

7.10.11

## *Walking Dusty...*

teacher: Dan Crist

The Kucks are a Christian family that has a son named Nathaniel who was born with severe medical needs. He endured multiple tests, surgeries, and feeding tubes. At only six months old Nathaniel spent his first Christmas in the hospital, but God was already beginning to prepare the hearts of the Kucks for the ministry He planned for them. His Spirit prompted them to compassionately consider the needs of the other families that were in the hospital during the holiday. The following Christmas, they organized over forty people to walk the halls of an area hospital singing Christmas carols and passing out treats to the hospitalized children and their families. "Caroling for Kids" still continues today.

Nathaniel died when he was only 4½ years old. The following year, the Kucks started "Nathaniel's Hope," a ministry that serves families with children that have special needs. You may not realize it, but these families often struggle with depression and loneliness because they are so isolated. Statistics say that couples of children with disabilities have an eighty percent divorce rate. For them, it's almost impossible to get a babysitter to go on a date or even to go to the grocery store. Because of that, Nathaniel's Hope offers a program called "Buddy Break." Offered at a local church, this program gives "VIP" children a safe place to stay for a few hours a month. God has moved hundreds of caring volunteers and the program is now in several states around the country.

I'm in awe of how God can turn a difficult situation into a beautiful blessing that only He can accomplish. He does it through the work of the Holy Spirit. God used His Spirit to compassionately love and comfort the Kucks through the difficulties of Nathaniel's life and death. Then, the Spirit prompted the Kucks to begin caring for others. Through the life of Nathaniel, God is using them to be His hands and feet to love others that are in need and hurting. Nathaniel's Hope has now served thousands of special needs children and their families.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29:11) But we don't have to go through something as difficult as losing a child in order for God to use us. A mom I know buys nice used baby clothes, washes them, and then donates them to the Crisis Pregnancy Center. Another couple serves the homeless. A retired teacher tutors at a youth organization, and a friend serves in Uganda. I believe God used the Holy Spirit in all of these people to help them see a need and do something about it. God wants to bless others in this world through you, too. The Spirit is whispering ideas . . . are you listening?

**Questions to Consider (don't forget to listen to the podcast, if you haven't already):**

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) Do I love God enough that I would allow Him to use me – even when it gets uncomfortable?

Does it matter if the Holy Spirit dwells in me? Do I believe I could do acts greater than Jesus, if I have the Holy Spirit?

When we are broke and don't know how we ought to pray, the Holy Spirit intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. Have I experienced this type of broken situation?

A.W. Tozer said, "We must face it: the whole level of spirituality among us is low. We have measured ourselves by ourselves...we have imitated the world, sought popular favor, manufactured delights to substitute for the joy of the Lord and produced a cheap and synthetic power to substitute for the power of the Holy Spirit." Do I understand the difference between "cheap and synthetic power" and the "power of the Holy Spirit?"

The first Christians didn't strive for being comfortable. Do I need a comforter (the Holy Spirit) if I'm living comfortably? Do I need to get "uncomfortable?" How can I get out of my comfort zone?

Can I fall on my face before my Creator and be willing to serve wherever He asks me to? This doesn't mean I'll be sent overseas! Where in Lenawee County is God asking me to minister?

The Bible's original language calls Jesus an exact representation, or a duplicate, of God. The Holy Spirit is described as another advocate, just like Jesus. He is God. He is our advocate and comforter. He is a person and is relational. He has His own mind and prays for us. He has emotions. He has a desire and will for us and He distributes spiritual gifts. He strips us of our sin, making us more like Jesus. Am I familiar with these aspects of God? Are any of them new to me?

What would the world and the church look like if everyone prayed like I pray? If everyone gave like I give? If everyone served like I serve? If everyone loved like I love?

For more information on the Holy Spirit, read Forgotten God by Francis Chan.

**This month's memory verse: "Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of Him to whom we must give account." - Hebrews 4:13**

**Additional verses: John 16:7, 14:12, 16, John chapters 13 – 17, 1 Thessalonians 5:19, 2 Corinthians 13:14, Acts 5:3-4, Romans 8:26-27, Ephesians 4:30, 1 Corinthians 12:11, Jeremiah 29:11**

**Reminders:**

**7.17 – 3rd:culture Night! 1MOSAIC's 'For The City' Summer Carnival . ,Church is NOT a building! So let's turn our new parking lot at the 5/6 building into a rockin' carnival for our city from 6-8pm. Be sure to watch the web & listen at the gatherings for details & sign up to host a station!**

**7.24 – The Gathering at the 5/6 BUILDING at 6pm - OUTSIDE!!! Dan will talk about the importance and meaning of baptism.**

**7.31 – FAMILY FUN NIGHT & BAPTISM BASH from 6:30-8:30 @ Bohn Pool!!! Want to get baptized!? There is no better way to wrap up a Family Fun Night than with people publically professing their faith through baptism! Don't miss it!!!**