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**Annie:** Hi friends! Welcome to another episode of That Sounds Fun. I'm your host, Annie F. Downs. I'm really happy to be here with you. I hope you enjoyed last week's episodes with Pastor Mike Kelsey. If you didn't hear them, go back and listen to those, all three of them. They're incredible.

And we've got a great show in store for you today too with some of our favorites. But before we dive in, I want to take a moment to share about one of our incredible partners, [Cru](#). I'm so grateful we get to partner with Cru, y'all. It's just that the Bible has meant so much in my life. I mean, this whole episode is rooted in why it matters to spend time in the Word. And we just want everyone to be able to do that, and so does Cru.

But imagine for a moment that you couldn't get a Bible, that you couldn't just pop on Amazon and have one sent to your house, that you couldn't afford one, or that you weren't even allowed to have one. That's the reality for people all around the world. Believe it or not, there are many people who simply can't get a Bible. That's why we feel so excited and honored to partner with Cru.

Cru is one of the largest evangelical organizations in the world with over 25,000 missionaries in almost every country. And Cru is giving Bibles around the world to people in their own heart language and sharing the hope of Jesus.

But here is where they need your help. For only \$21 a month you can provide three people with Bibles each and every month. And when you sign up to provide three Bibles with a monthly gift of \$21, Cru also provides meals to five hungry families through their humanitarian aid ministry. Ah, are they the best or what, you guys? And as a thank you to you, you'll receive a copy of my book, That Sounds Fun.

Simply text FUN to 71326 to help today. Imagine just how much this gift could change someone's life. So text FUN to 71326. That's FUN to 71326 to help now, or visit [give.cru.org/fun](https://give.cru.org/fun).

And y'all we've been putting the finishing touches on the preparations for tomorrow night. You know that's right. It is finally here. The That Sounds Fun Live Stream is Tuesday, November 2. That's tomorrow. And if you're like a makeup plans at the last minute kind of friend, well, the last minute has arrived. This is your moment. Head to [compassionlive.com](https://compassionlive.com) to grab your tickets.

Remember if you sponsor a child with Compassion today, you get to be part of the VIP. There's regular tickets. It'll be me and our buddy Eddie Kaufholz. It's going to be a blast. You guys, y'all do not want to miss it.

**Intro:** Today on the show I get to talk to our friends Raechel Myers and Amanda Bible Williams from She Reads Truth. If you've been around the podcast for a while, you've heard Raechel and Amanda before as they've taught us about Advent and Lent in the last several years. They're the women behind She Reads Truth. She Reads Truth is a worldwide community of women who read God's Word together every day.

They have beautiful scripture center resources for all of our friends through He Reads Truth and Kids Reads Truth too. They are dear trusted friends of ours. And I can't wait to talk all things Advent with them and you. So here's my conversation with Raechel Myers and Amanda Bible Williams from She Reads Truth.

**[00:03:10] <music>**

**Annie:** Amanda and Raechel, happy no longer ordinary time.

**Raechel:** That's right.

**Annie:** Happy no longer ordinary time.

**Raechel:** That is right.

**Amanda:** Hey.

**Annie:** Huh, we're almost done.

**Raechel:** The calendar's turning... I don't know what color it technically turns.

**Annie:** Better. Prettier.

**Raechel:** Let's say red.

**Annie:** Red?

**Raechel:** Yeah.

**Annie:** Oh, red for Advent?

**Raechel:** I don't know what it turns. I think like different traditions have different colors for Advent and then plus the Advent candles are different colors. But what we know is that it's not green.

**Annie:** It's not green. It's not ordinary time. Praise the Lord.

**Amanda:** There's nothing against green. I love green.

**Annie:** I have a lot against ordinary time. So boring. But Eastertide to now, jeez.

**Raechel:** It's a long time.

**Annie:** But y'all know I've really picked up Eastertide and Christmastide so that I don't have to not have a part of the Christian calendar going at all times.

**Raechel:** Right. Right.

**Amanda:** Nice.

**Annie:** But you're back because it's Advent.

**Raechel:** Oh, man.

**Amanda:** So happy to be here.

**Raechel:** Coming right up.

**Annie:** It's coming right up.

**Raechel:** Like 1st.

**Annie:** This is start of November. How is it already November of '21?

**Amanda:** How is it, Annie? What is time?

**Raechel:** What is time?

**Amanda:** That's what this episode... let's just have an episode where we discuss-

**Annie:** This episode is called "What is time?" I mean, it feels like 2020 was 100 years ago and it feels like yesterday.

**Amanda:** And it feels like it's still going.

**Annie:** Yes. What is time?

**Amanda:** A little bit, yeah.

**Annie:** Time is flat. That's what we know. For starters, we love when y'all come back.

**Raechel:** Yay!

**Annie:** Amanda, will you just for a second... or Raechel, whichever you would like to do. Will you talk a little bit about why the seasons of the church matter? Because some of our friends listening may have heard us talk about this before but they may not have heard that there are things like ordinary time and that there are seasons that happened in the church.

**Amanda:** Yeah, there are. And it is, you know, the Church with a capital C has used... well, created the church calendar and has used that as just a way of continually remembering the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus and reorienting our lives to the Gospel. And so different seasons, you know, you mentioned Eastertide, so, Easter day, Easter Sunday is the beginning of Eastertide.

**Annie:** Yes. And it's longer than Lent.

**Amanda:** That's right. That's right.

**Raechel:** It is right.

**Annie:** It is something we should remember. We celebrate longer than we grieve.

**Amanda:** And so there are these really significant moments of the year for Christians. And so the Church calendar is built around these moments and just designed to help us remember and to give us seasons to work through because we're forgetful. I don't know if you've noticed that humans forget things very easily. And so this is just another way.

And I mean, it has a lot of history. Like Advent, for example, I don't think I realized until this year, reading some of the research that our team did, that advent was originally a season for believers to ready themselves for baptism. I didn't know that.

**Annie:** Really? I didn't know that.

**Raechel:** Well, well, well.

**Amanda:** I didn't know that. Yeah.

**Annie:** Ready yourself for baptism?

**Raechel:** Yes.

**Amanda:** And it grew into an annual season of contemplation and celebration that it leads up to the birth of Jesus. So what Advent is, Advent is a season of the Church calendar, a season on the Church calendar, and it is roughly four weeks leading up to Christmas Day. So it starts four Sundays before Christmas is the first Sunday of Advent and there are four Sundays of Advent. And then it ends technically Christmas Eve. It ends on Christmas Eve.

**Raechel:** So this year Advent starts November 28th. That's the fourth-

**Annie:** The Sunday after Thanksgiving.

**Raechel:** That's right. Yeah. Because we like to talk about church calendar stuff so much, we have an extra in our study book. And it shows there are six seasons. So I don't know if you guys knew how many seasons but there is no Advent and then following Advent is Christmas tide, which, Annie, you've locked and loaded. So that's Christmas day and then 12 days. So that ends with... I like to call it... What is it called?

**Annie:** It's Epiphany.

**Raechel:** Yeah, it's Epiphany. We call it the 12th night and we do like a big feast on that night.

**Annie:** Okay.

**Raechel:** Anyway. And then Epiphany is the third season. So technically that day is its own season.

**Annie:** Wait, Christmas is not its own day, but Epiphany is it's...? So Christmas is wrapped into Christmastide. Easter is wrapped into Eastertide, but Epiphany is its own thing?

**Raechel:** January 6th.

**Annie:** What?

**Raechel:** Yeah.

**Annie:** What is that?

**Raechel:** It needs to be a bank holiday, for sure.

**Annie:** What is that?

**Raechel:** And then after Epiphany-

**Annie:** No, no, wait, wait.

**Raechel:** Stop. Full stop.

**Annie:** When they made the Church calendar a hundred years ago, they did not make Christmas its own set apart, they did not make Easter its own set apart, but they made Epiphany its own set apart?

**Raechel:** That's correct.

**Amanda:** Well, some traditions do create a season like more than one day out of Epiphany. Some traditions take it through the Sunday before Ash Wednesday instead of just one day. A thing that's important to know about the Church calendar is-

**Raechel:** That's a good point.

**Amanda:** ...is that the Church calendar is not something that you're going to find prescribed in the Bible. This is something that... you know, it does have roots in Scripture as hopefully everything, every part of Christianity does, but different traditions within

the capital C Church will have different versions of the calendar. And so what we have in the study book is sort of the most general, like from the highest level, here's what the Church calendar looks like generally when these seasons are observed.

