

LOTR: Road Trip

Week 15, Wednesday, July 15th Starbuck

God Gathers Us Together To Connect Us To Each Other

JEFF: So how could there not be a Starbucks in Starbuck? That seems like a no-brainer. What were the head honchos at Starbucks thinking?

VEGAS: I thought you were a Caribou Coffee kinda guy?

JEFF: Are you kidding? Caribou doesn't even come close to Starbucks. They're like Starbucks wanna-bes. You can't beat authentically brewed java.

MOOSE: Don't you usually get like a Moo Moo Mocha with extra whip cream and sprinklies – does that really have coffee in it?

JEFF: It has espresso in it. That's strong stuff...you have to tame it down a little so you don't get all (spazzes out a little)

ISAAC: I can't stand the taste of coffee...but it smells good.

TY: You guys and your \$4 coffee...you could save a lot of money if you'd make your own like the church coffee. They throw a handful of dirt and a spoonful of instant coffee into about 5 gallons of lukewarm water and call it good.

REBECCA: They do not...it's more like two handfuls of dirt.

TY: Now you're starting to sound like a youth worker! But they do give you those wonderful artificial sweeteners and artificial creamers to take the edge off a little bit.

SAUL: Do they give you the cream that comes in those tiny little containers? I love those! Once I was at a restaurant with my family and I drank 22 of them. I kept telling the waitress to bring more for my grandma.

ALICE: That's so mean Saul! Well, if we're not going to Starbucks in Starbuck, then what are we doing here today?

TY: You'll never guess.

JEFF: Ooooh I like a challenge. Let's see...small town...no coffee...got it – we're going to build them a Starbucks!

TY: Ummmm...no.

MOOSE: I bet it's cleaning or organizing something.

TY: Ahhhht (buzzer sound) wrong answer. Not even close.

VEGAS: Helping with VBS? I saw a sign for one back there.

TY: Good try...but not it.

SAUL: Are we going to walk around town and give everyone a free hug?

REBECCA: I like that idea Saul. You'd be great at it!

TY: Still not it. Give up?

ISAAC: Are we going to play baseball with Twins?

TY: Close enough! You win Isaac!

ISAAC: What? I did...I mean we are?

TY: Not exactly. We're going to play softball with some teens from Starbuck.

ALICE: And then what?

TY: I'm not sure...eat with them and hangout I guess.

ALICE: But I thought the Road Trip is about helping other people.

TY: The Road Trip is about discovering how God sees you. That He created you and loves you and won't ever stop. When God works through us to help others it kind of untangles all the selfishness that gets in the way of seeing how God sees us.

ALICE: Okay, I get it...but softball...

TY: These kids are in a small town. They're trying to figure out the same things you are. You are part of their church.

REBECCA: What do you mean by that?

TY: Most of us go to church to get our God hug...which is free Saul. We might come away from our experience saying things like "I didn't get much out of it" or "I liked the music or the sermon". But it's God who gathers us together to give us His gifts and to connect us to one another as the body of Christ.

REBECCA: But isn't worship supposed to be about what we give to God? Aren't we supposed to worship by singing songs to praise Him...to bring an offering to Him?

TY: If that's the way we see worship, then that's focused on us and what we do. I look at worship as when I untangle myself enough to allow God's great love and compassion to flow through me and out to others. That can happen at church, at the mall, even a softball game.

VEGAS: Can't we do something else with them? I'm terrible at softball!

JEFF: So your saying I could "worship" God at Starbucks?

TY: Well...yes. But remember that it's God who gathers us together as the body of Christ for His purpose...which is to give us His gifts and to connect us together.

MOOSE: So I still have to go to church?

TY: God doesn't force Himself on anyone. He offers Himself freely. This van load of people is a rolling mini-church of sorts gathered by God.

MOOSE: I'm pretty sure it was you that called me though. If it was God, I think I would've remembered that.

TY: That's how He works Moose...through people. Through me...through you...do you feel connected as a group now?

(all answer basic yeah)

TY: That's God connecting the body of Christ together.

SAUL: You keep calling us the body and that's kinda creepy.

TY: When you were baptized you were joined with Christ. Jesus now lives in you. In all of us...so we are His body and through us He continues to communicate the love of God to those we encounter.

ALICE: I think it sounds...well...beautiful.

SAUL: You would.

ALICE: And if playing softball helps to connect us to more of the body...then I'm in, even if I'm not very good.

VEGAS: If I have to.

ISAAC: C'mon Vegas! It'll be fun...I'll teach you some basics.

VEGAS: I just don't want to make an idiot out of myself.

MOOSE: Too late.

REBECCA: I think I'm starting to catch on to why were playing softball. You want us to see how the different positions - pitcher, catcher, outfielder and all those – is like the body of Christ...like how we each are different but equally important...and God uses us all to connect others to Him...right Ty?

TY: Actually I didn't see that. I just wanted to play softball. But stellar observation Rebecca. You win the golden star for today!

JEFF: If we are all parts of the body, then I call “not it!” on several of them.

TY: Let's not go there...but we are here. Everybody out. That's Pastor Todd over there. He'll have some gloves for you to choose from. Introduce yourselves to the Starbuck kids. They won't bite so you shouldn't either.

(EVERYBODY GETS OUT RUNS OFFSTAGE)

(MOOSE AND ISAAC ARE THROWING BALL BACK AND FORTH)

MOOSE: That sure was a lot of fun. Especially when Vegas got so excited that she hit the ball that she ran to third base first.

ISAAC: She's pretty funny. Wow Ty's really good...I didn't think he could run that fast.

MOOSE: And that Ryan kid. He looks like Arnold Schwarznegger and he's only a junior next year. When he got up to bat, he said “Softball, I kill you now!”

ISAAC: Oh that's good! He's a friendly guy though...all of them are. I'm having a lot more fun on this trip than I thought I would.

MOOSE: Well that's good.

THROW A COUPLE OF TIMES WITHOUT TALKING

ISAAC: Thanks a lot for not giving up on me Moose. I know I was kind of a jerk to begin with.

MOOSE: Don't worry about it. You have a lot going on and well that's how we're supposed to be right? The body...If you ever need something, you know...after we get back...just let me know...

ISAAC: Thanks Moose.

MUSIC FROM BLINDSIDED