

[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, ah... one of my very favorite guests is back. We got such a great show in store.

And y'all, fun news, this pot has got her own Instagram account. Yes, it has finally happened. Make sure you're following @thatsoundsfunpodcast on Instagram, where you'll get to see posts about the show just like you do on AFD. But more of them, more clips, more quotes, more questions for you to talk with me about. Fun, right? Well, when you love an episode, you can also share it with your friends straight from there, and give them a taste of all the fun we get to have together. Again, it's @thatsoundsfunpodcast on Instagram.

Before we dive into today's conversation, I want to tell you about one of our incredible sponsors. This episode is sponsored by [BetterHelp](#). Sometimes learning something new about ourselves is fun, right? Like when I learned that I identify as an Enneagram seven and I felt this new freedom about the way I approach life.

Sometimes learning about ourselves is also not so fun, like when I have to preach about humility like I did yesterday at Cross Point, and experience a little extra dose of it while I'm researching and writing. Either way, it is always worth it to deepen our understanding of ourselves.

Therapy is a great avenue to do just that. My counselor has been hugely instrumental in helping me get to know myself better and really show up as the me I want to be.

BetterHelp will connect you with a licensed therapist who can help you on your journey of self-discovery, no matter where you're starting from. So if you're thinking of trying therapy, get BetterHelp a shot.

BetterHelp is entirely online. It's designed to be convenient and flexible and to fit in your schedule. You just fill out a brief questionnaire to get matched with a licensed therapist, we love a quiz. And you can switch therapists anytime for no additional charge so you're sure to be working with someone who is a good match for you.

Discover your potential with BetterHelp. Visit betterhelp.com/thatsoundsfun today to get 10% off your first month. That's betterhelp.com/thatsoundsfun.

Intro: Today on the show I get to talk with our good friend Addison Bevere. You may remember Addison from when he and his lovely wife Julianna joined us for Couples Month in February of 2020. He is a bestselling author, the co-founder of

sonsanddaughters.tv, as well as a COO of Messenger International, discipleship organization impacting millions of people around the globe. They do amazing work.

Y'all know we love to go in on prayer and his new book does just that. It's called *Words with God: Trading Boring, Empty Prayer for Real Connection*. It comes out tomorrow. Congrats, Addison. In it, he invites us to go into and through the tension of prayer towards the place where we hear from God. I am so excited for y'all to hear this one and read this book. I cannot wait to hear your thoughts. So here is my conversation with our friend Addison Bevere.

[00:02:56] <music>

Annie: Addison Bevier, welcome back to That Sounds Fun.

Addison: Thank you. So good to be back.

Annie: Three years?

Addison: Three years.

Annie: How is that real?

Addison: I don't know. A lot of life has happened.

Annie: I was about to say you live here now.

Addison: I do.

Annie: Y'all didn't when you were here in 2020.

Addison: No. We weren't even thinking about living here in 2020.

Annie: What? Y'all weren't even thinking about it?

Addison: No, no. That was 2021 when we decided to move here.

Annie: Dude-

Addison: Yeah.

Annie: That is crazy.

Addison: Isn't that wild?

Annie: Yeah. You've lived in two houses here.

Addison: Yeah. Yeah. I don't know what we're doing. It's wild.

Annie: That is unbelievable. I didn't realize it y'all weren't even thinking about it. Were your mom and dad out of here?

Addison: No.

Annie: No, they weren't here.

Addison: No one. No one was talking about moving to Nashville.

Annie: And now almost everybody's here.

Addison: The majority of us are here. Yeah.

Annie: Wow. Why?

Addison: We decided to move here in March 4th 2021, and we were here October 2021.

Annie: Oh, my gosh. What's the Lord doing? What's the why for the Bevere family moving here?

Addison: We're still figuring that out. We just knew it was very apparent we were supposed to move here. And I've heard that from a lot of people who moved to Nashville area. Like, "We're supposed to be here. We're still working out why we're here but we know we're supposed to be here." So there are glimmers, there are moments of certainty but there's a lot of mystery still. So we're walking through that.

Annie: So talk to people about that. How do you obey without... I mean, it's an Abrahamic invitation. Just go, and it's okay if you don't know everything. How do you know you're right? Is it a glimmer that tell you you're right?

Addison: The way that I look at it is there are signposts that point in a direction. and we have to be careful not to get too fixated on the signpost. We have to realize that a part of this journey with God is trust. Because we have this tendency to be like, "God, give us the answers and then get out of our way. Like let me do this. I want to be self-sufficient. Just tell me what I need to do. I want to operate in your wisdom and your plan and your goodness, so tell me, but then get out of my way."

So for us, Annie, there's been confirmations this is where we're supposed to be. But there's also moments where it's like, "God, if you don't tell us how to move, we don't know what we're doing here." So we grasp for control. And that's just our tendency. We were made, designed by God to exercise a form of rule, exercise a form of dominion. So there is a tendency to grasp or control. But the great opportunity that we have, the great invitation is to be grasped by God.

Annie: Wow.

Addison: And it's in those moments where it's like, "I'm grasping and I'm not reaching what I'm reaching for. Okay, God, I want to be grasped by you in this moment." And it's through that that we discover new levels and dimensions of surrender and goodness and the faithfulness of God and the provision of God.

Annie: One of our friends listening moved their whole family to, I don't know, Kentucky, Louisville. And then they get there and it is not working. The jobs aren't working out, the community hasn't covered. They've been there six months, a year. Are they wrong? Is it still God? How do we know? Do we go back? What do you do when it isn't going well and it hasn't been going well for a minute?

Addison: I mean, that's-

Annie: Because y'all suffered moving here too.

Addison: We have. We have. And that's hard. And there are times when the step forward looks like step back.

Annie: Yeah, right?

Addison: But I do want to say this. It is a step forward, not a step back.

Annie: Wow.

Addison: So even if you move to another location... I actually had a friend that this happened to. They moved, spent two years away from the place where they were, and really believed that God had moved them there, and then two years later they moved back.

For them, they realized that that journey of moving prepared them for a fresh season where they were. Now, they had to wrestle with God and move through the discomfort. Because so often we are conditioned to chase comfort. You know what I'm saying?

Annie: Yes.

Addison: So it's like, "Well, this is uncomfortable, maybe this isn't God." It's like, No, maybe there's something beyond the comfort zone that you've been in that God is inviting you into. So that's where we wrestle with God. That's where we discover what it is He's inviting us into. And sometimes that does look like a dose of humility and saying, "You know what? Maybe I am supposed to go back, but I'm not going back to where I was. I'm going back to something new."

Annie: Yes. I mean, it's very, like, you may be back in the same zip code but you have not gone back.

Addison: No.

Annie: I wish there was a way we could say, "I moved here" versus like, "I'm moving home" or "we're moving back."

Addison: Sure.

Annie: Of saying like, "No, we moved forward, we're just changing our zip code to the one we had before." Because I think that can be true about jobs. If you walk away from a job to go to the next thing... I mean, that's so true about Craig. Craig was here, God moved him to another job, and then God brought him back. But the whole thing was moved forward, right?