**Raechel:** Right.

**Amanda:** So yeah. So sometimes Epiphany is one day, January 6th, 12 days after Christmas.

**Raechel:** And then it'd be like one day and then ordinary time until Ash Wednesday, but some traditions call that whole season Epiphany. And these traditions was-

**Annie:** Yeah, for sure doing that. I'm not going back to ordinary time. Oh my gosh.

**Raechel:** So after that, then Ash Wednesday starts Lent, and that leads us all the way to Easter. And then seven weeks-

**Annie:** Seven weeks of Eastertide.

**Raechel:** ...Eastertide and then Pentecost, which is just one day, it's the seventh Sunday after Easter. And then-

**Annie:** Okay, I just have a lot of thoughts about Epiphany and Pentecost being the two that stand alone, you guys.

**Raechel:** I know.

**Amanda:** Isn't it interesting? Tell us your thoughts.

**Annie:** Well, Amanda has more thoughts.

**Amanda:** Well, no, I want to show you that this is... I apologize to the listener. You can't see what I'm pointing at. But look, Annie. If you replace this ordinary time by extending Epiphany-

**Raechel:** That's right.

**Amanda:** ...then you get a whole half the circle-

**Annie:** Half the year of the ordinary time. Just for all of our friends listening, I don't really hate ordinary time, it's just our long-running conversation that I think I like seasons

so much that I really appreciate how all the seasons are intentional. And y'all yearly remind me ordinary time is also intentional. It just is ordinary. Okay, okay.

**Raechel:** Some of the best stuff happens in the ordinary time, Annie Downs.

**Annie:** Thank you for saying that. Like my birthday. So I get it.

**Raechel:** Right. Right.

**Annie:** What we celebrate on Epiphany is the day that the wise men arrived to Jesus, right?

**Raechel:** Yes.

**Annie:** And what we celebrate on Pentecost is the day the Holy Spirit arrived to believers?

**Raechel:** Yeah.

**Annie:** What is it? I don't know what it is yet but I'm feeling-

**Raechel:** It feels like maybe the Pentecost is a little more significant than the Three Wise Men. Just saying. Holy Spirit's arrival.

**Annie:** Yes, yes, yes, over the arrival. But it is something about who's the giver and who's the receiver-

**Raechel:** Okay, go for it.

**Annie:** ...that I don't know yet. I don't know. Just for everyone listening, this is literally what we would do around a table of Mexican food and margaritas. We would have been doing this. And this is what I do in my quiet time, like, "What does it mean?"

**Raechel:** What is happening?

**Annie:** Does it mean something to y'all or am I reading too much?

**Amanda:** I don't think you are. As you guys are discussing-

**Raechel:** I love reading too much.

**Annie:** I love reading too much literature.



- Amanda:** ...I am looking at this extra that She Reads Truth team created. And it says that "also known as the Feast of Three Kings, the Three Kings Day, or 12th Night, Epiphany commemorates the arrival of, as you just said, of the wise man. And it is a reminder that Christ's birth is good news for all creation." So the wise man-
- Raechel:** It's less about them. Surprise!
- Amanda:** Right. Well, it is about them. It's about the fact that-
- Annie:** Weird. It's not about the humans. Okay, go ahead.
- Amanda:** But it kind of is because it's about the fact that it is good news also for them. That they came from afar and probably not Jewish, right?
- Annie:** Yes. Yes.
- Amanda:** Not Jewish. And so that this was not just good news for Israel-
- Raechel:** That's right.
- Amanda:** ...this is the good news for the world. Which I think is super similar.
- Annie:** And then what happens on Pentecost.
- Raechel:** At Pentecost, yes.
- Annie:** Because that's when 3,000 people got saved.
- Raechel:** Because everyone had come for the festival, and everybody got to hear the gospel in their own language.
- Annie:** There's something about that.
- Raechel:** Okay.
- Annie:** Whenever they start with the original Christian calendar, they said, Now we'll throw Christmas in with Christmastide. Ah, we'll throw Easter with Eastertide and Pentecost needs to stand on its own."

**Raechel:** And Epiphany.

**Annie:** And Epiphany.

**Amanda:** So I'm saying that there's some sort of significance.

**Raechel:** You're not wrong.

**Amanda:** Or we're going to create it. And if we are wrong, guess what, someone will tell us. Someone listening to this.

**Raechel:** We count on it.

**Annie:** I hope they do. Somebody fact-check me. We need to get some fact-checkers in here.

**Amanda:** And we love to be wrong because that means...

**Annie:** Because we're still digging into scripture.

**Amanda:** I'll take that back. We love to learn.

**Raechel:** We love to learn.

**Amanda:** That's the right word to say.

**Raechel:** Okay, Pentecost was when-

**Annie:** When the Christians Church was born.

**Raechel:** ...the gospel was revealed to the nation. And then Epiphany means to show or to reveal.

**Amanda:** It's like a little use case, a micro version of that.

**Annie:** So here's two sentences maybe. We're still working through this.

**Amanda:** Working thesis of Annie's forthcoming dissertation.

**Annie:** That's it. On Epiphany. If I'm going to write a dissertation, it's going to be about the Christian calendar. Epiphany is when the world was told about Jesus' birth, and Pentecost is when the world was told about Jesus' resurrection.

**Raechel:** Yeah.

**Annie:** Right?

**Raechel:** That's good.

**Amanda:** Whoo.

**Annie:** Right? I mean because that's the-

**Raechel:** Those are not wrong things. I think you're right.

**Amanda:** I like it.

**Raechel:** I like that a lot.

**Annie:** That's right.

**Amanda:** We submit this for your approval, world.

**Annie:** Yeah, theologians, come at us.

**Raechel:** Tell us what you think. Here's the thing. Everyone's having more brilliant thoughts than we are right now. I need to hear the forethought.

**Annie:** Okay, here's my hope is that they'll... we've already posted about this on Instagram. They already see the picture of us. So in that comment section, we are inviting you to process this with us.

**Raechel:** I'm so excited. We'll be there.

**Annie:** Oh, gosh. This is the part where I wish I was like a Kate Bowler or someone who spends their full time-

**Amanda:** She's so smart.

**Annie:** That's a yes. That's what that sounds. ... spends their whole time in theology. Because I'm like, "I'll see y'all tomorrow." I could think about this for the rest day. Of like, what does it mean? And why? What came from both of these things?

**Raechel:** Because it can't have been haphazard.

**Annie:** That's it. Nothing is an accident. Absolutely, nothing is an accident.

**Raechel:** Like Amanda said, this is not scripture and gesturing towards the Church calendar. But the Church fathers and mothers, they did not do this without like over lunch.

**Annie:** Uh-huh. Right.

**Amanda:** Like we just did with that thesis.

**Annie:** That's right. You're going to love this sentence. I sat with my acupuncturist, who is a Jew a couple of days ago, and he is a practicing Jew. I love him so much. I mean, it's one of my favorite things. And it has helped with migraines and all sorts of body stuff. It's been a great addition to my life along with other healing things. All the things, I need to say.

But we were talking about the story in the Old Testament, and He said they read the Torah every year. So he's like, "I have read this every year of my life. And for the first time ever, I saw these three words and what did they mean?" And we did this over these words in this one story about Abraham. So this kind of stuff to me is like if we're not doing this, you're missing out on the fun part of reading scripture and you're missing out on the fun part-

**Raechel:** The digging in.

**Annie:** The digging. What does the scripture say it's? It's God's to conceal and kings to reveal. That's the Annie International Version. Do y'all know what I'm talking about, that scripture?

**Amanda:** No. But I believe you.

**Annie:** To conceal. Hold on. It's a real scripture. Proverbs 25:2, "It is the glory of God to conceal a thing, but the honor of kings is to search out a matter."

**Amanda:** Ohh.

**Annie:** Right? So I'm always like, "Yeah, part of the joy of being in relationship with God is it is His glory to conceal something and our joy to search it out." I love that.

