

[00:00:00] <music>

Annie: Hi friends, welcome to another episode of That Sounds Fun. I'm your host Annie F. Downs. Man, I'm so happy to be here with you and I cannot wait for you to hear this conversation.

But before we dive in, I want to tell you about one of our incredible sponsors. This show is sponsored by [BetterHelp](#). When our pal Jon Acuff reminded us recently that we get a fresh start at the beginning of every month on all those resolutions we've set, it really got me thinking about how we need to be sure we're celebrating the progress we've made and continuing to learn and grow toward our goals, right?

One of the most helpful things for me and doing just that has been time with my therapist. I highly recommend giving therapy a try if you never have. Whether you're considering starting therapy or maybe looking for a change, let me tell you about BetterHelp.

It is entirely online, super convenient and flexible to your schedule. Plus, getting started is so easy. You just fill out a quick questionnaire and get matched with a licensed therapist. They also make it super simple to switch therapists anytime at no extra cost, so you can be sure you've got a great therapeutic match.

Take a moment for yourself this summer. Visit betterhelp.com/thatsoundsfun, and you're going to get 10% off your first month. That's betterhelp.com/thasoundsfun.

Intro: Today on the show, I get to talk with my friend Jordan St. Cyr. Jordan and his family have spent years facing an incredibly challenging health battle with their youngest daughter, but thankfully it's looking like they are coming out the other side.

But before moving to Nashville, Jordan was a construction worker turned award-winning singer in Canada. They've been in the Nashville area, so we've been neighbors now for about two years. And it has been so fun to see him release new music and be such a light in the music community while dealing with such challenging personal things with his family at the same time.

Y'all are absolutely going to love hearing his story and his heart and his new album, My Foundation. It has something for all of us as we experience God's faithfulness. I cannot wait for y'all to get to know Jordan. I literally may be introducing you to your new favorite artist. I mean, he is the best.

So here is my conversation with your new favorite artist and my friend Jordan St. Cyr.

[00:02:13] <music>

Annie: Okay, Jordan St Cyr, welcome to That Sounds Fun.

Jordan: Thank you so much.

Annie: I mean, I'm so glad you're here. We're just diving in. You're telling me that a song that you released a year ago plus...

Jordan: Over a year ago, yeah.

Annie: ...is hitting top 10 right now.

Jordan: Yeah. What's going on?

Annie: Tell me what happens when the label calls and goes, Hey, you know that song that's been on the radio and then people went Spotify playlisting and whatever. Which one is it? My Foundation?

Jordan: No, it's Rescue. This song called Rescue.

Annie: Rescue.

Jordan: Yeah. This is kind of the bookend of our story of walking out of the fire with our little girl. She's doing so well right now. I released the song Rescue... And again, Rescue isn't God pulling us out of the fire. The rescue was really His presence walking through it with us.

So we released the song Easter of '23, 2023. It's been over a year, and we just thought, "Okay, well, maybe this song's a dud."

Annie: But then you don't call... I've never done this before because I've never sang. You don't call the radio and go, Stop playing it. You just go like, Okay, we'll let them do what they do when they play it.

Jordan: Right. Before Christmas, we had some big ads in some big cities. And we're like, "Okay, I guess we're going to continue to push this after Christmas. And then we get the more big ads and more big ads.

Annie: And big ads mean that a radio station that has a lot of listeners says, We're going to start putting this in our rotation. You're like, What? Not last Easter?

Jordan: Right. Your Houston's, your Dallas's, your LA's, your Atlanta's.

Annie: Oh my gosh.

Jordan: And it was like, Okay, God. You know what I mean?

Annie: Yeah.

Jordan: And so we're just kind of riding a wave that we feel we didn't create. You know what I mean? Like there was no ulterior motive here other than we just tried to stay faithful with what we had.

Annie: Okay. And I'll tell you the thing I've watched from a distance. For our friends listening, we have known of each other. This is our first time being friends. As I've watched you from a distance, I mean, you've been faithfully grinding at this career for a while.

Jordan: For a bit.

Annie: What we may not know because we're American, you are actually uber famous in Canada.

Jordan: I mean, I've done some things.

Annie: Dude, don't make me even start. Don't make me do it.

Jordan: Come on.

Annie: You have 2021 like awards. Like 17 time winner at the GMA Canada Covenant Award, including artist of the year. I mean, this is the problem with America and Canada is you come down here and hustle. Tell me about the ego. Tell me how you do that emotionally. Like you're that in Canada and then you come down here and it takes a year to get in the top 10.

