

Crazy Like Us – Part 1

March 3-4th, 2018

“3 Essentials for a Successful Family...”

Intro:

- GENEROSITY CHALLENGE OFFERING

- Highlight Equip – Global Leadership Training – 56K saved in 2017
- I’m going in 2 weeks to Costa Rica to Launch a Country!!!
- FM Land – We’re getting closer... lots of discussions, how it can work for both of us!

- This weekend we are launching a brand new series called, “Crazy Like Us!”
- And from now to Easter we are going to have some fun as we talk all about Family!!!

*** The Family has never been crazier than it is today!!!**

- Families are Stressed out, busy, hectic, overwhelmed, frantic & crazy & that’s just each morning trying to get kids out the door for school!
- That is just the reality of our day & age!!!

*** The Family has never been as Multi-faceted as it is today!**

1. Blended Families – Multiple sets of Parents

*** There is unprecedented pressure on kids & parents alike today.**

*** All this Crazy has caused Most Families to Live without Hope.**

- When we lose Hope, we lose everything & all of life feels overwhelming!
- But... When we have Hope, we can raise kids the way God wants us to & be a

Success!

Here's the good news... however you got here, however your family looks, whatever pressure you've been living under...

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3 Things we need to know: (As we start this series!)

1. God has a plan for our family.

2. There is Hope for our Family.

3. We are more in Control of our family's future than we think we are.

A. Even if your kids are grown & out of the house...

- Or grown & still IN the house!

- It's never too late to start or reengage the pursuit of a Healthy, God-Honoring, Life-Giving Family!!!

3 Essentials for a Successful Family:

- Parents... much of this series is directed at us b/c we have so much to do with the success of our Families!

1. Parent to your Phase.

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A. Knowing what Phase of Life you are in matters a lot when it comes to having a great family.

- Historically, there were 3 General Phases of Parenting...

1) Baby / Toddler / Pre-School.

2) Elementary & Pre-Teen Years.

3) High School Years.

- But, research has shown that Adolescence is becoming longer.
 - 26 is the new 18!

4) Emerging Adult.

- They are still launching & Adolescence is Continuing much longer.
- We are seeing a rise in Grown Children still at Home & just Developmentally not Prepared to Launch.
- Research: They're still a teenager and adolescent in his mind.

B. What Emerging Adults Need:

- 1) They don't need our Condemnation or Judgment!
- 2) They need Unconditional Love & Guidance to help them launch into their future!
 - From Parents... & From Other Mentors.
 - Some of us work w/ them... This just set you free!!!
 - Don't judge them, guide them!!!
 - *(BTW, we did this to them! So b/f we throw the 1st stone...)*

"Back to Parenting to our Phase..."

C. Define Success for your Family in this Phase.

- If we don't know the target, we'll always think we're failing.
- You can do anything, but you can't do everything all at the same time.

D. MIP: ? What are we going to be about in the phase we are in?

- Baby: Diapers, Survival & Consistency.
- Elem: Introduction of Friends, homework, Core Beliefs, Belief in who they can become, Consistency
- H.S.: Communication, Grace, Love, Belief in who they are trying to become, Consistency of Boundaries
- Emerg: Helping them Launch, Wisdom, Consistency of Belief in them.

E. ALSO... Don't compare your season with somebody else's season.

- When we compare ourselves with anybody else, we steal the joy out of where we are.

- Are we where we want to be? No! But we are where we are & God is with us here!!!

Proverbs 22:6 "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." (NKJV)

2. Parent to Principles.

A. Successful Families have a Handful of Principles that they Rally around & Repeat Consistently that become the baseline of everything else in their lives.

B. We have to Decide what we are going to "Orbit" as a Family.

- B/c we can't orbit around too many "Suns" & be successful!

- ? What is our Family Orbiting around?

- Sports? Activities? Dance? Music? Scholastics?

- ? What priority is Church in the Orbit of our Lives?

- We can't expect to raise Godly kids if we are not consistently putting them in Godly Environments.

- LITTLE LEAGUE ILL - My kids learned swear words in Little League & about Love, Serving, Grace & Forgiveness in Church!

- Don't hear what I'm not saying, my kids played Little League, but we didn't orbit our family around it!

