



Podcast Episode 218
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“THE TALK: Ideas on When and How to Have It with Your Kids”

David Loy: Hi and welcome to *In the Loop* with Andy Andrews, I’m your host David Loy. Andy we’re together again in person, across the table from each other.

Andy Andrews: Together again.

David: I’m sure there’s a song, there you go.

Andy: There is a song.

David: And Polly’s actually in the house as well, she’s upstairs.

Andy: She’s in the house.

David: She’s entered the building. I don’t know, I guess I was just thinking about her.

Andy: She’s gonna come down here in a little bit, I think, I don’t know. She and Robert and some of the guys are gonna get lunch.

David: And pop in, yes. Well we’re always glad when you guys are here and in town. And this is always fun to be doing in person. But because she’s with you this time, it got me thinking, this is just an odd little question, was there ever anything that you have done on stage where you came off the stage Polly kind of got on to you about it?

Andy: Is she standing behind me right now?

David: No, I promise you.

Andy: Already said something today. You know, she and I have been married for 27 years so I can occasionally and it's not very often that she is in an audience, but occasionally she's in an audience and I have seen the look. Like we'll talk about this later, that kind of thing. And you know, occasionally I guess she had said, I'm not sure you are to say that that way. And I can either say, well this is why I did and she'll go, ok, well that's cool. Or she'll say, hm. And I'll go, well that makes sense. And it's not often, now there's times that I have said like funny things. And there's two that I do occasionally. One of them, I had done this several times and she was in an audience when I did this. And she like raised her eyebrows. But what it was, I was talking about a husband and wife and dynamics between them and how sometimes you know, just like a guy, you just can't win. You know, the best thing you should do is shut up. And I said, when you think about it, I mean, if a husband is in the forest and says something, and his wife is not around to hear him, is he still wrong? Everybody laughed and I looked at Polly and she was like tilting her head and her eyebrows going up. And I said, I looked away for a second, is she laughing, is she laughing? Somebody tell me is she laughing. But the other one that I did, this is very funny to me and certainly funny to a public. And it's just funny. And I started about king Solomon, which I talk about king Solomon a lot. And I said, did you know he had 700 wives. I mean, 700 wives, which is amazing to me. And I was talking to Polly about that one time and she said, why would anybody have 700 wives? And I said, I don't know, maybe he was hoping he'd go home and find one of them in a good mood. And she didn't think that was very funny.

David: Shocking that she didn't think that was funny. Well maybe she won't.

Andy: Actually she did think that's funny.

David: I'm glad she hasn't walked in, in the middle of this. But we'll see if she listens to this episode. Alright Andy thank you for kicking this off with a funny story. We've got a great question, let me read this question that came in for this week from Bo, and we'll get your thoughts.

Andy: Starting with something funny. Have you ever heard Joe Lou Steen? Joe Lou Steen, radio Joe Lou Steen, every, I really like it, every single sermon, every single sermon he says, I like to start with something funny. And he tells a joke.

David: I did not know that.

Andy: Every single time. It doesn't get into it in a different. I just.

David: I'm certainly not, well not equating you to him.

Andy: No, just I heard that, that's where my mind went, I like to start with something funny. Alright go ahead.

David: Alright here we go, here's the question that came in from Bo. Bo writes. Andy I have two boys that are 10 and 7 years old. My 10-year-old is in 5th grade. The parents of this small school and of the class that he's in are all close. One of the classmates is a boy and his mother was telling us that she is taking her son and another girl in the class on their first date to see a play together. The parents will be with them of course. The boy was really excited and so was the girl. But my wife and I were looking at each other as the mother was telling us this story and

thinking to ourselves, holy cow, our boy is far from thinking about girls. That being said probably isn't too far around the corner and he'll soon start thinking that a girl is cute or vice versa. We'd like to have the talk with him about girls, how to talk to them, how to treat them, that he can always talk to us, and what to say if a girl he likes also likes him. And what to say if a girl he doesn't like, likes him, his feelings etc. So Andy, what are your thoughts on this? That's a good question, that is something.

Andy: Man that's a great question, that's something that everybody's dealing with.