**Amanda:** And we're so passionate about that. I mean, Raechel and I, you know, this is what we spend our day doing and encouraging others to do too. Truly. I mean, best job in the world, according to me, that we get to just open our Bibles and read. And the thing about Scripture is it holds up. That you can pick at it. That's okay. I'm not threatening God by asking questions of Him and of His word because it's true. I believe that the Bible is true, that it doesn't contradict itself, that if there's something that I am not understanding, then the right thing to do, the appropriate thing to do is to keep digging and pressing in.

I mean, that's what we do on our entire podcast is we just read and ask questions and marvel. That's what we do. We don't often go into those conversations thinking, "I have these things that I super want to make sure that I say or explain." It's not that so much as I am so excited to open these passages of Scripture with these couple friends. And then we're just going to dig in and talk about it." Just like we are right now.

**Annie:** Right.

**Amanda:** So yeah, it's super fun work.

**Annie:** I have some friends we do that on Marco Polo. Where we will be like, "I read this today. I read something in Ezekiel that I won't even repeat. I read a thing in Ezekiel that I will not repeat right now. And I've disliked it so much that I was like, "What? Wait, what? That is terrible." So I got on Marco Polo and I was like, "Have y'all ever read this? What is happening? That same God is our God?" But I think we need the Bible to survive.

**Raechel:** That's the thing to do. It holds up. It holds up. And so when you read something like that, rather than closing your Bible up and pushing it away, like, "I don't get it. I don't get it. I don't know. This is upsetting," you ask questions. And you go to other believers. You work within the body of Christ. And wisdom comes from the Lord. So maybe it's not like, "Well, no, I perfectly understand." Because there are a lot of things in scripture that we may never perfect and we'll never.

**Annie:** Right. Right.

**Raechel:** ....until we're made new. And that's okay, too. But I think that seeking understanding from the church, from other believers, from the body, that's what we do.

**Amanda:** I think that is precisely what we are to do when we find those moments is to work that out. And those are people in your real-life community. And that's the way to do it.

**Raechel:** Annie, I'm laughing inside right now because-

**Annie:** You have Ezekiel coming up or something?

**Amanda:** Perhaps.

**Annie:** For Lent, y'all going to do...? Well, listen, I know it's podcast episode I want to be on for Ezekiel. We should tell people when Advent starts, it starts November 28th, the Sunday-

**Amanda:** That's right.

**Annie:** We said that—the Sunday after Thanksgiving. And that Monday, I'm on the first Advent episode.

**Amanda:** Yes, you are.

**Annie:** Yay. It's going to be so fun.

**Raechel:** Yeah, it's going to be so fun.

**Amanda:** We're going to kick off Advent with Annie.

**Raechel:** The one and only.

**Annie:** So y'all going to do Ezekiel for Lent?

**Raechel:** We're doing Ezekiel for Lent.

**Amanda:** You heard it here first.

**Raechel:** Are you going to come and be on our podcast?

**Annie:** Do you want me to tell you the part?

**Amanda:** Let me see if I can guess.

**Annie:** Okay, guess.

**Amanda:** I don't know if I'll remember the precise chapter.

**Annie:** I don't know the chapter.

**Amanda:** Oh, you don't?

**Annie:** I know the story.

**Amanda:** Oh, okay.

**Annie:** Okay. So y'all are thinking Ezekiel for Lent?

**Amanda:** Not thinking. It's-

**Annie:** Okay. Well-

**Raechel:** That book is at that printer.

**Amanda:** That book is at that printer. It's happening.

**Annie:** Well, the Lord went before us and had me prep my way through my anger through Ezekiel.

**Raechel:** And all of scripture is God-breathed.

**Annie:** That's right. That's right.

**Raechel:** ...and useful for teaching, rebuking, and correcting, and training.

**Annie:** What is actually beautiful is when you see in Scripture something that is hard to understand, or you see someone go through something painful in Scripture, you go like, "Oh, yeah, these are humans who had to make the choice."

**Raechel:** That's right. That's right.

**Annie:** And so we will see that in Ezekiel.

**Raechel:** And the end of that verse in Timothy, that the man or woman of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. Like we read all Scripture speaks to all of life. And even the book of Ezekiel, I would even venture to say, especially the book of Ezekiel is one where we get to see a fuller picture of God, and we get to ask questions that we wouldn't have otherwise asked.

**Annie:** Yeah, okay. I can't wait. Will y'all come back before Lent and prep us for Lent?

**Raechel:** Yes, ma'am.

**Amanda:** We will do our best. Annie, there are some books that we have yet to read as a community, even after 10 years of She Reads Truth. And so you might see why it took us a while to get around to Ezekiel.

**Raechel:** In our tenth year-

**Annie:** I'm working my way through Ezekiel, I'm like, "Good luck, everybody. Those are some words."

**Amanda:** I'll tell you what. I mean, I can go ahead and prep you for this part, which is that what we won't do, because I don't think that we're intended to do is put Ezekiel in like a tidy package with a little bow on top. That's not what you're asking. But I just want to make sure that our friends who are listening here that we're not saying that, "Oh, you can just sweep all the hard things in Scripture under the rug because we know that all scripture is useful for..."

**Annie:** And it makes me so nuts when people read the Old Testament and they go, "I know that part you hate but Jesus made it right." I like, ""Well, Ezekiel was a person. He went through some terrible things."

**Amanda:** And do you know what? The God of the New Testament that came and dwelled with us in the person of Jesus is the same God of the Old Testament. The God of the New Testament is good and just and loving and compassionate and kind and merciful. The God of the Old Testament, same God-

**Annie:** He's the same.



**Raechel:** Same character-

**Amanda:** Good, kind, loving, merciful, just. All of those things. So that-

**Annie:** But Ezekiel is going to make you ask that question.

**Amanda:** He will. And I think that we should because we are... I mean, this is part of why we are always ready for Advent when this time of year rolls around, right? Because the world is a tough place to live. And so I think that-

**Raechel:** It's why reading Ezekiel for Lent is actually a really good book to read because it's asking a lot of hard questions. And we're walking through some sorrow. And we're seeing that not just in our lives, but in Scripture.

**Annie:** Yeah, that's right.

**Amanda:** And I think that-

**Raechel:** And it does make us ready for Advent.

**Amanda:** Yeah, it does. And so that's what this time yet again, you know, here we are. We had this conversation last year at the end of 2020. Like, we have collectively, all humans on the planet had a hard year-

**Annie:** And for some reason, when we were recording last year, I have this memory of it being very dark in here. Maybe it was just emotional. But did we record in the evening?

**Raechel:** It was like a night recording.

**Annie:** I'm like, "Why...?" Oh, Craig is nodding saying-

**Raechel:** Craig is nodding. Why was it so dark?

**Annie:** Was it dark?

Craig: It was dark.

**Annie:** Yeah, it was dark.

**Amanda:** Maybe it was cloudy. But it was definitely emotionally hard.

**Raechel:** The good news, guys, it's bright today.

**Annie:** It's bright today. Yeah. And the theme for Advent is Everlasting Light.

**Raechel:** That's right.

**Annie:** So it makes sense.

[00:23:31] <music>

Sponsor: Hey, friends, just interrupting this conversation real quick to share about another one of our incredible partners, [ThirdLove](#). Around here we have four sayings on the wall to help guide us. Y'all know these: work hard, play hard, rest hard, and play hard. And for doing all of these things, it's important to be comfortable.

ThirdLove believes everybody is amazing and deserves to be treated that way. That's why they design underwear, loungewear, activewear that all feels good all day long. So you can feel comfortable for whatever your day holds. I love my ThirdLove bras. Yes, I own multiple. There's just something about wearing something that fits so well and being comfortable that makes me feel more confident and more at ease and ready for the day.

ThirdLove's fitting room quiz is quick and it's easy to complete. And it's like having a personal shopper, y'all, but better. It focuses on size, current fit issues, and your personal style. Find bras and underwear that are perfect for you. They're so intent on providing a great fit for everyone that they feature exclusive half cups and their underwear loungewear and activewear come in sizes extra small through 3X.

With ThirdLove, your love, your fit guaranteed. If not, exchanges and returns are free for 60 days and their team of expert fit stylists is available via chat or text to answer all your questions. Feeling is believing, so upgrade to everyday pieces that love your body as much as you do. Right now you can get 20% off your first order at [thirdlove.com/soundsfun](https://thirdlove.com/soundsfun). That's 20% off your first order at [thirdlove.com/soundsfun](https://thirdlove.com/soundsfun).

