

[00:00:00] <music>

**Annie:** Hi friends! Welcome to another episode of That Sounds Fun. I'm your host Annie F. Downs. I'm so happy to be here with you today. Thank you for jumping back in with us and all your thoughts and responses to last Thursday's show with Granger Smith. If you have not gotten to hear that, I really recommend going back and listening. It was a really special way to kick off August

Today we continue. And yeah, guess what? I cried again today. We're good, everybody. We're good.

Before we dive into today's conversation, I want to tell you about one of our incredible partners, [Athletic Greens](#). Listen, I cannot tell you enough how much I love Athletic Greens. You probably know by now that AG1 by Athletic Greens is one of my favorite and the easiest ways to incorporate the nutrients I need into my daily life.

So if you're trying to find some healthier habits after coming off a summer where routines kind of went, you know, out the window, just give AG1 a try. It is the healthiest thing you can do in under a minute. You just mix one scoop of powder in really cold water once a day. I usually do it in the morning, I shake it up with a couple of ice cubes of lemon juice. So lemon cubes, I guess, but ice cubes of lemon juice and I shake it up. It is so good.

With AG1, you can get the daily nutrients you need without taking a bunch of different things. Every scoop is filled with 75 vitamins, minerals, and Whole Foods-sourced ingredients of the highest quality to give us all major benefits like gut and mood support, boosted energy, and even healthier-looking skin, hair, and nails. And it supports your immune system.

Their travel packs come in so clutch. You guys, you've heard me say it, I take them with me on every trip. You can throw them in your purse or work bag, and it makes it super easy to still drink your AG1 when you're on the go or when you're traveling. You also don't have to worry about forgetting to order more because AG1, thank the Lord, delivers like clockwork every month, so it is really easy to make it a daily habit.

If you're looking for an easier way to take supplements, AG1 is giving you a free one-year supply of vitamin D and five free travel packs with your first purchase. Just go to [athleticgreens.com/soundsfun](https://athleticgreens.com/soundsfun). That's athleticgreens.com/sounds fun to check it out.

**Intro:** Today on the show I get to talk with my friend Steffany Gretzinger. She's actually still in this office. We just hit stop on the recording. You may remember Steffany from Episode 91 of the pod back in the day. She's an incredibly gifted singer/songwriter who started writing songs to process the world around her, and now those songs have become huge gifts to us all.

Today we talk about her album *Faith of My Fathers*, some of the best worship songs we all grew up singing. We talk about the loss of her dad. So here we are, again talking about loss and grief. I think it really matters. We also talked about her son, her new son that was just born a year and a half ago, and her brand new album, speaking of birthing things, *The Narrow Way*. It is so good. Came out on my birthday. I have not stopped listening to it. It is just incredible.

And I don't know, y'all. It feels like one of those grown-up albums that we've needed. I don't know. I'll be interested to hear your thoughts after you listen, after you hear this conversation. So it's just beautiful. I cannot wait for you to hear the story behind it all. So here is my conversation with my friend Steffany Gretzinger.

[00:03:17] <music>

**Annie:** Steffany, welcome back to That Sounds Fun.

**Steffany:** Thank you. It's so fun to be in person.

**Annie:** I know. I'm so glad. Thank you for coming to the studio.

**Steffany:** It's a joy.

**Annie:** Okay, you've been in Nashville three years? Four years?

**Steffany:** Yeah, 2019.

**Annie:** What do you think?

**Steffany:** I mean, I feel like I'm back home. It's a stretch for my amazing Canadian husband. But he's fallen in love with it, so that's good.

**Annie:** Even the temperature.

**Steffany:** Even temperature.

**Annie:** I mean, the world is dealing with it this year. So it's not just us.

**Steffanny:** It's true.

**Annie:** What have you seen... Tell me an observation. I've been here... literally this week was 15 years that I've lived here.

**Steffanny:** That's amazing.

**Annie:** So I've been here 15 years. So tell me what you see God doing here that I can't see because I've been here too long.

**Steffanny:** Oh, man. I mean, nobody can ignore the mass influx of people. I mean, this place has been a deep well for a long time. But I think those are about to burst open up from the ground. I mean, the state, the government here has really, in a lot of ways, held the line. I mean, there's always the very real battle. But I think that the Lord has found a resting place here and I think He's waking people up.

I do think there's the element of being a hub of performance. So I think the Lord is shaking that. But I think he's really excited to move here. You feel it in the air. I mean, you can feel it in the air, you feel it in the ground.

**Annie:** Something even feel different right now than it felt six months ago too.

**Steffanny:** Yeah. I mean, I feel it just talking about it.

**Annie:** Me too. I have goosebumps talking to you about it.

**Steffanny:** God gifts these.

**Annie:** I'm a seasoned person so I'm always paying attention to seasons because-

**Steffanny:** That's right. Same.

**Annie:** ... because my Enneagram seven needs things to end and start. If I'm doing something forever, I can't do this.

**Steffanny:** What's the next thing?

**Annie:** Yeah, yeah.

**Steffanny:** I love that.

**Annie:** In the last couple of weeks, I felt this like, Oh, something is turned, a knob has turned or something and it feels like... and you're right, people are moving here, and

not just anyone, but exporters are moving here, people who make things are moving here. What's that about?

**Steffany:** Thessalonians talk about living quiet lives and working with our hands. I think there's something that moves the Lord about putting our hand to the plow. Not like works without faith or without first love, but it's the... Like we just pray. You're just praying, what they do, what we do matters. And what we do with the truth we've been given, what we do with the Word of God matters, what we do, you know... It's not enough to learn. We apply it. We live it. Right?

**Annie:** Yeah,

**Steffany:** And I think that we're getting back to a day that's been lost. My husband, because he's a craftsman, this is his... You just... Woo. He'll talk about it for hours because he's like, we're getting back to... there's something... we've lost a connection to God, to the one who formed us in our mother's wombs with His words, with His hands. And I think that we're returning to... all these makers are showing up and they're like, I don't want to just YouTube this anymore. I want to learn.

There's something, a connection, I think, from head to heart that only happens when your hands are involved, that mind, body, and spirit. And just pushing a button to get something done or ordering it somewhere else is like it's losing its shininess, you know?

**Annie:** Yes.

**Steffany:** So I don't know. I think it's really amazing. I love that. So in the Word, the first person that's recorded filled with the Spirit I think is Bezaleel.

