



THE GOD THAT HEALS

EPISODE 4

GO DEEPER

As for Me

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Introduction

May they have abundant peace, both near and far says the Lord, who heals them – Isaiah 57:19

Heal: To become healthy or well again. Hope: To expect with confidence. Does God heal today? Yes. But not always in the way we think, or want, or way we even imagine. Is there hope? Always. From Parent Compass Episode Four, Boaz and Kathleen Bryant, along with their children Isaiah and Isabelle, want to help you hope in what only God can do.

So grab your Bible, and as you answer these questions, keep in mind: What's God saying to you? What are you going to do about it?



The God That Heals

1. "I'm one of a kind" – Isaiah Bryant (10:23). Here's lots of room to make your list of what makes your child(ren) one of a kind or special ☺!

"The doctor said, 'You're probably going to lose this child. Don't get your hopes up.'" – Boaz (1:20).

2. Read Psalm 42:5-6; Psalm 39:7, Lamentations 3:21-23, 2 Corinthians 4:7-8. According to the verses, why did Boaz and Kathleen have any hope when they received such a message from their doctor?

3. According to these verses what can Jesus Christ, who is God, heal? Matthew 9:35; Matthew 9:1-8; Luke 6:19; John 6:2; John 9:1-11

"There was something different about that day. We knew we were supposed to pray. Right then" – Kathleen (6:25).

4. What prayer are you praying now for your child(ren) or would like to pray for them now?

5. Read Romans 8:26-27. Is there a situation, something or someone in your family or parenting for whom you don't even know how to pray? From this verse in Romans, what does God promise?

6. Read Romans 12:12 and Philippians 4:6-7. From these verses how is peace found during turmoil?



Walk

7. Boaz remembers the day that Isaiah walked. If our children can walk, we often take that for granted. Take a moment to celebrate the miracle of your child(ren) and remember the love God has for them. See Mark 10:13-15 Write your thoughts.

8. Very early in the Bible it talks about walking. Genesis chapter 5 has the very first list of descendants starting with Adam to Noah. Suddenly in the midst of this long list one name, Enoch, is singled out with more information. Read Genesis 5:21-2; Hebrews 11:5. What does this tell us about Enoch?

b. What happens when you walk with someone? What kind of relationship is there when you walk with someone?



Serve the Lord

9. It was Kathleen who admitted, “We weren’t having those moments to get you through the next hard time.” While Boaz remembered, “He cried and he cried. It never seemed anything we could do could help.” Our blood pressure goes up and stress rises when a baby cries. It is hard to imagine one crying for six months. Then, after all that, doctors tell you, your baby is likely to die. It is times like these that tempt people to give up on God. In the Bryants’ struggle, they renew their commitment to God. As Boaz states, “Regardless of what happens or where we go, we are going to serve Him. If God heals our son, we are going to serve Him. If God doesn’t heal our son, we are still going to serve Him. As for me and my house we are going to serve the Lord. (Joshua 24:15)”

Optional: Read all of Daniel Chapter 3 about the blazing furnace and specifically Daniel 3:17-18. How is Boaz and Kathleen’s statement similar to those in these verses facing death?

The verse, Joshua 24:15, “Choose today who you will serve ...but as for me and my family we will serve the Lord” (NLT) comes from a time in the Bible where the Israelites, after 400 years of slavery in Egypt and after 40 years of wandering in the wilderness (due to their sin in not trusting God) now, have finally settled for many years in the land God had promised them. Joshua, their leader after Moses, was old, advanced in years and soon to die. These are his final words and challenge to the millions of Israelites he had been leading. “So fear the Lord and serve Him wholeheartedly...destroy the idols (throw away the foreign gods) that are among you and turn (yield) your hearts to the Lord...” Joshua 24:14,23 (NIV in parenthesis)

Today we may not worship false “gods” or idols that are physical statues, but everyone worships false “gods” when they put anything as a priority before God, the only true God. (John 17:3) These false gods can be self or selfishness, wealth or materialism, popularity or status, worry or self-pity, sexual immorality, pornography, alcohol, addictions, work, or even our children, if we put them before God in our lives. It has been said, to determine what god you worship, look at your calendar and your finances. In other

words, where do you spend your time and your money? That shows your priorities. Joshua challenges us to “throw away those false gods” that are empty and will never satisfy long-term.

One of the most important things we can do for our parenting, our children and our families is get rid of “false gods” in our lives and truly commit to the all-loving, all-powerful, all-knowing God, who created you and the universe. (Hebrews 1:2, 11:3)

a. What are things that are more important in your life to you than God?

b. Looking at your heart, and your time what are things that are taking priority that should be eliminated or at least lowered in priority?

10. Most of the time removing “false gods” from our lives we cannot do on our own. We need God’s help. It starts with repentance, recognizing a false priority as a sin and confessing it. Take some time and ask God to reveal “false gods” and sin in your life. Confess your sins and other gods or priorities as “false” distractions taking you away from God’s real purpose for you and your family. Asking God to forgive you and keep you on the correct priority. Write your own prayer or here is a sample one below.

Lord,

I confess I have not been making You my priority, especially compared to _____. Please forgive me. Help me to make your love, goodness and purpose my top priority of time, money and heart passion. Help me resist and remove any distractions and temptations of this world in opposition to what is right and the plans you have for me and my family. Amen

11. According to these verses, what does it mean to serve the Lord? Deuteronomy 6:13; 10:12; Psalm 100:2; 1 Peter 4:8-11; Ephesians 2:10

Choose This Day

Joshua 24:15 says choose this day who you will serve. Would you like to make a personal commitment to serve the Lord? This is something you can do personally or as a couple or as a family. You may want to do it as an individual or couple first and then as a family. Of course, it is not to be taken lightly. If you are unsure, as the Bible says, seek the Lord and know him and remember to come back and do this commitment when you are ready. You may write and pray your own prayer or use the sample below.

Dear Lord,

Today I (we) want to make the decision to serve you. Help us to understand what that means for each of us, personally, and our family specifically. Strengthen us to walk in your ways and not fall into temptation. Help us to serve you in your strength and guidance and not in our own plans or agenda. Help us to accomplish all “the good works you planned in advance for us to do.” Eph 2:10. By your Grace, Amen.



Perspectives on Parenting

12. What do you think Kathleen (12:02) means when she says “it has a lot less to do with your history than you think, your history or what you are bringing in as a parent isn’t nearly as important as the little people you’re parenting. Pray and ask for a strategy on how to raise them and help put them in position to respond to the Lord when its time”?

Write and pray a prayer asking God for a strategy on how to raise your children (and to help put them in a position to respond to the Lord when its time.) (Sample to use as desired below.)

Sample:

Dear God,

You say, “If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, for You give wisdom generously without finding fault.” (James 1:5 NIV paraphased) Lord, I pray for wisdom for a strategy for how to raise our child(ren). Help us to prepare our child(ren) and put them in a position to respond to you when its time. Praise and glory be thine. Amen



Nothing is too Hard

“There’s no escaping the truth that God healed my son... I’m grateful and thankful” – Boaz (14:00).

“There’s really nothing that God can’t do” – Kathleen (15:00).

12) Read Psalm 78:4. What are you grateful or thankful for today?

“I am the Lord, the God of all peoples of the world. Is anything too hard for me? – Jeremiah 32:27.

Read the words of the first stanza of My Hope is Built on Nothing Less:

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus’s blood and righteousness,
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus’ name.
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand
All other ground is sinking sand.

Troubles? Yes. Hope? In the Lord - Always.