

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

**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 today. We have got a great show in store.

Before we dive into today's conversation, I want to tell you again about one of our amazing partners. Y'all know Shannan Martin and her new book *Start with Hello*. Y'all heard her on Episode 418 just a couple of weeks ago. If you didn't, go back and listen.

And you know Shannon is an up-close friend in my life, so I can tell you for real that she is a person we want to learn from about how to neighbor well. That's what her latest book *Start with Hello: (And Other Simple Ways to Live as Neighbors)* is all about: how to be a good neighbor in real tangible ways, really how to bring God's kingdom to our neighborhoods through simple and intentional action.

I love this book and this message. It's totally changed me. Seriously, there are things I do differently than I did before I read it because I was so moved and convicted by it. I just wonder what conversations we could be having this time next year about how our relationships with our communities have deepened if we all read *Start with Hello* and take it to heart.

You can find *Start with Hello* wherever you love to buy your books or go to [bakerbookhouse.com](https://www.bakerbookhouse.com) to get 30% off and free shipping. That's bakerbookhouse.com for 30% off and free shipping.

**Intro:** Today on this show I get to talk with my friends from We The Kingdom. You know them: Ed Cash, Scott Cash, Franni Rae, Martin, Andrew Bergthold. Listen, they are my favorite.

You heard them here on the show back during our Christmas party in 2021. And we just had to have them back to catch up, talk about what they've got going on right now. They are not only incredibly talented, but they are just incredible people.

In September of this year, they released their sophomore album, which is self-titled and it is very good, y'all. Don't worry. We talk all about it. They're fun and funny and there are a lot of them. So we made this a podcast party. I cannot wait for y'all to hear it.

And if you want to see what it looks like for us to be doing this podcast with this many people in the room, just head to my Instagram Annie F. Downs and you will see what it looks like for all six of us to record this.

So here's my conversation with my friends Ed, Scott, Franni, Martin, and **Andrew**:  
We The Kingdom.

[00:02:22] <music>

**Annie:** We The Kingdom, welcome back, all of you.

**Franni:** Hey.

**Ed:** Hello.

**Annie:** How do you normally do this when it's all five of you? Does someone say your name or do y'all just go?

**Martin:** Ready, steady, talk at once.

**Scott:** Ready, set, go. We're horrible if we are prepared.

**Martin:** It's true.

**Annie:** Oh, great. So this is better?

**Ed:** Yeah. If we know what we're about to talk about, it's bad news. If we don't, it might be bad news.

**Annie:** Great. For our friends listening, let's go from—they can't see us—but from my left. Ed, we'll start with you. Just say your name so that as they're listening they can put together... because it's four dudes. And Franni and I, but they'll know us apart. But will you start and just introduce yourself?

**Ed:** Yes. I am Ed. I sing and play some instruments in the band.

**Martin:** I'm Martin and I play drums.

**Scott:** I'm Scott. I'm sorry. I'll start over. I play guitar and sing.

**Franni:** Hey, I'm Franni and I sing.

**Andrew:** I'm Andrew and I play guitar and piano and little mando here and there.

**Annie:** Mando, short for?

**Andrew:** Mandolin. But it's really a guitar. It's strong like a guitar, but it's just smaller. But I can play the actual mandolin. So I'll own that too.

**Annie:** Is mando a different thing? Technically it sounds like it.

**Andrew:** Mando is just short for mandolin. It's when you're being lazy. But they also make mando guitar hybrids that it's strong like a guitar so you can play guitar chords on it. So it's like a cheat. You know, if play guitar-

**Annie:** Everyone in the audience is like, "Look at him playing the mandolin." And you're like, "I know how to play guitar as well."

**Franni:** But you can run it through pedals, like guitar pedals so you can get the sound of an electric guitar. It's really cool.

**Andrew:** Yeah.

**Ed:** Or you could start a bakery called Mando.

**Andrew:** What?

**Franni:** Mando?

**Ed:** Mando.

**Martin:** Oh my gosh.

**Andrew:** Wait, I don't get that joke.

**Franni:** Like dough.

**Martin:** It's a great joke, dude.

**Andrew:** That was too [harsh?].

**Annie:** I just let y'all play that out because I was with you, Andrew. I was like, Uh-huh, keep going. Tell us more."

**Andrew:** Man-dough. Okay.

**Franni:** It's kinda gross.

**Annie:** So y'all have become part of our like Christmas traditions now. But we decided to add Ed and Andrew this year.

**Franni:** Right

**Scott:** Right.

**Annie:** It's like the other three of y'all came and you're like, "You know what? That sounds fun and is pretty fun. Y'all can come this time." Is that how it goes? Do y'all like lead the way, Martin? Are y'all the ones who go first and then if it's cool, everybody comes in?

**Martin:** I don't know how I missed this. I can't remember what it was.

**Scott:** I didn't get the memo or something.

**Martin:** No.

**Ed:** You were like in California. Y'all were both out of town, I know.

**Martin:** Okay.

**Andrew:** California. I'll take that.

**Annie:** In December.

**Andrew:** In December, especially, yeah.

**Annie:** That's exactly right. Ed, you're the father of two of the band members.

**Ed:** I am.

**Annie:** So without having you last year, can we back up a little bit? For our friends listening, you're friends with a lot of our guests. The Barnes, Wertz... all kinds of our people.

**Ed:** Oh, yeah.

**Annie:** You're people with all of our people.

**Ed:** I love those guys.

**Annie:** How different is your life being a part of We The Kingdom versus producing and doing...? I'll tell you. I think I saw you sing in 1994 at a summer camp... Mark Fritchman?

**Ed:** Oh, my gosh.

**Annie:** Oh, right?

**Ed:** Mark and Amy.

**Annie:** Let's go back.

**Ed:** In Macon, Georgia.

**Annie:** Yes!

**Ed:** That's incredible.

**Annie:** Right?

**Ed:** Martha Bowman.

**Annie:** Yes, Martha Bowman. That's the church.

**Ed:** The church.

**Annie:** So I was at First Methodist Marietta and we all did summer camp together.

**Ed:** That's crazy. Oh, my gosh.

**Annie:** And you came down and sang. Now this. So why was this the right yes? Why is We The Kingdom the right yes that was next for you?

**Ed:** That is a great question.

**Annie:** Thank you.

**Ed:** I mean, I feel like... First off to answer your first question, it is so different in every way. I've told people before I feel like I've been living next to this neighbor for like 25 years and there's been like this wall, this privacy wall.

**Annie:** Wow.

**Ed:** So I could like sort of see over the wall a little bit and be like... The wall being like... the other side being the artists' side, you know, because as a producer, I've worked closely with a lot of artists. But I feel like I've been able to kind of like get glimpses of their yard and be like, "Oh, okay." But then I feel like this is like they invited me over for dinner and I'm like, "Oh, my word, this place is nothing like I thought it was going to be in a lot of ways."

**Annie:** Oh, wows.

**Ed:** You know, it's way more challenging than I thought. I mean, just thinking about... It's given me a lot of compassion and understanding for what artists go through in just given week or season or touring, all that. I mean, it's a lot, you know.

And I think even this time around, this second album, we're feeling all the more. There was a lot of adrenaline and inertia on that first record, but this time it's been like, "Whoa, wow, we're in this field to grind a little more." But it's been one of the great joys of my life.

You were saying you saw me perform way back. I mean, I gave that artist thing up and I thought I would never do that again. And the Lord's timing is really interesting. But I think the why now is because... and I'm not sure how much of this I talked about before, but just we walked through a really painful season as a family. And even Andrew was part of that for a season. It was a church deal that was just... I mean, it was so painful. And I think coming out of that we started writing songs just to heal, you know, to get through-

**Andrew:** Without even knowing it though.

**Ed:** Yeah, yeah. It was not intentional. It was just like we were trying to breathe, you know, survive, and make sense of it. So much confusion. But I think as we were doing that, God was doing something behind the scenes. He flanked us all in a most wonderful way.

