

# Encouragement for Real Life

## 226 Real Talk with Morgan and Paige, My Kids by Marriage

[00:00:00] Welcome to the Encouragement for Real Life podcast. I'm Julie Lefebure, your host. Life is remarkable, sometimes raw and always real. And some days we could use a little extra encouragement for our real lives. Here you'll find that. Along with personal life impacting stories, helpful life hacks, timely inspiration, biblical insight, and a fresh perspective.

The Encouragement for Real Life Podcast equips you to be a light in this world and to shine bright wherever God has you. I'm glad you're here today.

**Julie Lefebure:** Hello and welcome back to the Encouragement for Real Life podcast. Today's episode is a fun one. You are in for a fun treat. It's our guest episode for the month as every last Tuesday of the month is a guest episode. And all year long I have been inviting special people who [00:01:00] have greatly impacted my life in one way or another.

And the two that are joining me today have done just that. They are who I sometimes refer to as my "bonus kids"- my kids by marriage - and they are Morgan and Paige. They are two of my absolute favorite people.

Now, let me clarify, they're not married to each other, but they married our kids, Alissa and Zach. And each of them, they just bring so much joy and wisdom and laughter to our lives. And I really, I can't imagine life without them. They just bring so much, um, just so much into just, they really just kind of filled out our family.

And I, I share too in the episode how when I was a young mom, I began praying for my, my children's future [00:02:00] spouses. And so we talk about that. But I see that Morgan and Paige are the evidence of those prayers, and I am so very grateful. But we, we dive into real conversations about marriage and faith and family and the everyday moments that just make life extra meaningful. And we even discuss how we can better navigate in-law relationships. So their perspectives are fresh and honest and full of encouragement, and I cannot wait for you to hear from them.

So if you're ready, like I am, let's jump in today's episode, Real Talk with Morgan and Paige, my kids by marriage.

**Julie Lefebure:** Well, welcome, i'm so excited you're here. Thank you Paige and Morgan, for joining me here today.

Thank for having us.

I know this is probably isn't your favorite thing to do. I feel like I need to move [00:03:00] back a little bit. There we go. Um, but I'm just appreciative of you guys agreeing to do this with me.

Yeah.

So not everybody knows who Paige and Morgan are. So introduce yourselves. Tell us, um, a little bit about who you are, what you do, and maybe something fun happening in your life right now.

Okay.

Who wants to go first?

I can go first.

Okay.

I'm Paige, , should I say I'm married?

Sure.

Who I'm married to, how I joined the family.

Sure.

Um, I'm married to Zach. I am a nurse, so I work in the recovery room at St. Luke's. It's called the PACU, Post Anesthesia Care Unit. It's super fun where people go right after surgery, they go to the recovery room. No one remembers us, but it's a lot of fun. Something fun happening is me and Zach are expecting. We're gonna have a baby in seven weeks.

Wow.

Yeah. It's going by fast.

But yeah, so it's exciting for us. And yeah everyone.

Yeah. We're excited too.

Yeah.

Mm-hmm. Can't [00:04:00] wait.

Morgan, how about you? I am Morgan. I am married to Alissa. We have two boys, Nolan and Griffin. I am a service manager at Junge in Hiawatha. Something fun is we are planning our birthday for Nolan.

Yeah.

So we're kind of surprising the boys for a big trip in January for Christmas.

Yeah. Oh, that's fun.

It's gonna be a, a surprise for them. We're gonna go to Disney. So it'll be pretty fun. So, yeah.

Yeah.

Pretty fun.

A lot of exciting things.

Can't believe he's gonna be five.

That's wild.

Yeah.

It is wild.

Went fast.

Well, um, because you are my daughter and my son-in-law, I just thought it'd be fun to have you on. And I would love to hear from your perspective, what is one thing that you were not prepared for when you married into our family. And when I sent you some questions, these [00:05:00] questions as a, a little to prepare you I put keep it nice. But you can be as honest as you want to.

Yeah.

So who wants to go first?

Uh, the one thing that I was, I was kind of joking was the photos. Oh. All the pictures we take or we miss taking.

Oh, yes.

We forgot to take a photo. Yeah.