**Annie:** Talk about it.

**Steffany:** Come on.

**Annie:** I just learned this in January.

**Steffany:** Isn't it amazing?

**Annie:** Lauren Daigle and I talked about it. The first person filled with the Holy Spirit was builders.

**Steffany:** Is an artist.

**Annie:** Is an artist.

**Steffany:** Come on. And I think he's bringing us back to that.

**Annie:** The idea that that story keeps showing up-

**Steffany:** I know.

**Annie:** ...this year, that is so interesting.

**Steffany:** He's in it.

**Annie:** Because that's been in the Bible... I'm 43. That's been in the Bible at least 43 years. That has been in the Bible a long time and-

**Steffany:** He's highlighting it.

**Annie:** ...I've never seen it until this year. And people keep bringing it up. He's whispering it across people. What do you do? So talk to us. Because I'm thinking about my friends who are sitting in their Bible studies or talking to the other moms at carpool drop off and they're all in the same song on accident.

**Steffany:** I love it.

**Annie:** Or something comes up like this on accident. So what do you do when you start hearing whispers of a repeating rhythm like that? Or a theme. What do you do?

**Steffany:** I mean, to me, it's super practical. If I keep seeing repeats of something, I'm like, "Okay, you're talking." Like, as a family we're like, "God is speaking. Slow down and stay here."

**Annie:** Yeah, Slow down and stay here.

**Steffany:** Don't move on until you've sucked out every little bit that He's wanting to show you. Because the word is so alive. He's so alive. We've had sort of a long stint of being so interested in a new revelation or a new talk and all these things in church. The Lord's bringing us back to the word.

I have a dear friend that always says, the Father's only sermon is Jesus.

**Annie:** Oh, that's beautiful.

**Steffany:** We're coming back. We're coming back to the Father's only sermon, which is the life of Jesus. So the word is the most accurate piece of history even that we have.

And I think that for those who seek Him, He promises to be found. So the word He's popping up everywhere. I think it's stirring our faith, right? We're returning to simple faith. And that simple...

Jesus didn't say to His disciples... when He called people, He actually called them by name. He said, "Follow me." He didn't say, "I'm gonna make you something awesome" yet. No. The point was following Jesus, step by step, day by day. So for me, it's like the little we're gonna stop we're gonna meditate on this with the Holy Spirit.

**Annie:** You're gonna love this so much. Because when the Lord is cheesy with me is when I'm like-

**Steffany:** Love it.

**Annie:** ...it has to be you because I would never.

**Steffany:** I love it.

**Annie:** So on Friday and Saturday I was... it's a great song from Rascal Flatts, the *God Bless the Broken Road*.

**Steffany:** I love it.

**Annie:** That song means a lot. It can still make you cry. But also that started coming around and I was kind of laughing with the Lord. And I was like, "I hear you. This road is broken." It was the Lord saying to me, "I understand you're saying the road is broken." Because I was saying to Him, "I've got one life and we've used it like this, and this one area feels really broken."

**Steffany:** Sure, sure.

**Annie:** And Sunday morning, I get my car and the song on the radio. And I was like, "You are killing me."

**Steffany:** He's cheeky.

**Annie:** That is so cheesy. But it has to be You because it's the radio. It's not even... So then I went like, Okay, I actually need to journal this, even though it makes me feel dumb, because it's something that I think is...

**Steffany:** Oh.

**Annie:** It's a love song and that's not what it's about.

**Stefanny:** He speaks our language.

**Annie:** Right.

**Stefanny:** He meets us where we're at because He's so wonderful.

**Annie:** Yes. So I went, "Okay, I will write up..." I have big sticky notes on my wall.

**Stefanny:** I love it.

**Annie:** And that's what I write when I'm praying for other people. So I wrote "Broken Road." And I was like, oh man, this is-

**Stefanny:** This is my sticky note.

**Annie:** But He keeps doing it.

**Stefanny:** He does.

**Annie:** Right?

**Stefanny:** Yeah.

**Annie:** So you're right. My inclination has been "move on", and you're teaching me and disciplining me in this of like, what if you just stayed there?

**Stefanny:** Yeah. Be still and know.

**Annie:** What if you just paid attention to it? Yeah.

**Stefanny:** Still and know, right?

**Annie:** That is hard.

**Stefanny:** Like, I can't know you if we don't actually get still, we get to know each other, we spend time, we slow down, you know?

**Annie:** Right.

**Stefanny:** It cracks me up how we're in such a culture where when you pass somebody so quickly and you're just like, "Hey, how are you doing?" and you keep walking...

Like, don't even ask. Just say hi, good to see you, and keep going. Because "how are you?" is a loaded question.

**Annie:** And if you don't actually want the answer-

**Steffany:** Don't ask.

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Steffany:** Or we're in a culture, like, "We should do dinner sometime." I'm like, "We probably won't but I think you're great."

**Annie:** Right. I said it to someone on Saturday and this morning I thought, "I need to text that friend because in the moment I processed, do you really want to say the sentence? And I thought, then you better follow up.

**Steffany:** Right? No, it's real. I try to practice that.

**Annie:** I know. I know. So, slow down. That's so good. Because it feels like if the Lord gets in a season where He wants to talk to us a lot, the best way to say thank you is to slow down and listen.

**Steffany:** Oh, I think so.

**Annie:** Okay. Okay.

**Steffany:** I feel that way about the ones that love me.

**Annie:** Yeah, right? Yes.

**Steffany:** Yeah.

**Annie:** Okay. So since you've been here, you've had a child and two albums.

**Steffany:** That's true.

**Annie:** I know.

**Steffany:** It's crazy how time flies.

**Annie:** I know. So your son is how old?

**Steffany:** He's a year and a half.



**Annie:** A year and a half.

**Steffanny:** He's just a man-child. A hunk.

**Annie:** He's so cute.

**Steffanny:** Ooh. He was 10 pounds, 11 ounces, Annie.

**Annie:** Oh my word.

**Steffanny:** God bless.

**Annie:** Yeah, God bless you-

**Steffanny:** God bless me.

**Annie:** ...and your bod. I mean, is that a Covid baby mathematically?

**Steffanny:** My sweet bod. I mean, I don't know. 2022.

**Annie:** 2022. Okay. How's it switched your life to have two versus one? Because Wonder is such a wonder.

**Steffanny:** Well, yeah. And they're seven years apart. So the biggest change in my life for me personally is my body. Hey. But mostly between like, okay, I have a seven-year-old and a one-and-a-half-year-old, how do we do everyday life together where you both are completely taken care of and where like, you know, Wonder doesn't feel like a babysitter or this in this moment and we can all find things that everybody loves to do? Honestly, it's been a really fun challenge, even though my mom heart feels torn sometimes, you know?

**Annie:** Of course.

**Steffanny:** Because I want to be, you know, fully present here and fully present here. So we have to get creative like any mom does, you know?