- There's a difference!

- *You can participate w/o building your life around it!*

C. IN Church is where our Kids Learn & Have Reinforced the Values & Principles we want them to emulate & embody their entire lives!

- That means we must be IN Church as a Family!!!

- I get it... *everything else* in life competes & *everyone else* in our world is doing *those things!*

- But at some point, we have to decide we are not trying to be like everyone else, we are trying to build our family around a set of Principles & we have to make decisions according to that!

D. BTW, I'm not just saying this b/c I'm a pastor, I'm saying this b/c we all want our kids to turn out a certain way, but we aren't Orbiting our lives around the thing that will produce what we want!

- WANTING A GREAT BODY ILL. – We all want a great body, but most of us don't orbit our lives around the gym & healthy eating enough to have what we say we want!

- The same is true with our kids!

E. MIP: ? What are we "Orbiting" our Family around?

F. BOOK RESOURCE: PARENTING BEYOND YOUR CAPACITY!!!

Romans 6:16 "Don't you realize that you become the slave of whatever you choose to obey?" (NLT)

3. Parent to the Point.

A. We are not raising kids, we are raising them to become adults.

- That means that we are not just "Managing Behaviors," we "Parenting their Heart!"

- It's so tempting to Parent to Behavior Modification.

- Our world is great at this!!!

Matthew 12:34 “Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks...”

B. Parents, we can “Modify the Mouth” but if we aren’t parenting the heart, then we won’t see long-term life-change.

? How are we constantly thinking about their character, not just their behavior???

C. Parents, our job is not to Live Vicariously through them, or to imprint who we think they ought to be...

- Our job is to bring out of them who God made them to be!!!

- STATUE OF DAVID ILL.

- There is a legend about the famous statue of David that says that a reporter mused that “It must have been difficult to chisel David into the rock.” And Michelangelo replied, “Certainly not, he was in there all along, I just had to chisel away everything that wasn’t David.”

- It’s so easy to let parenting be about us... but its not!

- It’s always about helping our kids discover who God made them to be & calling that out of them!

D. Parents, lets make a decision to speak words of life over our kids & model for them what humility looks like by apologizing when we blow it.

- Let’s be their biggest fans & their helpful coach in things that matter like character & integrity, not just performance & talent!

- Let’s make a decision that our kids will turn out best when we are exposing them to the things of God not just every activity available to them!

- Let’s parent with the end in mind.

- When we do, I have a feeling we will look up & find our family is more successful than we can imagine!

- Next Week: Sarah speaking!!!

Challenge:

1. What does Success look like in this phase?
2. What are we Orbiting our family around?
3. Are we Parenting with the End in Mind?

Pray

- Divorce / Remarriage has created a “Multiple sets of Parents” reality for a lot of kids today!
 1. Broken Families -
 2. Splintered Families –
 3. Single Parent Families – Single Mom / Single Dad
 4. Traditional Families
 5. Relatives living in the Home
- - **Financially** – to provide the biggest & best & newest & image conscious thing out there!
- - **Materially** – Our kids have to have the newest & fastest & latest fashions & technology, or else, apparently they’ll be left behind!
- - **Experientially** – Kids gotta be in 5 activities at once to be “well-rounded.”
- - **Nutritionally** – If they don’t eat the right super foods & drink water distilled from a remote island in the Pacific & only non-processed, fruits & vegetables, organically grown in our backyard, they’ll have significantly less brain power later in life!

- - **Educationally** – If our kid isn't reading at a 5th grade level by the age of 3, somehow we have become convinced that they are going to be a drug addict by the age of 13...

Crazy Like Us – Part 3 (w/ Will & Drew)
Real Conversations from our Crazy Family
March 17-18th, 2018

Intro:

- **ALL**: After video: That was 2010 - 10 / 7 yrs old., now you're 17 & 14!
 - Voices have changed, a little bit, or a lot!!!
 - Grown up / Taller than Mom!!!

