

Episode 13. Kids and Faith...Or Not

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SPEAKERS

Deana Thayer, Future Focused Parenting, Kira Dorrian

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- K** Kira Dorrian 00:04
What happens when two parent coaches, one a Christian and the other an agnostic Jew, sit down to talk about parenting?
 - D** Deana Thayer 00:10
I'm Deana Thayer,
 - K** Kira Dorrian 00:11
and I'm Kira Dorrian.
 - D** Deana Thayer 00:12
Welcome to Raising Adults, a podcast about Future Focused Parenting. Hi, everyone, welcome. We have a big topic today. Huge, huge finally, and not that these other issues aren't important. But today we're talking about the big questions, big topics, even including things like faith. And here is an issue where our listeners if they've listened to the intro at all, know that we're not the same. And so I think it's a unique opportunity for us to share how we've, maybe even how we got there ourselves, but certainly how we approach those things with our kids, and they're not small and on this, even though a lot of our parenting decisions, we've talked about this before, kind of end up looking really similar,

even if they're coming from a different place, these ones aren't going to be similar. So I think that'll be kind of fun to talk about. And, as always, we should start start with our why. And then I'm going to share a fun story about one of our crossroads.

K

Kira Dorrian 01:05

Yeah, I mean, I was, we were discussing this episode before we hit record because obviously it's a big one, we wanted to make sure we were on the same page. And what's so fascinating about this topic is actually when we sat down you and I had totally different ideas about what we were talking about. We both thought we knew what the topic was and we had different slants on the topic which tells you how big the topic area but to me this is a go big or go home episode. I mean, we, here we are every intro we talk about how we're you know, here's this Christian and this agnostic Jew and what are they going to be talking about in pretty much every episode? We agree. So I think today's gonna be really interesting because there's basically very little on this topic that we agree on. So that's going to be kind of exciting. And so I guess in my eyes really it's a tricky question like, what's your why behind the absence of faith in your home?

D

Deana Thayer 01:56

You have a why not?

K

Kira Dorrian 01:58

I do have a why not. That's a great way of looking at it. It's to me, there's a lack of knowing that exists in in all of it. It's like, we don't know, I don't think anyone really knows. I think they choose to believe, there's a difference there in my opinion. And so ultimately, I was just very uncomfortable parenting a truth that to me, wasn't necessarily true. That's not to say it isn't true. It's quite possible. One of these ideas out there is true, or they're all true, or there's some, some combo of them all that, you know, we're all trying to sort out in our world here, but they're just, there isn't a knowing it for me. And so, and because Dave and I are just naturally from different faiths anyway, even if I still believed in God, which I did when Dave and I first got together. We still had discussed the fact that we were going to need to give them a Jewish background and a Christian background. And so I want, wanted them to be raised seeing that two people from different backgrounds can love each other, treat each other kindly, disagree. So that they would go out into the world, not afraid to ask questions, not afraid to challenge the norm. Because you know, in here in America, for the most part, Christianity is the norm. So I wanted them to know that they can, they can question and they can challenge. And I also wanted them to know how to treat everyone with an open mind. And so I guess, you know, up until meeting my husband

and consequently meeting some Christians like you, certainly the Christian faith felt like the opposite of all of that. And so wanting to avoid what felt like a narrow minded, right or wrong perspective on the world was something I just wasn't comfortable giving the kids if that makes any kind of sense.

D

Deana Thayer 03:53

It does and it even to undo what we've just said, oh, today is going to be the day where we're so different. I actually agree with a lot. So the reason being is that my why around this is of course, we do believe in an absolute truth in our home and we believe in the Bible and Jesus and all of the above dot, dot, dot. However, the way in which that was handled was not really so different because I wanted my children to be loving toward people who didn't think the same way rather than judgmental, huge difference. Huge. I wanted them to be able to maybe impart knowledge if they got asked a question without coming across condescending again, huge difference. It's very different to say, here's what I've learned about that versus well, you should know dot, dot, dot. How the recipient of those words feels is going to be very different. So while where we were coming from was different, I think the how looked very similar. And the outcome for me was a pretty similar goal because I wanted to raise kids who are going to be kind and even if they believe in an absolute truth that they're not going around and shoving that down people's throats. I mean, I don't want to get too far off. But just the other day I saw again, some guy in Portland with a sign and a megaphone. Every time I see that I just get crazed, because I think it does such a disservice to when you, when you see that and that person saying they're Christian, right? What are you doing? You're, you're now gonna probably take that microcosm and say, well, that's probably what most Christians are like, many people will do that, just like we did. You know, in the post 9/11 era, there was a lot of assumed, oh, that person must be a terrorist, right? Because dot dot dot, and I get so frustrated with that, and did not want to raise people who were just dogmatic and little automatons and no, thank you. So while I will admit that we came at these topics with an assumption of truth and we weren't afraid in our home to say here's what we believe, the outcome for what I wanted my, you know, future adults to look like was actually pretty similar to what you just shared.