So we end up doing it where?

Just outside our parking.

In the parking lot.

In the parking lot.

Yeah.

That was, it's always fun. Just we always Zach taking a photo.

I'm big about the photo.

Picking Nolan up.

Yep. Someone always doesn't want, either one of the boys don't want their picture taken. Yeah.

Yeah, that's a good one. I didn't think about that.

Yeah. Always a picture.

How about you, Paige?

Um, I would say, I guess I didn't know how big the family was until joining. Everyone joked about like, going to big family events and saying like, oh, we're gonna quiz you after. And I was like, oh, ha ha. And then [00:06:00] I met everyone. I was like, oh, wow. Yeah, actually.

And just going out, I guess when I go out with Zach, um, we always see someone that he knows. And then when we all go out together, we always see someone that somebody knows. Mm-hmm. It's just, it's wild. It's, it is a big, big family.

Yeah, it is.

Yeah. Yeah.

I still don't know everybody. It's crazy.

Well, I don't know if I know everybody. That's, uh, Bill's side of the family is much bigger than mine.

Yes, yes.

Yeah.

Yeah.

Well, what surprised you in a good way about being, becoming a part of our family?

Um. That's, I love how close everybody is.

Yeah.

Especially, especially your side of the family. I love how Pat, I, I love how we get together most times and, and holidays we're, it's, it's very special to me that, that we're so close. And, on your side, all the cousins. How close we are about [00:07:00] that side and it's, it's pretty cool.

Yeah. Didn't have that with, with my family and it's very cool.

Yeah. I didn't have that growing up either.

Everybody's so close in age and it's It's kinda cool.

\Yeah. And you guys will all carry those relationships on, you know, even after our generation is gone. I mean, I can't even imagine you guys will even be, you know, just as close. Yeah. Mm-hmm. Yeah.

And raising our kids with their kids and it's pretty cool.

Yeah. Yeah.

Yeah, I agree. I like having holidays with cousins is really fun. And it just kind of, I don't know, it's just another like exciting thing about the holidays is not just being with like your close family, but then having other holidays, you know?

Yeah. Like, it's like a week long affair, which is kind of fun.

Yeah. Mm-hmm.

But yeah, just getting to see everybody and not even just on the holidays. I feel like we all find reasons to get together which is fun.

Mm-hmm.

[00:08:00] Yeah. I feel like a lot of my cousins live far away and my like grandparents and so it's fun that everyone's kind of close by in proximity.

Yeah. That's true.

Yeah, it's very fun.

Yeah. That's great. What's one thing that you appreciate about being a part of the Lefebure Family?

Hmm. I think that everybody's so close.

Yeah. you kind of answered that, didn't you?

I think that we, the dinners that we have around the table. I think that's one thing I appreciate pretty, pretty much the most is our talks.

Yeah.

At the dinner table.

Even tonight's dinner with the boys are doing fun things, not wanting to eat or smashing the crackers in the, so

yeah, I agree. And just the, like everyone shows up for everything, which is really fun. Like [00:09:00] even Nolan's preschool graduation, it's fun that we all get to get together and show up for things like that. It's just, it's fun.

Yeah.

We find reasons to get together, which is, which is really nice.

Yeah.

Even for the small things, which

Yeah.

Aren't really small,

Yeah yeah. But if we didn't, you know, you can go weeks without seeing each other.

Right.

'Cause we're all busy, but, it's fun.

Yeah. Yeah. We try to keep those relationships.

Yes.

Important.

Yeah. Mm-hmm. Well, um, if you, what would be your favorite memory or a funny moment, um, with our family so far? What's, you're smirking.

He got one?

I, I think the, the, my favorite memory is our first trip to Florida for Zach's

Oh yeah.

Show choir.

You had no idea what you were getting into.

No, no. That was almost 10 years ago.

I know that. Crazy. Wow. It was 10 years ago. 10 years ago. Yeah.

Crazy. That was, uh. [00:10:00] That was a fun trip. Disney. Yeah. Disney was so fun. And we all stayed in the same hotel room.

Same hotel room. I slept on the floor.

No, you didn't.

I did.

You did? Yeah. I Next, next to the next to Alissa's bed.