- **MWK**: So this weekend, we are in the Series, "Crazy Like Us," & we thought it would be fun to have Will & Drew join us so we can show you we are real just like you!
- **WILL**: Oh, we are real alright!!! Hopefully you're not as crazy as us!
- **MWK**: It's possible that some people think that mom & dad are "Perfect" parents, anything you'd like to say about that????
 - **DREW**: Dad, you're a good dad until... bed time!
 - It's used to be bed time for US, now it's bed time for YOU!
- **WILL**: So when dad gets tired... He doesn't have the fruit of the spirit... one in particular... patience!!! Oh, & self-control. Oh, & joy! Oh, & peace!
 - **MWK**: And your Mother???
- Boys: If mom hasn't had her coffee & her bible, you do not want to be near her.
- If both of those things are happening at the same time, keep a 5 foot radius!!!
 - **SARAH**: Ok, but what's one of the times I WAS a great mom?
 - **WILL**: 2012 ALL-STAR GAME GETTING THE BASEBALL!!!
 - **DREW**: Adds in...

- **MWK**: So this weekend, we want to have Real Conversation from our Crazy Family...

[5 Things that Make our Family Real:](#)

SARAH: 1. We talk A LOT!!!

A. As a family, it's very important for us to keep the lines of communication open.

- We create an environment where we all feel safe to be heard.
- To be able say how we feel, to be able to speak, etc.
- Good, Bad or Ugly.

B. ? Boys, How do you feel like we do that as a family?

- WILL: For 1 thing, you don't let us go to our rooms when we're mad or upset about something!

- Even if we don't want to, or I don't like it...

C. MWK: We work hard at Respecting each other at home.

- DREW: You guys have said for years that "Home is where we practice how we treat others."

D. SARAH: ? What about Discipline?

- WILL: You say "I Love you," before you say hard things to us!
- And it's not followed by a "but..."

MWK: Hebrews 12:11 "No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it."

E. You know you've done it right when there is:

- 1) Peace b/c we've actually been trained through it.
 - 2) Righteousness –
- This is the Parenting the Heart stuff again!

SARAH: 2. We make God a Priority.

A. Praying Together.

- **WILL**: We pray before School every morning, even if we're tired or running late!!!

- **DREW**: We pray before bed *most* nights! (Every night when they were young...)

- **MWK**: A lot of nights, they go to bed after us now!!!

- **DREW**: We pray for our Compassion kids every night.

B. **MWK**: Worldview... that our lives are about something bigger than just our needs & wants.

- GUATEMALA TRIP – Nov. 2014

- **DREW**: Getting to meet them was so big.

- You've been writing letters, but once you see them, you know them enough to relate to them more.

- **WILL**: How happy they were despite their circumstances.

C. Church.

- **DREW**: "I don't HAVE to, I want to be there!" It makes you see the bigger picture... You're not just growing your relationship with God, but you're helping others grow their relationship with Jesus too. It helps you see the bigger picture.

- **WILL**: When you contribute in something, you take ownership and you love it even more. Church can be like that with serving, because as you put time into it & effort and emotions, it grows your relationship with God as well!

- 24 students getting saved last Wednesday Night!!!

SARAH: [Matthew 6:33](#) "Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."

- Sarah expound...

MWK: 3. We don't shy away from talking about Money.

Matthew 6:19-21 "Don't store up treasures here on earth where they can erode away or may be stolen. ²⁰ Store them in heaven where they will never lose their value and are safe from thieves. ²¹ If your profits are in heaven, your heart will be there too."

A. Give a Tithe, Save a Tithe.

- From the time they were young, we have helped them tithe & do this.

- Now, as they are older, it really matters & makes a difference.

B. SARAH: Don't just give them what they want, help them understand the value of money.

- They both created businesses as Kids.

- WILL: – Store at the Offices – Sold stuff, \$130 for his PS2.

- DREW: – Cake Pop - \$430 to buy an iPad.

C. MWK: Generosity.

- DREW: I Found \$20, & knew I was going to tithe, instead of tithing \$2, the Lord spoke to me to give half!!!

D. SARAH: The Point: We talk about it as a family.

- Will has asked questions about our budget before...

MWK: 4. We Collect Experiences & Revisit them.

A. SARAH: We live Busy Lives.

- Matt travels a lot... Sarah – once a month.

- The boys are busy w/ School, sports, job, church, etc.

- So, this is why Experiences are so important to us!

B. MWK: There's Big Experiences & there's Little Experiences.

- Big Experiences: Like Vacation...