K

Kira Dorrian 05:58

I have like three questions.

D

Deana Thayer 05:59

Okay, right off the bat.

K

Kira Dorrian 06:00

Right off the bat because what what our listeners probably don't know is that this is very common in these conversations is Deana says a whole bunch of stuff. And I go okay, I have some questions. Q&A time. Okay. So here's my first question because my understanding of Christianity is that you're part of your job for a lot. Forgive me, because I don't know the words, but part of your job is to spread the good news. So how is what the guys doing on the street not in line with spreading the good news?

D

Deana Thayer 06:28

Right. So that's a, that's about spirit of the law versus letter of the law. Right. So is, is he technically evangelizing? I suppose you could say yes. Is he telling people something that the Bible says or telling people about Jesus? Technically, yes, but is it winsome? This is what I often think about and talk about with my kids, especially now that they're teenagers. Who's even going to be curious about what you believe if you act like that? They're gonna want to get as far away from you as they can, put earplugs in their ears and say I want no part of something that's like that. Nobody even asked you. You're just standing there yelling at us. So how different is it to live your life in such a way that people start to wonder. Well, what is different about my friend? I might want to ask about what they think. And then when I asked them, wow, they answered me kindly. That might actually make me not afraid to ask more questions. That's winsome, that's, that's where you will actually earn a right to have a voice to say something to your friend or your community. That, that person didn't earn it, right. They are just turning people off in my opinion and I have always been really tempted to ask, so how many people have you actually converted with this method? Yeah, well because I'm pretty sure it's a small number, if any.

K

Kira Dorrian 07:40

It's funny because last Christmas, we were at the country village shops near my house and they have, they do all these like fun holiday things. And so we went with my family and then my in laws who are also devout Christians, and they, is that the right word? Like what would you say? Say, how do you describe someone who's like they're serious about it?

D

Deana Thayer 07:44

They're the real deal? They really mean it?

K

Kira Dorrian 07:53

Like they can say, okay, so they're the real deal, really mean it. They live it. It's not lip service. Right? Okay, so my in laws who really mean it, and were with us and this woman was going round, she had a little basket. And the basket was filled with these little pamphlets that had like a little mini candy cane attached to it. And she was giving them. Have you heard the good news? Have you heard the good news? And was like passing these things out. And it struck me because of course for me I was like, dude like toodle away as quickly as possible. I do not want to hear the good news. I've heard the good news 1000 times. And but my in laws were so thrilled and like took the little pamphlet and they had a whole chat and oh, where do you go to church? Oh, we're not from around here, blah, blah. But what struck me was all she ended up doing was talking with people who were just like her. Like she didn't convert anybody that day. You know, she made my in-laws super happy that like ooh, Kira, Kira brought us to a place where there's pamphlets about Jesus but but you know, that didn't, it didn't change. From what I could see the only conversation she ended up having were with Christians, which is so interesting because I got goosebumps when you were talking about the way you live your life makes people interested, and they want to ask questions and that whole cycle, and that's our friendship. I mean, you're a great example, I said that to you. Like you are one of the few Christians I know that makes me go, huh, what's that about? And our conversations make me interested not necessarily in a way that's ever going to convert me but in a way that makes me a lot more open minded. So I think that's really great. Okay, question number two. Okay. So my second question, as you said, you know, in our home, we talked about, well, we believe, etc, etc. Did you teach it that way? Or did you teach it as truth? Because there is a difference, right?