Craig: Yeah, absolutely.

Addison: So there was a fresh orientation when you came back. It's like you're in a different space. This just happened actually with my brother-in-law and sister-in-law. They're pastors of a church and they were feeling a change. They had been pastors of a church in this small town in Texas for 15 years.

Annie: Wow.

Addison: And they went on this year-long journey of discomfort and disorientation. And guess what? They're still pastors at that church. And they almost left for Boston. And it took them going to Boston, being in Boston, going through all the interviews, being there to realize, "You know what? We are called to Victoria, Texas, but we're called there in a way that we couldn't see before we experienced this disorientation."

Annie: Craig, I kind of wish you're on a microphone, because I feel like that is so true about you coming back here. What a great example! Because when he left... The

other thing that people don't know is what happens when you're gone, what's happening where you are. Because when he left, we realized that we had a job description that wasn't actually a job description, it was a Craig-sized hole.

Addison: Wow.

Annie: Truly. I mean, we went like, "Oh, we need to fill this place but there is actually only one way to fill it." So we will do whatever it takes to get him to come back.

Addison: I love that.

Annie: Also it was an advancement in his career because he's doing far more than he was the first time he was here.

Addison: Wow.

Annie: So going back doesn't mean going back.

Addison: No, it doesn't.

Annie: Why are we talking about that? Someone needs this. I don't know.

Addison: When you look at life, too, we think of life as this singular, linear road.

Annie: Yellow brick road to us.

Addison: Yellow brick road. But the reality is... And I'm from Colorado, so we have all these 14,000-foot mountains. And when you're at the base of one of these mountains, you want to just look and go, "I'm gonna run to the top of that mountain. I'm just gonna get up there." But the reality is, the terrain is way too steep. So you have these switchbacks. And they go left, right, left, right.

And when you're traveling on these things, that honestly feels like you're not making any progress. It's like, "Why don't I just run up? Why don't I just... I know where I'm trying to get. I'm trying to get to that peak." And what's amazing, Annie, is these moments, the view when you're looking out over the cities you're climbing, the view is familiar but it's different. You're seeing it from a different vantage point.

And I find that there's so much in life when it comes to this journey of formation, where we're seeing something new and it's like, "Gosh, I thought I've moved through this. I thought I've grown past this. I thought I already navigated this in a previous season." But the reality is you're not where you once were, you're actually seeing it from a different vantage point.

Annie: Yes. So, *Words With God*, your new book about prayer, which I'm thrilled about it, I have a story to tell you about it already. Where does prayer play into this? Because with a 14,000-foot mountain, you should actually only have to walk 14,000 feet if you walk straight. But you end up walking double that, triple that, I don't know. You walk a whole lot more mileage than just going straight from bottom to top.

Addison: Sure.

Annie: Where's prayer? Are we allowed to be frustrated at the switchbacks? Do we need to just bow and say we'll do it? Like, where's prayer?

Addison: So *Words With God*, I've had people when they engage with this title, they're like, "I hear that as this is how you pray. This is how you have words with God." Some people hear that. Other people hear, "Oh, you're giving me permission to have words with God."

Annie: To have words with Him.

Addison: And they get excited about that and they go, "I want to have words with God." The reality is the book is both. I think one of the reasons why we struggle to have words with God is because we don't believe God wants to have words with us. We really struggle with that idea.

In the first movement of this book, I take people into what I call the canyon. And it's that place where like, Am I hearing God or is that just the echo of my own voice? There's a premise that I lay out in the first chapter, this idea that we struggle to hear the voice of God because we look for God's voice in the tone, and the tenor of the accuser. And what that does is it causes us to shrink back within ourselves.

And we don't realize that the thin silence that we encounter as we pursue God is actually not rejection. It's an invitation. It's an invitation to let go of a certain form of communication, a certain form of engagement and receive something different, something other from God. And that happens as we wrestle with God, as we move into the silence.

If you look at the moment when Elijah is just distraught, and he runs from his purpose, he runs from everything and then he has the moment on the mountain and it's not the earthquake, it's not the fire, it's not the wind. That is it? It's the thin silence. Literally how it reads in Hebrew. The thin silence is where he encounters God.

So that's the place where we find words that are so much greater than the cheap sentiments and the singular prayers and the transactional prayers that we normally default to.

Annie: It's interesting you say that about how we hear God. It's been really interesting reading... You know, we're doing the Let's Read the Gospels Podcast where it's me, Annie, an extroverted Enneagram seven NFP, I'm the one reading the Scriptures the way I'm seeing them.

And I had someone DM me this week and say, "I have a very different personality than you and I never realized that I hear Jesus in an accusing tone because of my personality type. So whenever I hear Jesus, I hear Him being very direct. And whenever you read Jesus, He sounds more fun. He's probably both and I probably should hear Him more serious sometimes than I do."

But I thought, Man, that is so interesting that we often... In everything we do, we bring ourselves. We bring ourselves to how we read Scripture and how we hear God, and the enemy goes, "Isn't He mad? Isn't God mad at you?" So when we try to have words with God, we feel like, "I bet He's unhappy" or "I bet He's frustrated." And yet persistent widow.

Addison: Persistent widow. If you look at the moment of Jesus's baptism, you have this beloved sonship spoken over Him, tender words from the Father. And what happens? The Spirit leads Him into the wilderness. And what's the first thing the accuser says? If you're really. If you're really. If you're really the Son of God.

Annie: I was like, "Bread. Bread is the first one, right?"

Addison: If you're really. If you're really do something practical

Annie: That's just so funny because they've known each other for actual ever. So what is he doing?

Addison: That's the accuser's weapon is accusation. That is the default. Again, I think that's why so many of us struggle to hear from God is because we look for Him in that voice of accusation. And God's like, "Actually, you know what? That's not how I communicate with you." If you really study the meta-narrative of Scripture, that's not how God engages with us.

So we have to unlearn the voice of the accuser. And that's why I think for so many of us it's like a rite of passage. Like Jesus going into the wilderness was a rite of passage. He went in there, the accuser came, there was temptation and then He

emerged in the power of the Spirit. He emerged in the confidence of his sonship that was spoken over him at that moment of baptism.

And for us when it comes to prayer, moving in and through that silence is when we let go of the accusations, let go of the other narratives, let go of the other words so we can actually receive the words that God has for us.

Annie: It's a version of gaslighting that the enemy does.

Addison: Totally.

Annie: Because he knew exactly who Jesus was. So when we hear, "Are you sure you're a good mom?" He actually already knows you're a good mom, he's just gaslighting you.

Addison: 100%. And the-

Annie: I have never realized that until you're teaching me this.

Addison: Yes. Think about it. Every good liar, every good liar is going to give you truth.

Annie: Yeah, that's right.

Addison: That's true. They have to otherwise the lie doesn't stick.

Annie: Yeah, that's right.

Addison: So the enemy comes, he's like, "Oh, hey, you did make this mistake with your kid. You're a bad mom. Period." And then you have to navigate your way through that accusation. And that's the power of confession, Annie-

Annie: Oh, talk about.

