



# SUMMERFEST

Week 4

## BREAKING THE ICE

What is the best summer vacation you ever had?

Is there a favorite summer time meal you really enjoy?

## MAIN CONTENT

This week, Pastor Kevin started our "Storytellers" series. Over the next few weeks we will be telling great stories that Jesus told. This week we had a Father's Day message with Ernie Johnson.

1. Who has been the most influential father figure in your life?

Ernie started talking about his life and the "All American family" but at one point his life went unscripted.

2. Has there ever been a part of your life where you feel like it went unscripted? What happened? What are the things you can take away from those unscripted moments?

Ernie and his wife Cheryl adopted 4 children, some from other countries. One (Michael) had a life-threatening illness but that didn't matter. They knew God wanted all of these children to be a part of their lives.

Michael had muscular dystrophy keeping him wheel chair bound. Even though he had physical difficulties, his heart for others was special and influential, not only to the basketball team he was a part of, but to everyone he came in contact with.

3. Talk about someone in your life who despite their difficulties has been influential in your life. How did they inspire you? How have you adopted some actions to be more like them?

Michael made a difference in basketball coach Phil's life. He taught Coach Phil how to love unconditionally. Through the love he shared, it changed the whole school Michael attended. They all learned to silently sign "I Love You" because Micheal taught them.

4. Who is one person in your life whose unconditional love has helped you love others more?

Ernie talks about how he and Cheryl came to faith late in life. As they look back they can see God's hand all the way through their lives — how God knew Michael was going to be a part of their lives and how influential his love for others would be for so many. God had a plan to use Micheal and his coach to teach a school about love.

Ernie talks about these "blackberry moments". Special times and moments in life where we stop, take our time, and just enjoy the moments. It's making time for people, being in the moment and being intentional with them.

5. What are some of the "blackberry moments" in your life?

6. Who is the someone that has been a "blackberry moment" influencer in your life? How have they showed you how to be more intentional?

Read Psalm 103: 13

Ernie learned a lot about having compassion and what it means to be intentional as he chose to serve his wife and his family. In the last 10 years of Micheal's life, Ernie and Cheryl had the privilege to serve Micheal as he could not do anything on his own. They learned to trust God in all times; through cancer, adoptions, illness and even the death of their own child.

7. What are some of the hardest times where you have had to trust God? What are some of the easiest times where you have learned to trust God?

One thing we see in Ernie's life is how he loved like God loves all of His children. His intentionality is what God would have for all of us in our lives: times to slow down, see others, take the time to be intentional with them and show them His love.

## CLOSING PRAYER

God thank you for being the perfect father in our lives. The father who loves us unconditionally and is with us through all times. Will you help us love like you, to find those "blackberry moments" —being intentional with those we come in contact with. Help us slow down, pay attention to the stories you are unfolding in our lives and be open to how we can love others and create intentional moments with them.

## ACTION STEP

- + Call, text or email someone who has created a "blackberry moment" in your life. Remind them of the intentionality they took with you, what it meant to you and thank them for creating a moment you will never forget.
- + Tell us your story of how God has been moving in your life. Visit [crosspoint.tv/share-your-story](https://crosspoint.tv/share-your-story)
- + Listen to our weekly Storytellers podcast, starting this Wednesday, where we will be learning more about the art and importance of storytelling as we explore Jesus' stories paired with a modern-day story from our very own Cross Point community: [Crosspoint.tv/podcasts](https://crosspoint.tv/podcasts)