**Franni:** Won't He do it.

[crosstalk 00:07:43]

**Annie:** I think people need to hear that because I would imagine... I mean, our church is going through it right now. I would imagine there are so many people listening whose churches are going through something that makes them feel personally like giving up. Maybe not on Jesus, but on like, "I don't want to go here. I don't know how to get past this hurt. I can't breathe." I mean, Scott, talk about... so making art in the middle of pain helped?

**Scott:** Oh, man, I think it was a bottle we had to drink. You know, we were so dry, man, and so broken. Because the church part of it was really focused on an individual who was really toxic. And over the years, that toxicity kind of got worse and worse, I think. And for us-

**Martin:** That was subtle.

**Scott:** Yeah, super subtle.

**Andrew:** And then it's not. And then all of a sudden-

**Annie:** And then it's not in one day, right?

**Scott:** It's frog in the water, man, you know, just slowly boiling. And then when it got the most toxic, that's when we... ever seen the Hunger Games movies?

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Scott:** Ed and I met with like four dudes after we left this church and asked them, "Oh, hey, help us process this."

**Ed:** Talk about what they-

**Annie:** Was it like counselors or like bros?

**Scott:** Just friends. Like people we've known. So one of them, I mean, I've known my whole life, Alan.

**Martin:** I want to know what the Hunger Games reference is.

**Scott:** I'll tell you in a second. So-

**Andrew:** How do we heal from this? Go watch the Hunger Games.

**Scott:** Hey, hey, I'm gonna bring you full circle. What we talked about is the importance of them not knowing each other.

**Ed:** Yeah. Yeah.

**Annie:** Those four dudes?

**Ed:** And they're people that we had known for more than 10 years and that were well-respected men.

**Scott:** And they were all believers but they all like would agree on all the majors, I would say, but they came from different denominations.

**Annie:** That's cool.

**Scott:** So it was huge. So in The Hunger Games movies, Peter gets kidnapped by the Capitol, and they mess his brain up and like completely brainwash him, and then his friends rescue him. And so the whole rest of that particular movie he's asking his friends, "Real or not real?" So we sat down with these four dudes and said, "Real or not real?" And processed this whole journey.

I think for us processing that with them and processing it as a family and friends and all that, the only way that we had language to communicate what our hearts were wrestling with was music. And so these songs were a new language for us to be able to translate this knotted mess of our hearts into something that we can communicate with each other with and then also hopefully tell people our story. So that's kind of where all those songs were birthed out of.

**Annie:** Wow. So, Andrew, how'd you get tied up in this? You went to the same church?

**Andrew:** Yeah. Actually, man, 10 years ago now? Almost 10 years ago I showed up in the studio with... I just had got in a motorcycle wreck and-

**Annie:** Like on the way there?

**Andrew:** Two days before.

**Annie:** Oh, my gosh.

**Andrew:** Two days before. You can see the scar here.

**Annie:** Oh, listener, a big scar.

**Andrew:** You know, I have this scar?

**Scott:** That scar is four times that long.

**Andrew:** Oh, yeah. It started here and then-

**Martin:** It goes to his belly button.



**Andrew:** Oh, my gosh. I'm showing my arm not-

**Scott:** It goes from your wrist to your ear.

**Andrew:** It goes from my wrist all the way up.

**Annie:** To your chest. Oh my gosh.

**Ed:** But the reason that you see it today is because rather than stitches he used super glue and duct tape. No lie.

**Annie:** What?

**Andrew:** I mean-

**Martin:** He didn't go to the hospital.

**Annie:** Wait, what?

**Martin:** Barbed wire split him wide open.

**Andrew:** My dad's done construction, you know, for a long time.

**Annie:** That is not a medical solution. "My dad has done construction."

**Scott:** He said that like, "My dad's a physician."

**Annie:** Yeah, yeah, yeah. That's what I thought he was gonna say is, "My dad's surgeon."  
"No, my dad build stuff."

**Andrew:** I've also done a lot of construction. And when you're on the construction site, if something happens, you just keep going. Unless it's like you're dying.

**Annie:** Right.

**Scott:** Unless you have like barbed wire splitting your skin open.

**Annie:** Right. Right.

**Andrew:** So you just find tapes. There's tape around that-

**Annie:** So you just duct taped it and super glued it. And you told yourself that, Isn't it what people say about "they made Super Glue during World War II just for this."

**Andrew:** Exactly.

**Annie:** I don't think that's true.

**Andrew:** I don't know if it's true. But it does work though.

**Annie:** Dudes tell themselves that.

**Franni:** It does. I tried it. It does work.

**Andrew:** Yeah. I actually helped Franni the other day.

**Martin:** Is it normal super glue?

**Ed:** Andrew knows it's a special kind.

**Andrew:** Technically at the hospital they do use it every once in a while, and it's a special kind of super glue, but normal super glue.

**Franni:** It's a different font.

**Andrew:** Oh, my gosh.

**Annie:** Okay, so you got in a motorcycle accident two days before.

**Andrew:** Two days before. I moved to Nashville. I grew up in Kansas City, Missouri, and a friend of mine was working for Ed and Scott at the studio. And I connected with Ed and Scott and I was like, "Oh, I'd love to do an internship." And they were like, "We'd love to have you." So I came up to-

**Ed:** You should've run, dude!

**Andrew:** I did not know what I was getting myself into. Good night. I had long hair. I was trying to work on dreads. I was like, "I'm gonna get dreadlocks." So I was quite a different person back then.

**Martin:** We're laughing-

**Andrew:** What are you guys laughing at now?

**Martin:** ...because he just said "good nigh"-

**Franni:** He was southern than I've ever heard him.

**Scott:** ...which is so southern and not... That's not something he would say.

**Andrew:** It's not something I would say, man.

**Ed:** It came from our dad, threw us to you.

[crosstalk 00:12:43]

**Ed:** What I didn't see is literally when Andrew said that Scott was ready-

**Andrew:** I'm just trying to get the southern accent because that's something-

**Ed:** It's coming, bro.

**Annie:** Yeah, it's coming.

**Franni:** You just said "good nigh".

**Annie:** You said "good nigh".

**Andrew:** Especially Ed has a strong southern accent and I'm trying to not let that take me.

**Scott:** Andrew calls the liquid we get from cows "melk."

**Annie:** Like M-E.

**Scott:** Melk.

**Martin:** Yeah, "melk."

**Andrew:** Yeah, "melk". I don't know.

**Annie:** My 2-year-old nephew calls it "mewk". He's from Georgia.

**Franni:** Cute.

**Ed:** Mewk.

**Annie:** That's the difference.

**Franni:** Aw, that's really cute.

**Scott:** That's awesome.

**Martin:** What do you call a supernatural act of God?

**Annie:** A miracle.

**Andrew:** Miracle.

**Martin:** He calls it "meracle."

**Andrew:** Miracle. Miracle.

[crosstalk 00:13:22]

**Andrew:** I don't like this.

**Annie:** Okay, so internship.

**Andrew:** So I was interning for them and then, you know, years after... Actually Scott was doing the Young Life Camp. You guys probably talked about this last time—how the band started. But he was doing Young Life Camps and would, you know, have me come play guitar piano or whatever.