Addison: ...is it bring the lie that is not all a lie to the truth that is all true.

Annie: Yeah, that's right.

Addison: You bring the lie, you submit it and you say, "God, in Your goodness and Your faithfulness in what You speak over me, I don't fully understand this but I do know that there was this breakdown. I do know that there was this fracture. I bring it to you because you have the ultimate say over my life. Please speak into this."

Annie: That's right.

Addison: I had this moment with Asher. When he was like nine years old, he used to come home from school and confess everything every single day.

Annie: Oh.

Addison: Every single day. Come home-

Annie: Why are your children so sweet?

Addison: He's amazing. So he would come home and confess. And I was like, "Why does he do this?" I've never told him, "Hey, come home from school and confess everything." He told me one time, "Dad, I accidentally kicked a teacher's shoe and I didn't apologize for kicking his shoe." I was like, "You accidentally bumped into your teacher's shoe. Okay, great."

But one night, now putting kids to bed, our four kids, we have three kids in one room at this time. It was an ordeal. It was a reverse hostage situation. I'm negotiating whatever-

Annie: Every time.

Addison: Every time. Like, "Please just stay in your room." And this one particular night, I'd put them all down and we finally had peace in the house, Julie and I had some peace, and the Holy Spirit told me so clearly, "Go get Asher out of bed."

Annie: Wow.

Addison: And I was like, "You gotta be kidding me." I'm like, "Get behind me, Satan. I'm not doing this." So I waited like five, seven minutes. Like, "Oh, hopefully, he just falls asleep and this, this. I went in and I got him out of bed. He was still awake. The other kids were asleep.

Annie: How old was he about at this time?

Addison: He's probably nine, maybe 10 at the time. So I brought him out, we're sitting on the sofa, I was gonna read this book to him, and all of a sudden he goes, "Hey, Dad, can I share something with you?" And I go, "Yeah." And he goes, "Dad, I said a bad word today." I was like, "Okay, son, what did you say?" And he said, "I said stupid."

I was like, "Son, did you call someone stupid?" And he's like, "No, I just said the word stupid." I'm like, "Well, you know, there's better words to use but really this

isn't that big of a deal. It's okay." Then he took a deep breath, Annie. And then he went on a series of F-bomb combinations. I mean, I'm talking some of those creative F-bombs. He's like, "I also said..." And this was the footnote of his confession.

Annie: Oh my gosh.

Addison: And they were creative. They were intense. I'm sitting there trying not to laugh because of the re-

Annie: He's like, "And I also said."

Addison: "And I also said." And he shares all these other things. And I'm looking at him trying not to laugh. And then finally I go, "Asher, where did you learn these words?" And he started bawling, he's like, "The Holy Spirit told me these weren't good words. I don't know what they mean bah, bah, bah." But I guess he had heard them that day from friends in the neighborhood." Anyway.

But it led to this beautiful moment, where we were able to take something that would have been an element of shame and accusation, bring it to the light, talk through it. It also led to meaningful connection between him and that friend.

Annie: When you got him out of bed, how did you know the next thing to do when the Holy Spirit had only said "wake him up or bring him out?" How'd you know to read him a book? How do you know the next thing?

Addison: Well, I think of those moments, Annie, it's about having that space, that unhurried space to just sit and to hear and to receive and then to respond. I think the tendency is just to move right into the next thing. And in that moment, it was, Okay, Holy Spirit, what do you have? We just sat on the sofa. I had a book, I was about ready to read it, and then boom, it was... Asher started it.

Annie: Wow. I love that.

[00:18:54] <music>

Sponsor: Hey friends! Just interrupting this conversation real quick to share about one of our amazing partners, [Nutrafol](#). We're all the time swapping recommendations of our favorite styling tools and hair products. But starting with healthier hair is really important to achieve the looks we're going for, right? I mean y'all, 30 million women are impacted by weakened or thinning hair. If you're among them, you're not alone. There's a solution you can trust to deliver results.

Nutrafol is the number one dermatologist-recommended hair growth supplement, clinically shown to improve your hair growth, your thickness, and visible scalp coverage. It supports healthy hair growth from within by targeting the five root causes of thinning: stress, yeah, we got it; the hormones, we've also got those; environment, we're living in it; nutrition, trying; and metabolism, yeah, that too.

Nutrafol addresses all of them through whole body health. I love that Nutrafol offers three different physician-creative formulas that support women throughout all stages of life, including postpartum and menopause. So no matter what season you're in, they've got us covered with the natural drug, free medical grade ingredients used in consistently effective dosages. They're bringing us the most reliable results.

In a clinical study, 86% of women reported improved hair growth after six months. Three thousand-plus top doctors and stylists recommended Nutrafol as an effective and high-quality solution for healthier hair.

You can grow thicker, healthier hair and support our show by going to nutrafol.com and entering the promo code `thatsoundsfun` to save \$10 off your first month's subscription. This offer is only available to us customers for a limited time. Plus free shipping on every order. So get \$10 off at [Nutrafol.com](https://nutrafol.com), promo code `thatsoundsfun`.

Sponsor: And one more amazing partner we get to tell you about. Y'all, we are losing our minds over here about [ButcherBox](#). Y'all know I love a good premium dining experience. Your girl is bougie. Get me to a nice restaurant to try new menu items with fun friends and I am a happy Annie. Let's be real though, that is not my every night reality by any stretch.

What a treat that I can get premium cuts of the best meat and seafood on the planet delivered right to my door so I can whip up quality meals on a budget. And you can too with ButcherBox. They're bringing us 100% grass fed-beef, organic chicken, pork that is raised crate-free, and wild-caught seafood. All of their meats are humanely raised with no antibiotics or added hormones.

You can pick from a curated box which is what I do or customize your own. ButcherBox has free shipping always. It's not just the convenience of having these perfectly curated selections come straight to my house, it's the brain space ButcherBox saves me from standing in that section of the grocery store trying to figure out what to make and what will be good for the right price.

So when it comes to my ButcherBox, I know whatever it is I can toss some of the Daniel Walker seasonings, oh my gosh, they are so good, straight onto the meat. So

right now I'm literally eating turkey burgers I made from ground turkey that I got from ButcherBox and they are delicious. I just need you to believe me, it tastes different. It just tastes better. It is so delicious.

And listen to this. You can get free chicken thighs for a year, chicken thighs for a year, and \$20 off your first box when you sign up today. That is three pounds of bone-in chicken thighs free in every box for a year, plus \$20 off your first order when you sign up at butcherbox.com/tsf and use the code TSF. Claim this deal at Butcherbox.com/tsf and use the code TSF.

That link to those free chicken thighs and pretty much every other link you could ever hope for are in the show notes below. So be sure to check those out.

And now back to our conversation with Addison.

[00:22:28] <music>

Annie: In the book as you keep going, After the canyon is the temple. Will you talk about the temple?