And now back to my conversation with Raechel and Amanda.

[00:25:01] <music>

**Annie:** Every year, there's a different thing for Advent reading. And just to do a flyby, you said Advent goes from Sunday, November 28th until Christmas Eve.

**Raechel:** Except the book. So study books and the reading plan-

**Annie:** When does the study start?

**Raechel:** Study starts on the 28th, first day of Advent. Sometimes we do like the four weeks—and that's the book—and done. And so then we kind of drop off after Christmas. But this year, we're actually carrying it all the way through to the New Year.

**Annie:** Oh wow.

**Raechel:** It's a little bit bigger book this year, so we're carrying through. Because of the theme, This Everlasting Light, we actually spend time looking at Jesus as the light of the world. We look at how He pushed back the darkness as the light of the world. And then we come out of Christmas, looking at how to be people of light.

**Annie:** Ah, that's right.

**Raechel:** Like we get this opportunity to respond, instead of just going like, "Baby Jesus in the manger. All right. Bye." It gives us a moment to ask, "What does that mean for us?" So to ask those questions.

**Annie:** Right.

**Amanda:** So it actually goes through January 2nd this time.

**Annie:** Oh, wow.

**Amanda:** Which is exciting because it'll take us through the year.

**Annie:** That's really cool.

**Raechel:** It's fun in the Advent book to actually sit to kind of look at the reader on January 1, and talk to them a little bit for a minute.

**Annie:** So it goes till the 2nd? And then?

**Amanda:** 3rd, 4th, 5th-

**Annie:** Epiphany.

**Raechel:** That's right. That's right. That's right.

**Annie:** There it is.

**Amanda:** There it is. And we're going to read the Gospel of John for the new year.

**Annie:** Oh, right. Oh, that's great. So we'll pick that right up right after-

**Raechel:** Never be too far from the Gospel.

**Annie:** Hey, that's a t-shirt. That's a tattoo. Never be too far from the Gospel. We are reworking our gospel reading plan for the year 2022.

**Raechel:** Oh, good.

**Annie:** Because so many people have just gone like, "There was something about reading the gospels every day." And I just read the same thing 12 times. And it changes your life. Just never be too far from a gospel.

**Amanda:** It does. It really does.

**Annie:** What do you think? You have something in your mind?

**Amanda:** No, I'm thinking about life. You know, you're asking how we chose this. A couple of things to know is that there's a way in that we intentionally tried not to reinvent the wheel every Advent. There are just some scriptures that you want to read every Advent, right?

**Annie:** Mighty Counselor. Mighty God. Everlasting Father.

**Amanda:** That's right. You and I both immediately went to Isaiah.

**Raechel:** You want Advent to feel the same. And you want it to feel new. So that's the challenge.

**Amanda:** Yeah. Because it is the same story.

**Raechel:** Yeah, same story, traditional scripture.

**Annie:** They want to hear new songs, but they also want to hear I'll Be Home for Christmas.

**Raechel:** Exactly.

**Amanda:** Yeah, we do.

**Annie:** Yeah, I do. I do.

**Amanda:** I want to hear Harry Connick sing me some Christmas lullabies. Your friend-

**Annie:** I was about to say, "You want us to make that happen?" We're friends.

**Amanda:** You are very good friends.

**Raechel:** We've got an in with Annie.

**Annie:** That's right.

**Amanda:** Actually the very tiniest of seeds for this reading plan was planted in a conversation we were having with our mutual friend Tara Leigh Cobble. You know Tara, yeah?

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Amanda:** And we were talking about Genesis 1:1, where God says, "Let there be light." We were actually debating a little bit about whether that is the first prophecy of the Messiah in scripture.

**Annie:** Oh, wow.

**Amanda:** And so I think that's it possibly a stretch, but it's-

**Raechel:** It's more universally agreed that Genesis 3:15 is the-

**Amanda:** 3:15.

**Raechel:** But to ask that question, let there be light, was there like a double meaning there? It was her argument or question, which was a really fun conversation.

**Amanda:** It's exactly the type of conversation you were just talking about, right?

**Annie:** Yeah, yeah.

**Amanda:** But what we do know is that the theme of light is found all through the scriptures and that also God uses the theme of light to demonstrate His presence with His people and the promise of the coming Messiah. So we tasked our team with, "Hey, what if we look at Advent and the birth of Jesus through the lens of this theme of light in Scripture?"

And also when you think about being people, we talk about being people between two Advents? So what we mean by that is that, you know, there's the first advent, which means arrival. Advent is a Latin word that means arrival. So when we talk about Advent in the church, we're talking about the arrival of Jesus, the Son of God. That we believe that God-

**Raechel:** The baby in the manger.

**Amanda:** Yes. That Jesus is God incarnate, is God. So that is the first Advent. But Jesus lived, died on the cross, rose again, still living in heaven, has given His Holy Spirit to dwell in believers and His promise that He will come to earth, to us again. So that is one of those big things that we just hang our hat on as people, as followers of Jesus. And so that will be his second coming, His second arrival or the second advent.

So we get the privilege of living on this side of the first advent where we have the canon of Scripture, like we have the story, the record of Christ coming to earth, and we have the gospel. But we also live in a world that is not fully redeemed by any stretch, right? That there is still sin and death ravaging the world.

**Raechel:** The active verb is "making." "I'm making all things new."

**Amanda:** "I'm making all things new."

**Annie:** Also making something new, how do you make something new if it already exists?

**Raechel:** How do you make it new?

**Annie:** How do you make it new?

**Raechel:** That's right.

**Annie:** When I can't fall asleep, instead of counting sheep, this is what I think about—that one scripture. Making something that already exists new? It is not humanly possible to make an existing thing new.

**Raechel:** Yeah.

**Amanda:** That's right.

**Annie:** That's what I think about when I can't fall asleep till I fall asleep.

**Amanda:** And yet it is what God is doing right now in each of us in this room.

**Annie:** Yes! Yes! Even Craig.

**Raechel:** Even Craig.

**Amanda:** I almost said that, but I don't know if Craig and I are that close-

**Annie:** Yeah, for sure you are.

**Raechel:** Oh, sure.

**Amanda:** Okay, great. Even Craig. That's what God is doing in the world. And so really, I mean, Advent it's one of the things that we do in Advent is we ask that question that when you lie awake thinking about at night is like, "What does this mean? And why is it necessary? How did God do this?" He did this by sending His Son, through the Messiah. So that is what we are looking at. We're looking at the theme of light in Scripture and how God promises His presence in the Savior and the light of the world, Jesus-

**Raechel:** And you want to geek out about the theme of light in Scripture. I mean, sure. Like we start with let there be light. Now the earth was formless and empty and God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. And like chaos to order. But like Amanda said, the presence of God is often represented. So we've got the burning

bush. We've got the pillar of fire that leads the people of Israel. We have all of these fire moments. Like Elijah-

**Annie:** I was about to say, when you think about light, you think about fire too? Y'all kind of put them together?

**Raechel:** Oh, yeah. Candles. Well, I mean not candles. In this case, fire.

**Annie:** But yes, but that's what we represent on Advent is you light candles and it brings light.

**Raechel:** But like what happened at Pentecost? Tongues of fires.

**Annie:** Tongues of fire right.

**Raechel:** The presence of God as light.

**Annie:** Was there fire in Epiphany?

**Raechel:** No.

**Annie:** No. Gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

**Raechel:** But what does the Wise Men follow?

**Amanda:** The star.

**Raechel:** They follow the star. What did God say to Abraham?

**Annie:** Yeah, that's a great quiz.

**Raechel:** "Look in the sky. Your descendants will be as numerous as..."

**Annie:** The stars.

**Raechel:** The stars.

**Annie:** How about this? You ready for this one? You've already thought about this. Someone said this to me the other day. God had Adam name all the animals. The only thing that God named was the stars. It says, "I've called them.."