D

Deana Thayer 09:48

Well, that's a great question. And I will say I didn't shy away from teaching it as truth. We didn't say, Okay, here's a lot of options, and this is the one we picked. So it was only this. I don't even know if I had to say that. That's a really interesting question because there was almost this underlying assumption. In fact, when we were talking before starting the episode I shared with you my kids didn't really ever ask, is there really a god? Right?

K

Kira Dorrian 10:12

We were talking before we started recording, listeners, I was saying, well, we could think about, like, those big questions that kids ask, like, is God real? Deana was like, yeah, my kids never really asked that question.

D

Deana Thayer 10:25

So it's really I mean, that's even interesting, right? Just because whatever they're growing up around, and that tells you a lot about kids too. They really are like sponges, they'll soak things up. And so what often happens for kids raised in a Christian home and this is important, I think, is they have to, they'll get to a point where then they can start going, wait a minute, and I've been told this my whole life, but do I think so? Very, very important, because there's a big difference from having your parents' faith or your school's faith or your church's faith versus your own faith. So I actually want and wanted that because they've both kind of gone through this a little bit. One is all the way done, but I wanted them to wrestle with it and come to decide for themselves. Am I a Christian? Or is it just what I was taught to think so I while I didn't shy away from treating it like truth, because that's what I believe it is, I wanted them to come to a point where it was for themselves, because that makes it way more real anyway, you've got to have your own experience with that kind of stuff or it's just gonna ring hollow, frankly.

K

Kira Dorrian 11:27

Hmm, okay. So now you get to tell the story.

D

Deana Thayer 11:30

Okay. So one of our really crossroads moments I think as friends, as colleagues, all of the above was the night that Kira asked me over the phone, sadly, I really wish she could have seen my face and seen although it turned out beautifully, but she asked me, so do you think I'm going to hell?

K

Kira Dorrian 11:50

Well, no, let's preface by saying I have to ask you a hard and challenging question. I was kind enough to let her know.

D

Deana Thayer 11:58

Thanks for the disclaimer. The disclaimer proved true. Yes, it was super hard for me.

K

Kira Dorrian 12:05

And why was it hard for you?

D

Deana Thayer 12:07

Because I had known you long enough and been invested in the relationship long enough that I care about you. And so and this happens to almost anyone, I would say almost any faith, but, but I can't say because I've never been a Hindu or a Muslim. And so I can't really speak to that. But I would guess, that if you have a faith paradigm, and eventually someone asks you a question where you might say what you believe in and hurt somebody you care about, it's gross. So I came to kind of this fork in the road where it was like, well, if I say what I believe, and that's ouchy to Kira, that really makes, I really don't feel happy about that. At the same time. I am not going to coddle Kira and give lip service and say what I think she wants to hear because now I don't have personal integrity. My own insides will be bothered because I have a super overactive conscience. And so it was that moment where those two worlds kind of collided, I might have to say something that she doesn't like, that's uncomfortable. But I want to make sure I'm representing myself fairly and accurately, that can be uncomfortable. And so I think that's why, and that I couldn't see you. Well, hey, I'm glad that you felt like you could ask. So that's actually another key thing when you're dealing with these things with your children, whether it's faith or a paradigm where we're not faith based, is creating safety for questions. So even though my kids might not have asked is God real? Because that was almost an underlying assumption. I got other big questions like when somebody died. Well, if God's really good, why did He let that happen? You know, I think so making a home and a family, a place that's safe for questions. And what I was hoping in that moment is I had made our friendship safe for that because I had to tell you what I really believed about it, and it was nerve racking.

K

Kira Dorrian 13:56

Do you want to tell our listeners what you said?

D

Deana Thayer 13:57

Yeah, sure. So I actually - and this is another hard thing about being a faith based person, you got to get comfortable with this - I actually, mostly in the synopsis form said, I don't know. And the reason I said that, in case anyone's wondering is because that isn't up to me. If I, if I believe in a sovereign God, Kira's response to God is not really my deal. And so, but I did feel like I was really honest with you about what I believe about, you know, how how people accept salvation, go to heaven. And I can't say for sure where your heart is, and whether you've done that. And so that really isn't up to me. It's not my business to judge your heart and your motives. And thankfully, our friendship was not destroyed. In fact, I think that might have been kind of a strengthening moment in it, to build the safety around that but also for you to know I wasn't engaging in a business relationship with you,

a friendship with you all the while secretly like well, she's going to Hell.