Addison: Yeah. So the temple. So religion does a really good idea of telling us you can only engage with God on our terms and our places and our ways. Right?

Annie: Yeah.

Addison: The idea of the temple is this radical notion that we are God's temple, that God's Spirit lives in us. That's what Paul says in 1 Corinthians 3, in 1 Corinthians 6, and 2 Corinthians 6. It's this idea that God has come to do business in and through us.

So even the word like "profane," we use the word profane, it literally means outside the temple. And what God is saying is saying, Hey, actually, I'm coming to move in and through your lives. The temple was the microcosm where heaven touched Earth. So that's what a first-century Jew would think of when they would think of the temple.

And what God is saying, I'm actually coming to you to become the microcosm where Heaven touches Earth. So those places that you have called on holy or insignificant or profane, I'm actually coming to meet with you in the pain, the brokenness, the confusion, the uncertainty of those places. So it's a reframe of worship.

In that section, I talk a lot about opening the conversation. Because when it comes to prayer, we limit prayer to such a small part of what prayer actually is. And

Annie, the reason why a lot of people are turning to, and even people who aren't faith-oriented, they're turning to practices that are shadow form of prayer, like spoken confession, spoken forgiveness, meditation, silence, stillness, that kind of stuff, all of that belongs in the robustness of prayer. It all belongs in the robustness of having words with God.

So in this book I'm inviting us out of that small idea of temple, that small idea of prayer into this robust life of connection where every part of what we do gets to be a form of engagement with God. And you're like, Well, that sounds like you wouldn't be any good to the people around you. Actually, no, that's not true. God's desire to connect with is actually so we can see what's going on in the lives and the world of the people around us.

It says in 1 Corinthians 2 that no one knows the depths of a man or woman except the spirit of that man or that woman. When the Spirit of God can trust us to not be so consumed with the hurry, with the busy, with the distractions, but to breathe, and to see and to invite stillness into activity, then we start to see prophetically, we start to see things that are happening around us differently.

That's when we can participate in purpose. That's when we can make meaningful connection. That's when we have clarity knowing what to do, when to do it, why to do it in those moments. But when we bring what I call frantic inaction, that's what it is, frantic inaction into our everyday lives because we're not connected to the source of action, we end up participating in the brokenness of our world in whatever form, whatever level that takes.

Annie: So in the process of the book, canyon to temple to dance, is that the journey you want us to go on? Is that the growth journey? Or do we cycle through all three over and over?

Addison: You got it.

Annie: Okay.

Addison: I do see these movements. They happen, right? Like in seasons and stuff. But it's not like you get through the canyon in one time.

Annie: And you're like, "We did. Now I'm only in the temple."

Addison: When you start to learn that silence is a language of God's, then you realize what a gift that canyon is. Now, don't get me wrong, I'm not saying that I enjoy the canyon. But you start to realize how intimate the voice of God is and how even in the canyon's echo the voice is speaking to us. Like we get to participate in the voice.

We get to hear and receive from the voice. And it's okay that there's an element of imperfection. It's stepping out in faith that requires us to surrender to the reality that we will deal in partial.

Annie: Right. Forever.

Addison: That's just how this is. And that's okay. We're not God.

Annie: Right.

Addison: So it's that journey of trust that brings us deeper into the heart of God for us and also for the people in our world.

Annie: I saw a post this week... Everybody listening knows there was a tragedy in Nashville at the end of March, beginning of April. And I saw a post this week that said, one of the reasons non-faith people hate when we say we're praying for something is because they don't see it change anything. But prayer does change things. Pastor Kevin at Cross Point always says, We don't only pray, but we pray first. So what is the power of prayer behind getting... Because there is this devotional version of prayer, right? And when we're talking about the canyon and the temple and the dance in your book, I think devotionally I get it. But devotional prayer isn't what I'm trying to do when I'm interceding.

Addison: Like, how do we intercede? Intercede literally means to stand in the gap.

Annie: Right.

Addison: Like you are fighting. You're in the gap

Annie: And that's what the world wants to see is they want to see us pray in a way that shifts things. I'm not sure that guy's post is true. It was not the Bible. It was one guy just on the internet. But it got me thinking about it.

Addison: So we do have to realize when we pray, we are surrendering to a wisdom that is greater than what we can see in this problem. 100%.

Annie: Right.

Addison: But what I find, Annie, is a lot of people, we pray these vague prayers because we're scared of the fact that we're surrendering to a wisdom that's bigger than we can see in this moment. And when I look at Jesus in Gethsemane, I think of a moment where we see the Son experiencing such tension, that He's bleeding... blood coming from His pores. He's sweating blood.

And I look at that moment, there's three dimensions to his prayer. Number one, He's specific. "If there's any way, any way this cup can pass, let it pass." Number two, He's surrendered. "Not my will but yours be done." Number three, He's steadfast. He keeps contending, contending, contending.

Now, we want to either just be specific, like tell God what to do, tell Him when to do it, tell Him why to do it, tell Him how to do it. Or we want to be vague and surrender. "God, whatever you do, whatever you do." Which doesn't drive us to our needs, which doesn't drive us into the needs of the community.

Real prayer, mature prayer brings both specificity and surrender into the center, which is steadfastness. And that's where we go. That's where we contend. That's where we do. That's where we see the moment for what it is and can respond in a way that's true to the heart of God.

Annie: You know, what you're teaching me that I have never thought about again, Addison Bevere, is that Jesus' steadfastness, He kept praying that... He kept praying something. We don't actually know every word but the words that are recorded. He kept praying that until Judas got there.

Addison: He did. and he kept asking His friends, like, "Hey, yo, come on. Come on. I need you. This is hard work. Please pray for me." And the final movement of the book, the dance is about how prayer moves outside of just what's going on here into our world and into the promises that God has made to reconcile the world to Him, to reconcile us to each other. And what that looks like practically in our lives... It was Tertullian, he was the early church father, who said that the entire Gospel is found in the Lord's Prayer.

Annie: Wow.

Addison: And we've reduced the Lord's Prayer to this trite, this rote thing that we run through. But when you really break it down and understand the invitation to pray that is in the Lord's Prayer, it is radical and it moves out of our personal piety, personal devotions into how we live, what we do, what we say.

Annie: And I love that it's one of the things that deeply connects the Protestant Church and the Catholic Church.

Addison: Absolutely.

Annie: They call it Our Father, we call it The Lord's Prayer. And either way, we are praying the same thing every day.

Addison: We are. We are.

Annie: That's been our two branches of Christianity. I think that is fascinating. So do you consider... Like if someone is new to prayer, and they're like, "Yeah, Addison, I want to do this. I'm in. I have prayed a little bit when I eat food, but it hasn't changed my life," would you tell them, "Okay, start with the Lord's Prayer as an outline?"

Addison: Well, there's very few things that Jesus gave us that could feel like a formula. I mean, you know, you're reading through the Gospel-

Annie: He's not very formulaic.

Addison: Why? Why doesn't He do that?

Annie: Because He's frustrated-

Addison: I believe that we're master manipulators.

Annie: Yeah, totally.