- We are very careful to make sure that when we are On Vacation, we are truly ALL THERE!!!

- Boys talk about that...

- WILL: Our parents are not on their computers, email, Social Media, Not Working...

- 2011 – 4 week sabbatical, mom had a burner phone!

- DREW: B/c we are all not on our phones & working or playing games, it allows us to have these Experiences.

- When we are at the beach, we're actually at the beach.

- One of us isn't back in the room playing video games, or working, we are all there!!!

C. SARAH: Little Experiences...Like at Dinner...

- We don't have to have huge experiences, for us, dinner on Monday nights is a moment too...

- We are not on our Phones at the Dinner Table...

- When we go to dinner, we put our phones down & are totally there.

- WILL: B.C. ILL – We were all looking forward to being with him & it was a big deal, & he was on his phone the entire time.

- DREW: Eating Mashed Potatoes & he was looking at his phone & putting on his readers.

D. SARAH: We not only work hard at being present & creating Experiences, but we work hard at remembering them as well.

- Set up Joshua verses...

Joshua 4:20-22 “And Joshua set up at Gilgal the twelve stones they had taken out of the Jordan. ²¹ He said to the Israelites, “In the future when your descendants ask their parents, ‘What do these stones mean?’ ²² tell them, ‘Israel crossed the Jordan on dry ground.’”

v. 24 “He did this so that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the Lord is powerful and so that you might always fear the Lord your God.”

- They were intentional about Remembering Experiences.

E. Reminiscing... We spend time remembering... We keep memories fresh and real...

- MWK: Last time we were on Vacation... we spend time every night at dinner remember what happened in 2010, or 2012, etc.

- Why: We know that things come & go, but their memories will be with them forever.

- Long after they've moved out & become adults, we know the thing they will take with them are the memories, not the things.

- We think they'll remember them better if we keep remembering them along the way.

SARAH: 5. We have Grace for Each Other.

James 4:6 “But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: “God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.”

A. There are so many times in our family that we just say, “Can you give me / give yourself some grace...”

- B/c we are NOT perfect.

- That requires each of us to stay humble... & not struggle to be right.

B. MWK: SITTING DOWN TO REMEMBER LOW MOMENTS ILL

- WILL: “As we were all sitting down to talk about some of the low moments of parenting that my parents have had. You know we were struggling to come up with them, but its not because they didn’t happen, it’s because when it did, we...”

1) worked through them

2) forgave them.

3) & didn’t let it go to our hearts...

4) We woke up the next morning & put it all behind us.

MWK: Colossians 3:13 “Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.”

C. We HAD them, but we don’t HAVE them.

- It’s not that offenses haven’t come, it’s that we have worked them through in real time so they no longer exist.

D. SARAH: And that’s what God does for us...

- He forgives us, He washes our sins white as snow.

- He remembers them no more.

- That is the goal from God to Us, & from Us to each other!!!

MWK: Challenge:

* Hopefully this real conversation has let you know that you can be real too.

- Some of these things that we’ve talked about haven’t come easy, we’ve had to learn, we still struggle to live out,

- But it’s possible & it is worth it!!!

PRAY

Crazy Like Us – Part 4

“Buy the Field...”

March 24-25th, 2018

Intro:

- Talk about Costa Rica Trip...
- March 1999 story... 19 years later to the week, God answered that prayer.
- Transformation – Let me tell you what you’re a part of through your giving...
 - Trained 15,000 trainers in 3 days!
- Will have 90,000 people in Roundtables in 2 weeks! (2.3% of entire country)
- 6 months from now, John goes back & 15,000-20,000 people will receive Christ!!!
 - Every 6 months they go back again!!!

Crazy Like Us – Part 4 – Review first...

- MWK – Parent to your Phase, Principles, Point.
- Sarah – Guilt, Fear, & Pain.
- Keller Fam – 5 Practical Things that have worked so far...
- Today – God actually changed my message on Friday Morning!
 - I rarely do this... Maybe once or at most twice a year!
 - It’s really hard on our teams & we believe God speaks in advance.

Buy the Field:

Matthew 13:44 “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field.

When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.”