**Scott:** Mando.

**Annie:** Or mando.

**Andrew:** Or mando. And you know, everybody was going to this church. And so I was like, "Oh, that's cool. I love it." Actually, my best friend who also worked with him was going to this church. So, you know, I joined. And yeah, there's a lot of really, really amazing things about it but there's also a little check in your spirit, and you're like, "Is this my flesh or my spirit talking?" And that is a really, really important and hardline to define.

**Martin:** We also all lead worship there, at the church. I don't know if you said that.

**Andrew:** And that's the thing. I mean, because when you have-

**Martin:** And it was amazing worship.

**Andrew:** It was amazing worship. And there's a verse that says God gives gifts without remittance. And that means that, you know, just because someone's gifted doesn't mean they're walking with the Lord, but they do have the gifting still. So the teaching-

**Martin:** Gosh, it is so complicated.

**Andrew:** Yeah, and it gets a little complicated.

**Annie:** Yeah, because once they're gone, they still have the giftings. Like once they're not in leadership of a church... I mean, I'm watching it too where you go, like, "Oh, you still have all the gifts that makes you so good at it."

**Martin:** And they can use the gift against the church or against the Lord.

**Andrew:** That's a very hard scripture to process.

**Martin:** It is.

**Franni:** You always told me, you said, "Who can stand before Holy God?" I'm appointing to dad.

**Ed:** Yeah. Because if you take that to the full, it's like if the requirement for the platform is perfection, then we all need to freaking out the stage.

**Annie:** Yes, yes.

**Ed:** It's like, you know, but then there does become a line where I think something becomes more abusive and clearly more off, however, that's is quantified.

**Franni:** Ego. Full of ego.

**Andrew:** I guess when the person becomes inaccessible, then there's no accountability.

**Martin:** But they make you believe they're-

**Andrew:** Transparent.

**Martin:** ...accessible.

**Andrew:** Approachable.

**Annie:** Right. But they're saying that from the stage, right?

**Andrew:** Yeah.

**Annie:** They are not saying that in a room.

**Andrew:** Yeah.

**Franni:** That's good.

**Martin:** "You can talk to me anytime, you can whatever... say anything."

**Annie:** "You can ask me anything."

**Martin:** "You can ask me anything." But then when you ask the question, you get reprimanded, you know? That's tough.

**Annie:** Why did y'all end up doing Christian music after being so hurt by the church? Why aren't you doing country or rock? Why didn't you do this but not put yourself in the situation where you have to be okay with God?

**Franni:** That's a great question. Whenever we left, for me I had been raised in that church. So it is a very difficult process of almost unlearning all the fundamental things that I learned from my childhood. You know, unlearning is so much harder than learning, I think.

But I kind of fell apart. It all happened during my senior year of high school when everything came out and we chose to leave. It was really tough. But I remember like dad was working on Melissa and David Helser. Do you listen to them?

**Annie:** Yes. Yeah.

**Franni:** He was working on their record *Beautiful Surrender*. Obviously, I have a lot of anger towards God in that season and I was very confused and didn't really want to walk with the Lord, because you think that that's what, you know, God did to you, not that it was just part of living in a broken world.

But I remember like, Melissa stopped me in the hallway at my home, my childhood home, and she just looked me in the eyes... And if you've ever met her, she can kind of just see into your soul all the time. And she said, like, "Hey, Franni, don't give up on God because He's not given up on you."

And I think I learned that God... and I felt like God shared this with me maybe a couple years later, saying, "I'm not the one who put you in that. I'm the one who rescued you from it."

**Annie:** Wow.

**Franni:** And I think God allows certain things to happen in our life. But I don't believe that in this instance God, you know, put us in that. I think that it was a result of the fallen world. But God is the one who's rescued us and healed us. And I think a lot of the songs that we first started writing were healing songs of learning how to reconnect with God. Because another type of music would just... it wouldn't have like... it wouldn't have been the... if music was going to be the healer, it wouldn't have been the healer at that season. We needed Jesus in music, you know? So...

[00:18:00] <music>

**Sponsor:** Hey friends! Just interrupting this show real quick to tell you about another one of our incredible partners, [ZocDoc](#). You're not picking a book for your next book club meeting or starting a new series on Netflix without reading some reviews first, right? You should be reading reviews, your guys. Well, your doctor is at least as important as books and binges. So you need ZocDoc. With ZocDoc, you can see real verified patient reviews to help find the right doctor in your network and in your neighborhood.

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And now back to our conversation with our friends We the Kingdom.

[00:21:32] <music>



**Annie:** I think that a lot of time. I'm like, people say times a healer. I'm like, time is not a reliable healer without Jesus involved.

**Scott:** Yeah, absolutely.

**Franni:** Right. So good.

**Martin:** That's really good.

**Annie:** Time will keep going but that's not reliable. So music is not a reliable healer, Franni, is what you're saying, without Jesus involved.

**Franni:** Exactly. Exactly.

**Andrew:** And community is such a huge part of that. Because I can honestly say if it wasn't for my community, I don't think I'd be following Jesus. Or at least not to the degree I am. And that's a good safety net to have. I feel like there's a balance because you don't want your faith just to be based on to other people.

But I think it is important to have that accountability or that to fall back on to like, "Man, I have this strong knit community. And if I leave Jesus, I leave this community." It's a binding thing. Like we were given community. It talks about that in the Bible. Strand of three chords cannot easily be broken. Like, there's something so strong.

I mean, honestly, for me, I think a big thing that kept me following Jesus is the community of this. And as we were writing songs and processing together, we were okay to share the pain and like we don't understand. We were all going through the same experience and it was so healing.

**Annie:** The Lord was like, "Andrew, I'm gonna tie you up in the middle of this so that I can keep you." Then Ed, when y'all start working on this second album, how's it different? Is it a healing album as well?

**Ed:** You know, in some ways, yes. I think, you know, the trick is... You know, like our song *Holy Water*, we're so grateful for that. It connected, it took off in ways that I don't think any of us sort of anticipated. It opened up a lot of doors.

But sometimes I think just human nature, when something pops like that, then when that sort of goes down a little bit, you think, "Oh, oh, we got to create some more of that, you know, and then it becomes this expectation of, "Oh, well, they're

this band or that band." So I think a lot of this record for us was just trying to shed the fear and the pressure of the "what if."

**Annie:** Wow.

**Ed:** What if we don't get it like we did the first time? What if it's not received like that? What if bla blah blah blah? And I've heard it said before that, you know, what if can be the language of the enemy a lot of times, just all those sorts of questions.

I think at the end of it we were all just like, "You know what? We just want to write stuff that's pure to us, that's authentic." And so in some ways, I think, stylistically there's some similarities. But we're exploring some new territory too, you know?

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Ed:** It's very important to us to... I mean, we all love the church at large, we love Jesus, but it's also we love the world, you know?

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Ed:** We love the world. I mean, that's why Christ came, you know, for all the hurting people. So it's important to us we sort of look into the future in our trajectory, like how can we be open to what God wants to say through us to minister to a lot of people and where they are? So we want to be raw, we want to be real, we want to talk about hard things.

I love how honest David gets with God in the Psalms. I think as a culture we're getting there more, which excites me, just being raw and real. Because when I grew up in church, I mean, you did not show your colors like, as not welcomed.

**Annie:** I didn't know anybody going to therapy in the 90s.

**Ed:** No, no, no.

**Annie:** But now I think everybody does. At least here you can throw a rock and hit somebody who's in counseling.

**Ed:** Man, I was diagnosed with panic attack, all that stuff, mad anxiety, had to get on meds for years, back in the early 90s. And at that time, nobody talked about that. I mean, I thought it was a freak because nobody was talking about mental illness. They weren't talking about struggles like that. And I felt literally like an alien. Like, what is wrong with me? So I'm excited to see that people are in fact dealing with, "Oh, wow. There are a lot of people that, you know, struggle with things." Anyway,

we enjoy going... Maybe "enjoy" is not the right word. But we... I don't know what the word is.