Addison: And Jesus knows that. He's like, "If I give them a formula, they're gonna find a way to manipulate this formula."

Annie: And make it robotic. We will get a machine to do it for us.

Addison: "God, we actually don't need you to participate in this. We don't need others to participate in this." Which by the way, what's the orientation of Our Father and the Lord's Prayer? Our. It's not mine.

Annie: It's not mine.

Addison: It's like, "Hey, God-

Annie: Even Jesus was actually My Father. He could say.

Addison: Even in Matthew 6, where He tells them, "Hey, you know what? Go alone and pray in your closet," He's still pray in "our" orientation.

Annie: Oh, wow. Right.

Addison: Which is just amazing. So this is what I would tell people.

Annie: That's really cool.

Addison: Fifty-two words roughly, right? Lord's Prayer, I think it's around 52 words. The significance-

Annie: In Matthew.

Addison: In Matthew's Gospel. Luke's Gospel is shorter. The significance is not the formula, it's the framework. The framework of the Lord's Prayer. Think about the movements. Our Father. Right there just surrender. Our - to the goodness and the tenderness and the faithfulness of God.

Our Father, hallowed be your name. You are beyond us. You are other than us. You are not a slave to our agenda. You are holy. We hold those two values intention at the very beginning of the prayer. Then we move into praying for His will to be done, His kingdom to be done. And we get God-oriented.

After that, we move into praying for daily bread, forgiveness, temptations, trials, evil, those things. That perspective comes into view as we first orient ourselves around God's goodness and faithfulness.

So what I encourage people to do is read a line and stop, and place, your life, your moment, your struggle within that framework. Make it real, make it personal to you. You don't have to rush through it. It's a really great framework. Stop, pause, be like, "Okay, what does it mean for me to receive forgiveness today and extend forgiveness today?"

Annie: What does it mean for me to ask for daily bread today?

Addison: I think for them daily bread, that was the most basic sustenance. And yet Jesus is teaching us, "Hey, even your daily bread your Father cares about."

Annie: Yes, yes. In the "our" stance that we're taking, I mean, we say forgive us our debts. So are we confessing for each other?

Addison: Absolutely. We're moving into-

Annie: Dude, what are you doing? You're right. That's unbelievable.

Addison: I mean, but think about things that Jesus says, like, It'll be better for Sodom than it will be for Capernaum. There is a form of collective responsibility that we have as the saints, as the people of God. We have been raised at the table largely of an

individualistic gospel. So when we think of how God responds to our plight, responds to our pain, it's very much an individual orientation. Now, does God care about us individually? Absolutely.

Annie: Certainly.

Addison: My story is very important to God. But then there's the Our story over it and then there's The story. And we engage with God on all three levels. And all three levels provide meaning and value to our prayer life and to our needs, to our desires, to our hopes, to our wishes, all of that.

Annie: Do you think kids are better at praying specific prayers than adults? Do you think we lose... Is it a gradient that goes down because we're more disappointed the older we get?

Addison: 100%. I actually share a story in the book about a lawn mower. I used to love mowing lawns when I was a kid apparently. My mom told me I had this little fake lawn mower and I would spend hours outside. So it must have been buried deep in my psyche.

Well, I stopped praying very specific prayers because I was like, "God, if there's something good for you to get done, you're gonna do it. Like you're good, you're faithful, why do I need to pray?"

Annie: "I'm not gonna mess with this."

Addison: Yeah, I don't want to mess with this. I have a limited understanding, I have a limited capacity. Julie and I, we just bought our first house, we had no money, we're house poor and I wanted to buy a lawnmower. We had a patch of grass that was tiny. I mean, it would literally take three minutes to mow. And there was a nice neighbor across the street who would let me borrow his lawnmower. But I really wanted a lawn mower.

Annie: Just to do your four-minute patch.

Addison: Seriously four minutes patch, like done. Annie, I remember going to Lowe's and I was looking at the lawnmowers, and they were out and they were parading their glory. It was like March, April. And I wanted a lot more so bad. And I remember hearing the Holy Spirit say, "Ask me for a lawn mower."

Annie: Wow.

Addison: And I was like, "What?" "Ask me for a lawn mower." And I convinced myself to buy it too. I was like, "I'll work this out with Julie. We didn't have a sofa. We didn't have window-

Annie: Oh my gosh.

Addison: We didn't have anything. It was bad. And I was like, "Okay-

Annie: "I'm getting a lawn mower."

Addison: I'm like, "This isn't me, because I don't think like this. So this is clearly something different." So I just real casually said, "God, would you please give me a lawn mower?" And I walked out of Lowe's.

Two days later I get a phone call from a friend who's moving to Florida. And he goes, "Hey, hope you're doing well." We haven't talked in like over a year. He's like, "Hey, I have a lawn mower and I'm moving to Florida. I can't bring it with me. It's brand new. I've only used it twice. I was gonna sell on Craigslist and I just sensed that I was supposed to call you. Is there any chance that you would want or need a lawn mower?"

And I was like, "You have got to be kidding. I'm freaked out. And he would have thought he offered me a house or a car. I freaked out. And in that moment, I realized that God teaches us to ask so that we can become aware.

Annie: Wow.

Addison: So that we can become aware of the fact that we're living in an answered prayer. And from that place of awareness, we learn to ask, we learn to ask for greater and bigger things. And that is a part of the child likeness. That is the kingdom of God.

Annie: Yes. I mean that is one of the reasons... You know this, because you gave me a quote to hang on my wall a couple of years ago. But one of the reasons I write down everything I'm praying for is because if you aren't tracking, you don't know when He answers.

Addison: That's right.

Annie: You just assume the next thing happened. You just assume. So I was saying to some friends recently that in a season where I've been fasting and praying for some really specific things, every shift matters to me. Every little conversation of "Oh, that is God answering." Whereas if I wasn't praying and recording and paying attention, I would maybe notice the big answer at the end, I wouldn't notice the shifts on the

way there. And so recording it. How do y'all record your prayers? What does that look like for you?

Addison: I have a prayer journal. Actually, it's interesting. I'm almost done with the season that I'm in right now with this prayer journal, and I have two three pages left. And I'm nervous to finish this because it just feels so significant to the season and the season we've been going through.

But I also sent an invitation recently to shut this season. Like, I'm bringing you into a new season. But Annie, I go back through that and I just read. I read stuff. And I forget. Y'all, we think we remember the pains of today but we move on and move into the next thing, because there's always a next thing.

There was a prayer that I introduced in this book called I Am Here. Yes. And it's this idea... Because we're always somewhere else, where we once were, or where we want to be, but we're not in the present. And the reality is everything meaningful happens in the present.

This prayer for me, there's three dimensions to it. Number one, I am here in this space. I'm nowhere else. I can't be anywhere else. I'm not the Spirit of God. I am here. So I'm going to be here.

Number two, I am here meaning I'm not where I once was and I'm not where I'm going to be. I am here and I'm going to be okay with where I am right now. I'm gonna lean into what this moment has for me. And the third dimension is I Am, the great I Am is here with me, present with me. How am I missing out on His presence in this present moment?