You did?

Yeah. Oh. Why? I not remember.

We weren't, we weren't really dating at that time, so

That's true.

I slept on the floor. You're like a hotel floor.

Did you get any pillows?

I, I, I got two pillows and a blanket, yeah.

You were a trooper.

Was that the Was that a Peter Pan performance?

Oh yeah. It was Peter Pan. Be Peter Pan Performance. Oh man. I been there. Anything about that trip that you liked besides Disney or,?



Honestly, the best part in my opinion was the, the sitting around the pool. That was, that was probably my favorite. I don't think Zach was there. I think he was with,

yeah, he was with his group. Yeah.

But I think obviously we were there and

Yeah. I got to know you. I mean, we got to know you really well. Yeah, obviously. Because we spent a week together or however many days together.

I remember my, our [00:11:00] first time meeting you, my first time meeting you was Christmas party at the Gibson's.

Yeah.

That was pretty nerve wracking.

Yeah.

Because everybody was obviously having fun down in the basement and, I kind of

You fit right in

jumped right in. Jumped in. Yeah. Yeah. Very first. You dove right in.

Yeah, yeah, yeah.

That was fun.

Yeah, that's right. That was a long time ago.

A long time ago. Mm-hmm. Come a long ways.

Yeah, that's for sure. Yeah. How about you, Paige?

Um, me and Zach joke about this all the time. I don't know if anyone even remembers, but when we all went to Florida overall, that was like really fun. But we went to that Irish restaurant, and so Nolan was, he was pretty young

in Florida?

Yeah.

Where? It was so, I think we went to the aquarium that morning and then we went to a mall and then ended up at some Irish restaurant.

Yes.

Were like sitting outside or something.

Yeah. The waiter was wearing a kilt.

Yes.

And so [00:12:00] like at first, and Griffin was like six months old. Like he was a baby baby. Yeah. And the waiter gives Nolan and Griffin both silverware, which me and Zach started cracking up about. And then you guys ordered Nolan a hamburger. And the waiter was like, do you also want a hamburger for the little guy?

And me and Zach joke about that all the time. it's just so funny. He was like, like an infant, like he had no teeth or anything. It's like

he was drinking milk.

Yeah. Yeah. Alissa was still nursing. Yeah.

Hamburger for the little guy. So me and Zach joke about that all the time. But overall, that was a really fun trip. I still think about my brownie sundae that I got at the your guys' favorite restaurant.

Oh, the Conch. Mm-hmm.

That boom, boom, shrimp, whatever it was.

Yeah. Yeah. That's my favorite restaurant. Yeah. It's so good. I really wanted to go back. Right?

Yeah. That was fun. That was a great trip. I mean, I, that trip was perfect. It was, I mean, it was really nothing that, at least that, I [00:13:00] remember that

went wrong. Oh, I guess Alissa probably wouldn't say that though. She, she had a tough time with kids. Yeah, and you did too, but.

Sleeping was rough.

Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

Taking care of kids with not a lot of things to take care of the kids with.

Yeah. But yeah. You guys did well though. Yeah,

we made it happen.

Yeah. Yeah, it was fun. There wasn't, you know, just went to the beach and, yeah had dinners together. Yeah, it was really fun.

All of us piling in that van, or like a clown car.

Getting all the luggage in the van. That was also funny. Yeah.

Good memories.

Yeah. Well, as, as you think about, um, your spouse, and I love that you're a part of our family, by the way. And I just wanna pause because I probably said this, I know I said this at your wedding, I think, and I think I said at your wedding. I think I did in that prayer, maybe that, 'cause yours was just last year, so yours was more recent.

But I learned when I first had kids, when we [00:14:00] first had Alissa and Zach, that um someone suggested I pray for their future spouses when they were little. And so I started praying for their future spouses. And so I knew when they chose you as their spouses, that that was gonna be a blessing from God. Because I had prayed for you guys for years and you know, here you are now.

I didn't know who you were, of course. But the, just the, the, the hope that I always had, that if I prayed for their future spouses, that um, it would be God's choice, you know, for, for each one of them. So I'm so glad that both of you are part of our family and a part of my life. I really am so grateful for both of you. And you just fit in so well with our family. So anyway, I wanted to share that, that you've been prayed for. And you still get prayed for every day. So, and we pray for Gidget too.