**Annie:** So in the midst of having a son, you also lost your dad.

**Steffanny:** I did.

**Annie:** I mean, what a...

**Stefanny:** I did.

**Annie:** Oh, man, unbelievable.

**Stefanny:** My dad I would consider to be a saintly man and one of my dearest friends. The prayer the whole time... Of course, we pray in faith, but we also "Lord, whatever brings you most glory". Ultimately this is the prayer of our lives. I think he wanted his friend home. And, you know, He suffered. He suffered a lot. But I knew the Lord could heal him. You know, there's no question, and there was more than enough faith. So that's when I go, "He's yours." It was time for him to go home and...

But it's interesting because a year almost to the day, at least the week of we recorded *Faith of My Fathers* and I found out I was pregnant right after we recorded it-

**Annie:** Oh my God.

**Stefanny:** ...with Wilder. It felt like the most beautiful fruit. I don't think the Lord could have given me a sweeter gift than to give us a son a year after. A year after a year, I guess. Right? That makes sense. Like we had a year of grieving him and all the firsts, all the firsts without the first man you were ever in love with.

And then after that, it was like, this is the altar. Albums are altars. Or this is what I'm offering you. And I felt him longing for it, and it felt honoring the... it was for the Lord but it felt like it really honored my father and the fathers that have gone before us. And then we found out we were having Wilder, which is wild. You know?

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Stefanny:** So the timing is everything. He's just worked out the timeline of our lives. You can't make that stuff up, you know?

**Annie:** Yes. Yes.

**Stefanny:** Will you talk about recording *Faith of My Fathers*? Because the story about... I mean, that album. I told you when you sat down that album last year, it just... oh my gosh. I sobbed... When I saw it pop up on Spotify, I was like, "Wait, what has Steff done? Wait, these are all the songs I sang my whole life." So *As The Deer* starts and I'm just sobbing in my kitchen while my tea is being steeped. I mean, I just-

**Steffany:** Oh my word.

**Annie:** The whole album, I spent that whole... I mean, in my head, I spent the summer in it. When did it come out? In October. So I bet it was summer of '22.

**Steffany:** Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

**Annie:** But I mean, I spent so much time on that album. Will you talk about recording that? How'd you pick those songs?

**Steffany:** Do you know what's sweet? One of my dearest friends, Cassie, you just met her, she's sitting out here with the kids, she played bass on the whole album on almost all my albums.

**Annie:** Oh, wow.

**Steffany:** She's like no joke. She's a total legend and unbelievable in skill and unbelievably sensitive in spirit. That's her on *I Exalt Thee*.

**Annie:** Oh, wow.

**Steffany:** Tongue bass. Oh my heart. So, you know, Jason Ingram, who's like-

**Annie:** Love him.

**Steffany:** ...brother bear, like we just think he's one of the most wonderful people on the planet.

**Annie:** Agreed.

**Steffany:** Stephen and I really adore him. He's just been so kind to help us navigate all of the things. The Lord just really gave him as a gift. So I love to make albums with him. Sometimes I wonder, I don't know if I'll ever make album with anybody else until he tells me to stop.

**Annie:** That's right.

**Steffany:** But I asked him, I felt the Lord, like... all I was singing after my dad passed were all these songs I grew up with. And rightly so. I mean, these are the things that are... they come up all the time. They have so much oil. They've been... they're timeless.

**Annie:** That's a great way to put it.

**Steffany:** We have a lot of seasonal songs that we write too and there's a lot of those now. But then there's these songs that are like... because most of them are from scripture. And I don't know how much of our generation actually knows them.

**Annie:** Right, right.

**Steffany:** I think we need to sing all the songs to the Lord but I think that you can't write something better than what is God-breathed.

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

**Steffany:** You can't outright the Bible, you can't outright the words of Jesus, the ways of Jesus. So going back to those things, it was like, Ooh, I felt like, I don't know, something my dad carried fell on me. Again, it was like a fresh touch.

So I asked Jason, I was like, "I know this is a lot, and I know it will be very expensive. How do you feel about packing everything and everyone, and going to Worchester, Ohio for a week where my dad's ministered for the last 20 years? Just kind of like my home church and being where he lived in the place where I was marked by the Holy Spirit and filled with the Holy Spirit?" He took a day to think about it and was like, "Absolutely. No question. Let's do this."

**Annie:** Wow.

**Steffany:** Which I was surprised because He's got the perfect setup here. You know, it's like we're in Nashville. Finding a place is not a problem. But we did. We packed up everyone, everybody flew into town.

**Annie:** Oh my gosh.

**Steffany:** And we had one of our dear friends-

**Annie:** Just took over Wooster, Ohio.

**Steffany:** One of our dear friends came to cook for us.

**Annie:** Oh, wow.

**Steffany:** We had family meals around the table throughout the day. And we'd go for walks and take breaks. We bypassed the stage and set up around the altar-

**Annie:** Oh.

**Steffany:** ...where my dad, I feel like, spent most of my life. And I could just see him walk in those pews and praying for people and with people for hours until they broke through and seeing deliverance and healing and salvation. It was stunning. It was absolutely stunning. And I have one of our worship pastors, even from that, who's such a dear friend, his name's Nate Ward, from that church, he plays on the album and was there with us. My home pastor just welcomed us in. It was so sweet. It was a holy moment.

**Annie:** It really was when you hear the album.

**Steffany:** And we were all together. Usually, you have a musician, like this person comes in today and records this and this when you do studio but we didn't do that. Everyone was giving input, worshiping throughout. I mean, it was just-

**Annie:** Did you still do it where-

**Steffany:** It was a dream.

**Annie:** ...the guitar recorded first or y'all were all together at the same time?

**Steffany:** We were just all gathered around together. And we're like, "What do you think? You know what? On this one, let's go keys first."

**Annie:** Wow.

**Steffany:** And my mom played keys on that entire album. I don't know if you know that, but that's my mom.

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

**Steffany:** I say all the time, my dad prayed me through and my mom played me through. She's such a chief musician and has so much oil and authority. So for her too being able to play that album, ooh.

**Annie:** Oh. How'd you decide what songs?

**Steffany:** I have like three lists and I really would love to do two more albums.

**Annie:** Okay, good. I support it. I would love it.

**Steffany:** But those were like when we broke it down, Jason and I both, we were like, "Ooh, I think these are the ones that first I don't feel like I can do without." But I have a couple decades of them. A couple more.

