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Walking Dusty...

teacher: Dan Crist

This past week has been extremely hard for our community. Two deaths within days of each other are difficult, and when you love the families involved, your heart breaks repeatedly as you grapple with the reality of death...and life.

The funeral of Bradie Eslie Lennon was a celebration of his 127 days. During the service, Josh and Kathryn took turns talking about their son. Their words were difficult but beautiful, and Kathryn ended by confidently saying “My God is amazing!” She shared grief but hope...death and life...struggle and clarity. I hope I never forget her words and the context in which she said them.

MY God is amazing: Kathryn has a real, personal relationship with her Creator. She talks to him, and not just when He’s her last resort. They meet daily. She cries out to Him, and she knows He has a plan that is good, even when she doesn’t understand it. He is HER God, but she desperately wants others to know Him, too.

My **GOD** is amazing: God is sovereign. He is Lord. He is reigning, and He is good. God is on His throne, even when our world seems to fall apart. His Spirit is alive, and He longs to be in a relationship with each of us. Kathryn knows His goodness, grace, mercy and love.

My God **IS** amazing: Not was or will be, but He is – present tense. In the midst of her suffering, Kathryn is experiencing the power of God working through the Spirit and through His people. She feels His peace and strength. She continues to experience His love in real ways as friends and family shower her and Josh with prayers, meals, hugs, tears, texts, and stories of Bradie.

My God is **AMAZING**: It may be hard to understand, but God loves us more than we can imagine. He binds our broken hearts and comforts us. He restores us into a beautiful display for His glory. He chooses us and brings us out of darkness. He uses His people to lavish love on others so that they can also know how amazing He is. He prompts believers to love deeply and to serve, even when it’s hard. When the church seeks Jesus even in the midst of pain, it is beautiful and God’s glory is revealed.

Questions to Consider:

The Greatest Commandment is “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. And love your neighbor as yourself.” (Matthew 22:37, 39) What does it look like to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength? As our Mosaic families continue to mourn the loss of their son and mother, how can we love each other deeply?

Verses: 1 Chronicles 29:10-13; Isaiah 61:1-4; John 11:34-35; Galatians 6:2, 9-10; 1 Peter 2:9