**Amanda:** By name.

**Annie:** Yes. God named the stars and Adam named the animals.

**Raechel:** Wow.

**Annie:** Why?

**Raechel:** Do you think that all angels have names?

**Annie:** Yes, certainly. Because He has to like call them. They have to show up.

**Amanda:** There's at least two that have names. We know that.

**Raechel:** Gabriel and Michael.

**Amanda:** Oh, there's a third.

**Annie:** Yeah, we have Gabriel.

**Amanda:** I was just going to have a good one.

**Annie:** You're just going for the nice ones.

**Amanda:** Michael and Gabriel.

**Annie:** I don't want to see an angel but also I do because they always say, "Don't be afraid."  
So I'm like, "You must be terrifying to look at."

**Amanda:** Terrifying.

**Annie:** Again, Ezekiel describes them, some with a wheel under them.

**Raechel:** Oh, with the wheel.

**Annie:** ...and foreheads.

**Raechel:** And you're like, "What wheel?"

- Annie:** "Why is their wheel? And why does it turn?"
- Raechel:** And like, "Is there ball berries at play? Like how is this spinning?"
- Annie:** It has an eagle face. It has a human face. It has a tiger face.
- Amanda:** And it keeps saying, "I had the impression of..." Like the language he uses is he doesn't know what to say.
- Amanda:** There's nothing under-
- Annie:** Then there was a wheel under. And every direction they turned so did the wheel.
- Raechel:** Yes, yes!
- Annie:** If you Google it... we'll talk about this at length. Hold this. This is my thought.
- Raechel:** But he shines so hard.
- Annie:** He did. Can you imagine? He's going to be like, "I don't know how to tell you this. I saw these things."
- Raechel:** And I'm writing this in Hebrew.
- Annie:** That's right. That's right. So stars.
- Raechel:** No, I mean, listen, just like the more you dig in-
- Annie:** It's like trees. It's like-
- Raechel:** And then what happens at the end, Annie? We don't need a sun anymore why?
- Annie:** Because the light radiates for Jesus.
- Raechel:** The Son is the light.
- Annie:** Yes.
- Amanda:** Raechel came out of her chair when she said, "The Son..."

- Raechel:** The Son of God is the light for the whole world.
- Annie:** So do you think we won't have a sun, I mean, an S-U-N anymore when Jesus returns and is in Jerusalem He will be the only light?
- Amanda:** It says we won't need one.
- Annie:** Wow. Okay.
- Amanda:** Revelation, man.
- Raechel:** So the theme of light in scripture, we didn't extrapolate this. It's real. It's all over scripture.
- Annie:** Yeah, yeah. Yeah, yeah.
- Raechel:** Not that anyone was accusing it-
- Annie:** Whoa, were you making things up?
- Amanda:** Craig was.
- Annie:** Craig was? Craig.
- Raechel:** We ran out of Advent ideas and here they go. Jingle Bells through Scripture. Just wait, there was more bells, Annie.
- Annie:** Wow. Y'all know I love a theme.
- Amanda:** So listen, it doesn't say there isn't one. But listen, this is Revelation. I mean, I'm just going to go ahead and read it because here we are.
- Raechel:** Yeah, do it.
- Amanda:** Dr. Revelation 21. The title of this in the CSB anyway, which is the version of the Bible that I'm reading from, is called The New Creation and the New Jerusalem. So verse 22 says, "I did not see a temple in it because the Lord God the Almighty and the lamb are its temple. The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it because the glory of God illuminates it, and its lamp is the Lamb."

**Annie:** Wow, its lamp is the Lamb.

**Amanda:** "The nations will walk by its light and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it."

**Annie:** The nations will walk by its light. And say that next part again. The kings...

**Amanda:** And the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. But wait, there's more. Verse 25, "Its gates will never close by day because it will never be night there. They will bring the glory and honor of the nations into it."

**Annie:** It will never be night in Jerusalem?

**Amanda:** The New Jerusalem.

**Raechel:** They have so many pretty twinkly lights there.

**Annie:** o it's going to be twinkly lights.

**Amanda:** And if you're telling me that the new creation and the New Jerusalem that this is going to be better than stars and twinkle lights, then it's going to be real good.

**Annie:** That's right. That's right.

**Amanda:** Because I love some twinkle lights.

**Annie:** Jesus didn't have a dimmer. We're not going to turn Him down so we can see the twinkle lights.

**Amanda:** Too bright. Too bright.

**Annie:** Wow. Wow. Also in the study book that people can get, there's a page... So page 18 is the Christian calendar. And then starting on page 38. Some people may already have it because they've been ordering it for the last couple of weeks.

**Raechel:** Oh, yeah. We had a lot of... heads nodding right now.

**Annie:** Yeah, yeah. Starting on page 38, y'all have outlined all the light things in scripture that you could find.

**Raechel:** Yeah. Yeah.

**Annie:** Wow.

**Raechel:** We have a very good team.

**Annie:** What a great theme, y'all. That is really fun, especially when it gets so dark. People don't live... not everybody lives where we live where we have weirdly short days because we're so close to Eastern time zone even though we're Central. So it'll be dark at 4:30.

**Raechel:** It was dark last night at six. And I was like, "Oh, no, it's going to be five soon."

**Annie:** I know. I know.

**Raechel:** I know.

**Annie:** I know.

**Amanda:** Very hurtful.

**Annie:** I know. But luckily we're going to talk about light from here on out.

**Raechel:** I know. It feels like truly to be in the...

[crosstalk 00:37:35]

**Annie:** "I'm going to talk about light."

**Raechel:** In the darkest season of the year, let's talk about light.

**Annie:** Oh, I love it. People can get the book right now. What's the code they can use?

**Raechel:** It is TSFADVENT. That Sounds Fun Advent.

**Annie:** And that gives them what?

**Raechel:** 15% off anything in the She Reads Scripture shop that is in the Advent collection.

**Annie:** Okay, so go to Advent so you can get that. So there's a She Reads Truth workbook.

**Raechel:** Yes, ma'am.

**Annie:** Then there's a He Reads Truth workbook. And there's the Christmas story Kids.

**Raechel:** There's a bunch of kids stuff this year. So the kids' book, which actually follows the theme of light also as a children's book. And then we did little countdown calendars. One for grownups and one for kids this year. So the grown-up one follows the daily of the book. But if you have kids, and you want to do... Here's the thing that we've learned. If you set intentions for your children, they'll hold you accountable to those intentions.

**Amanda:** They will not let you forget.

**Raechel:** ...that it is time to do the Advent.

**Annie:** Yeah, that's right. We know that from Tooth Fairy stuff.

**Amanda:** Right. When we set intentions for kids, they hold us accountable. So that's so helpful. Because my kids when they were little—they're a little less interested in hanging ornaments on the tree daily right now—but every day at dinnertime, they won't let you forget. And so it's really cool. Like, if you want to set intentions for yourself... Amanda, and I've been talking through like, what are good ways to do that? Actually, like maybe setting my Bible on top of my phone so that when I wake up in the morning I have to physically-

**Annie:** Move the Bible.

**Raechel:** ...move the Bible to get to the phone. Or perhaps in front of my coffee maker so I have to touch it. I love the rhythm that you have, Annie, with making tea and then walking. I love that. Yeah. And I think that probably even inspired that thought about the coffeemaker. But yeah, I think that sometimes it's just so hard to have a habit, have a routine, but Christmas is such a nice time to do it.

**Annie:** So the book was really helpful. Everybody knows I love the spiral bind. You can look on Insta story. I'll show you how to do it.

**Raechel:** You're going to be shaving off gold foil off the spine.

**Annie:** Sorry. I'm sorry. They always give me the spine.

**Raechel:** Where are your spines, Annie?

**Annie:** Can't know. Can't know.

**Raechel:** Follow up question.

**Annie:** Quick part two: where are the spines? But that's not the barrier to reading scripture. You don't have to pay.

**Raechel:** No.

**Annie:** Will you talk about the other ways you can do the study together?

**Raechel:** She Reads Truth we're about to celebrate our 10th birthday in June.

**Annie:** Which is amazing. Are we having a party?

**Amanda:** We're growing so fast.

**Raechel:** We are going to have a big party.

**Annie:** Okay, good.

**Raechel:** I mean, 10 years ago, Amanda and I set an intention that we never wanted there to be a haves and have nots. And by that we mean, we would never want there to be a barrier for people to join us in the act of daily reading scripture. So on the She Reads Truth website, [Shereadstruth.com](http://Shereadstruth.com), every day it's there.