**Annie:** I think you and I are similar in that we grew up in the church and grew up... I mean, I became a Christian when I was five, I meant it. So I remember it. So there are times where I will say to the Lord, "I think you had 13-year-old Annie pray that and sing that and you're holding me to it." 43-year-old Annie would compromise. But 13-year-old Annie... I mean, I'm gonna cry and say it to you.

**Steffany:** Do it.

**Annie:** I'm like, "You hold me to things."

**Steffany:** Yes. Yes, He does.

**Annie:** And you should. I want Him to.

**Steffany:** He keeps us.

**Annie:** Yes. He keeps me. So when I hear those songs last summer, my sister had a baby that died after two months.

**Steffany:** Oh my gosh.

**Annie:** So last summer when this album was my soundtrack, we were also surviving great loss. And I remembered thinking about my home church in Atlanta and thinking, "I know where I was when I said, you're my strength when I'm weak." And I meant it when I was 13. And 43-year-old Annie has a lot more questions-

**Steffany:** It's like you're prophesying. It's like you're putting it in so when it's pressed later. Right?

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Steffany:** Woo, a word.

**Annie:** It's why we want kids singing this. It's why we do stuff for kids is because I'm like, because when I was there, I meant it. And God still believes her.

**Steffany:** Yes. With every fiber of our beings we mean it. Because those songs are like... they're from the Word, they're literally scripture. And to sing them... Like He knew

that we were storing up strength for a day of heartache or tragedy. And that's what comes up.

**Annie:** Or just the world being harder and more confusing.

**Steffany:** Exactly. And it's like even our minds are wrestling in the loss, in the agony of that-

**Annie:** Yes.

**Steffany:** ...our spirits are singing these songs. They sing the word. It's like your head's not thinking of them; they're coming outta your spirit.

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

**Steffany:** That is why.

**Annie:** That's what you did. That's why that album... It is absolutely incredible.

**Steffany:** Oh, thank you for sharing that.

[00:21:25] <music>

**Sponsor:** Hey y'all, just interrupting this conversation to share about one of our amazing partners, [Brooklinen](#). Who says you can't vacation in the comfort of your own home? Listen, let us keep vacationing. Brooklinen is here to keep us cozy all year long with their award-winning sheets and home essentials. I'm embarrassed to tell you how much I love my Brooklinen sheets. Like, are you supposed to feel this about sheets? I don't know.

I just have three sets that I'm literally always rotating through. They are so soft and comfortable. I changed my sheets on Sunday last week before I came back to work on Monday. And when I crawled in that night, I was just the happiest. I was just the happiest. They're just the best.

According to Wirecutter and Good Housekeeping, Brooklinen has best-in-class bedding and your girl AFD agrees. So if you don't believe me or their 100,000 five-star customer views, you know these experts have done their research. Brooklinen uses only the highest quality materials for all their products, such as long-staple cotton so that everything they create is built to last.

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**Sponsor:** And I've got one more fun thing to tell you about that is for my MiniBFFs. Oh, you know how I feel about my MiniBFFs. It is back-to-school season. Some of you are already back and others will be in the next few weeks. I know going back to school can bring up every single emotion for both our MiniBFFs and us as adults and parents. Trust me I'm on a text message today for a first day of school with some of my friends.

So we've made this free little back-to-school kit that you can download just as something fun and hopefully really helpful. And parents, there's something for you in there too. So first we've got a little set of cards that you can print out, write a note on, stick in your kids' lunchbox or on their backpack so they can read it at school as a little reminder of how much you love them.

Then there's a sheet of five things we want your kids to remember as they go back to school. Just some simple reminders when they're feeling a little nervous or excited. We made one of those sheets for you parents to read as well.

And then last and the most fun, we made a make your own confetti sheet because, duh, we always have a reason to pull out the confetti. And don't you worry, we're gonna get to use that confetti together because we're bringing back the MiniBFF Book Club for one special Back to School Bash Next Monday, August 14th at 6:00 PM Central live on my Instagram, on [AnnieFDowns](https://www.instagram.com/AnnieFDowns), next Monday night, August 14th.

So head over to the link in the show notes to download that free back-to-school kit for you and your kids. And save the date for the MiniBFF Back to School Bash on Instagram next Monday, 6:00 PM. Not tonight. Next Monday. Next Monday. Next Monday 6:00 PM. I cannot wait.

Now back to our conversation with Steffany.

[00:24:30] <music>

**Annie:** So then Narrow Way came out this summer.

**Steffany:** Yeah.



- Annie:** Let me tell you, I didn't want to tell you this before we recorded because I wanted to tell you this when everyone hear it. It feels like your core is made of steel in this album.
- Steffany:** Oh, wow.
- Annie:** It feels like something happened that you went like, "There is no turning back for me, and I will... And the way is narrow. I mean, you titled it that. But it feels like in those songs you're going like in glory. You're just like, "Hey, all these things are falling off and I am still going one way. Is that what happened?"
- Steffany:** Yes. I think too, and you'll relate to this, I think in like... Kalley and I talked... you know, like when we wrote *City of God*-
- Annie:** Yeah, oh gosh.
- Steffany:** I started writing that the day after my dad passed.
- Annie:** Oh gosh.
- Steffany:** And we sat for like two days crying and talking about Olive and the crossing into glory and then being together there. Maybe he welcomed her like a grandpa. We just dreamed about those things. And I just thought, "I think after you lose someone so precious... And it's different to lose a father you've had a life with than a little one. It's incomparable, but-
- Annie:** No, no, no.
- Steffany:** The Lord doesn't measure our... He doesn't measure our grief, but it is different. But I think you stop sweating the little things. It was like the veil gets so thin. And you're like, ah. I remember the day my dad took his last breath, and I remember driving to the house and it felt like the clouds were pressing and heaven was a low-hanging cloud. And I thought-
- Annie:** Did you know? Were you like, "This is it"?
- Steffany:** Yes. And you know, Wonder said to me before I walked out of my tiny little prophet, she said to me... I was walking out the door to go be with him, she said, "Mommy," she said, "Mac Pappy's about to run like a child again."
- Annie:** Oh.

**Stefanny:** And for weeks before that, she'd say things to me like, "Mommy, you know why heaven is gonna be so much better than this?" And I'm like, "Why baby?" And she's like, "Because I can have long hair without any tangles."

**Annie:** Oh.

**Stefanny:** And then a few days later like, "You know why heaven's gonna be better than it is here?" And I'm like, "Why baby?" And she's like, "Because we can eat anything we want without allergies."

**Annie:** Oh.

**Stefanny:** You know, very real-life scenarios for her that cause pain. And it was so holy to me from the mouth of babes, you know? And I think I was just like, so many things that I have let matter more just don't now. Like one life. This is one life.