We kinda nicknamed the, the little baby Gidget. Um, but yeah, Bill and I pray for you before he leaves the house. We pray for, um, [00:15:00] all of you every day, just so you know that.

But describe your spouse in three words. What would be three words you would describe your spouse in with, I should say.

Oh man. I'll let you go first?

Um, I would say he is creative. I've always said he's like very charismatic. He knows how to talk to people. He's, he can be goofy. He can be serious. Um, let's see, and he's very like there's gotta be a better word for caring, but like he's just, he cares about so many people. He cares about his family and me and everyone like very deeply and just love that about him, but,

mm-hmm. Good words. Yeah.

I think that would be the three.

Yeah. i agree.

Alissa is very selfless. She really [00:16:00] cares a lot about everybody else except for herself - the kids, me. Um, she cares a lot about her business. So it was like entrepreneurial. Is that a word?

Yeah.

So she, she likes to, she, she puts a lot into her business. She does a lot for her business.

Yeah, she does.

I was gonna use creative.

You can still do creative.

So she's very creative. Yeah. She does a lot with those balloons.

She is creative.

She, uh, that was, she's so creative. She, she's amazing. That's, that's my fourth word. Alissa's amazing.

It's amazing how both of them are so creative and entrepreneurial and you know, it's just, it's so different than how my brain works. You know, as a nurse it's just, we have two very different days, but it's just so fun how [00:17:00] both Alissa and Zach are like kind of the same in that way. And then they get to work together, which is really fun. But it's just interesting, you know, like how they both,

you're kind of structured and I'm structured and

Yes.

they are just on their own, creating their own business and life and

yeah,

Just like you, I mean, you're creating your life with what you do. It's pretty amazing.

Yeah, it's very cool.

And I learned that from my dad 'cause he owned his own business. So it's just kind of trickling down. Yeah. It's just Interesting. Yeah. I can't imagine, yeah doing anything different. I'm sure they can't either. You know, now that they're in this role and Yeah,

It's very cool to see.

Yeah. Yeah. It's fun when everyone gets to collaborate together kind of.

You're right. Yeah. Because even Zach and Alissa have the same weddings where he was the photographer and she did balloons and Uh, my friend Sally, it was her granddaughter that got married. And so, yeah, Zach was the photographer. Alissa was the balloon gal. [00:18:00] And they said too bad there wasn't a, um, the DJ.

Someone in the family. We need to start a DJ business. Anyway, um, is there another quality that inspires you, quality about them that inspires you, that maybe you haven't touched on?

Yeah, I would say Zach is, I don't, I can't think of a better word to describe it, but Zach is just very open, like he's open to anything. He's open with his emotions. He loves very loudly. He like will share with anybody. Um, he talks to anybody. He's just very open-minded and open with his love and vulnerability. And I just love that about him and it really inspires me. 'cause sometimes I'm more shy and introverted. And he just like, well, you know, he shares, he's not [00:19:00] afraid to, you know, be the only one dancing at a party or, you know he can be goofy and. He just kind of breaks me outta my shell sometimes. Which really inspires me. He is, you know, amazing and fun in that way. But yeah, he's just very, very open. He does everything loudly, which I love.

I love how you say that. Yeah. And you two balance each, balance each other out really well.

Yeah, exactly.

Yeah.

See yin and yang kind of.

I feel the same way with Alissa. She's the one that pulls me to the dance floor and she is the, she's the one that always has to break me outta my shell. And I am, I'm the introvert in, in our family, and I, in most cases, I am the, the quiet one when, when we're out and about. She's the one talking to everybody and I'm not a get to know you type of guy.

I, uh, I'm the quiet one, so. Mm-hmm. That that's, I'm, I'm kinda in the same boat. .

Well, you balance each other out [00:20:00] too. You do.