**Franni:** Feel called.

**Ed:** What's that?

**Franni:** We feel called.

**Ed:** Yeah, we feel called—that's a perfect word—to go down into the depths of the soul or in these places where you think nobody would want to go and allow God to shine light on that and heal it. I guess it is about healing.

**Martin:** Speak different languages. Like I think Jesus, he spoke to His disciples very clearly. But then he spoke in parables that confused the ones closest to him. But somehow the people of the world understood it, you know. I think it's important to not just speak one language, how we so often can in the church, you know. Just that button-up, you know, everything's perfect Sunday language.

And not that that's wrong if you're in that season, you know, where if you say, "Hey, I'm blessed," and you're actually blessed. Say you're blessed. So someone might need to hear that, you know. But I think a lot of times, we can just say, "I'm highly favored, blessed child of the King," and on the inside we're wanting to say, "I'm in a bad place. I'm struggling with bad thoughts towards myself," you know, but we don't have the language for that.

And so we talk a lot about that in songs. Like writing songs and music that appeals to both people in the church, but also people that don't know how to... they don't know that world. So when you try to force scripture down their throat or in their mind, they're like, "What are you talking...? I haven't gotten there yet." You know what I mean? So you have to kind of approach it from a different angle.

**Annie:** So the pushback we get in our art, I wonder if you all experienced this, but I have experienced this is when you try to speak both languages, people call you a sellout.

**Martin:** Yeah.

**Annie:** Right?

**Franni:** Yeah.

**Annie:** Or that you're compromising your faith?

**Martin:** Or you're crossing over.

**Annie:** Crossing over.

**Martin:** Leaving the church.

**Annie:** Right. Right. Right. So what's y'all's thought on that? How do we live in a way where speaking both languages is actually what we're called to do, not stepping away from faith?

**Franni:** I think you literally just have to look at how Jesus did it. And I think that answers the question. You know, like when you read the parables, you see He didn't put some wall up between the sacred and the secular. He tore the veil so that we could all come into His presence.

And I think the people sometimes that he would get the most frustrated with were the people that said, "Sorry, you can't come in. Sorry, you're not good enough. Sorry, you're not pretty enough. Sorry, you're not clean enough. Sorry, you're not holy enough. Sorry..." I mean, that's just not how he lived at all. So when I read the gospels, that's what I see, that He wants all people to come to know Him.

**Martin:** He was rejected by religion. Like the Pharisees before the church, you know, before Pentecost, or whatever. That was the idea of church or religion, or the law, you know, what we would know as church today. And they totally spit them out. Which is kind of cool that you're living your life in a way where you're offensive and you're not trying to be but people of legalism and religion are like, "Hey, you're flipping tables and living your life upside down. We don't want you." You're probably doing something right. Just interesting.

**Scott:** I think selling out creatively, like if you try too hard to speak two different languages, like one language for the church, one language for the main-

**Annie:** Like two separate albums. Or A and B.

**Franni:** Right.

**Scott:** I think that's when people see it the most... That's when it's the most counterfeit is when you're trying so hard to create art that you think is going to be received by a certain group of people. I think the way to really do it, that we're trying to do it is speak our language and hope that because of who God is in us—and He's the ultimate creator, and we want to be just like conduits of His creativity—hopefully, whatever language is the language of our hearts can connect with someone's story whether they believe in Jesus right now or not.

**Franni:** Right.

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Scott:** So it's what we're trying to do.

**Franni:** That is a good point. I think people, no matter who you are, are drawn to authenticity or resolve. Like I think resolve is when I'm resolved in what I believe and what I say. We're not pushing it on you. But when I'm strong and what I am called to and who I believe Jesus is and I'm not afraid to cover that up, I think people are drawn to that more than just warm, fuzzy feelings, you know?

So "resolve" has been a very powerful word for me as we've been thinking about how to speak about these songs. Like, "Do you not say this? Do you not say this?" It's like, just say what you would say. Don't try to be too Christianese just sort of to reach the churchy people. If that's not how you speak, don't try to speak like that. And then don't try to be too cool. That's just not gonna work either.

**Martin:** That's good. That's brilliant.

**Scott:** One of the songs on our record that I think is probably the most mainstream, accessible, however you want to phrase that, is one of the only songs that I can think of that says the word Jesus clearly.

**Annie:** Wow.

**Scott:** And it's I think in *MINE* "felt like Jesus took my hand". It's like a lot of our songs are obviously worship songs and obviously about God. And this particular song it's a little more cryptic or whatever language from Songs of Solomon. But you know, man, some of the biggest songs have ever-

**Andrew:** You gotta clarify the Songs of Solomon part. You're like, It's a little bit more from Songs of Solomon.

**Scott:** It's centered around the scripture that says, "I am my beloved's, and my beloved is mine." So I think, you know, man, there's no right way to do all that. God does what He wants to do with greatness.

**Ed:** I think a lot about this, like... You know, you think about Matthew McConaughey or Bieber, when people like this that are in the world and not recognized necessarily as Christian artists or Christian actor, when they cuss or do something a little edgy, I almost get this sense that Christians are like, "Oh, that's kind of cool that he's in

the world, but not of it but he's sort of like... And ain't that cool that...?" I mean, he almost gets a license to cuss.

**Martin:** You mean, when those people are professing faith?

**Ed:** Yeah, when they're professing faith you get the idea, but they'll still kind of got this edgy thing. They don't have this requirement over them to sort of meet this religious quota of they can't mess up. Whereas if I cussed right now-

**Annie:** Different.

**Ed:** ...people would be like, "What?"

**Annie:** I would cut it because I wouldn't want them to go after you.

**Ed:** Yeah, you'd cut it. Yeah, exactly. Because we feel this pressure that we have to measure up to this societal norm. Who are we to get to judge, you know, who says what or whatever. I mean, I definitely don't ever want to have a vulgar mouth or let the things that I say not be in line with the Spirit of God but-

**Martin:** Or if it's empty, you know, you're just saying it or whatever.

**Ed:** This is bigger than cussing. It's not even about that. It's this idea that, you know, Bieber or whatever can go out and get slammed up drunk or sing about his wife being yummy and we know that he's a Christian and it's like, Oh, he professes faith." It's like where's that tension? But do we, as Christian, like quote, "Christian artists" have the luxury, if you will, or the freedom to go out and maybe talk about, sing about some of the things that might push that envelope? I really wrestle with that.

**Annie:** I know.

**Ed:** And there's so much a part of me that because I do not want to do it for the sake of shock value. I think that's the wrong spirit, personally. I think if it's about being free, and being openly who we are, you know, as long as it doesn't contradict the Word of God. And that's where the line gets sticky.

You know, ultimately, we really do love and reverence Christ, and we don't ever want to cause people to be in... we don't want to be a stumbling block for people that causes them to really question their own faith or whatever. But with that said, we want to go there and talk about some of the edgier things of life that sometimes I think Christians are afraid of because they're scared of what the reaction might be.