**Annie:** We get one life.

**Stefanny:** The road is narrow. I don't have time to mess around with the fluffiness on the outside. And as it should be, the closer we get to Jesus, our message should be singular. It should become more narrow like the road that we're on. Right?

The world is offering every opportunity right now, at least it sounds like it. But Jesus is the way, the truth, and life. He's offered this one way, but you actually have life this way. Because He's life. He's everything. He's the road. He's the destination. He's the water and the well, He's the hunger and the food. He's everything. When you find that out, you don't forget it. I'm not saying you don't have days. But I'm saying once you've tasted of His presence, even a little bit of glory, everything else starts to lose its flavor.

I think being with someone when they take their last breath is a wild thing. All of a sudden I'm like, Oh, this is what's passing. That is forever. Like you could feel the Trinity press into the room. And my dad who hadn't been talking for days lifts his head. I walked in and he just said, "Jesus walked into the room." And I knew he was seeing the Lord. My dad... I mean, there's no doubt about it. I knew the Lord was there. You could feel the holiness in the room.

And I sat down and he pointed at me and he said, "The Father and the Holy Spirit." I said, "Daddy, are they here?" And he said, "Yes." And I'm telling you what, I told him what Wonder said as we were gathering around him at his feet and just telling him like, it's been one of the greatest honors of my life to be yours and your legacy is alive in me. The word of God is alive in me, and Jesus will have his full reward in us. The life you lived will live on in me."

I told him, I said, "And Wonder Grace, your girl says that you're about to run like a child again." And my dad, who hadn't lifted his head in days, threw his arms up and said, "Yes." Like shouted it.

**Annie:** Oh my gosh.

**Steffany:** And then he took his last breath. By the way, passed—we could not have planned this—passed to the *Olive Grove*, which is on forever, amen. But I asked Kalley and Andrew's permission to name that after Olive.

**Annie:** Wow.

**Steffany:** Because I felt in the music that it felt like crossing over. And he passed to that song.

**Annie:** Oh my gosh. To the *Olive Grove*. You can't make it up.

**Annie:** Yeah. You can't make it up. So it was holy. Thank you for asking me about it. Because the Lord was in every detail of all that process.

**Annie:** Right. The holiness of it and...

**Steffany:** Oh, it's holy.

**Annie:** And His kindness is so evident if we look for Him in suffering.

**Steffany:** Yes. Yes.

**Annie:** His kindness is harder to find on the best days, I think.

**Steffany:** Yes.

**Annie:** But when you're suffering, if you're like, I just have to know you're nice. Nice? That's not the right word. I just have to know you're kind.

**Steffany:** But in the wounding... I think now, if there's anything that is sticking out to me now in a massive way, it's like when I'm wounded, the solution is to look at the wounded Christ. It's to look at His wounds.

**Annie:** Wow. *Man of Sorrows*.

**Steffany:** *Man of Sorrows*.

**Annie:** I was listening this morning. I was in my closet putting away shoes and you were singing *Man of Sorrows* to me and I literally went like this, He's a man of sorrows.

**Steffany:** He is.

**Annie:** Jesus actually was sad a lot. And I avoid that as much as I can. He was called a man of sorrows.

**Steffany:** Of sorrows. Well acquainted with grief.

**Annie:** Brutal. It does not say He was like the guy who brought the party. Though He did. I mean-

**Steffany:** Oh, He did. He's fun.

**Annie:** He had to be fun. Are you watching *The Chosen*? Have you watched *The Chosen*?

**Steffany:** I Love *The Chosen*.

**Annie:** He's so fun.

**Steffany:** He's so fun.

**Annie:** He's so fun. Jonathan Roumie do a good job of-

**Steffany:** They do such a good job. I love Jonathan.

**Annie:** ...showing us-

**Steffany:** He does.

**Annie:** ...a full range of Jesus' emotions, though he is not Jesus.

**Steffany:** No, for sure.

**Annie:** He is Jonathan Roumie. But *The Man of Sorrows*, talk about... even in writing that song, which I'm sorry I don't have this setlist in front of me-

**Steffany:** You're doing great.

**Annie:** Which song is *The Man of Sorrows* in? Do you remember? Is there one called *Man of Sorrows* on *The Narrow Way*?

**Steffanny:** Yeah, Yeah.

**Annie:** Okay, that's the title.

**Steffanny:** It's not the title of the... Yeah, that's the title of the song.

**Annie:** The song. Great.

**Steffanny:** That is the song that started the album.

**Annie:** Really? That's the first one.

**Steffanny:** That was a prayer in my journal that I prayed after Dad passed. I was like, "I want to know this man of sorrows."

**Annie:** Wow.

**Steffanny:** I mean, I have it written, right?

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Steffanny:** And about a year later I just felt like, Okay, I think I need to sing this song now. I've prayed this prayer. I would stare at this... It's so wild because I wrote down that prayer in my journal, and then this amazing lady from our church went to Israel. I don't know her. I don't know her know her. She said, "I was in Israel and I saw this painting called *Man of Sorrows* of Jesus." She said, "I felt like the Lord told me to get it for you." And I said, "You've gotta be kidding me." I was like, "I'm gonna smack you. I'm gonna smack you right now." And we laughed really hard. I was like, "You have no idea. You have no idea." So I'd stare at that and I'd pray this prayer and just sob. Right?

**Annie:** Yes.

**Steffanny:** And then a year, however long later, I asked my dear friend Mitch Wong... I don't know if you know Mitch Wong.

**Annie:** Yes.

**Steffanny:** Beautiful soul, pure, the driven snow, beautiful writer and worshiper. And he helped me finish it. We wrote that bridge there. Because we wanted people to understand it. It's interesting language. So it's special. It started the whole thing for me. So it's interesting that you mentioned that one.

**Annie:** My acupuncturist on Sunday said-

**Stefanny:** I love that.

**Annie:** He said, "The thing I'm noticing is there's some stuff with your liver we should work on, blah, blah, blah." And I said, "What should I do at home? Is there something I should do?" I thought he'd say, stretching, da da. He said, "I need you to sing every morning."

**Stefanny:** Oh, I want to hug him.

**Annie:** And I said, "What?"

**Stefanny:** I want to hug that person.

**Annie:** He said, "The most constricted place in your body is your throat. And in the morning if you would sing,, it will open up your whole self." And I thought, "What?" He accidentally spiritualizes my life all the time. It's one of the most spiritual experiences for me the way he talks to me.