David: Everybody's dealing with it. And I love the line there about, he said, my wife and I were looking at each other like holy cow, our boy is far from thinking about girls. And I can just picture them looking at each other and saying, well maybe he's not too far from it. This is right around the corner for a lot of people.

Andy: Yeah. First of all, let me just say this. Bo, I'm struggling with being jealous, ok. Because man, I have two boys but you have two boys that are 10 and 7. And I just, golly, I just loved that. I loved that age.

David: A great age for both of them.

Andy: It is a great age because it is such a great age that you are establishing such a strong relationship with those boys, with their mother, and those boys with their father, and those boys with each other. I don't think anything is more important, the things are as important but I don't think there's anything more important in relationship building then to tell those two boys constantly how brothers act, that brothers are important. Man there's nothing more important to you and your relationships than your brother. You will always have your brother. Long after

mom and I are gone, you will have your brother. No matter what happens, you have a brother. And even when they disagree and argue and all like that, you always know and always let them know as they get older that your brother is, working with your brother, doing chores with your brother, dealing with your brother, coming to agreements with your brother, navigating disagreements with your brother, this is a laboratory you are able to use, to become the kind of adult that can deal with all kinds of people. Because as you're growing up, if you get great at dealing with your siblings, people in the world are nothing, that's just nothing. And so, thanks for the question Bo because it starts me thinking about Austin and Adam when they were that age. And David can I see, if you'll just, slide that question to me, because I want to address a couple of things specifically. I'm looking here.

Ok, alright, here's what, now this is what I think, I'm not telling you this is the cut and dry thing, but this is what I think. And knowing, but I will say that I have been through this, I've got a 16-year-old and a 13-year-old now, ok. And I'm seeing the, I guess I'm seeing, what would you call, the results of what we did when they were 7 and 10. And so even though I'm not telling you what to do, I believe there is a fair amount of wisdom in what I'm about to express, ok. Now as always what I'm about to express to you is not what everybody is gonna tell you. It may seem different from what everybody else is gonna tell you so I'm about to tell you something a little bit different. Here's what I'm gonna tell you. You say one of the classmates boy's mother was telling she was taking him and another girl on the class on their first date to see a play together. Alright let me just tell you something. In my eyes, 10 years old, don't tell your kid he's on a date. You're right, he's not thinking about girls like dating a girl. And so right now she's just a friend, ok. And so if you tell this child, ok you're gonna go on your first date. Well he wasn't thinking about it but now he is. Now he is. And so in my opinion you're

forcing something into this child's head before it's time. There will be plenty of time as you know. There's gonna be plenty of time that those boys are gonna be just like wild eyed about girls. Ok, but the 5th grade is not the time. And so, surely don't press it.

So what I would urge you to do, is to watch them, watch it closely. And that includes having to watch parents like your friend who is taking these kids on a date. Because they're going to know at some point that their friend went on a date. And so at some point you'll likely discuss it with your child. And you want to ask questions. And with boys you don't necessarily want to sit down with them to ask these questions. Because when boys have to sit down and talk to their parents, they're in trouble. I mean, that's just kind of a thing. But if you can go throw the ball, throw the frisbee or walk around the neighborhood or get on a bicycle, boys talk about these things very well sight to side, not face to face. And so boys are much more comfortable in talking that way, in talking while they're doing something. You know, girls may wanna sit across the table or something like that but boys wanna be doing something. They're always moving any way so let them move and move with them. And get into conversations about that. So you want to ask, you want to ask things and say, hey who's the cutest girl in your class or who's your best friend who's a guy, who's your best friend who's a girl, in the class? What do the other kids think about, what does the teacher think about them, hey what does the teacher think about you? You know, what do you think the other kids think when they see da da daaa? What, do they talk about this? Because see, at some point, you're referenced in here, at some point you're gonna have to have the talk with him. Now I see the talk is in quotes, right. So I know what that means, that doesn't mean just to talk about how girls are different. That means the talk.

David: The actual talk, yes.

Andy: And you know, 5th grade, 6th grade, you're right there man. And so maybe I should give you Bo, tell you what I did with Austin and Adam.

David: Ok, yeah, that'll be great.