- Annie:** And isn't that what leads to some of our peers having secret lives?
- Franni:** Yeah, absolutely.
- Scott:** Oh, my gosh yes.
- Annie:** Is the outward pressure to "I can't do this, I can't do that publicly." They're allowed to do that so secretly I'm going to have this other life because then I have a release.
- Franni:** Which is so much worse for your heart.
- Annie:** Oh, gosh. No kidding.
- Franni:** I think walking with Jesus is so much less about managing behavior and so much more about heart change.
- Martin:** That's good.
- Franni:** I think about that like He takes away our heart of stone, you know, gives us a soft heart and gives us a desire to walk in His will. And I think even what's interesting is, even things that look better are still managing behaviors sometimes. Like not cussing for the sake of not cussing. Because it's like, Is your heart really...? or are you... He's trying to like whatever? It's just interesting to see that play out. So I totally agree with what you're saying, Dad, when you watch other people, it's just-
- Ed:** I would even venture to say—somebody just alluded to it—that I think that a lot of that behind-closed-doors addiction stuff, you know, that is rampant in the church and in the pulpit and all around with leadership and everybody across the board, is due to the fact that the lack of freedom to talk about it.
- Annie:** Yes.
- Franni:** Mm, it's good.
- Ed:** It's like, what's gonna happen-
- Martin:** There's like consequence of vulnerability that's unfair.
- Ed:** Yea, there is. and there's still certain things. We have these societies that well, "Okay, if you struggle with alcoholism, you're an alcoholic. If you're on a treatment, okay, maybe that's sort of noble and commendable. Like, "Oh, man, he's really trying to get a hold of his life. Went to 28-day deal, and blah, blah, blah." But

there are other things it might feel darker. It's like, "Whoa, we don't feel safe to talk about that stuff."

And I just think at the foot of the cross, Jesus is not saying, "Oh, I'm sorry, that sin is not welcome here." It's like, Hello, the church I think needs to really think a lot more about what do we want to represent the people who are broken, that are coming in and needing all manner of help. I want to feel safe in this place and I don't.

**Annie:** And then we also have gossip and gluttony and all these other ones that we let pastors do left and right. You know, like you can eat however you want to eat, and you can treat food however you want to treat food, and we're not going to take you out for any of that. But alcohol, now alcohol is different.

**Franni:** It's so true.

**Annie:** Is it? I don't know. I mean, that's just us talking. I don't know. Maybe it is.

**Franni:** I think it's the way that I treat... I personally would rather have sugar over alcohol and I will let myself have at it with sugar.

**Annie:** Listen, no one's getting asked for Oreos.

**Franni:** It's the same thing.

**Annie:** Nobody is getting asked for Oreos. But if I'm eating Oreos because I'm sad or if I'm drinking a beer because I'm sad-

**Franni:** Same thing.

**Annie:** ...it's the same behavior. I'm just switching addiction.

**Franni:** Exactly.

**Annie:** And no one's gonna question me on social media if they see me eating a dessert in public.

**Franni:** But it's literally the same thing.

**Martin:** You're addressing the substance versus the root.

**Annie:** Yeah, that's it. That's it. And so I think so many of our friends, me too, just have this being a public faith person means I need to keep something secret so I feel like



a human. And we need to let public faith people be humans. Right? Am I saying what you're saying?

**Martin:** Oh, yeah.

**Franni:** It is interesting too, thinking though about, and I don't know if this scripture totally applies to it, but not casting your pearls before swine. I think I interpret that when we're talking about stuff like this as that tender part of your heart that's not yet a scar but it's still a wound, that if you expose it too early to people, it will become your bigger wound. Or people will speak into it and it won't heal correctly.

So I think that's the importance of healing, counseling, therapy, doing the work so that you can stand there and say, "Yeah, look at what God has done." Because it is hard when you're really walking through something. You can't just be up by the up on the pulpit, you know, whatever. If you're really going through it, you have to let your wounds heal to a certain degree before you start talking about it. I think that's why you have to have your close people like Jesus did and why you have to do the work.

[00:38:16] <music>

**Sponsor:** What are your fall obsessions? Okay, a poll at our office yielded leaf-carpeted hikes—That's adorable—PSLs: pumpkin spice lattes, heated football rivalries, which you guys know as a Georgia Bulldog we're about to beat Tennessee this weekend. That is what I am hoping, I'm just gonna say it here on the pod.

Listen, the other obsession you need is your new [Rothy's](#). Getting your wardrobe fall-ready is easy with Rothy's. And they have so many colors and styles that you can wear from season to season without going out of style.

I know you've heard The Point and The Flat from Rothy's because I've told you about them before and because they are Rothy's most popular styles. But they also make insanely comfortable sneakers, loafers, ankle boots, and more. All that variety means they've got you covered. Great for fall and winter so you never have to worry about getting brand new shoes for each season.

The best part is everything Rothy's makes is better for the planet. Y'all know this but it's maybe my favorite thing about them. They've repurposed millions of single use plastic bottles into their signature threads that go into every single one of their products.

I've had my Rothys's for years now and I wear them all the time. And yes, they still look like new, feel ridiculously comfortable, and smell like they're fresh out of the box because I wash them in the washing machine, you guys.

**Martin:** So get stylish shoes, versatile and durable enough to wear all the time with Rothys's. You get \$20 off your first purchase at [rothys.com/soundsfun](https://rothys.com/soundsfun). That's [rothys.com/soundsfun](https://rothys.com/soundsfun).

**Sponsor:** And I gotta tell you about another one of our great sponsors, Operation Christmas Child. It is a project of the Christian international relief organization, [Samaritan's Purse](https://samaritanspurse.org). Their mission is to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world and to share the good news of Jesus Christ. It's the biggest Christmas project of its kind.

Operation Christmas Child has collected and delivered more than 198 million gift-filled shoeboxes to children in over 170 countries and territories since 1993. The gifts are delivered through local churches which you know I love, and every shoebox gift is an opportunity to share with the local children how much Jesus loves them.

This year Operation Christmas Child is hoping to reach an additional 11 million kids, which I love. You're invited to join Operation Christmas Child this season by packing shoebox gifts or building shoebox gifts online. Their site makes it so easy to fill a box virtually. Everybody can get in on this: individuals, families, churches, students, friend groups.

And when you do you're becoming a tangible part of the story of these kids' lives as you show them love and help introduce them to the Gospel. And it's a great way to teach the MiniBFFs in our lives about gratitude and generosity.

National Collection Week is coming up. It's November 14 through 21 and you can drop off your shoe boxes at one of the nearly 5,000 drop-off locations. Won't it be so fun to be part of this milestone year to celebrate their 200 millionth gift-filled shoebox? Y'all that's amazing. Visit [samaritanspurse.org/occ](https://samaritanspurse.org/occ) to learn how to pack a shoebox or build one online. Again, that's [samaritanspurse.org/occ](https://samaritanspurse.org/occ).

And now back to finish up our conversation with We the Kingdom.

[00:41:20] <music>

**Annie:** I think you'll do this beautifully in your music, but it's kind of the difference between having a secret life and having your private life. Right?

**Scott:** Oh, that's good.

**Annie:** What we experienced through your music is like your public life tells us that your private life is healthy, but that you don't have secret lives.

**Franni:** That's really so good.

**Scott:** That's so good. I love that.

**Franni:** Yeah, that's so encouraging. That's good.

**Scott:** Because not everybody deserves to be invited-

**Annie:** Yeah, of course.

**Scott:** ...into some of those sacred, private places. You know, just the people that were close with.

**Annie:** But secret lives, that's what's killing us.

**Scott:** That's dangerous.

**Annie:** That's the stuff that kills us. Whether you're on a stage or whether you're teaching a class or whether you're a nurse at a hospital, secret life is what is gonna get us. And if you're not careful with that stuff-

**Franni:** Absolutely.

**Andrew:** And that's been something that I've been really strongly passionate about with friends of mine and community of mine is like, since the church experience that we've been through, is hey, do you have people that you are 100% real with that you can totally be 100% yourself with and they love you and they walk the journey with you? Man, for me, I've found a couple guys. And that's so, so vital in my walk.