**Stefanny:** Of course.

**Annie:** He's amazing.

**Stefanny:** Of course.

**Annie:** So for you, when you sit down and you have in your journal, Man of Sorrows, I don't write songs, so I don't do this, but I'm wondering, do you start seeing that on the page, and then a melody comes to your mind and you're just sitting there and you start singing? Because I sing you. When I'm sitting there, your album is going-

**Stefanny:** I appreciate you singing with me.

**Annie:** ...and that's my morning singing.

**Stefanny:** I appreciate you singing with me.

**Annie:** Is that how songs like that start?

**Stefanny:** I think they're all different for me. I think there's so many ways to catch songs. I think there's-

**Annie:** Catch songs.

**Steffany:** I think you catch them and I think you write them. I think there's the craft of songwriting and the catching. I am a writer. Yes, that's something that I do, so I schedule times to write. But I think it's so intentional. I can't just like, sign me up, put me in a room. I don't do that. For me personally, I just don't.

But I mean, sometimes I'll be, I don't know, I'm doing my dishes, I'm dancing with my kids. I'm like, I've got more things than I can get to, whatever it is. And then this melody will come to me or this phrase. I feel like the Lord speaks to me in nursery rhymes. I got excited what you say. I feel like it's really childlike. And I'll be like, I have to drop whatever I'm doing and move everybody into the piano.

**Annie:** Right.

**Steffany:** Everybody in the writing room. I have learned through the years now to make sure that it's a stewardship thing for me. So if something in the day... because to me it's like I want it to be the voice of the Lord. I'm always asking like, "Don't let me miss the whisper. Don't let me miss what you're saying or what you're singing or doing. I want to do what I see you doing.

So if I feel that nudge again, you know, I'm grabbing my phone. I'm singing it into there so I don't forget it, or I have to sit down right now try to jot it down and just see what the Lord does with it. I don't push anything. I will let it sit as long as it needs to sit.

**Annie:** Because to do an album in '21, and then again right now in '23, I mean, that's two albums really fast back to back.

**Steffany:** Right. Well, to be fair, we didn't write the other ones. You know what I mean?

**Annie:** Yeah, yeah, yeah.

**Steffany:** But it would be good.

**Annie:** I mean, that says to me that the well has just been opened.

**Steffany:** Yes. Ooh. And that overflow space, right?

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Steffany:** It's just like, okay, you just want to be faithful to catch it.

**Annie:** Yes.

**Steffany:** You know? I mean, *The Narrow Way* we wrote because we'd been reading Pilgrim's Progress with Wonder.

**Annie:** Oh, wow.

**Steffany:** That's wild, by the way, to read with him.

**Annie:** I haven't read it in so long.

**Steffany:** Oh, well, to read it with a little one who's like, you know... I mean, we talk about what's happening in other countries and people suffering. I'm like, we're not there, but we're gonna talk about this. You need to know that this is... people are giving their lives for the gospel all the time. And we don't know that you might.

**Annie:** Right.

**Steffany:** You might one day. We might be raising martyrs. I don't know.

**Annie:** Right.

**Steffany:** But they're the Lords. They're the Lords and He'll keep us together. Whatever He asks of us, He'll do through us. So we talk about that stuff. And she's listening, she's reading about these children getting martyred and she's like, Okay." Then she's like, "Well, this reminds me of this scripture and this scripture." She loves to listen to scripture when she goes to bed or Pilgrim's Progress. It's super intense.

**Annie:** Wow.

**Steffany:** But it's not scary God, because she's seen the kindness of the Lord leads him into repentance. And she knows the word. She has an unfiltered view because we don't just teach her one part of the word. It's the whole thing. Right?

**Annie:** Yeah. Yeah.

**Steffany:** So we wrote *The Narrow Way*. I was like, "I feel like our family needs a song." It's like, "Jay, can you write this song with me? So Jason and I wrote that because of it. "I want a song to go with this, this season we're in with Wonder." So it's just really fun. They're life songs, I mean, they happen in our lives and they stick with you. Things that won't bypass the cerebral in just to hear, you know, like set to music go... They bypass that over.

**Annie:** Yes. Yes. It sticks with you. That's why we can still sing *As The Deer*.



**Steffany:** *As The Deer*. That's right.

**Annie:** I could not tell you how to do some of the multiplication I learned back in third grade, but I can tell you *As The Deer*.

**Steffany:** That's it. And if you sang those multiplication tables back then-

**Annie:** I know.

**Steffany:** ...you might remember them today.

**Annie:** That's how I know the books of the Bible because I can sing them.

**Steffany:** Exactly.

**Annie:** I could be on stage preaching and be like, "Hold on, Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus... There it is. I mean, I have to find it that way.

**Steffany:** Exactly. That's how I passed test in school.

**Annie:** Thank you. I listened to a podcast over in July with Russell Brand and he talked about... he said this sentence that you and I have heard a thousand times, but it hit me for the first time for some reason. He said-

**Steffany:** I get that.

**Annie:** "God has no grandchildren."

**Steffany:** Ooh.

**Annie:** And so when you're talking about raising martyrs, and I think about my three-year-old nephew, he's going to school for the first time and I'm like, "Are you sure? Are you sure you need to send him?" And my sister's like, "I'm the one who's supposed to be sad, not you." But I'm like, "Oh, yeah, God doesn't have grandchildren. My nephew is his son."

**Steffany:** That's right. That's right.

**Annie:** And he has a plan for him that we just get to steward as the adults.

**Steffany:** That's right.

**Annie:** So all my MiniBFFs around, like, they're not God's grandchildren.

**Stefanny:** No.

**Annie:** They're His kids that have a plan.

[00:38:28] <music>

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And did you know there are thousands of us reading through the Gospels together every single month this year? Well, every single day of every single month. It is all happening over on the Let's Read the Gospels Podcast. We're just a week into our August reading plan. We're going through the Message, which is amazing, and it is not too late to join us.

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So come join us, friends. Subscribe to Let's Read the Gospels wherever you're listening to this podcast and jump in with us.

And now let's go back and finish up our conversation with Stephanie.

[00:40:41] <music>

**Annie:** So many of our friends listening mathematically know about 50% of people listening are raising children in some form or fashion in their home.

**Stefanny:** Oh yeah.

**Annie:** And then there's the Annies out there that are listening that are part of villages raising kids.

**Stefanny:** Right. Right. Right.

**Annie:** How do you live like God has no grandkids? How do we steward them in a way that like Wonder is hearing God and reading scripture and what if you're raising martyrs?

**Stefanny:** I think that we've tried to play Patty Cake Jesus with our kids a long time and protect them from the stuff that seems really intense. But when you read it through the lens of first love, you read the word entirely differently. Like Jesus is the seed through the entire Old Testament. All of this bloody stuff we read about is all pointing to the lamb who was slain before the foundation of the earth. It was a life for a life. It matters and it makes sense.