We always joke about when we were on our honeymoon in Mexico. Zach was just, he would just go around to every couple in the pool and just be like, oh, where are you guys from? And then all of a sudden we had a huge friend group in Mexico and they'd come put their towels next to us. They're like, oh, you're Zach's wife. I'm like, oh, yay. Here we go. But then, you know, we, we met so many cool people and I would've never done that. I would've just read my book. But Zach went out and made friends, and we had a really fun afternoon with four random strangers from Philadelphia, so.

Oh, nice. Yeah, it was fun. That's great.

I don't think she would do that. I think we would kind of keep to ourselves that way and like other couples would come up, but she would be talking to them and then that's how we would meet. She'd be the one to first talk to them If they come over to us, but.

Yeah. Yeah. That's great. Yeah. Yeah. That's good.

Um, what helps you stay grounded and close to God in your everyday [00:21:00] life? What's kind, switching gears here? What's, um, yeah, what helps you to stay grounded and maybe do something as a couple, maybe just do something separate. What keeps, what do you think there?

I'd say nowadays staying grounded, just, you know, being pregnant and me and Zach just spend a lot of time together. Especially after both of our jobs kind of require us to we're kind of there for other people on like their biggest days, so we just spend a lot of time with each other. Um, and being pregnant, you know, we we're like, we're not gonna have much time by ourselves, so we kind of intentionally spend our time together. And I'm starting to slow down, so I'm been listening to my body and just kinda taking care of myself in that way, and just paying more attention, staying in tune with, with my body and being intentional [00:22:00] about time and you know,

yeah.

Effort.

Yeah. Your life's gonna change.

Yes.

In a short amount of time.

Exactly.

In a good way. But yeah, it'll be different, won't it?

Yeah. So just mm-hmm. Kinda starting to slow down and, yeah.

Yeah. How about you, Morgan?

I think the boys help me, help me stay grounded. Mm-hmm. I'm trying to slow down with them growing up so fast and I think it's hard watching 'em grow so fast. I can't believe they're, Nolan's gonna be five. So I think I'm trying to slow them down, growing up so fast and yeah, I think that they keep me grounded. Alissa and I talk about it all the time, that if we can't go to church every week, we try to watch church. Either, either live church or we try to watch Waukee. That's what we try to do, so. That's what we try to do.

[00:23:00] That's good.

yeah.

That's good. Yeah. You're raising them up. Yeah. That verse about raising your children up in the way they should go and when they get old, they will not depart from it, so, yeah. That's good.

Um, okay. This is kind of fun. Let's just do a little rapid fire round. Um, so introvert, well, you already answered this. Introvert or extrovert? Introvert. Introvert, for sure.

How about morning or night person? I am a night person. I do not like mornings. Um, I would say morning. Just because when I was in school, like I would study in the mornings. I think I just like focus more in the morning. I don't like to have like nighttime plans. Yeah. Like when I worked night shift, I really didn't like it 'cause I just wanna be able to like, relax at night. Mm-hmm. But when I, whenever I have something to do, I always wanna do it in the morning. So I'd say morning.

Yeah.

Not early mornings, but

mid-morning.

Yeah, exactly.[00:24:00]

Are you a planner or spontaneous?

Depends on the situation.

Okay.



I like spontaneous plans, but, or spontaneous events, but I like, yeah I like being spontaneous. I like doing, doing crazy things. Okay. Randomly. Yeah. So, yeah.

Yeah. I'm spontaneous and Zach's the exact opposite.

He is.

So's Alissa.

Yeah. Yes. They're both planners and like to have things in the books and Zach makes fun of me 'cause I always say like, oh, we'll see when the day comes. You know, he's like, what night can we go out to dinner this week? And I'm like, we'll see which, which day we feel like it. He's like, but which day? So, yeah, I'm more spontaneous.

Yeah, that's good. Uh, pizza or tacos?

I'm a pizza guy. I like pizza.

I like taco pizza.

Oh, there you go. Taco pizza.

But probably more tacos. But I do like taco pizza.

I do like shrimp tacos though, so.

Yeah.

Yeah. Kind of [00:25:00] depends. Yeah. That's good. Well, that's fun. That's fun.

Um, alright, last question. Mm-hmm. Just to kind of wrap things up, um, thanks again for doing this. But what would be one piece of advice for building strong family relationships, especially in-law relationships, to someone who's listening that maybe could just use a little advice today.