**Martin:** And they're a real back.

**Andrew:** And they're a real back, yeah.

**Martin:** Some people will just draw that out of you sometimes as like their own self... I don't know. Like trying to get something out of... You know what I mean? Like ask the right questions to make you get vulnerable. And they appear vulnerable. You know what I mean? But in reality, it's like they're just feeding themselves with

some kind of sick obsession or whatever it is. But to have people that truly not only can you be real to them, but they can reciprocate that.

**Franni:** I think a lot about building friendships. Because of what we walked through I've had a really difficult time making friendships until recently God has really blessed me with some amazing people in my life. But for a while, it was really difficult for me to make friends. And I think about friendships, I think I would come into it too vulnerable because I was desperate for connection. So I would just come in to be like, "Yeah, here I am." And I would just use one of-

**Annie:** "Here's everything."

**Franni:** "Do you see everything?" That way you can choose whether or not you like me if you know everything. And it would just kill it. It would just kill the friendships every single time.

**Scott:** Too much upfront.

**Franni:** It's like, "What is wrong with me? I can't keep a friend." But I think about friendships, building friendships as like a setlist. Like if you go in with a ballad as your first song, it's just not gonna connect, you know?

**Annie:** That is interesting way.

**Franni:** So you have to put first three, four songs and just keep it light. Keep it light. What's your favorite color?

**Annie:** Build your relationship like setlist.

**Scott:** That is unbelievable.

**Ed:** That's really good.

**Annie:** That is so good.

**Andrew:** That's awesome.

**Franni:** You can start getting to the point where you're like, "Hey, I want to share this with you."

**Martin:** Everyone knows how to build a setlist.

**Annie:** Well, now I do. I hadn't thought about it until I'm like, "You're exactly right."

**Scott:** The amount of time that goes into setlist is outrageous.

**Annie:** Is it?

**Scott:** Oh, my gosh.

**Andrew:** We played the first show of this new tour a bit ago and we and we sat on the bus-

**Martin:** Two nights ago.

**Andrew:** ...for hours.

**Scott:** Dissecting it-

**Andrew:** Dissecting it-

**Scott:** Because-

**Andrew:** ...moving songs was wrong.

**Scott:** ...it was wrong.

**Annie:** It's the same thing.

**Franni:** It's the same thing. Especially for girls, we go like, "What did I do? What did I say?"

**Annie:** So you came up on stage and y'all knew the setlist wasn't the best one?

**Scott:** Annie, I stood up on that stage for 90 minutes feeling like I was stark naked like the day I was born.

**Annie:** No.

**Andrew:** It was painful.

**Annie:** No. This is wild. This is the same thing.

**Franni:** Progression. This is so important.

**Martin:** One of us was a little dramatic in our reactions afterwards.

**Andrew:** That'd be me.

**Annie:** I was like, Scott, because he said he was naked on stage.

**Andrew:** But you can't tell-

**Annie:** You came on the bus and you were like, "That ain't it, y'all."

**Andrew:** You can't tell who the two most dramatic people in this band are.

**Ed:** Andrew and Martin.

**Andrew:** No.

**Martin:** : We're all dramatic. We're all dramatic. Don't act like you're not.

**Scott:** We had this moment... We did this... The drama queens are trying to pull everyone in.

**Andrew:** Yeah, exactly.

**Scott:** We had this moment out in the crowd. It was like this kind of beautiful moment where we were singing the song over people. We got toward the end of that and I knew what the next song was and I started panicking because I knew standing out in that concrete the next 10 minutes are going to be brutal. And sure enough, we got back up and sang this next song and it was the wrong song to sing at the wrong time.

**Andrew:** And we had already spent a lot of time trying to get the setlist right, but you never know until you play it live. You never know until you, you know.

**Martin:** You were talking about preparation before we even started this. I mean, it's so funny you can prepare your heart out but sometimes you just don't know till you get there-

**Annie:** You don't know, yeah.

**Martin:** ...how something is going to like an act of flow. The same with friendships.

**Andrew:** It's like making friendships.

**Scott:** Yeah.

**Franni:** Yeah.

**Annie:** Wow. So y'all worked on it afterwards, you were like, "This song..." There's songs that you're like, "We're never playing that?"

**Martin:** Yeah. Unfortunately, yeah. Couple of them got-

**Annie:** Oh, wow. You're like, "That one is retired. They can hear it from the album."

**Ed:** After we hang today, we're gonna go-

**Annie:** And do it?

**Ed:** ..and re-dissect it and make sure we're good.

**Annie:** Wow. Are y'all about to get back out? Do you have another run?

**Franni:** Tomorrow we go to Texas.

**Annie:** Okay. Wow.

**Franni:** It's interesting when you're gonna have a batch of like good songs. But if you're not in the right order, it just... it's interesting. It won't connect.

**Annie:** That is gonna mess with every person who's building friendships or relationships right now of like, "Where are we on the setlist?" Too early.

[crosstalk 00:46:48]

**Franni:** That's so true. It takes the pressure off that.

**Annie:** That's right.

**Franni:** That's so right. It takes the pressure off of friendships. I just feel like in my life the friendships that I trust the most are not the ones that are the most vulnerable on the first time you hang out. Especially like, even with dating my husband, like you can't be too much on the first date. You have to like, you know, take it step by step.

But one of my dearest friendship was taken... It was really three years before we had any sort of like... And the trust was built. And it's been such a healthy, good friendship because trust is built first. And that has to be the foundation.

**Scott:** Thanks. Thanks.

**Franni:** No. It was probably last year we were hanging out and we're like "We've never talked really." And it was really cool to get to like... I just felt safe.

**Annie:** I think people need to hear that. Because I imagine there are people who've lost friends or have gone through seasons like y'all with the church and think because I haven't built a new friendship yet that's work I'm not going to be able to. And you're saying "your presence is the present." Just let's get around each other, make cinnamon rolls and go to coffee and do normal things. Don't force. Don't force about it.

**Franni:** That's a thing with girls. We just talk, which is dangerous.

**Martin:** Don't force about it. I love that.

**Franni:** We need to do something to connect.

**Annie:** Yes. Yeah.

**Franni:** Girls need to go play Putt Potter or something. Stop talking.

**Annie:** Yes, that's 100%.

**Andrew:** No one tells you like when you're young, and you're a kid, it's so easy to make friends, it seems, you know. It's like you just connect with people. And as you get older, life gets more and more isolating harder and harder. You're never really prepared for that.

I mean, I've experienced that when I first moved to Nashville. Like, "Oh, man, this is a whole new different community of people." It took quite a while. And it's really discouraging. For sure there's a lot of people out there who struggle with that, and it's not abnormal. That takes a lot of intention.

**Franni:** Friendship is hard, especially when you talk about how vital it is to the faith. Hey, it's so important to have it but sometimes it's so hard to build. Especially like for me, it was really hard.

**Ed:** I think we also look at friendship sometimes like we might look at church. Like we approach it as a consumer. We're looking for the person who we can relate to, who's the most like us. Me and my best friends could not be more polar opposites.

