONS

1. Where did Randall grow up?

- a) in Utah
- b) in Indiana
- c) in Venezuela

2. What was his undergraduate major?

- a) English
- b) Japanese
- c) Spanish

3. How many children does he have?

- a) four
- b) three
- c) two

4. What does Randall do when he goes on hikes with his children?

- a) tells them stories
- b) teaches them survival skills
- c) points out the wildlife

5) Randall suggests that parents...

- a) be consistent in their discipline
- b) enrol their children early into schools
- c) help children solve problems