K

Kira Dorrian 14:53

Yeah, good luck to her, good luck to her. Well, and you also said something as I recall about truth seeking, that you believe that God is looking for truth seeking and honors it and that you believe I'm a truth seeker, even if I haven't come to that truth yet, which I thought was very interesting.

D

Deana Thayer 15:09

And that, to me is very different than an outright rejection. And so that was why I felt it was worth mentioning. Because you are, you're a questioner, and you want to know, and you want to understand and when you don't get it, you'll go, I just still don't get it. But you're, you're willing to chew on things that are hard. And I, I absolutely, for what I know of God's character, which of course, I'm down here, and I'm a person and I'm going to have really limited knowledge. But to me, I really think that if we're going to believe at all in a sovereign and loving God, He absolutely honors people who are looking for it and finding out and grappling and that, that's very different than, like, forget it. It's just nonsense. And not even engaging in dialogue with maybe somebody who thinks different. So that was absolutely true.

K

Kira Dorrian 15:55

Okay, so I have a question. So and then I'll let you ask me some questions, I promise. But so we, we do when we talk, we talk a lot about there's this space in faith, I think in any faith, not just Christianity, of unknowing, right. Like there's a certain point at which you don't, you don't know what, why God's doing what God's doing. We have to just trust. So I guess I'm sort of curious how that's different than being an agnostic. Because it's unknowing. It's going, I don't know.

D

Deana Thayer 16:24

Yeah, it, I think in some ways, it's not different. And in some ways, it's very different. So the ways it's not different is the unknowing piece. There's a lot of times where I go, wow, I don't know why this is happening. The difference is I'm gonna follow it up with, but I can trust who's in charge of what's going on.

K

Kira Dorrian 16:41

So there's never an unknowing around God.

D

Deana Thayer 16:43

Yes. And so I might not know why a particular event is happening, but there's this this kind of generic undergirding of comfort and peace and just trust there. So the I don't know part I think is the same but the agnostic is saying so I just don't know why. And I don't even know if there is God. So I can't say that there is, I can't say that there isn't. But I just don't know, versus I don't know about some of these circumstances or this thing, but I can rest over here. I know. So there's this little cheesy quote, you might have heard, like, you know, I don't, it's something about like, I don't know what the future holds, but I know who holds the future. That's kind of essentially where the Christian goes, maybe a step further, but you're right, there's some similarity with just getting really comfortable with I don't know, I've had to answer a lot of my kids' questions with I don't know.

K

Kira Dorrian 17:33

It's just no different than what's happening in in my house.

D

Deana Thayer 17:37

Don't say that because today is supposed to be about how we're so different!

K

Kira Dorrian 17:41

It's true though. Like it's so funny. The timing of this recording is so funny because so we subscribe, you know, we're the weirdest house. Do you know because like for all my chatter, about not knowing and I don't want to have faith in my family and blah, blah, blah, we belong to this thing called PJ library, which for those Jews that are listening is an amazing service. It's a free service, they send you a Jewish book for your kids every month. And I'm not gonna lie to you, when I see like Christian books in Christian homes, it makes me cringe. And so every month, this Jewish book shows up and it makes me cringe. I'm like, wow, I was like, my house has these books. But it's great, because it's like about whatever holiday's happening that month. And anyway, so my kids occasionally will pull out just a random PJ library book, and you get to keep the books. It's an amazing service anyway. So they pulled this book out yesterday. And that's what they wanted to read for bedtime. And so we read the story, and we get to the end of the story. And my son says, so I'm confused, which is, you know, normal for both my son and me. I have a question, essentially. And so he says, I'm confused. Is God real? But just like that, and Dave, it's like