**Martin:** Same.



- Ed:** I mean, our lives look nothing alike but they're the people who I trust pretty implicitly because they can speak into my life because they're not immersed in how I do life.
- Martin:** And if they were in your same world, you'd never get a break from your world. We're always talking about-
- Franni:** That's so true.
- Martin:** ...work or setlists.
- Annie:** Yeah, you're always building setlists if you're only bros with other musicians. That's exactly right.
- Franni:** That's so true.
- Scott:** You sing about it to each other all day long.
- Annie:** That's right. Too early. About too early. Yeah, that's wild. I would imagine because you're all together on the road all the time, having social groups at home that are not musicians or not doing the same thing is a really healthy thing.
- Ed:** Oh, it's vital.
- Franni:** And having friends outside of family is important.
- Annie:** Particularly for y'all probably because you live all of life together.
- Franni:** Right.
- Scott:** It's interesting how I think even our friendships-
- Martin:** The way you said that was-
- Annie:** I'm like, "Well, y'all are just always together.
- Ed:** Our friendships with one another even though we're family, I mean, our friendships have changed as a result of living on the road together because I do think that we have to have-
- Annie:** Because you're messy.
- Ed:** Yeah. No, I'm not messy.

**Franni:** He said yes.

**Annie:** Thank you.

**Ed:** I live with messy people. But then we've had to have boundaries, you know, and to be like, I think that if I were to... it would be very easy for us to be super insular and be little islands with one another and never have people outside of our lives. So we've had to really figure that out. I think we're still figuring that out. It's hard.

**Franni:** Kind of like having friends, like you're talking about initially at the beginning of this, with different friends from different places. It's important. I mean, I think there's a Proverb about that. And you, I mean, listening to all the people that you have on this podcast, it's so beautiful each person comes from a different place, a different denomination, a different story, a different country or place in America. It's really cool. I think that's so healthy.

**Annie:** I hope what people have heard today is that y'all really live up to the album title, to your band title, to We the Kingdom, of like, this is what kingdom life looks like, is we can sit around... we'd have done this... If we didn't have the time we'd have done this without microphones and the conversation would have been very similar.

**Franni:** Yes.

**Ed:** We do it all the time.

**Annie:** This is being the kingdom for each other and bringing the kingdom of going like, How do we build a setlist of relationships? And how do we recover from this pain that is done but will mark us forever? Right? Like you'll be marked forever by that story. But it's a scar, like your barbed wire situation.

**Martin:** I see what you did there.

**Franni:** That's good.

**Scott:** That was full circle.

**Annie:** Thank you.

**Martin:** That's brilliant.

**Annie:** What did we not talk about that y'all wanna make sure we say? I mean, I'm going to ask you what sounds fun to you. But is there anything we didn't say? Are y'all going on tour? 2023, do we know what the tour plan is?

**Franni:** Yeah.

**Martin:** By the time this comes out, that'll be... Are we allowed to say it?

**Franni:** Yeah.

**Ed:** Yeah. We're doing Winter Jam.

**Annie:** Yes, I heard Winter Jam is back and better than ever. I'm hearing a lot of skuttle about Winter Jam.

**Scott:** We're pretty stoked about it. We're getting a headliner this year, which was like overwhelming

**Annie:** Yeah, Winter Jam is back. Y'all are headlining?

**Martin:** Yeah, we are so excited.

**Annie:** That's so rad.

**Franni:** We're really excited.

**Andrew:** We can't believe it's... We've worked real hard to get this show together and I'm so excited.

**Annie:** Yeah, the people are gonna be really paying attention to your setlists.

**Martin:** We're gonna start a ballad.

**Scott:** We are coming out swinging with power ballad.

**Annie:** Yeah, power ballads all the way through, start and finish.

**Franni:** That is hilarious.

**Annie:** That is amazing. I'm so glad y'all get to do that. Winter Jam is such a gift to so many communities because whole entire churches, youth groups, friend groups, Bible studies can come. I mean, it is such a gift.

**Scott:** And then the rest of '23, we've got some fun stuff we're kicking around.

**Annie:** Good.

**Scott:** We're not really sure what it's gonna look like but we're gonna try to get creative about it.

**Annie:** Okay, well, you know y'all-

**Martin:** We're taking time off in April.

**Annie:** Good.

**Martin:** Like all of April after Winter Jam.

**Andrew:** Hallelujah.

**Martin:** The show will be awesome.

**Annie:** Yes. Everyone comes home from Winter Jam... This is my observation. Everyone comes home from Winter Jam, and either rest well or blows up their life a little bit. That seems to be the two choices. I've seen a little bit of both and I've lived with people on Winter Jam. And so I love that you're pre-choosing... This is such a good example for our friends listening that y'all are choosing right now months before you go out, "Here's when we're going to rest."

**Martin:** You're anticipating.

**Annie:** That's right.

**Martin:** So you're not catching up.

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

**Martin:** Just how you build in a Sabbath for your-

**Annie:** How you build in a Sabbath. Yeah, you got.

**Martin:** I love that.

**Annie:** Y'all are modeling that so beautifully. Okay, good. Winter Jam. Best setlist. You're gonna have the best setlist.

**Andrew:** I know.

**Annie:** Every single That Sounds Fun friend is gonna be like writing down first song.

**Andrew:** Public expectations. We're already working on that.

**Annie:** That's so good. As always, I'm really thankful y'all made time to do this. This is a gift to me.

**Andrew:** Thank you. Thank you so much.

**Martin:** When are we gonna go on tour?

**Annie:** Oh, man, that's what we should do.

**Martin:** That would be so awesome.

**Annie:** Maybe in '23?

**Ed:** We were talking the other day how I think that tours need to not just be about one thing. I don't like it is just me-

**Annie:** Let's go.

**Martin:** That would be insane.

**Ed:** Like imagine an amazing variety of all kinds of creative input-

**Scott:** I think it'd be amazing.

**Ed:** Like a painter... You have a painter that, you know... A podcast.

**Scott:** Absolutely. You have guests come up. You know what I mean?

**Annie:** Yes.

**Scott:** Like have Barns or whoever. Just different... like shake it up.

**Martin:** No, yeah, you do the-

**Annie:** We the Kingdom and AFD Variety shows. Is that what people should get used to?

**Ed:** Yes. Amen.

**Annie:** I mean, I'm gonna send a follow-up email. This is what I'm telling y'all. I'm liking this idea. This isn't the end of it.

**Ed:** I'm serious. It would be so rad.

**Annie:** We would have so much fun.

**Scott:** Oh, it would be incredible.

**Ed:** Salmon roll.

**Annie:** Yeah, my best salmon roll would be out there. We'd be going. Okay, Ed and Andrew, I'm gonna let y'all go last since y'all haven't done this before. I'm gonna make the veterans go first.

**Andrew:** Okay.

**Annie:** So the question is because the show is called That Sounds Fun, we always end with you telling me what sounds fun to you. Like what do you do for fun? So, Martin, I'm starting with you.

**Martin:** Is it like what do you do for fun or like anything that sounds fun to you?

**Annie:** Wherever your heart leads. Anything that sounds fun to you. No budget, no worries. Whatever you would love to... Whatever sounds fun to you.