There's no scary God in it. There is a holy fear of the Lord. My dad said to me almost every day in my life as I left that Psalm 34:7, "The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him and he delivers them."

**Annie:** Wow.

**Stefanny:** And I say that over my kiddos all the time. "Hey, sissy, the angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him. Your life is in His hands. And if you give Him your life... There's gonna be a day Mommy can't be there to rescue you, Mommy can't be there to make this decision for you, Mommy can't be there to say

no when the answer should be no. You are gonna say yes or no. And the Holy Ghost inside of you, the Holy Spirit of God will help you if you ask Him. The Holy Spirit is here to live in us. Jesus said, It's better for you if I go because the Spirit of God is coming to live inside of you. Not just walk next to you, but live inside of you to lead you to Jesus, to reveal Jesus to us. Right?

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Steffany:** The one we so desperately need to see. So I'm just going, as a mom... because I can't tell you how many times I have to stop and ask the Holy Spirit for his view of my mothering, because I am always afraid I'm gonna ruin my children.

**Annie:** Yeah, sure.

**Steffany:** I'm just being really honest. I'm always like, "Is this too much? Is it not enough? Are they gonna hate church because they're here so much? Are they gonna...?" You know what I'm saying? I'm just like, "Lord, keep them. I can't do this with conversation. I can't be a religion for them. They have to know that you're closer than skin. And that the communion... like you paid for this by the blood of the lamb, your precious blood."

So we talk about everything. And I just am going, "Sissy, Mommy doesn't have the answer. She has unbelievable questions. They're so profound." As you know, children do—the tiny trumpets that they are. But I mean, so perceptive and specifically observant and I'm like, whoa.

Sometimes I'm like, "Sissy, I don't know how to answer that, but I know the Lord does and I know we can find it in the word. So let's ask the Holy Spirit to show us and to teach us." And we do it together. All I can do is point her back to the source and say, "This is the well that will never run dry. Mom will get old. I'm gonna give you everything I got while I'm here."

**Annie:** That's right.

**Steffany:** She said, even if something... I know it sounds morbid to talk about those things, but there's no fear in life or death.

**Annie:** It's setting them up to be the children of God not the children of Steffany.

**Steffany:** Yes. I'm like, This is the real deal. You may give your life. We don't know. Yeah. But there's no fear in that. Because if we die with Him, we rise with Him.

**Annie:** That's right.

**Steffany:** This is the promise.

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

**Steffany:** I think fear creeps in when the Lord hasn't filled the house. There's still room for fear when the Lord hasn't filled the house. And we've pacified fear and medicated. Not that that's not needed sometimes. But I'm saying the root of fear, right?

**Annie:** Yes.

**Steffany:** Like you can't counsel a demon. You can't send a demon to therapy. There is a line that they'll tell you, there's something here I can't touch. And the Lord has to deliver. The blood of Jesus has to deal with it and bring transformation. And then as a community, we walk that out, right?

**Annie:** That's right. With your people.

**Steffany:** Right, with your people. I'm talking a lot, but that's my-

**Annie:** No. That's why I asked. I wanted you to.

**Steffany:** And I know that the Lord is gonna send people for her. Stephen and I both are like, We won't be able to give her everything. It's humbling because you want to be able to give them everything.

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

**Steffany:** But you're like, "I know I can't. I know that the Lord is still gonna send... like, this person's gonna have this piece for her and this. Right?"

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Steffany:** It's just stunning.

**Annie:** It's so freeing. When I think about the next generation, especially the children that I love, like my nephew and my friends, where I go like, Oh, oh, actually God is very concerned about their life.

**Steffany:** Very much.

**Annie:** God is very... He is as invested in their life as He is in everybody else's. And therefore, I'm just here to help partner with God.

**Steffany:** No, it's so true.

**Annie:** It's not mine to protect, it's not mine to raise solely, it's not mine to... I'm just part of the story that God is doing. And then I went, "Thank you Russell Brand. Tell me, Russell Brand. Oh the Lord... I mean, he seems on a journey with Jesus. And it was a beautiful interview.

**Steffany:** Beautiful. Beautiful.

**Annie:** I thought, "Okay, Russell Brand, you better teach me how to co-parent with my people in my life.

**Steffany:** Come on.

**Annie:** It was something else.

**Steffany:** The yielded life.

**Annie:** Ah.

**Steffany:** Open hands.

**Annie:** A friend of mine had a medical emergency a couple weeks ago, and the wife and I were on Marco Polo. We were in college together and we're a part of the same ministry. And she said, "I know I gave Jesus my whole life. And if this is it, if something happens to my spouse." And she said, "I don't think I knew what I was saying but I said, "You can have my whole life."

**Steffany:** That's right.

**Annie:** It's felt like *The Narrow Way*. Your album has got this really interesting timing of a lot of us that are in our age bracket going like, I gave him my whole life and the path is getting more narrow from pressure from social media, from the world.

**Steffany:** Oh.

**Annie:** We are just at an age where things are happening.

**Steffany:** Yes. I mean, there's a million social agendas, all of which matter to the Lord, but they're not the thing. They're not the point. Right?

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Steffany:** And we can't afford in church to make all of our sermons about social agendas. Jesus is the answer. Jesus the Christ is the solution. He's the answer. He's the healer. He's the only one who's just. He's the only... And if we change the channel, we lose the solution, confusion enters the picture. Oh my goodness. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. And if that's true, then the fear of anything else is the beginning of anxiety.

**Annie:** Oh, that's really good.

**Steffany:** We have to ask the Lord for... we have to ask the Holy Spirit for the fear of the Lord. I think that people are afraid it's gonna be heavy or... you know what I mean? But it's the only way.

**Annie:** It's the only way.

**Steffany:** It's the only way. Psalm 19 says, The fear of the Lord is clean.

**Annie:** Oh, wow.

**Steffany:** It's clean.

**Annie:** Wow.

**Steffany:** It will keep us clean. It will keep us pure. It keeps us on the altar. It keeps us going true north. When everything around us, like every kind of culture around us is pressing and trying to get our attention and say, "Hey, this matters most. No, hey, this matters. Hey, come look at this." If Jesus is the filter, if we enter in through Jesus, the door, then we can trust that we've entered in His way. And then we'll engage with all these other people and things rightly. Right?