Annie: That's so good.

Addison: How am I not participating in that?

Annie: One of the fears people have that they expressed to me a lot about journaling and prayer journaling and recording their prayers is their kids reading it. What's y'all's rhythms around, like, what if one of the girls picks up your prayer journal? I mean, what do you do? How do you be honest in praying when there's little eyes?

I mean, I handed my phone yesterday to a 10-year-old to watch a video from a friend over to help him with what's going on in town. And when I got back to him, he was scrolling the text with me and his parents. I was like, "Well, I hope there was nothing that we didn't want a 10-year-old to see. And I just didn't even think about it.

Addison: I mean, for us, we try to bring them into the journey of struggle and pain as much as possible because that is a real part of it. I share this in chapter two of the book, but I went through a period of five years where I navigated insomnia and I felt like God had abandoned me. And I just felt like-

Annie: Five years. Everybody needs to hear that. It's not like five nights. Five years of insomnia.

Addison: This book was largely birthed out of that struggle. And then idea of chasing God into the silence and looking for and believing that I'm doing the right thing. Like, God, "I feel like I'm being faithful. I feel like I'm being obedient. I love my wife. I love my kids. What in the world is going on? Why have you abandoned me?" Even looking at the sun... Can we go deep for a second?

Annie: Yeah. Listen, yes.

Addison: Okay, all right. Because I know you're in the gospels and this is going to come out shortly after Easter. So Jesus quotes Psalm 22 from the cross. And it's this idea of "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?" David's word originally is Psalm 22:1.

Later in that chapter, there's this proclamation that God does not abandon the afflicted and their afflictions, but rather that He is the God of the nations and all the nations will see that this is true. And I have been working through the book of Hebrews going deep into the idea of Jesus being the high priest and being tempted in every way that we were tempted.

And, Annie, I've been thinking about, like, what is the greatest temptation? Really, truly, what is the greatest temptation that we as humans have to navigate when it comes to our relationship with God?

Annie: That's a great question.

Addison: I've been wrestling with that. This goes back to a question about the kids. I believe the greatest temptation is the belief that God has abandoned us.

Annie: Wow.

Addison: That God is not with us in our pain, that God is not with us in the disorientation, that God leaves us, that God forsakes us. I believe that is the greatest temptation. Now Jesus lived in perfect union with the Father. John 5 captures that beautifully. So for Him to become like us in every respect, He would have to know the beliefs.

He would have to move through the human experience of experiencing separation, a sense of separation from God.

Annie: Oh, wow.

Addison: My God, My God, why have you forsaken me? Now, I don't want to get into all the theories of atonement, all that. That's not what I'm doing right here. But I do believe, I do believe that a necessary part of the human experience is journeying through the silence, the sense of abandonment, having those words with God, My God, My God, why have you forsaken me? Because can we really know that He's faithful if we haven't had reason to doubt His faithfulness?

Annie: Right. So for Jesus, the only way He could have actually been tempted in every way and experienced everything we've experienced is to also experience that, especially when that is... the temptation to sin by stealing is not global and universal. Everybody doesn't hit that.

Addison: No.

Annie: And gluttony is not everybody. I mean, there's seven or whatever. There's a lot of deadly sins, there's a gazillion of them but that is one that is global.

Addison: It's universal.

Annie: Wow.

Addison: Every single one of us.

Annie: Oh my gosh.

Addison: So this pain that we have when it comes to prayer, when it comes to wrestling with God, when it comes to moving through the silence to find a voice that is greater, greater than even our idea of words, that speaks to us in silence and then sound, that connection that promise, that journey is what it is to follow in the footsteps of Jesus.

Annie: And you know what's interesting is it makes me think, No wonder people flocked to Asbury University a few months ago is because universally, we think, "Has God abandoned us?" And then they see something in driving or flying distance that looks like His presence is there. And it was. I mean, I didn't go but I believe it. And you go, "Well, if I can just get there." I wonder if that was part of the invitation. I wanted to go. I mean, it wasn't I just couldn't.

Addison: So kids navigate this much younger than we think they do—what I call the lie of separation. They do. They navigate it. I dedicate this book to Sophia because Sophia told me when she was very young, she's like, "Dad, I want to talk to God but God's not talking back to me. What am I doing wrong?" And we went on a two-year journey together.

Annie: Wow.

Addison: And it was absolutely beautiful and stunning to see-

Annie: How old is she now? Just give people a-

Addison: She's 12. We had this conversation when she was 10.

Annie: Wow. And I see it even with my younger kids, my 6-year-old and my 8-year-old. They want to have words with God. Because this is what we were made for. We were made for intimacy, connection, communion, union with God. But it doesn't look the way we expect it to look. And it can't. Otherwise, we could build our construct and we could get there and master it, manipulate it, control it, systematize it. And God's like, "No, what I've created you for is way too intimate and personal and specific for you to be able to figure it out at arm's length."

Annie: Yes, yes.

[00:44:27] <music>

Sponsor: Hey friends! Just interrupting this conversation one more time to share about another amazing partner, the [Hallow App](#). Here we are talking about prayer and about leaning in. And I love being able to share with y'all about resources that are actually helping me practice this.

Hallow app is one of them. It is the number one prayer app in the world. It's a Catholic app. And it's so interesting to pay attention to all the ways that overlaps and connects with my Protestant faith. And they've seen over 10 million installs and 150 million prayers completed. How cool to think about being in that great cloud of witnesses together like the Bible talks about?

Hallow is a great resource for all of us who are looking to dive deeper into prayer and build a daily habit of prayer. Hallow has thousands of prayers, meditations, and peaceful Christian music for all parts of your day. Since we're still in the month of Easter and in Eastertide, Hallow has a really cool Easter Bible study happening for the next month where you dive into the book of Acts with our friend Jonathan Roumie from *The Chosen* and a world-renowned Bible scholar, Dr. Scott Hahn.

They're helping us to learn directly from the apostles in the book of Acts what it really looks like to follow Jesus, alongside the new Bible, study, pray, and meditate using more than 10,000 guided prayers, including prayers from Mark Wahlberg and NBA champion Jrue Holiday,—and you remember his wife Lauren was on the podcast. We love them—the cast of *The Chosen*, Jim Caviezel, from *The Passion of the Christ*, our buddy Father Mike and so many more.

You can get extended three-month trial of all 10,000-plus prayers and meditations at hallow.com/thatsoundsfun. Again, that's hallow.com/thatsoundsfun.

Sponsor: And one last amazing partner to share with you, [Indeed](https://indeed.com). You know that saying, if you want to go fast, go alone, if you want to go far go together? I think about that a lot with my team and how I wanted to go the distance bridging y'all to people and resources that strengthen your faith. I know those of you who lead teams get this too. It is so important who we link arms with to pursue our vision.