I would say, um, just being open to new traditions, new, especially around the holidays, sometimes we get really rigid of like, well, we have to go here for Christmas Eve and here for, you know, Christmas Day. And just kind of being open to new, new traditions, new things. Um, something me and Zach talked

about that we really liked is when we started dating, we kind of introduced my parents to you guys. Mm-hmm. And then that was kind of fun.

Yeah.

A fun way to combine the family, you know?

Mm-hmm.[00:26:00]

And make the in-law relationship stronger just to everyone get to know each other.

Yeah.

I think that also helped, so, mm-hmm. Yeah, just being open, I guess, to, to new traditions.

Yeah. And here we are. Yeah. You know, coming up on the season that we really can put that into practice.

Yes, exactly.

Yeah. Yeah. Mm-hmm.

Yeah, I agree with that. I think, uh, being open and, and talking like this and being honest and, and discussing life and, and, yeah. Yeah. I think that's, that's perfect.

Yeah.

I think I like that answer. Yeah.

And communication.

Communication.

Yeah.

Talking.

Because we do, I think we do talk a lot. Maybe we don't talk a lot about the deep stuff, but I mean, we we're sometimes, even if, you know, dad just pulls out the, something, you know, funny in our text group, you know, our text group. It's just a way we can all stay connected and [00:27:00] you know, we're not islands to ourselves. We get stay in each other's lives. Yeah. Yeah.

I like that answer. Talking.

Mm-hmm. Yeah. Well, thanks again for doing this.

Yeah. In our little makeshift little studio here in my office.

It's fun.

Um, anything else you wanna share before we close it down?

I love this family. It's an awesome family.

We love you guys. Yeah.

I mean I love this family too. I do. ,

It's just, it's. It's been great, you know, joining the family and at first it's overwhelming, you know, the amount of people, but it's just so, everyone's so supportive and close-knit and it's really nice.

Yeah, I agree. Anything else? Yeah, I'm glad you both are part of our family, so thankful for you. Yeah, you too. And thanks for doing this. Yeah, this was fun. Thank you so much. Glad we could do it on a night where we had dinner and yeah. Boys were, I can't even hear the boys upstairs.

I was afraid they're gonna come knock down the door.

I know.[00:28:00]

They didn't want to hear us talk.

Yeah. All right. Well, thanks for joining us. We'll see you next time.

What a gift this conversation was. You know, I, I rarely get moments with just Morgan and Paige together alone. So even though it was just less than a half

hour, it was truly a blessing for me. And we had the rest of our family upstairs and the, the grandsons upstairs and, uh it was just a time that we could just be together down here in my office, in our little makeshift studio.

But it was, uh, it was a blessing for me and I'm grateful for how both Morgan and, and Paige, they shared their hearts, their stories um and their unique wisdom. I couldn't be prouder of them for who they are and for how they continue to show up in this, this crazy family of ours. And I thank God that they are a part of our family and for their [00:29:00] willingness to just come on and share their real lives with all of us, because that's probably not something that any of us probably really like to do and for them to do that is just a great gift to me. And so I really appreciated that.

And friend, I hope that you leave today feeling encouraged and reminded that God is at work in your relationships too. And I pray that you're inspired to create connection and joy with others in your everyday life.

If this episode blessed you, would you just take a moment to rate or review the podcast? This really does help others find the encouragement that they're looking for. And as always, you can find more - more resources and information and about my mentoring program and weekly inspiration at [julielefebure.com](http://julielefebure.com).

And before we wrap up today, I wanted to share with you a little sneak peek at next week's [00:30:00] episode. We're kicking off a new series because it's a brand new month. Can you believe December is gonna be here? Oh my goodness. So yes, this series is called A Different Kind of December, where we will talk about slowing down, savoring what matters most and experiencing this season with peace and purpose and being present through it all. And I'd love for you to join me next Tuesday, bright and early, or whenever you log on as we step into December, a little differently this year.

So thank you for being here today. Thank you for joining me and until next time, keep living encouraged.

God bless you.

Thank you so much for joining me here today. You can find more at [julielefebure.com](http://julielefebure.com). And until next time, stay encouraged.