

## LaRussa Family Charter

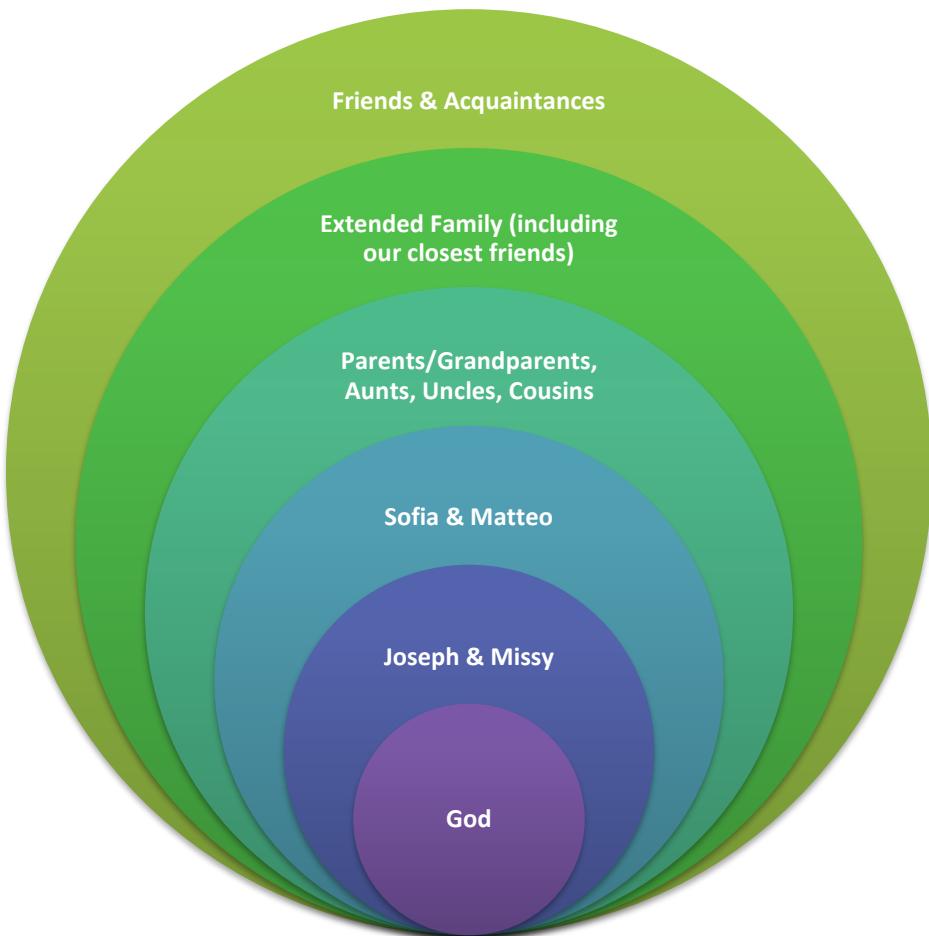
We are a family modeled on the Biblical standard. We aim to honor God and live out His truth as we do life. Our family will serve as an example to others and we welcome others to talk with us about how and why we do life the way we do. This gives us the opportunity to witness to others, provide a connection for them to Jesus, and ultimately spend eternity with them in heaven.

### Family Scripture:

"...choose this day whom you will serve....as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." *Joshua 24:15a,c*

### Our Priorities:

We understand that many families choose to do relationships differently. Our goal is to structure our familial relationships to align with the example set by God and His son Jesus in the Bible.



### Our Values:

**Love for/Devotion to God**

**Humility/Modesty**

**Hard Work**

**Memories**

**Generously Meeting the Needs of Others**

**Integrity/Honesty**

**Honoring all Commitments/Transparency**

**Fiscal Responsibility**

## Our Values, in Detail:

### **Love for/Devotion to God**

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength,” *Mark 12:30*

We will prioritize time for prayer, Bible study, and church, personally and as a family. Our daily actions should bring Him glory, we will praise him in all circumstances, and cry out to him in prayer as a first response in times of trouble or thanksgiving.