Indeed gets this and they're the experts at helping us find the best fit for the roles we want to build our teams with. If you're hiring, you need Indeed, you guys. Indeed is the hiring platform where you can attract, interview, and hire all in one place. Don't spend your valuable hours digging through multiple job sites looking for candidates with the right skills when you can do it all and fast with Indeed.

Finding great talent doesn't have to be a second job. I mean, you already have a full-time job, right, and probably more than you can handle which is why you're hiring. You can reclaim your time and find top talent fast with Indeed.

Their suite of powerful hiring tools like assessments and virtual interviews allow you to find top talent fast. This is the part I love the most. With Indeed instant match, they do the hard work for you. You simply sponsor a job and boom, instant match shows you candidates whose resumes fit your job description immediately after you post.

Indeed knows that hiring needs to be cost-effective and efficient when you're running your own business. Visit indeed.com/soundsfun to start hiring now. Just go to indeed.com/soundsfun. Terms and conditions apply. Cost-per-application pricing not available for everyone. If you need to hire, you need Indeed.

And now back to finish up our conversation with Addison.

[00:47:28] <music>

Annie: Okay, here's my confession for you today. When we were texting yesterday, I said, "I read it when I endorsed it." So I have read the book.

Addison: What did you see the name on the back?

Annie: No, I didn't see that.

Addison: We were talking about names on covers.

Annie: Yes.

Addison: So I was-

Annie: I made the cover. Thank you so much.

Addison: I was thrilled.

Annie: I do not deserve that. That is very exciting. Me, Mark Batterson, John Tyson, believe all three of us. I went to read it last night and I started on page one as one does and I so clearly felt the Lord... And this has never happened before. I felt the Lord go, "Don't read this like you a podcast book. I want you to actually read it again."

Addison: Wow.

Annie: Because I can read a book pretty fast. I mean, I've read four this week. I mean, we just have to sit with people and to honor their work. So I read all the books. But I don't read every word of every book. And what I've been doing in this season is I've been reading prayer books in the morning in my time with the Lord, reading a chapter a day, and letting that spur me into. And about a month ago, I felt the Lord kind of go like, "Are you going to read the books or are you going to pray?"

Addison: Wow.

Annie: "Do you want to collect all the knowledge or do you want to actually practice the discipline?" So now I've slowed down to a chapter a day and using that. So my question for you, for our friends listening, what is the line between reading books on prayer and praying, reading books on fasting and fasting, reading books on generosity, and being generous? Can we hold both at the same time?

Addison: I think we can. I think the litmus test is, what do you want to do after you read that book? Do you want to pray? I was like, keep reading that book. If that book's

driving into prayer, if that book is driving you to generosity, keep reading it. Because it's fueling that pursuit.

And what I love about prayer is it is a universal experience. So we do learn from each other. We participate... Like we were talking about "our." There's something to learn in and through the way others pray. That's important.

So we do want to have that. But if it's not bringing us into the presence of the Father in prayer or a greater awareness, I should say, of the Father's presence where we're asking, where we're being more comfortable with stillness and silence, where we're receiving, where we're listening, then I would say, Okay, maybe you're not reading the right book. Maybe look to a different book. Maybe that book is feeding your need for a formula or a box to be checked rather than moving you into mystery.

Now we need certainty in mystery when it comes to the things of God. We need both and you'll find camps are more on the certainty side and they build everything uncertainty and you'll find camps are all about mystery and everything's whatever they want it to be mysterious. But the reality is the wisdom of God brings both front and center.

Annie: Yeah, that's it. And sometimes I often found in my life that it can be the right book the wrong season.

Addison: Oh, yeah.

Annie: So that's why you put them on a shelf versus put them in a trash.

Addison: That's good.

Annie: I mean, so often the Lord will go, "Pull that one." Or my brain. Something. Something in my room with my books will think to pull that one and read a chapter and whatever. So I just finished Tyler Staton's, *Praying Like Monks*.

Addison: *Praying Like Monks*.

Annie: So yesterday, the Lord was like, "Do you know how you just finished one and there's one right in front of you. Here's your next one."

Addison: Wow.

Annie: So I will start this tomorrow morning in my actual sitting and praying and reading time. The last question I want to ask you about prayer. Some of our friends

listening have prayed their whole lives and don't feel like they've seen God answer. Or they've been praying for a thing, a child to return to the Lord, to get pregnant, to get married, to get a better job and they have long obedience in the same direction and they still don't have what they want. The truth is that's all of us. None of us have everything we want.

But speak to the people who feel disappointed in God. Are we allowed to feel disappointed in God? Or is that something we're supposed to quench in us? And what do we do with it?

Addison: I was just reading Psalm 142. And that's where David says, "I lay out my complaints before you, God." So it's one thing to complain about God, it's another thing to complain to God.

Annie: Okay. Okay.

Addison: So God doesn't like it when we complain about Him. God loves it when we come to Him, and complain to Him.

Annie: That's good.

Addison: Because that leads to intimacy, that leads to understanding, that leads to connection. God's not afraid of our dissonance. He's not afraid of our disappointment. He's in there. He's in the midst of it right now.

So what I would share, number one, I think you hit the nail on the head. This is something all of us navigate. Don't believe the lie of the accuser. Don't look at someone's life and be like, "Oh, no, they have everything that they pray for." Now, I'm just telling you right now.

Annie: They don't.

Addison: They don't know.

Annie: Nobody does.

Addison: They absolutely do not. And this morning, I just started Luke. I always read through the Gospels. I just circle right back through and then I read an epistle and I read a psalm and then I read something from the prophets. Normally, that's what I do. Or historical book.

So, this morning, I started Luke and it struck me as I'm reading the story about how God so often moves through our lives and reveals His promises at that point where

everyone's like, "Yeah, God hasn't been faithful." Again, I love how it calls out how they had been righteous and they had been faithful. Elizabeth and Zechariah, they'd done the right things and yet the community kind of looked at them and they're like, "Man, I don't know about them."

Annie: "What do we not know?"

Addison: "She's barren. What's going on?" And yet God moved when they were old, when things were done, when they were past the point of prayer. In fact, she had stopped praying. Gabriel says, "I've heard these old prayers that you've been praying." Like really when you dig into the Greek is like, "I've heard these prayers that you have been praying."

Annie: Old prayers. Oh my gosh.

Addison: Like these old prayers. You don't even have the strength to pray them anymore but I've heard them, and here they are. Here's the answer to the prayer. So I would tell people continue to contend. It's the process that prepares us for what we're petitioning for. And there are some prayers for whatever reason, only God knows, that require a longer process of preparation.

I want to also share this. There are prayers that go unanswered, because prayer is so powerful that God has to reserve the right to not answer certain prayers. I just think everyone needs to recognize that. It's hard for us to recognize that. Take a step back and be like, "Prayer is so powerful that God has to reserve the right not to answer certain prayers." But there's no prayer that God doesn't hear. There's no prayer that goes unheard. And we can live in that confidence.

Annie: What a gift. The persistent widow is just so my favorite thing because Jesus is like, "I'm going to tell you a story now about why you should pray and not give up." And you're like, Well, okay, well, that's all we need to know is that we're supposed to pray and not give up.