Andy: Because watching them and asking the questions and just kind of, you always wanna have an open dialog with these kids. I'll tell you a great, great thing to ask at the dinner table. Now this is just, if you can, whatever it is that you guys do for a living, if there's anyway that you can have dinner together without the television, this is what you want. Now occasionally watch TV while you're eating, if it's something special or whatever, but for the most part, you wanna talk. And as the mom and dad, you want to have questions that will lead to conversations, alright. I wanna tell you one of the best questions you can ask a kid about his day in school, that they will come to expect and start to look for. And it's a question most parents, I would bet you 99,9 % of the parents do not ask this question and don't even think about it. And here it is. Hey what is the funniest thing that happened in school today? What happened that everybody laughed? What did somebody say, what happened when you were changing classes? I mean, listen, that is a great question for your 7-year-old, your 10-year-old. That's a great question for my Adam who's in 7th grade. A great question for Austin who's in the 10th grade. I mean, that continues to be a great question. And it's also a great question for adults at the dinner table. What's the funniest thing that happened at work today? Because everybody tends to think about the problems they have and the challenges but very few people turn to the light heartedness. And occasionally your child will say, well, you know, not really, nothing. Really? This is what I do, really? Oh my gosh, all that time at school and not one single funny thing. What a horrible day that must have been. Not one single. And they'll start

kind of smiling and rolling their eyes. And I'll say, well, I guess we just have to sit here until somebody can think of something funny. But let's sit in silence and mom could you cry a little bit for us? And so the boys are going, oh dad.

David: So then they start to think about something to say.

Andy: Yeah, they think about it. Oh yeah, I've got something to say. And here's what you're gonna hear, you're gonna hear the things that other kids say, you're gonna hear the crazy things that a teacher did or said or what the kids think about the teacher. You're gonna hear about what they think about each other. And you're gonna start to discern from some of those funny things, you're gonna start to discern what's going on, ok.

David: Yes, you'll get an idea.

Andy: And so you will also begin to discern with these conversations throwing the baseball, or the conversations walking around the neighborhood. Bicycling is a great thing to do with kids, because kids are not necessarily walkers unless you're walking to do something. Austin has his citrus business, well Austin and I would go on citrus inspections. We wouldn't go for a walk. But there are trees around the neighborhood, this was before he ever had his business, he's like 8 or 9 or 10 years old. And Aus, let's go on a citrus inspection. Or he'd say, dad can we go on a citrus inspection today? Which means we're gonna walk around the neighborhood. And on those walks we have a purpose but there's a lot of time to talk. Ok, so you're gonna discern the time, when the time is right to have the talk. And believe me the time is earlier rather than later.

David: Earlier than you want it to be.

Andy: Right, right. Well yeah.

David: Well an interesting thing here as well and I'm probably speaking from personal experience and maybe for Adam, your son as well. But the younger brother is gonna be different than the older one, but unfortunately a lot of those things happen earlier for the younger brother because they have an older brother.

Andy: Because they have an older brother. You're exactly right. I didn't think about that, that's exactly what happened with ours.

David: Yeah, and that's what happen with me.

Andy: And I had a sister, I didn't have a brother. So I remember when my parents had the talk with me, oh my gosh. I was horrified, I was embarrassed. I remember I just got home from college and, I'm just teasing, I'm just teasing. But here's the thing, you'll find the time and you want to be ahead of the curve. You really do. And so here's kind of how I got into it with Austin. We were talking one day and I said, hey Aus do you ever hear anybody say anything, you ever hear the word sex, do you know what sex is? And Austin was in the 5th grade, 5th or early 6th, and he said, sex, like whether you're a boy or a girl? And I said, yeah, that is that tells the sex, the sex of a baby, whether it's a boy or a girl. I said, there's another term too that you probably going to start hearing about it. If you haven't heard about it, maybe you hadn't noticed it but you're probably going to start hearing about it. And it's like, kind of where babies come from. How moms become pregnant and how that happens. And he said, really. I said, now, you know, I can explain this kind of simply for you and I'm just telling you because it's something you're gonna know one day, you wanna know one day. And you're probably going to start hearing about it, ok. And so when you hear about it, I don't want you to be in the dark, I want you to be able, that you and I can talk. I mean, you can talk

to mom if you want to, you can certainly, but you might be more comfortable talking with me about this. But so anyway here's the deal. I told him the deal, ok. Now I do it very casually, right. I'm not like, listen to me son. But I did it very casually. But there was a point when his brow started furrowing, right. And then when I told him the deal, the moment when this happens and this. I mean, he like stared at me and his arm slowly swung way out wide and then back and slowly came in and covered his eyes, with his hand. And his head went way back and then he took his hand off his eyes and he looked at me and said, are you kidding me? And I said, no, that's how it happens. He said, really? And I said, yep, that's how it happens. And he said, like you and mom?