7:30 it's bedtime, and Dave and I are like, well, and Dave starts to answer. And I was like, oh, no, this is a daddy believes, mommy believes moment. But what I haven't told our listeners is Dave is a theologian. He has a master's degree in theology. He was actually at one point thinking about becoming a minister. And then he married a Jew. So that went out the window. But so he's not just a Christian. He's a really educated Christian and someone who's questioned and, you know, really has a lot more of the scientific information around it than most people do. For sure. So he gave his answer, you know, well, I believe I can't remember what he said, isn't that horrible? Um, he gave his answer. And I said, you know, my answer, which was, well, I just don't know, I believe the closest thing that I can connect to, in terms of a concept of God is the idea of love. That love exists between us. It's within all of us. It's why we're here. And that to me, that's what God is. God is that inexplicable thing within us that we feel as love and so this did not satisfy my son. So then he went to well, is the Bible real? Which I mean, you and I have had this conversation about the Bible and the book and you know, is it God's Word? And what are your thoughts on that anyway? And so then we went to mommy believes, daddy believes. But Dave was like, oh, no, they're, it's a historical document and like, gave all these, you know, scientific evidentiary, you know, quotes about this, that and the other. And when he had finished, I said, okay, and some people still, even with all of that, believe that it's a book of stories that are designed to teach us things, but not necessarily the Word of God. And that seemed to give my son enough to chew on to go to bed. But this conversation literally happened last night. Yeah. So I couldn't believe it. I was like, oh, wow. Well, that's really good timing for this. I would say so this episode, unfortunately, my dad wasn't present to be like, yes. Here's an option - black out. That's it.

D

Deana Thayer 20:56

Maybe that was okay.

K

Kira Dorrian 20:57

Yeah, I think so.

D

Deana Thayer 20:59

For a seven year old. For now, right now. it's okay. Oh, that's wild. I mean, how serendipitous. You're literally talking about that last night. Now you get to talk about it today. So it is a big deal. And I don't want to gloss over that fact at all. But I am curious. I'm not a fly on the wall in your home. And do you have, do you have ways that you handle holidays? Because we've talked a little bit about this, but I think our listeners would be interested to know, because some of them are overtly attached to a certain religious

tradition. There's some Jewish holidays that do that. There's some Christian holidays that do that. And then there are families who choose just not to do any of it. And you've done this like, awesome, amazing kind of combo pack. And at least at the time of this recording, we're kind of going into the holiday season. So how do you do that? And then what do you say to your kids around it?

K

Kira Dorrian 21:58

Oh, yeah. Yeah, I mean, it's so tricky because a lot a lot depends on who we spend the holidays with. So my in laws have typically come for Christmas, they're not coming this year. And so they have liked to go to church on Christmas, which is perfectly reasonable. And I have always been very supportive of either sending the kids with Dave or going with them. I'm not afraid to go to a church. I've been to church with you. And you know, I actually kind of liked the idea that if we're going to celebrate this holiday let's at least honor where it comes from and not just like presents and hot cocoa. And so we celebrate a lot I mean, because we I mean, we do Hanukkah, but here's the thing, listeners, about Hanukkah, like I just want to put this out there. It's a real trigger for me at the moment. I don't know why but, you know, Hanukkah is our least important holiday. What is your least, what is the least important holiday in Christianity? Like, like you barely know.

D

Deana Thayer 22:54

Probably the ones people haven't even heard of.

K

Kira Dorrian 22:56

You know, I mean, like, can you think of a...

D

Deana Thayer 22:58

Because there's, because there's the church calendar. Well, and I've heard this before, I mean to Jews, this is not the big, the big one. But it's what most non Jews The only one they know, right?

K

Kira Dorrian 23:07

And you know why? Because it's at Christmas,

D

Deana Thayer 23:10

Because it's all about, it's like around the same time?