**Annie:** Right.

**Steffany:** There's no fear in that because I've entered through Jesus, the John 10 door.

**Annie:** Okay, so finish us here.

**Steffany:** How may I?

**Annie:** How do we cultivate fear of the Lord? What does that look like? What's the practice of that?

**Steffany:** I mean, well, it's not like it's in our human nature to find it. I think we love to be in control, right?

**Annie:** Yeah, we do.

**Steffany:** I mean, I just ask for it. I ask for it.

**Annie:** Oh, you just ask for fear of the Lord?

**Steffany:** I mean, He's like, who-

**Annie:** Because I ask Him for wisdom. So when a good idea comes to mind, I'm like, Well, I've asked every day.

**Steffany:** Absolutely. The revelation of Jesus. I'm asking for a revelation of Jesus.

**Annie:** Oh, so good.

**Steffany:** Holy Spirit, help me see Jesus. Give me the fear of the Lord. Give me first love. Let me burn with first love. Teach me, teach me, Rabbi. Teach me what it means to keep oil in my lamp. And keep me burning. You know that...

**Annie:** We can sing that song too. Come on.

**Steffany:** Give me oil in my lamp. Right? But it works. I sing it all the time. So I just think He's a good Father. And if we ask for bread, would He give us a stone? No.

**Annie:** No.

**Steffany:** No. He wants us to know Him more than we could ever want to. But it's like an appetite shift. Like if you've been eating donuts all your life and you hate spinach, it's gonna take a while for your palate to change. But all of a sudden you'll wake up one day and you'll be like, I can't stand the taste of donuts. I mean, we all love donuts. But you know what I'm saying?

**Annie:** Yes, yes, yes, yes.

**Steffany:** It is discipleship. There is discipleship.

**Annie:** I think what ends up happening with the donut spinach analogy is that you recognize how good the donuts taste but the payoff stops paying off.

**Steffany:** The payoff stops paying off.



**Annie:** And then you go, well, the payoff for spinach is actually really benefiting me. And therefore-

**Steffanny:** And then you crave it.

**Annie:** Yes.

**Steffanny:** Then you're like, "Man, I need a salad." Right?

**Annie:** Because of who you want to be.

**Steffanny:** That's right.

**Annie:** I want to live to be a hundred.

**Steffanny:** That's right.

**Annie:** So donuts just aren't going to pay off forever.

**Steffanny:** It loses.

**Annie:** And therefore it loses. The sugar still tastes great, but it loses... It's like can't resist because the payoff isn't there anymore.

**Steffanny:** I'm like sick afterwards. I taste it and I'm like, this isn't as good as-

**Annie:** That happens to me with sin. That happens to me with all-

**Steffanny:** It's like that with sin. We actually do have to steward our appetite.

**Annie:** Yes.

**Steffanny:** But He'll help us. I think that's the thing.

**Annie:** Ask for the fear of the Lord.

**Steffanny:** The Holy Spirit is here to help us.

**Annie:** Yes. Ooh.

**Steffanny:** Ooh.

**Annie:** Okay, what did we not say?

**Stefanny:** I don't know.

**Annie:** I mean, my heart's so full.

**Stefanny:** I know. Me too.

**Annie:** Thank you.

**Stefanny:** I just love talking to you.

**Annie:** I feel the same. Thank you. What a gift!

**Stefanny:** It's a gift.

**Annie:** The last question we always ask is because the show is called That Sounds Fun, what are y'all doing for fun? What's happening in the Gretzinger house for fun?

**Stefanny:** I love to dance with my kids. They're hilarious. There's a lot of dancing. I have a love for characters. So we will talk in accents and be like-

**Annie:** I did not know this about you.

**Stefanny:** Well, you know, it's why Dave Barnes is one of my favorites.

**Annie:** Oh.

**Stefanny:** I mean, he's the king.

**Annie:** He's got a series going on right now-

**Stefanny:** I know.

**Annie:** ...that is unstoppable.

**Stefanny:** I know. If there's only one reason for social media-

**Annie:** It's to keep following Dave.

**Stefanny:** It's to keep following.

**Annie:** I agree.

**Steffanny:** That to me is like it brings us so much joy and we lock-in.

**Annie:** Yeah, and stick with it.

**Steffanny:** I mean, Wonder was in British accent all the way up the stairs.

**Annie:** Oh, what I would've given she should have stayed with it.

**Steffanny:** Oh, it's classic.

**Annie:** Speaking of Dave, you know, Santa is on our show every year. So you may want to go back and-

**Steffanny:** Okay. Oh my goodness-

**Annie:** It's unbelievable.

**Steffanny:** We actually tuned in for the story time with you two over Covid.

**Annie:** Oh yeah. Oh yeah.

**Steffanny:** Yeah, we did. No, we Love it. It was amazing.

**Annie:** So, yeah, Dave, he is... Okay, accent. So you're saying brilliant.

**Steffanny:** I mean, we love it.

**Annie:** Thanks for doing this today. Thanks for making time.

**Steffanny:** Oh, thanks for having me

**Annie:** I'm so grateful. And gosh, I'm glad people get *The Narrow Way*. I am glad it's out. It actually released on my birthday.

**Steffanny:** Well, happy birthday. How fun is that?

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

**Steffanny:** Looking God.

**Annie:** I was like, this is meant to be. Thank you, friend.

**Steffanny:** I love it.

[00:52:13] <music>

**Outro:** Oh, friends, isn't she brilliant? Oh, I just am so thankful. I'm just like, what an open heart and wisdom of like what we do next. Like how do we fear God? Like what does it look like to fear the Lord? And what does it look like to walk the narrow way? Y'all gotta go listen to this album. And make sure you listen to *Faith of My Fathers* too, especially if you want to hear some of those scripture-based songs. Oh, they're both two of my favorite albums. I'm telling you, you are going to love them.

Make sure you're following Stephanie on social media. Tell her thank you for being on the show, for being so honest to process her own grief and loss right here with us. I mean, I'll just never forget some of that. So make sure you thank her. Y'all are so generous. Oh my gosh. It's one of my favorite things about you. You're so generous with your words with our guests. So thank you for doing that and thanks in advance for doing that for Steffany today.

If you need anything else from me, you know it, 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 don't forget, you can find That Sounds Fun Podcast for some extra fun things over on Instagram @thatsoundsfunpodcast.

I think that's it for me today, friends. Go out or stay home, do something that sounds fun to you. I'll do the same. Today what sounds fun to me is getting back out into the office and hanging with Steffany and her kids who are here. So I'm gonna go say goodbye to them before they leave.

Y'all have a great week. We'll see you back here on Thursday with one of my dear friends and a story that y'all are going to really be moved by. My friend Brandi Wilson will be here talking about her new book, *Better Than Okay*. We'll see Y'all on Thursday.