Addison: Real quick, Luke 11, we interpret the story about the friend of midnight as a story of persistence. No, it has nothing to do with persistence.

Annie: Okay. He only asks once, I guess, right?

Addison: No. Actually, he calls but in the text it says "But because of his anaideian..." what that means actually is because of his honor, for the sake of his name. It has actually nothing to do with the person making the request. It has everything to do with the sleeper.

Because of his honor, he will respond. He won't just give him bread. He'll give him everything that he needs because the honor of the entire community would have been at stake. If that guy doesn't get out of his bed, if he doesn't let go of his excuses about his kids being in bed and house being locked up and he doesn't respond, then in a Near Eastern culture, the honor of that entire community is at stake.

Then Jesus goes on to say, "If you who are earthly, who are evil know how to give good gifts, how much more will the Father in heaven give the heavenly, give the Holy Ghost, give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?"

Annie: It's not about the guy asking. It's about the honor of the ones sleeping. So God is going to make sure His name is honored when we pray. Jeez.

Addison: For Luke's Gospel, Luke 11, that's tied to hallowed be your name. He will respond for the sake of His name, for the honor of His name. Annie, that's why we pray in the name.

Annie: In the name. Addison-

Addison: It's not a formula.

Annie: Jeez, you're blowing my mind like eight times. I need to start having a buzzer I hit every time somebody blows my mind because you'd have gotten a lot. Man, I cannot wait for people to get *Words With God*. I'm gonna read the subtitle because it's awesome. Trading Boring, Empty Prayer for Real Connection. Oh, it's so good. Addison, okay, what did we not say that we need to say?

Addison: I mean, I feel like we covered it.

Annie: I love it.

Addison: Is there anything?

Annie: No. I gotta ask you what sounds fun. So because the show is called That Sounds Fun, Addison Bevere, what sounds fun to you?

Addison: Right now in this season or general?

Annie: No, anyway.

Addison: Like right now?

Annie: There's no wrong answer.

Addison: You know what? I have been making fun of people who play pickleball-

Annie: Oh, are y'all in?

Addison: Annie, I recently played.

Annie: Do you all have a court in your neighborhood? It feels like your neighborhood would have that.

Addison: It's close. It's close to the neighborhood. I've always kind of made fun of it. I played tennis and I also played ping pong, and I'm like, "What is this thing? This is weird." But it is fun.

Annie: You loved it?

Addison: Oh my gosh.

Annie: It's like small tennis, right?

Addison: Everyone plays it. All the generations can play it. So you have people in their 70s out there and you have kids who are eight years old and everyone's having fun. And for us, we were a family. We have so many people who do life together and different generations and stuff, we can all go out there and play.

Annie: Is everybody in now? Your mom and dad and everybody?

Addison: My mom, not so much. But my dad... He played tennis at Purdue. He's a good tennis player. But I did just... For the record—dad, I'm sorry. Little shade—I did beat him. I did beat him. But he says one on one pickleball isn't a real thing. It's only gambles.

Annie: Fair. Fair. But I did beat him. Sorry, dad.

Annie: Do you see a world where this becomes like a Bevere family thing? Like tournaments and your next vacation?

Addison: Oh, absolutely.

Annie: I think pickleball may be like heaven in that I will not realize how many of my people are there until I get there. Because I haven't pickleballed at all. And I think

I'm gonna show up at a court and it's gonna be like, "All of y'all have been doing this together and I didn't know?"

Addison: and people don't really tell you that they're playing pickleball because it's still a little bit like, "Wait, you're playing pickleball? Is that a real sport? Is that a real thing?"

Annie: Or y'all just talk to each other. Like you and Craig could have played eight pickleball games and I don't know that. Oh, he's weighing. I think half the people here play. I wouldn't know where to drive to get there.

Addison: Wow. We're gonna play pickleball.

Annie: Okay, let's do it. I already gonna text your wife today anyway. Okay, it's happening. Addison, thank you again for doing this. We're so glad you're on. I can't wait for people to get *Words With God*. It comes out tomorrow.

Addison: Thank you, Annie. And Annie, thank you for everything over the last few years since we first met back in 2020. You've been such a champion and such a support and believed in Julie and me and spoken in my life. Just grateful for you.

Annie: Mutual.

Addison: Thanks for having me on the show.

Annie: Very mutual.

[00:58:18] <music>

Annie: Oh, you guys, don't you love him? Okay, make sure you grab your copy of *Words with God* and read along with me as I'm reading that in the mornings for the next couple of weeks. Follow Addison on social media, tell him thanks so much for being on the show, how much it mattered to you.

And if you found this episode helpful, if you or your small group are talking about prayer or your partner or your friends, if you are talking about prayer in your lives, this is a great one to share to kind of jump off a new conversation. Just shoot it to them in a text or hit share and post it on your social media, go to that sounds fun podcast on Instagram and share our posts of Addison.

It means the world when you invite your friends into these conversations. And sometimes the conversations we want to have need some sort of jumpstart. And so let us be that for you. Okay?

So we heard what sounds fun to Addison. It was a very good answer. Now we get to hear what sounds fun to one of our friends who's listening just like you.

Alright, Holland, because the show is called That Sounds Fun, tell me what sounds fun to you.

Holland: Hi, I'm Holland. I'm from Alpharetta, Georgia and what sounds fun to me is going on vacation because I'm a CPA and things are very busy and I'm ready for a vacation.

Annie: Girl, you deserve it. Are you near NorthPoint Mall? I love Alpharetta.

Holland: Oh, absolutely. I'm probably there every weekend because there's a Target, Hobby Lobby, and a Marshalls on the same center. So I spend a lot of money.

Annie: That's like a little mini vacation every weekend.

Holland: Absolutely.

Annie: If you can really pick to go anywhere, where are you going?

Holland: Well, I have a trip planned, and my sister was on this earlier and she already mentioned this, but we're going to Dallas and Oklahoma City for the Women's College World Series for softball. And that's later this summer. So I'm really looking forward to that.

Annie: Okay. So we got that coming, and in the meantime, Hobby Lobby?

Holland: Yes, Hobby Lobby. And maybe a quick beach trip.

Annie: Yes, girl. Yes. Well, I hope you do. Thank you for being a CPA. You are doing the work of the Lord for people like me do not do numbers as well.

Holland: For the most part I enjoy it.

Annie: Okay, good. Oh, I love it.

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 is how you can find me. And you can find more content and clips from the show on Instagram @thatsoundsfunpodcast.

I think that's it for me today, friends. Go out or stay home and do something that sounds fun to you. I will do the same. Today what sounds fun to me is resting. I am resting today after preaching at Cross Point yesterday, I get a little bit of a slow Monday. So rest is fun to me. If you saw our AFD Week in Review email last week, you know why?

Y'all have a great week. We will see you back here on Thursday with my friends Nashville SC star and US Men's National Team star Walker Zimmerman and his amazing wife Sally. Yes, y'all, we got a soccer player and it's gonna be the best. We'll see y'all on Thursday.