**Annie:** And it's free.

**Raechel:** And it's free. And then of course the app is like a little bit easier experience because the Scripture is all right there and then devotionals. But the devotionals are on both.

**Annie:** Oh my gosh.

**Raechel:** Comments are on both. They're all there.

**Annie:** That's right.

**Raechel:** And then the book is just a really fun offline way to have all of the Scripture printed all in one place. You can take your notes. You can at the end have it as a keepsake look back on it.

**Annie:** And it keeps me off my phone. That's my other thing is it gets me off technology in my morning reading time.

**Raechel:** Like this morning I was reading my Bible and my phone was in actual across the room.

**Annie:** Wow.

**Raechel:** Because I just couldn't... I just kept checking something and thinking something.

**Annie:** I have thrown my phone before and I'm like, "What is wrong with you, Annie? Put your phone down."

**Amanda:** You put your phone in timeout.

[crosstalk 00:41:06]

**Amanda:** I think I need to get like a timeout spot for my phone. You know what my heart really wants? A little miniature chair.

**Raechel:** Oh, yeah, sure. I once made a little dunce cap for my phone.

**Annie:** A dunce cap? You're like, "No, you're in timeout."

**Raechel:** Yeah, I shamed it.

**Annie:** You shamed your phone? Why has She Reads Truth not made tiny chairs for us to put our phones in?

**Amanda:** That's a little bit off mission. Put me-

**Raechel:** It feels like a beanbag.

**Amanda:** It feels like that sounds fun.

**Raechel:** Or maybe like a crossover?



**Annie:** Yes. Yes.

**Raechel:** She Reads Truth by That Sounds Fun.

**Amanda:** A collab.

**Annie:** I'm going to go straight to Emma, who runs my whole life after this, and say, "Emma, we need a tiny chair for our phones to sit in while we are reading our Bible."

**Raechel:** So it can have its quiet time while we're having ours.

**Amanda:** The very first-ever She Reads Truth That Sounds Fun merch collaboration is tiny chairs.

**Annie:** Tiny chairs. In the comment, while you're also telling us about Epiphany and Pentecost, do you want a tiny quiet time chair for your phone?

**Amanda:** Or like a timeout beanbag.

**Annie:** Because we need the charger to go in the back. It's just an opportunity. It's a charging system.

**Amanda:** I can see it in my head.

**Annie:** Yeah, yeah, we're making it.

**Raechel:** Craig, are you handy?

**Annie:** Yes, he is. He builds things around here.

**Raechel:** That's what I'm wondering.

**Annie:** He is our token builder. It's not because women can't build things, Craig just uses fun.

**Amanda:** 100%. We know it's tedious.

**Annie:** Yeah, that's exactly right.

**Amanda:** We'll talk about this later.

**Annie:** Yeah, this is great. I'm here for it. I'm here for it.

[00:42:36] <music>

Sponsor: Hey friends! Just taking a quick break to tell you about one of our amazing partners, [Rothy's](#). What better way to welcome the fall season than with new shoes? From their best-selling round and pointed toe flats to sneakers that are perfect for any adventure and loafers made for moments when comfort is a must, Rothy's has got your fall footwear needs covered.

Nothing says fall like soft, plush merino wool, you guys. And for the third year in a row, Rothy's has launched an exclusive autumn collection featuring washable merino wool styles. They're incredibly comfortable, cozy, and just like all your other favorite Rothy's styles, they are 100% machine washable.

And if you're headed out on the fall break trip or weekend getaway, their spacious washable bags are perfect for effortlessly carrying all your essentials. Hand to heaven I get compliments every single time I wear my Rothy's. I love that they're made from recycled plastic water bottles. You guys, how cool is that?

And great news for our dudes. Rothy's shoes aren't just for women anymore. That's right. Rothy's now sells men's sneakers and men's driving loafers. The men's line features the same level of craftsmanship as Rothy's women's line. And they're durable, washable, and better for the planet. Plus, they're rigorously tested for a perfect fit wash after wash. In fact, Forbes calls Rothy's men's shoes a travel must-have. Okay.

But who better to tell you about how comfortable Rothy's are than other real-life customers like Lisa who said, "These shoes are like walking on clouds," and Julie says, "There's no break and period, no blisters, just pure comfort." And your friend Annie says, "I love mine." So no wonder Rothy's best-selling shoes, The Point in Black has over 5,000 near-perfect reviews.

To help you welcome the fall season in style, Rothy's is doing something special. That's right. They gave us the chance to share this super rare opportunity with our friends for a limited time. So right now you can get \$20 off your first purchase at

[Rothys.com/soundsfun](https://rothys.com/soundsfun). That's our rothys.com/soundsfun. Head to Rothys.com/soundsfun to find your new favorites today.

Sponsor: And I have one more amazing partner to share with you, [Your Enneagram Coach](#). Oh, y'all, how much do we love Beth McCord? I'm so excited to share this opportunity with you, friends. Beth is one of our very favorite Enneagram experts, and she and the Your Enneagram Coach team are hosting free live online trainings. And she's asked me to extend her personal invitation to you all to join in.

If you've ever shared the Enneagram with someone and love getting to see how it helped them on their journey toward health and their personal lives and their relationships, these free trainings are for you. Beth will be live hosting each session herself, where she'll be sharing how she created her dream job by becoming a certified Enneagram coach, and how you can enjoy the same freedom and flexibility, and impact of being an Enneagram coach.

Becoming a coach who's certified in the Enneagram could change everything for you personally and professionally. Beth and her team will be answering all your questions in real-time, and they have an incredible bonus for you just for showing up.

So if you're even remotely interested in this dream opportunity, you need to reserve your spot. There's no obligation, but space is limited. And Beth is only holding these live trainings for one week. So go reserve your seat at [yourenneagramcoach.com/tsf](https://yourenneagramcoach.com/tsf), like That Sounds Fun. Yourenneagramcoach.com/tsf.

And now back to finish this conversation with Amanda and Raechel.

[00:46:00] <music>

**Annie:** In the book

**Raechel:** Yes, ma'am.

**Annie:** ...you have one of our very favorite That Sounds Fun chefs.

**Raechel:** We do.

**Annie:** Simoni.

**Raechel:** Simoni Kigweba.

**Annie:** Simoni is like the chef who made up all the recipes that are in the book. Genius. He's a genius.

**Raechel:** Okay. Every year we do recipes, and we kind of curate them or we make them ourselves or what, what, what. What, what, what is what I had to say.

**Annie:** What, what, what.

**Raechel:** And then we were like, "Simoni." He has two years cooked for our team for Christmas, like for the Christmas dinner. And every year he makes this butternut squash soup. And it is like door prizes the leftovers. It is so good. I think he used to make it at Josephine. Anyway, he cooked that recipe for us and butternut squash in the She Reads Truth Advent book.

**Annie:** Oh my gosh.

**Amanda:** You know how Kendra has changed your life chicken?

**Annie:** Yes.

**Amanda:** I feel like this is changed your life soup.

**Raechel:** Butternut squash.

**Amanda:** But for different reasons.

**Annie:** Yeah, for different reasons.

**Raechel:** So Simoni is a local awesome chef friend, friend of the pod for you. And so he came and cooked and it was magic. There's a rib roast. It's like the Christmas meal. I think it starts six days out.

**Amanda:** You have to start six days?

**Raechel:** Maybe five.

**Annie:** Oh my gosh, people need to pay attention then.

**Raechel:** It's a whole thing.

**Amanda:** These are serious recipes.

**Raechel:** Okay, I actually exaggerated. I looked. It's three days. Three days.

**Annie:** Still I respect. Three can feel like six.

**Raechel:** Yeah, yeah.

**Annie:** There are times where days feels long.

**Raechel:** I mean, this professional chef who's so successful is walking us through every step of making something that he makes. I'm so grateful. I feel like, "Are you sure you want to share all this?"

**Annie:** Right?

**Amanda:** He's so kind.

**Annie:** And as always, there's hymns throughout.

**Amanda:** And our title always comes from a hymn.

**Annie:** Oh, that's right. A lyric.

**Amanda:** Yeah. It is always a hymn lyrics. So the everlasting light, it's from a little town of Bethlehem.

**Annie:** Oh, sure.

**Amanda:** You'll know it as soon as I start to say it. Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light; The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

**Annie:** That is beautiful.

**Amanda:** The everlasting light is Jesus always has been, always will be. Even in the Old Testament, Jesus is the light of the world, the light that is coming into the world.

