

# The Riedy Reader

## May 2018



The other week, around the family dinner table, Eric and I were trying to explain the term 'Hail Mary' to our girls. By this we did not mean the Catholic prayer, but rather the idea of a 'Hail Mary pass' or last ditch effort. Wiki defines it as a "very long forward pass in football, made in desperation, with only a small chance of success and time running out on the clock." We rarely use sports analogies in our non-sporty family, but this is exactly what popped in to my head while reading an email just the other day! Let me explain...

This email was from a ministry partner in Michigan with a long, positive history with Cru and FamilyLife but a more negative history with 'Christian movies'. I'm sure she is not alone in this—we have all seen them...faith-based films with poor lighting, garbled soundtracks, and heavy handed, stilted dialogue. When we sent our April Riedy Reader about Like Arrows, Emma was conflicted. Should she invite others to a movie she expected to be 'cringe-worthy', knowing the message would be good? Emma decided to throw a Hail Mary Pass of a Facebook invitation for her neighborhood page. Not sure what that would look like? She gave me permission to share it here (**Hail Mary highlights in bold**):



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"Anyone interested in going to a movie Thursday night @ 7:00? (**the long forward pass**) It's a cheesy Christian movie which I typically roll my eyes at and don't see, (**made in desperation**) but it's about parenting and although cheesy, looks like some good stuff being communicated through the movie. Parenting is NOT easy and I know I can always use some encouragement and a renewed perspective. If anyone is interested, (**small chance of success**) Dave and I are both available to go on Thursday. (it's only showing tonight and Thursday night @ 7:00) (**time running out on the clock**) Let me know and I will purchase tickets so we can all sit together."

I truly believe God honored Emma's honesty and let her 'pass' connect with two neighboring families. As their little group sat in the theater, Emma was encouraged by the solid content she expected from

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## Riedy Road Trip!

We are excited for this busy trip! Please let us know if you'd like to set up a visit or host a small group get-together while we are in your area. Below are a few connection opportunities:

### In PA:

**June 12th**, 4-7 pm stop by for a visit at the Panera Bread at **6379 Hamilton Blvd., Allentown PA**  
**June 10th**, before & after 9:15 service at Bethany UMC at **3801 Brookside Rd., Macungie, PA**

### In CT:

**June 17th**, before & after services at Groton Bible Chapel **66 Toll Gate Rd., Groton, CT**  
**June 19th**, 4-7 pm stop by for a visit at the Panera Bread at **220 Rt. 12, Groton, CT**  
**June 23d**, 1/2 day marriage & parenting event at Groton Bible Chapel



FamilyLife, but even more encouraged that the quality of the movie didn't interfere with the communication of that content. She was even more encouraged when she read this follow-up comment on her Facebook post:

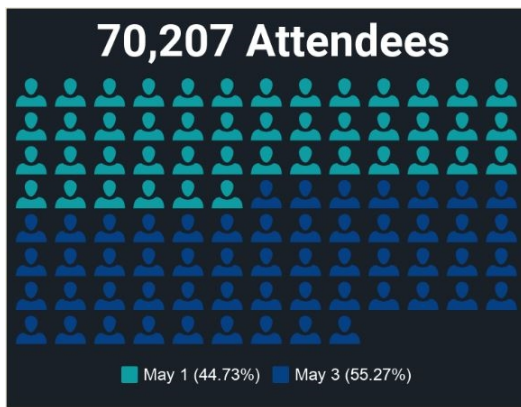
*"HUGE shout out to Emma for inviting us out to the Like Arrows movie last night. At first, I thought it was going to be completely corny, however I ugly cried almost the entire movie! It was absolutely an amazing story of a struggling family and how they changed things around with God.*

*What I took away from that movie was as parents, we are not perfect, but we have to be willing to admit to our kids when we make mistakes and admit when we are wrong. We have to give them our FULL attention when they ask for it and share the glories of God with them, SHOW them and not just TELL them how we should treat others or act.*

*I know I definitely came home last night and squeezed my two kids tight! It was a very powerful movie!"*

This small group of friends are now considering hosting a neighborhood wide movie showing and wanting to start parenting groups. As Emma shared in her email "...the story continues...excited to see what God is writing!"

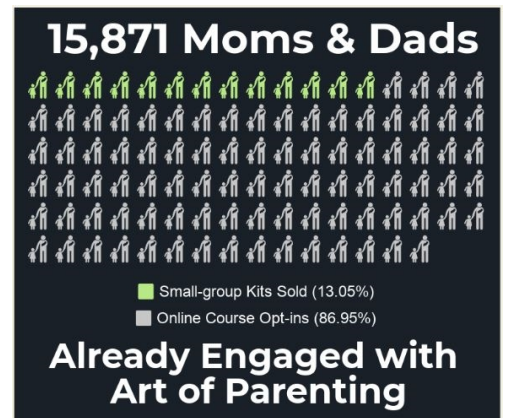
That is just one story from the thousands of people in over 800 theaters who saw the FamilyLife Like Arrows film, May 1st and 3rd. And this film was really just a launching point for the Art of Parenting initiative—and it worked! We had well over 13,000 people text in on the two movie showing dates alone to get more information about FamilyLife's Art of Parenting! To God be the Glory!



In Him,

Eric & Deb

Tear & Prayer



**Pray** for Eric & I as we take an Old Testament Survey class May 21-25- LOTS of reading to do!  
**Pray** for Eric as he travel for FamilyLife May 29-June 1st (yes, the week before we begin our East Coast road trip-it's a traveling time of year!)  
**Pray** for Charissa as she 'holds down the fort' here in Little Rock as we travel.  
**Praise** for Charissa finishing up her Sophomore year with honors, & making it home to begin her summer internship at a local country club.  
**Praise** for Brenna & Amanda finishing strong for their homeschool year-we now have a 9th grader and a Senior in the house! WOW! This year also marks the 10th year of our homeschooling.