David: Oh no.

Andy: And I said, yeah. He said, huh, wow, really. And I said, yep. Now one of my friends, his boys said, you and mom do this? And my friend said, well you know, not very often.

So anyway, here's a funny thing, I get to, kind of the end of it, and here's what you also want to tell your child and this, Austin had a great response for it but you want to tell your child, ok, now, when you go back to school, when you're around your buddies, just understand that you're getting the age that some guys might be talking about this. And they might be asking questions about it. And you may know some stuff that they don't know right now. And it's not really your place to tell them, ok. If somebody asks something or somebody said something, a good thing to say would be, you know, you probably are to ask your dad about that. That's a good thing to ask your dad. I said, because Austin, it's really not your place to tell them. And he said, dad, my friends wouldn't believe this anyway.

David: That is so great.

Andy: Well listen Bo, like I said, I envy you, a 7-year-old and a 10-year-old. What a great time in your family's life. And just on those walks and throwing the baseball. And you watch them with the girls in their class and you'll be able to talk to them about how you treat mom. How I wrestle with you guys, and I don't wrestle with mom, you know. Girls are tender and so I'm careful with mom, alright. And so we treat girls differently. But a lot of that they will get from how you treat your wife.

David: They're watching everything.

Andy: They're watching everything. And if you can be aware that they're watching everything and also say something about the things that you do, now guys, you see how I did that? That is something that you want to do, right. And one final thing, let me just say this Bo and we'll close this out. Let me say this, there was the time that Austin was very little, I don't know 4 or 5 or something, and I was sitting with a bunch of guys and Austin was there. And Polly came in the room and there was something she did or said, it was just awesome and as she left I kind of made a motion to the guys, hang on just a second, I said, Aus, do you see how your momma just did that, did you hear what she said, did you see how she acted right there? And he said, I did. I said, one day, you will be looking for a wife, one day you will be looking for a momma, you know, for your kids, and you'll be looking for somebody to marry. And you want to make sure that the girl that you choose, acts like that, acts like momma did right there. That's a very important thing that momma just did. And he said, I see. So he went on. And my friends were like, seriously, no way, you're talking to a five-year-old about how to choose a woman to marry? And I said, absolutely. And they said, why in the world? I said, because when he's 18, he's not going to listen.

David: He'll listen now.

Andy: Yeah. Listen, if you wait to do all these stuff and then when they're 15 or 17 and they bring this girl in and you go, no, not her, oh my God, do not, no, not her. Well it's too late. But now you can influence him to understand certain things, to accept certain things, to see. And explain why. Listen momma did that, here's why she did that and gosh, didn't that make me feel good, didn't that make you feel good, didn't that make all these guys just like her and wish that they had a wife that was as good as your mom and my wife? And so even as he grows up, he will begin to notice, because my boys, they'll go, dad did you see how? I mean, right now. I mean, we'll be in a restaurant, did you see how she did that, did you see how that lady did that? Good grief I feel sorry for that guy. Well you think they're going to be choosing women like that? No, they're going to choose women that we have established those, things in their lives and Polly has done a great job establishing that. So there's long answer for Bo.

David: No, great, thanks for those thoughts. Bo thank you for the question, that was terrific. You can jump in on this conversation, you can ask your own questions for future episodes. Give us a call, 1800 726 2639, that's 1800 726 Andy. You can also email usintheloop@andyandrews.com. And we will try to get to your question on a future episode. Andy thanks for your time, we'll talk to you next week.

Andy: Awesome, thank you guys.

Would you like to run something by Andy? Contact us and your question might be featured on the show!

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