**Annie:** Right.

**Raechel:** And so hymns, recipes, and Annie Downs.

**Annie:** Trouble forever crusty!

**Raechel:** That's right.

**Annie:** I can't wait to start. I can't wait to start.

**Raechel:** There are cute crafts this year.

**Annie:** Yes, y'all made some really cute... I mean, the clay-

**Raechel:** They're little lights illuminating Christmas trees.

**Annie:** That's beautiful.

**Raechel:** They're so cute and easy. And it's like, if you have kids, you can involve them. But it's like the whole thing is like to remind you then of the light theme.

**Amanda:** You can also, if they decide that they're Harry Potter hats, that's also okay.

**Annie:** That's right. That's right.

**Raechel:** I hadn't thought of that but now I can't unsee it.

**Annie:** I hadn't thought of that.

**Amanda:** I like to ruin things.

**Annie:** Oh, y'all, it's beautiful. Y'all, again, have done such a beautiful job on this book and the study.

**Raechel:** And in the cover it's all sparkles.

**Annie:** Oh, it's all sparkly.

**Amanda:** There's no ink on that cover. It's all foil.

**Annie:** It's all foil?

**Amanda:** Isn't that great?

**Annie:** That's really cool. The cover, the pearl?

**Raechel:** Yeah. Opalescent.

**Amanda:** It's so good.

**Annie:** And the dude's is red.

**Raechel:** Yeah, with white foil.

**Annie:** With white foil. That's awesome.

**Amanda:** And it's beautiful—that red.

**Raechel:** It's kind of got like a best maid vibe. I like it.

**Annie:** Oh, yeah.

**Raechel:** So that red paper.

**Annie:** Yeah. And I like it that at the end of the book you put like a history thing. Like, for the record, it was this year for me and 2021 what I see God do and what is my prayer for 20... 2022?

**Raechel:** Sure.

**Amanda:** How do we...? 20222.

**Annie:** I know. Why can't my brain do that?

**Raechel:** This doesn't feel like it's the roaring 20s that I expected.

**Amanda:** It's roaring in the wrong way. This is not the way that we...

**Annie:** That is such a fun sentence. "This doesn't feel like it's the roaring 20s that I expected." Well, we're only one in or two in. We've got eight more to go technically.

**Raechel:** I don't know whether to feel good about that.

**Annie:** Yeah, we've got eight more to go.

**Raechel:** Okay.

**Annie:** So let's circle back in like 2027. Well, we'll have to do 2028. But let's circle back in 2028 and be like, "That was not the roaring 20s I expected. Then we will be like, "Well, yeah, sorry, we've only got 18 months left." So probably.

**Amanda:** We need to write that down so we don't forget.

**Annie:** Yeah, I won't forget.

**Amanda:** Hey, Siri, remind us...

**Annie:** Yeah. Remind us.

**Raechel:** In six years.

**Annie:** Sorry.

**Amanda:** Oh, she was listening.

**Annie:** My Siri was listening.

**Amanda:** She is always listening.

**Annie:** Okay, is there anything we didn't say about Advent you want to make sure we say? I can't wait for people to jump in and read with us.

**Amanda:** I mean, we say it every year. But it's just because it's true, it's such a special season. If you are a lifelong Bible reader, or you're thinking about it, you know, I'm thinking about reading my Bible, it's a beautiful season to be a part of into just start to walk through Scripture. It's also unique in that we're going to read passages from all over the Bible. Yeah. So it's not an overwhelming amount of Scripture. It's just a really good collection of Scripture.

**Raechel:** I think we probably cover maybe half the books in the Bible. It's a good curation.



**Amanda:** Yeah. It's really good. And we will read the traditional prophecies of the Messiah, but then also the story of the nativity, and all of those stories that you may remember reading as children. You know, lots of Luke 1 and 2. It's a journey. We're taking a journey.

We're going to see how the Bible talks about the light of the world and Jesus as the embodiment of light. We're going to read the story of His coming, then we're going to talk about what it means to live as people of light. Because, you know, it's no secret that this world is heavy and dark and a tough place to live, like we said earlier. But as Christians, as those who have faith in the actual light of the world, Jesus, we get to be little lights in our world, and we get to shine that light. Like we just said, we're having our Epiphany and Pentecost discussion, this good news is for all people.

**Annie:** Yeah, that's right.

**Amanda:** And so we get to be part of proclaiming that good news. And then we talked toward the end of the plan is where the new year rolls around... we'll talk about waiting for the light, like waiting for the next Advent and the promise that Jesus will return. So it's just going to be really rich, really sweet. I just would really love for you guys to read with us.

**Annie:** I was talking with a friend today who was saying that he was feeling lazy about his faith. He just said, "I don't know why. I'm not motivated."

**Raechel:** And probably also tired.

**Annie:** Yes, everyone's tired. And also we don't put ourselves to what doesn't serve us. Right? You don't make time for it doesn't serve you. Now, our faith is not about serving ourselves, blah, blah, blah, all the things we're supposed to say.

**Amanda:** My toes, Annie.

**Annie:** But it's true.

**Amanda:** It's true.

**Annie:** Like if we don't think something serves us, we don't pursue it. And so me getting a doctorate in something doesn't serve me at all. So I'm not putting my time toward it. Right?

And so I would say to our friends who feel like their faith hasn't been serving them in a way, again, we are about serving Jesus. But I do gain something when I read the Bible. It is for us too. And if there's a world where you are in a spot where you go, "I haven't been doing any of this because I'm disappointed in God because I'm frustrated because this hasn't worked out or because this didn't go the way..." Me being active in my faith did not serve me. This is great. We invite you back to this.

**Raechel:** That's good.

**Annie:** Just come back, start some disciplines, like reading every day. And then let the Holy Spirit catch up, kind of like pursue you while you're taking steps toward. Sometimes I think you have to lay the groundwork of the disciplines a little bit before the emotion catches.

**Amanda:** Oh, I mean, that's true for a lot of things.

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Amanda:** You know, that's true. I bet you would say that that's true as a writer, right? That you don't always sit down because you're inspired. You almost always sit down because it's time to sit down.

**Annie:** I'm editing stuff out and I'm like, "Hey, everything about this." But you have to. You sit down and do it. So that's the people group I'm thinking about today. We have so many of our friends who are faithful Bible readers. We have so many friends who have never read before and I think they'll both jump in with us.

**Raechel:** I love that. I hope you do.

**Annie:** Me too. It's the others. It's the ones who are disappointed in this whole thing. And maybe their only discipline is they listen to me. And my friends that we bring on here or maybe they read one thing a week or they get up and go to church still, but my hope is that this season about lights will bring light.

**Raechel:** Well, and the thing is the first Christmas it was a Y'all Come. It was total everybody. This is for everybody. And that's what we saw at Epiphany, right?

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Raechel:** That it's good news for all creation.

**Annie:** Yes.

**Raechel:** And I think every adventure, this year included, it's the outcome.

**Annie:** There were Three Wise Men. There were 3,000 people saved. I wonder if that matters.

**Raechel:** Oh, Annie.

**Annie:** I'm just going to keep going. I'm just going to keep going. I can't quit thinking about it.

**Raechel:** Annie!

**Annie:** That and Ezekiel. My big takeaways are, hurry back for Lent so we can talk about Ezekiel and the wheels.

**Amanda:** Team clear calendar. The rest of our day is spoken for. She's got to think about this.

**Annie:** You wish. Okay, girls, because the show is called That Sounds Fun, tell me what sounds fun to you.

**Amanda:** Oh, what sounds fun to me. You know, it's been a fall. What sounds fun to me is just time to sit on the back porch with my people, it's a little cold, I want some blankets.

**Annie:** At the cabin?

**Amanda:** Well, no, just at my house. I do love a cabin. I love a cabin. Yeah, I mean, sure, I want to go to a cabin.

**Raechel:** We want to just make stuff up.

**Amanda:** Actually, we will go to a cabin for Christmas and I'm coming. So that does sound super fun to me. In the meantime, I will settle for our back deck and some beanies

and some s'mores and some blankets and just watching my children be free of sports schedules for a while.