- I have always, read this verse from an Eternal Life perspective or from a Financial Perspective. But I read it in a book I'm reading right now & the author referenced it in terms of people
- & the revelation of this verse hit me like a ton of bricks!!!

*** If you want the treasure inside of people, then you have to buy the whole field, dirt & all!!!**

A Few things jump out at me from this verse concerning our Relationships:

1. If the man had just taken the treasure, it would have been stealing.

A. We've got a lot of "stealing" of treasures going on in relationships today!

- This is 1 of Satan's main strategies in our world today...
 - To get us:
 - To think we are entitled to just the treasure.
 - To lie, cheat & deceive people in order to get what we want & what only benefits us!

John 10:10 "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy..."

B. We've got a lot of people who just want to steal the treasure in the relationship...

- So... at the first sign of trouble, they head for the door!
- Why? B/c they think relationships are only about the Good, Fun, & Fluffy stuff!!!

2. The Owner of the Field didn't know what he had.

A. If the man had tried to buy the treasure outright, the owner would have never sold, b/c he would have known what it was actually worth!

B. God made us to NEED others, through relationships!

- He could have made us completely self-sufficient but He didn't!
- He made us so we would never be able to maximize the potential of the treasure within us without the help of others!!!
- The only way for US to reach our Full potential is with the help of others!

3. The ONLY way to obtain the treasure within someone else is to commit to Buying the Whole Field... dirt & all!

A. Relationships are about the whole field, not just the treasure!!!

Implications:

- 1. Young, Dating Couples...** Are you up for the field, or just in it for the treasure?
- 2. Friendships...** When that friend turns out to be less than perfect, are you going to distance yourself & back away, or are you really committed?
- 3. Our Kids...** When they come home with a dirt-ridden report card, or are making poor choices, are we committed to the field?
- 4. Our Extended Family Members / Siblings / In-Laws...**

5. Our Co-Workers / Business Partners...

6. Our Marriage... Are we committed to the whole field, dirt & all, or did we think it was just all going to be happy, perfect, blissful treasures?!?

? What does “Buying the Field” Require?

1. Patience and Grace.

A. Lots of Grace.

B. We don't have enough within ourselves to JUST buy the treasure in people.

- As a flawed, imperfect, prone to fail human being, we aren't good enough to be able to demand “only good things” from our relationships.

C. True Selfless Relationships are about “No Demands...”

- I Corinthians 13 stuff “Love is patient, kind, does not envy, or boast, it is not proud, or self-seeking...”

2. A Willingness to Help Dig.

A. The essence of digging requires removing a lot more dirt than we think.

B. Digging takes a Lifetime, by the way!!!

- We are never done helping our spouse dig through the dirt in search of pebbles of treasure!!!

- (Btw, right now, your spouse is thinking about the amount of digging they are in for w/ you too!!!)

- Trust me, you have more dirt in your field, than they have in theirs!!!

3. Unconditional Love for whatever we find as we dig.

A. There's no guarantee what you'll dig up when you commit to a relationship...

- Friendship, Kids, Spouse, Co-Workers...

B. Love stays committed No Matter What!!!

"But here's the best part..."

- It's the length & struggle & challenge of the digging that makes the treasure so valuable!!!

- The more time & effort something takes, the more valuable it is.

- We pay more for things that are Hand-Made!!!

- Why? B/c it takes longer to create!!!

"One more thing..."

- This is what Jesus did for us!!!

- He loved us so much that He bought the field!!!

- He bought the field knowing it would take a lifetime to help us dig through our dirt & junk...

- But He knew the treasure within us is worth it!!!

- He's never going to leave us or forsake us.

- He's not going to give up on us just because we don't have it all together, or b/c the dirt in our field is disgusting.

- We have a Savior who is committed to us b/c He's bought the field with His own blood!!!

- The Only way for us to discover our own treasure is through the grace & blood of Jesus paying the price for our sin & dirt & mud!

- Jesus bought the field!!!

Challenge:

1. Salvation – You need to receive the Love of Jesus right now...

- He paid the price for you, just accept it & let Him help you start navigating your dirt!

2. You need to Commit to Buying the Field again with a relationship in your life.

- You've given up on them, or have been tempted to.

- It's time to Re-Up again!!!

- Buy the Field!!!