The View from My Window

"*He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.*" **John 10:1**
"*Behold, I stand at the door, and knock.*" **Revelation 3:20**

Every family will dock at the Hard Place. When we avoid it and the doors of love and real communication close, the soul goes looking for a window. Deliverance does not begin until self-justification ends. Whatever climbs in through the window is a thief. But the Shepherd comes through the door. Here is how to close the window and open the door again.

The Door We Closed	The Window It Left Open	What the Thief Steals	How to Reopen the Door
Intimacy	Pornography, fantasy, secret screens	Closeness, purity, trust	"*Defraud ye not one the other.*" **(1 Corinthians 7:5)** Turn toward each other, not toward a screen.
Compassion and tenderness	Someone at work or the gym who "understands"	Your covenant	"*Be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted.*" **(Ephesians 4:32)** Speak one tender word a day.
Listening	The stranger in the DMs	Your attention and your heart	"*Swift to hear, slow to speak.*" **(James 1:19)** Ten minutes a day, phones down, just listen.
Seeing our children	The feed and the crowd that welcomes them	Their identity and their peace	"*Provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged.*" **(Colossians 3:21)** Ask what they're seeing, and listen without lecturing.
Praying together	Every other voice	Spiritual covering	"*That your prayers be not hindered.*" **(1 Peter 3:7)** Pray together, even for one minute.
Forgiveness	Bitterness and old offenses	Peace	"*Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another.*" **(Colossians 3:13)** Open the door with "I'm sorry," or "I forgive you."
Humility	Self-justification: "they lied, I tried, I cried"	Your deliverance	"*A broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.*" **(Psalm 51:17)** Stop defending yourself. Say, "I was wrong."

At your table this week: Pick one door. Talk about it together, and open it on purpose. "The thief climbs through the window. The Shepherd knocks at the door."