### **Generously Meeting the Needs of Others**

“Love your neighbor as yourself,” *Mark 12:31b*

The story of The Good Samaritan – *Luke 10:30-37*

“If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat; if he is thirsty, give him water to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head, and the Lord will reward you.” *Proverbs 25:21-22*

“But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,” *Matthew 5:44*

God said that others will know we are Christ followers by the love we show to others, even those who don't deserve it. Jesus modeled this when he died on the cross for our sins, even though we were the ones who deserved the punishment. We will seek opportunities to serve others, and use the time, talents, and treasure we've been given to help others.

### **Humility/Modesty**

“...clothe yourselves in humility toward one another, because God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” *1 Peter 5:5b*

“...with humility comes wisdom.” *Proverbs 11:2b*

“The fear of the Lord teaches a man wisdom, and humility comes before honor.” *Proverbs 15:33*

“I can do all things THROUGH HIM who gives me strength.” *Phillipians 4:13*

Pride causes us to seek our own interests, but being humble allows us to place our focus on others, and on God. It is not by our own hands that we are successful, but because God has given us the skills and talents necessary to be successful, and we need to give him full credit, taking none for ourselves.

### **Integrity/Honesty**

“Kings take pleasure in honest lips; they value a man who speaks the truth.” *Proverbs 16:13*

“These are the things you are to do: speak the truth to each other, and render true and sound judgment in your courts;” *Zechariah 8:16*

The world seemingly rewards those who are willing to compromise the truth...bending it, omitting it, silencing it, fearing it...our family must seek and say the truth no matter the consequences. There may come a day when we may be persecuted for our beliefs, but we must continue to tell the truth as our reward will be with God, not with men. It is always better to tell the truth and suffer the immediate consequences or discomfort, than to compound and prolong the lie.

## Hard Work

“Then I realized that it is good and proper for a man to eat and drink, and to find satisfaction in his toilsome labor under the sun during the few days of life God has given him – for this is his lot. Moreover, when God gives any man wealth and possessions, and enables him to enjoy them, to accept his lot and be happy in his work – this is a gift of God.” *Ecclesiastes 5:18-19*

“We work hard with our own hands...” *1 Corinthians 4:12*

“If a man will not work, he shall not eat.” *2 Thessalonians 3:10b*

Work is not optional. The Bible tells us that even when God blesses our work, we are neither absolved of it nor should we cease delighting in it. Our family is full of hard workers and this value is as much about our heritage as it is about living according to God’s plan.

## Honor All Commitments/Transparency

“Simply let your ‘yes’ be ‘yes,’ and your ‘no,’ ‘no’;” *Matthew 5:37a*

We were created with a desire for community with others. This inevitably requires commitment to spend time, resources, and talent to do community well. When we commit, we are reliable beyond reproach. We always follow through on our commitments. If we cannot follow through or if there is any question in honoring a commitment, we do not commit. While this may cause temporary disappointment, our long term goal is for people to know where they stand with us. If we commit, we’re all in. If we don’t, there is no question or ambiguity.

On the rare occasion where breaking a commitment must be done, we do it as soon as we know we can no longer live up to our commitment and we do everything we can to make it right.

## Memories

“You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.” *Revelation 4:1*

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” *Matthew 6:20-21*

Our family values memories over material. While we certainly appreciate the blessing of material possession, we keep our minds and hearts focused on the Creator instead of the creation. As we acquire our possessions, we ask ourselves how the purchase will increase our ability to make memories that will outlast the purchase itself, or how it can be used to fulfill our desire to serve others. Our family always prioritizes people, relationships, and time over “stuff”.

## Fiscal Responsibility

“Whoever loves money never has money enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income. This too is meaningless.” *Ecclesiastes 5:10*

“No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.” *Matthew 6:24*

God has a lot to say about money and its purpose as a medium of exchange. He does NOT say that money is evil. He does say that we need to guard against the love of money. God has given us the responsibility to steward the resources He feels we need. As we do well with little, we will be entrusted with more (Matthew 25:29), and we need to continue to be good stewards. Our family will follow God’s recipe for handling money. We live within or below our means. We give to those in need. We are grateful for what we’ve been given. We pray that God shows favor on us as stewards.