K

Kira Dorrian 23:11

Like we live in this Christian society here in America. And well, let's support those Jewish people. Let's make sure their voice is heard by celebrating their meaningless holiday that happens to fall near our holiday. So I kind of have this bugabear about Hanukkah. It's a great holiday, don't get me wrong. We get to eat fried food and chocolate basically. Okay, so it's a rockin holiday. It's beautiful with the lights and everything, but it's really minimal and unimportant. And so when I have friends that are like, can we come for Hanukkah? I want to expose my kids to other cultures. I'm kind of like, yeah, you can but can you also please come for a Shabbat dinner? Because that's what matters to us. Right? We on Friday nights, have a Shabbat meal. My family does it. Not every Friday, I'd say we kind of every other Friday. And life gets in our way sometimes. But that's kind of the celebrating the end of the week and the beginning of our time of rest and celebrating God, you know if that's in your paradigm as a Jew, which for most Jews it is. And so I sort of feel like Hanukkah is the worst exposure to Judaism. And if people really want to be interested in and want to ask a Jew to participate, asked to go for a Shabbat. Our big holiday is Yom Kippur, which is the Day of Atonement where you fast. So I've also joked about, you know, the whole Starbucks Christmas cup and people were like up in arms that their Christmas Cup was taken away and everyone should get a cup. And it's like, okay, well, if I had a cup that represented my most important holiday, it would be Yom Kippur, which A is depressing and B would be empty because we don't eat or drink for 24 hours, so I don't need a Yom Kippur cup. But anyway, I digress. To answer your question. So we do Christmas and Easter and sometimes Dave will want to go to church and we do and sometimes he doesn't and we don't. He is really good though, generally speaking, about reminding them what the holiday's actually about and not just like bunnies and eggs. And then we do Shabbat pretty regularly. We have some of our closest best friends are also Jewish and they're, they're a lot more Jewish than we are. So we kind of like hop on.

D

Deana Thayer 24:13

So there's like gradation? There's like, more Jewish? They really mean it?

K

Kira Dorrian 25:26

Yeah, they really mean it. We are Jew. Ish. So we hop onto their celebrations a lot. So like they build a sukkah in the fall, which is like this amazing dwelling and you dwell outside.

It's a time of dwelling. And so you like eat your dinner outside and you like hang out in the sukkah so we go and dwell with them. And they do a big Passover Seder every year, which is awesome because I don't want to have to cook a Passover Seder. So we go to their Seder, and then once a month, we do a Shabbat dinner together, we take turns, it's fun. So the kids are definitely, they know all the prayers in Hebrew, which I love because for me, it's not the gospel piece at all. It's the tradition. You know, these are phrases I grew up with. These are words and songs that I knew in my childhood. That's a link back to my grandmother and her family who perished in the Holocaust. So for me, that's the important part is the tradition and the culture. And the god piece is sort of, for me neither here nor there. But my kids did go through a confusing phase. They're out of it now, but when they were little, where they thought Jewish people didn't believe in God, because mommy didn't believe in God, and she's Jewish. So there was a lot of like, no, no, most Jewish people, mommy's the anomaly, you know, trying to kind of explain that, but they, they figured it out eventually.

D

Deana Thayer 26:42

Wow. Oh, my goodness.

K

Kira Dorrian 26:44

Yeah. So many things. So many things. It is complicated. It's a very complicated thing in our home, but my hope is that, is that's not a problem. It's a complicated world. And there are complicated questions. And so I don't think it's bad that my kids have had to negotiate the complexities of this, because we're all negotiating the complexity.

D

Deana Thayer 27:07

Well, and they better be able to, because that is the world they're going into. And it is a little bit tricky. I'm not saying I'm sorry about the choices I've made as far as how I've raised my kids, or even their school choice and all of that. But it has meant I've had to be intentional about creating complexity for them to grapple with. Right? Because it really is, yeah, because for the most part, their experience up until recently was pretty homogenous. I'm hearing the same thing from mom and dad that I'm hearing from my teachers, that I'm hearing from people at church. So I had to literally create opportunities for them to interact with the other, you know, and, and to not see it as the other because that's really important, too.

K

Kira Dorrian 27:46

So how did you because I think that's, that's so awesome that you did that and weren't afraid. Not only weren't afraid, but knew it was important that they didn't exist in this bubble because that was going to be a big shock, right? So how did you do that?

D

Deana Thayer 27:59

So one piece of it was making sure even when I was a homeschooler, because I think there is a little bit of a, it's a sweeping generalization, but there can be some truth to really sheltered homeschoolers. And so I made sure when I was homeschooling when my kiddos were younger, that they still had a lot of social interaction and activities and that they were not all through our church. It was, you're gonna go to sports over here, and an art class over here, and take gymnastics over there and just getting around other people. And then the other thing is, while they were super young for a while, they each spent time in a Montessori. And part of that was logistics. And actually, I think God being awesome because I needed a way to be with my people during my divorce. And so I got a job at a Montessori. So I got to kind of be with them peripherally. But they got exposed to some very different ideas there too, because Montessori is not a faith based paradigm. And it meant though that I had to be very intentional, very on purpose. And then also their love of acting really helped because in the theater, unless you go...