**Raechel:** Let it be so.

**Amanda:** Let it be so, Lord.

**Annie:** What sounds fun to you, Ray?

**Raechel:** I have been watching an extreme amount of the Barefoot Contessa.

**Annie:** Oh, really?

**Raechel:** Ina Garten.

**Annie:** Oh, I love her, her and Jeffrey.

**Raechel:** You guys, she makes everything okay.

**Annie:** Well, she listens to him. Everything is fine there.

**Amanda:** Everything is fine in the Hamptons. And Jeffrey comes home from his job as the Dean Emeritus at Yale. It's great. Everything is fine. But these little phrases like, "Let's give it a big stir." She says, like, "The cook's best tool is clean hands." She says all these things and it just makes me so feel like I can do anything, I cook. And I love cooking. That's one of my favorite things to do. So what sounds fun to me is like roasting a chicken and making a chocolate cake and just cooking in the kitchen. So fun.

**Amanda:** Do you know what the sweetest thing is? Is Jennifer Garner's love for Ina Garten.

**Raechel:** That's right. She loves her too.

**Amanda:** They're adorable. Also, raise your hand if you want to be Jennifer Garner's best friend.

**Annie:** Yes, certainly.

**Raechel:** Absolutely, my hand is up.

**Annie:** I want to be Ina Garten's best. Well, I want her to like... I don't need her to be our best friend because best friend you have to tell the stuff to. So if you want Jennifer Garner to be the best friend, then what we're saying is like, no, I'm going to tell her the worst parts. And I don't love that part of being best friends.

**Raechel:** Neighbor. Neighbor.

**Annie:** Neighbor of Jennifer Garner or like Girl group. We can say group.

**Raechel:** We maybe do like a girl trip together.

**Annie:** Yeah. Or like we go to dinner once a month, but she's not the one I see in the circle-

**Amanda:** Like a book club where there may or may not be-

**Annie:** Jennifer Garner's book club. That's exactly the friendship I want for her.

**Raechel:** Therefore, it's in the book club.

**Annie:** Yes. I want book club member friendship with Jennifer Garner. And with Ina Garten, I want-

**Amanda:** Personal chef?

**Annie:** Yeah, because I don't like cooking as much as you.

**Raechel:** I want to live next to Ina.

**Annie:** Neighbors. Right next door?

**Raechel:** Right next door.

**Annie:** You're going to see everybody come and go that you're not invited to.

**Amanda:** But here's the thing. Her garden.

**Annie:** Yeah, that's right. That's right.

**Raechel:** And then we don't have to have a garden.

**Amanda:** Ina Garten garden.

**Raechel:** Yeah.

**Annie:** I maybe just want to have one meal with her ever. I maybe I want to come to the house. I don't know that I need to share life with her. I'd like to share a meal with her.

**Raechel:** I want to be her for Halloween. Ryan could be Jeffrey.

**Amanda:** That took a turn real quick.

**Annie:** Ryan could be Jeffrey. And who are your children? Vegetables? Since they don't have any kids.

**Raechel:** My kids don't participate with us. They go to their friend's houses.

**Annie:** Okay, fair. Fair.

**Raechel:** It's hard.

**Annie:** Okay, so who do you want it to be to you, Amanda?

**Raechel:** Are you going to get Ina on the podcast? That sounds fun to me. I'm just going to sit in the next room.

**Annie:** People always say this: can you have so and so on? And I'm like, "Do you think I just have a phone number?"

**Raechel:** I do. I do.

**Annie:** So yes, I'm going to try with that. I'm going to call her.

**Amanda:** Is there some version of like a nanny but for an adult? I just feel like I want to-

**Annie:** Is that a counselor?

**Amanda:** She would be a godparent. She can like show me how to do things-

**Annie:** A nanny? Like a proper nanny like we see in the Crown or Mary Poppins?

**Amanda:** Or my on-site Home Ec teacher. Like he come to my house a few hours a week and just tell me how to be a better grownup.

**Annie:** A grownup nanny is the language. Grownup nanny is the language.

**Raechel:** The thing that I love is at least twice an episode she'll ask a rhetorical question with the weight... she's like, "How easy is that?"

**Annie:** Doesn't that look perfect?

**Raechel:** Isn't that delicious? Isn't that the best dessert? And you're like, "Yes, I'm going to say it out loud to her." I know it's hard to tell but I say out loud.

**Annie:** Y'all are neighbors. Y'all are neighbors. I would never talk back. I'm just sharing a meal. Amanda wouldn't talk back because that's her grown-up nanny.

**Amanda:** No, but the kind of nanny that you like you have a really good relationship with, and if you need some advice you could ask her.

**Annie:** Craig, who do you want Ina Garten to be to you? Do you know who Ina Garten is, Craig? No, no, he does not. No, he does not. Listener, he does not know who Ina Garten is.

**Amanda:** He looks very surprised by your question.

**Annie:** Yes, we will in the show... and let Craig Google Ina Garten and learn. Okay, well, sure. I think Jennifer Garner and Ina Garten have really... We've really defined the relationship with both of them today.

**Raechel:** I appreciate that.

**Annie:** I'll finish. I want Ezekiel. I want to be Ezekiel's... I want to be his big sister.

**Amanda:** Podcast host?

**Annie:** I want to be his podcast host. So I want to have him on. And then when we finish recording, I go, "Hey, are you all right? What can I do?"

**Amanda:** "What sounds fun to you?"

**Annie:** That happens a lot when we have people in here that are younger than us. When we're done, I'm like, "Can we change phone numbers in case I need anything? Because I feel like we could be real life..." That's what would happen with Ezekiel. I'd be like, "Hey, I've read some of your stories. It's tough. What do you need?"

**Raechel:** "Your book launch is going great."

**Annie:** Thanks. Yeah, for the kids' book?

**Raechel:** No, I'm sorry.

**Annie:** For Ezekiel?

**Raechel:** We're talking about Ezekiel.

**Annie:** Oh, yeah. "Ezekiel, your book launch is going great. It takes some turns we did not expect, Ezekiel."

**Raechel:** I mean, best-seller in the whole world than Harry Potter.

**Annie:** That's right. You and 65 other books.

**Amanda:** Not necessarily the most well-read chapter.

**Annie:** But it will be after this spring. First, we gotta go through Everlasting Light. We get to.

**Amanda:** That was quite a rabbit trail. I enjoyed it.

**Raechel:** I enjoyed it too.

**[01:01:32]** <music>

**Outro:** Oh, you guys, aren't they just the best? Okay, now listen, go to my Instagram. And we've got to talk about Pentecost and Epiphany. I need your thoughts. We have so many things we want you to talk to us about on Instagram. So make sure you go there. Give us your thoughts.



Be sure to pick up your copy of the Advent study. And remember to use the code TSFADVENT for 15% off your Advent order, anything in the Advent store at shopshereadstruth.com. You can get your stuff for the hes, for the kids, for you, everything for Advent. And remember, the code is TSFADVENT for 50% off. And you need to order by November 4th to guarantee that you get the book in time to start the study.

They'll still have more after that. But if you want to be sure to be able to start, order by November 4. And be sure you're following Raechel, Amanda and She Reads Truth so you can tell them thanks for being on the show. And we'll see them back here for Lent to talk about Ezekiel. I'm ready. I'm ready.

If you need anything else from me, you know I'm embarrassingly easy to find. Annie F. Downs on [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#). All the places you may need me, that's how you can find me.

And I think that's it for me today, friends. So go out or stay home and do something that sounds fun to you. I'll do the same. And today what sounds fun to me is... Oh, our whole staff is going out after work today. That sounds really fun to me, to go hang out with all of our friends. So I'm very excited about that. Hey, listen, start telling me what sounds fun to you in the Instagram comments under this post. I would love to hear your answer today.

I hope to see you guys all on the live stream tomorrow night. Oh, that sounds fun to me. Tomorrow night, you guys, me, Eddie, live stream. Remember the tickets at [compassionlive.com](#).

And we'll see you back here on the pod on Wednesday with my favorite golfer because he's my only friend who's a golfer, Bubba Watson. So we'll see you on Wednesday with Bubba Watson.

[01:03:27] <music>