**Martin:** Do y'all have one?

**Scott:** I do. I have one that came to my mind right now.

**Martin:** Go!

**Annie:** You lead, Scott.

**Scott:** I would like to climb to the top of the Eiffel Tower, kiss my wife on the lips and bungee jump off.

**Andrew:** Oh, no, no. No, Scott.

**Martin:** That sounds like the most Scott-

**Annie:** Andrew, we cannot judge fun. We cannot judge fun. If it's fun to him, it's fun.

**Franni:** Right, it's true.

**Andrew:** Okay, there's no judging. That's a terrible idea.

**Annie:** It's a terrible idea. It's a terrible idea.

**Scott:** I would have a baguette with Nutella at the top.

**Annie:** At the top?

**Scott:** Yeah.

**Annie:** Pre-kiss or post-kiss do you get a Nutella and baguette?

**Martin:** Oh, that's good.

**Scott:** Pre-kiss.

**Annie:** Probably before.

**Scott:** Pre-kiss.

**Annie:** Yeah, I got it.

**Martin:** Nutella kiss.

**Annie:** And then bungee jump off.

**Scott:** Bungee jump off.

**Annie:** I think there's like some shape of the Eiffel Tower problems to jumping off the top of it.

**Andrew:** Yeah, that is true.

**Annie:** But you know what? You'll love it. I think what's fun to you is fun to you.

**Scott:** It would be an inverted Eiffel Tower.

**Martin:** There you go. Eiffel Tower problems.

**Annie:** Right, because it goes out. My fear is if you jump straight down-

**Ed:** You're civil engineer also?

**Annie:** Yeah, also on the side I design buildings. Okay, Franni, what sounds fun to you?

**Franni:** Mine is much less imaginative. But I have a little puppy.

**Annie:** You have a puppy.

**Franni:** Cowboy. And he's so cute.

**Martin:** He's not so little anymore.

**Annie:** I feel like you were getting him right when you were here last time. Is that true?

**Franni:** Yes, I was.

**Ed:** He's the boss.

**Franni:** He's almost a year old. So we're gonna have a little birthday for him and I'm just excited about that.

**Annie:** Cowboy.

**Franni:** That's fun.

**Annie:** Has it been like having a kid?

**Franni:** No.

**Annie:** One of our people on staff just got a puppy and she's like, "I am not sleeping. I can't leave her for more than 10 minutes."

**Franni:** He's easy.

**Annie:** Okay, great.

**Franni:** We just got really lucky. He's a really sweet boy. So he's just chill.

**Ed:** We have his sister and she's-

**Franni:** She's the crazy one.



**Ed:** ...10 times as high maintenance.

**Annie:** But also both of y'all get to get on a bus and leave.

**Franni:** Right. My husband-

**Annie:** So you're like, "She's great. Cowboy is great." And your husband is like, "Is he though? Is he though?"

**Scott:** I just got two puppies. And it's like ten days.

**Annie:** What?

**Scott:** Yeah.

**Annie:** Wow, that's-

**Scott:** It was a mistake.

**Annie:** Looking back-

**Scott:** I love them both. Should have gotten one.

**Martin:** Five daughters, two puppies.

**Annie:** That's it. I know. So many children too. Are they helping with it?

**Scott:** My kids have actually stepped up. They're amazing with the dogs. Because we said I'll put them on eBay.

**Annie:** Yeah, yeah, yeah. "They'll be gone if you're not helping."

**Scott:** In a second. Yeah.

**Annie:** Martin, are you ready? What sounds fun to you?

**Martin:** I'm ready. It's far right now so we'll just say, but Christmas...

**Annie:** You're right.

**Martin:** I'm just ready for Christmas.

**Annie:** It's the best.

**Martin:** Yeah, I had hot chocolates last night and put socks and a beanie on.

**Annie:** Wow. It did get cool last night.

**Martin:** It did.

**Annie:** So I respect that.

**Scott:** Martin is a sugar junkie.

**Martin:** I am.

**Annie:** I know. It sounds like it-

**Franni:** This is not alcohol.

**Annie:** It doesn't mess up doing his job! So good on you. We support it. Okay, Ed, what sounds fun to you?

**Ed:** The first thought that came to mind was to get my honey, put her on the back of my motorcycle and just go for a ride and get lost. In the fall, it is... I've been doing a lot of that and it is so awesome.

**Annie:** I mean Natchez Trace, do y'all go that way?

**Ed:** We were on a motorcycle two days ago, rode across the bridge.

**Annie:** Beautiful.

**Ed:** Which is cool they built... You know, because there have been quite a number of suicides off that bridge and thankfully finally they built a cage around it.

**Annie:** Really?

**Ed:** Yeah.

**Annie:** I haven't seen that yet.

**Ed:** We, it's not a cage. It's just a tall wall that's, you know-

**Annie:** You can still see through it and take pictures.

**Ed:** Yeah, yeah.

**Franni:** That's good.

**Annie:** But you can't get over.

**Ed:** Yeah.

**Annie:** Because even when you walk on that as a normal, not wanting to hurt yourself person-

**Ed:** You can still see where the original height was. And sort of like, what were they thinking?

**Annie:** Yeah. Yeah. I mean, it was like hip-high. I was like, "I can accidentally make a memory here just by being here and being stupid."

**Franni:** No, seriously. I was really young, I wouldn't watch the sunrise and I could sit on the edge of it. Well, there's like that bar that I put my-

**Ed:** Literally, Scott, please-

[crosstalk 00:58:48]

**Martin:** I know.

**Scott:** Oh, my gosh.

**Franni:** No, I was really young. Like high school. And I remember-

**Ed:** "I was really young. Like 24."

**Franni:** I remember some people who lived nearby reported me because they were worried about me, which is so sweet. Keep talking about community.

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

**Franni:** So sweet. But it was intense.

**Annie:** The Lord sustained your life.

**Franni:** He did.

**Annie:** That was-

**Andrew:** Speaking of heights, when I was a kid, we had like five acres of land, and next to us was like 10 or 20 acres of land and they had hot air balloons take off and land there. And I always thought it'd be so fun to be in a hot air balloon and just to get to like peruse around, just float around, look at the scenery, the sunset.

**Franni:** I love that.

**Andrew:** That would be... I still haven't gotten to do it but one day.

**Annie:** Feel like there needs to be like a We the Kingdom photo shoot in a hot air balloon.

**Andrew:** Oh, that's actually awesome.

**Franni:** That would be fun

**Martin:** Wow.

**Martin:** Great idea.

**Andrew:** I like that.

**Franni:** A hot air balloon can only be used for fun. It is not reliable-

**Annie:** Not reliable-

**Franni:** But that's good. It's only fun if you need that.

**Ed:** Annie, that is genius

**Scott:** It is genius.

**Annie:** Y'all do it.

**Martin:** Genius.

**Annie:** It's yours. Do it. I will-

**Scott:** Or maybe if we can go on tour together, it will be the tour promo.

**Martin:** Then we'll do the tour promo.

**Annie:** Oh, my gosh. Our tour promo?

**Scott:** And I'll bungee jump out of it.

**Annie:** And you're gonna bungee jump out of those because we can control what goes down.

**Andrew:** Yeah, you won't get the side of the tower.

**Annie:** Friends, thanks for being here.

**Franni:** Thank you so much.

**Andrew:** I'm thankful for y'all. You're the best. This is really fun.

**Martin:** Thank you.

**Scott:** Thanks for having us.

**[01:00:11] <music>**

**Outro:** Oh, you guys, aren't they amazing? Listen, that conversation that Franni and I had and everybody jumped in about how to build a setlist is how to build relationships, oh my gosh, that has spoken to me. I love these people. I love them so much.

If you're following them on Instagram, you know they're out on tour, you want to be there. Every time I see them post I wish I was at that show. So if they aren't coming anywhere close to you, make sure you go to one of their concerts.

And be sure to stream their new album, We The Kingdom, follow them on social media so you can see all the shows and have a lot of FOMO like I do and tell them thanks for being on the show with us.

If you need anything else from me, you know embarrassingly easy to find. Annie F. Downs on Instagram, Twitter, Facebook. All the places you may need me, that is how you can find me.

And I think that's it for me today, friends. 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 thinking about that Georgia-Tennessee game this weekend, you guys. Let's go Dawgs. Go Dawgs sic em. I am Georgia Bulldog, start to finish, and I'm excited about football, particularly this weekend. We'll see how it goes.

Y'all have a great weekend. Go Dawgs! And we'll see you back here on Monday talking election and voting prep with Pastor Andy Stanley. I know. I know. You're gonna love it. We'll see you guys then.