K

Kira Dorrian 28:59

Oh man, I mean, there are the odd ducks in theatre, right?

D

Deana Thayer 29:02

Right. So there are a few Christian theater organizations. But I would say by and large, that was a great exposure to to just people with different thought paradigms. And artists are often a little bit more on the fringe, even if they have a certain worldview. So it was great for them to start, oh, I'm coming up against this that's different than me. And I'm hearing this over here that doesn't match what I've always been taught. And so we had some great conversations, even just from meeting other actors and shows and Marc doing his stuff with screen acting as well. It was great, fantastic. So that was kind of how I did it was just on purpose activities, I guess.

K

Kira Dorrian 29:10

That's so great that you did that. You know, it's interesting, because we've been keeping an eye on iTunes, obviously, and kind of seeing how the podcast is doing and what I've noticed is that the vast majority of parenting podcasts are Christian. And I think that

they're, now I could be wrong about this, Deana Thayer, so you, you correct me if I'm wrong, but I think in the Christian community, there is a viewpoint that if you don't have a faith paradigm, that you're not going to be able to parent with morals and values that like, how are you going to do that? And it's one of the things I've been most excited about in this podcast for me is to really get a chance to show that we parent absolutely with morals, values, boundaries. I mean, oftentimes, even our whys are similar. Oftentimes, I want to teach people to be kind I wanted, you know, etc, etc. And it's to me that is proof that you can absolutely parent - you've met my kids, you can raise beautiful children without that faith paradigm. That's not to say that the faith paradigm is bad. It's just also not to say that maybe it's essential to Raising Adults. Thoughts?

D

Deana Thayer 30:45

Well, I think the plethora of podcasts from a faith perspective is not quite for that reason. Although I can see why that perception could be out there that we think oh, it just can't be done without this framework. I don't really subscribe to that myself. But I do think that there is an element where parents who are Christians, if they're really, if they really mean it, like, that's going to be our new phrase! I really, I really like, hey, I'm carrying out what I believe from Scripture and really trying to walk this out, not just give it lip service, not just say, it's what I believe. It's the way I live. Then they're going to take very seriously, the instructions we have in Scripture about children are really a gift from God, you have a job to steward them well. You have a job to, you are their first and best spiritual teacher. So you have a job to teach them about what you believe and train them in the way that they should go. And that's literally a verse like train a child in the way he should go. And I think you see a lot of that because then they're like, oh, but how do we do that? Well, and so then they're looking to other mentors and other Christians in the field, or people who run family organizations, to then give some practical ideas of like, I read this, but then how do I do it? And that's the other reason I love this podcast is we move quickly from the philosophical and the theoretical to the practical. And I think there is sometimes a lack of that in the world. Unfortunately, you can have all these great ideas. And Christians are guilty of this, non faith-based paradigms are guilty of this like, and here's why we should do it. And then like, you're left going, but how? Give me some tips I can use. Give me some tools I can put in my tool belt. So I think some of that is why you see that people are really taking that seriously. I want to do this. Well, the Bible says it's super important. I don't know how, and there's a lot of kind of looking for that. Yeah, that makes sense. Well, I hope, I hope our listeners enjoyed this discussion. I'm not 100% sure exactly what we covered in today's episode, but I do feel it was probably at the very minimal entertaining. So for more information, or if you have questions for us, you can go to futurefocusedparenting.com or email us at info@FutureFocusedparenting.com. We'll be back in just a few days with another episode, and we hope that you got something out of

today. At the very, very least, just an interesting peek into Deana's and my home situation and what it looks like and how much we agree. Gosh, even when we tried to disagree we still managed to agree on a lot today. So thank you so much for listening. Raising Adults is produced by Kira Dorrian and Deana Thayer and recorded in my laundry room. Music by the Seattle band Hannalee.



Future Focused Parenting 33:27

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