Jordan: You know what? Look at the end of the day, I'm not that. For me personally, I'm never that. I go home and I'm a husband and I'm a father. And more importantly, I'm a child of God. And you know what? Beat that... those identities into me is honestly working in construction for 20-plus years, cursing the job that I had because all I wanted to do was play music.

Annie: So you were doing construction and music at the same time in Canada?

Jordan: Absolutely.

Annie: Unless you're 60 and you look a lot younger than you actually are. How have you had 20 years of construction?

Jordan: Because I started with my dad when I was 13. Laying floors.

Annie: There you go.

Jordan: And so I laid floors for, let's see, 15 plus years, ran my own business. And you know what? There was, again, this amazing parallel of God literally putting me in the dirtiest place in people's homes. You know what I mean? Literally cleaning up everything that gravity brought down. You know, sweeping it up, pulling out their old floors and putting new ones all while being on my knees. You know what I mean?

Annie: Were you a believer the whole time?

Jordan: Oh, absolutely. Absolutely. Grew up in the church. Four years old, five years old there were these pivotal worship nights that we had at our church. And I just remember being that age and me and my brother just had our hands in the air. You know what I mean? You don't recover from that in the best way.

Annie: What part of Canada are you from?

Jordan: Central Canada, small town just south of Winnipeg, which is above Minnesota, called Niverville. 1,200 people.

Annie: 1,200 people. So you know everybody.

Jordan: You know everybody. We've grown. We've grown quite a bit. We're at about 6,000 people. One of the fastest growing communities in Canada. Again, not big, but we've got our dairy queen.

Annie: Hey, listen, that means you got it.

Jordan: Two stoplights. Honestly, it's just a beautiful place to grow up. You know, knowing that a lot of the politics didn't affect you, you got to kind of live your life. It was a farming and trades community. And again, we talked earlier about this. You know, my parents came from a very tough upbringing. You know, my dad's dad took off, grew up in a single parent home. A lot of religious abuse, a lot of just tough things going on.

My mom grew up in a very difficult situation. Her mom had MS. So she grew up caring for her. Her dad was a workaholic. Just tough, tough things. And so they retreated from the city and they moved to this small town. My dad had dreams of being a singer, songwriter, and I believe he put those on the back burner just so they could have a healthy family.

Annie: Wow.

Jordan: And so we grew up in this amazing little town, six churches. You knew everybody who went to church and you knew everybody who didn't. You know what I mean?

Annie: Yeah. And you knew which one they went to.

Jordan: So I grew up... and I say this facetiously. I grew up this little self-righteous church kid, thinking I was right and everybody else was wrong. And then you grow up and you realize, after reading the Bible at length, that Jesus came for those who didn't.

Annie: Yeah, man.

Jordan: Oh man.

Annie: So for the sake of not the healthy, right?

Jordan: Amen. Amen. So here we are.

Annie: So what made y'all pack up and come down here?

Jordan: Well, we had this little hit on the radio called Fires. I believe it was on-

Annie: That's nice of you to say. Little. But it's not the math.

Jordan: Well, it was... what was it? 42 weeks on billboard. Again, a slow burn. Let me backtrack a little. I'd been coming to Nashville since 2014 back and forth about three, four, five times a year, just trying to figure out if this is the path that was for me. And slowly but surely I just started meeting people and meeting people. I knew no one when I first started.

Eventually we landed on the song Fires in 2018. I was signed to a label at the time, a little label and it didn't work out. It took about six months for me to recover from that, thinking we're about to release this song and do something big in the United States. I'm this kid from Canada from nowhere. So this is a big deal.

- Annie:** And that's such a short sentence. It took me six months to recover, but on like month two where you're like, are all my dreams gone?
- Jordan:** Totally. Totally. And that was a part of a whole two week period that we can talk about. But it was awful. Again, I don't know where this comes from, but this fire that just would not burn out that I prayed away for years.
- Annie:** You're like, Let me just do something else.
- Jordan:** You know what I mean? Like I'll go work in a church. I'll go do whatever. a) I don't want to work in construction anymore. And it got to the point where, God, I think I can make more impact in the world doing something else. I just got real honest. And so I took it upon myself, I put some money together, a large amount of money and we went to Christian radio in the US independently.
- Annie:** Oh my gosh.
- Jordan:** And so-
- Annie:** I did not know that.
- Jordan:** So we hired-
- Annie:** I've done a lot of reading about you and no one said, He put himself on American radio.
- Jordan:** We hired the talented Chris Hauser-
- Annie:** Of course.
- Jordan:** ...who in our first conversation, he says, No, I'm not taking money away or food off the table for your family. What an amazing human being. I eventually said, "You know what, Chris. I'm in a great spot. I am financially set to make this move. My family will not suffer. We've stewarded what God has given us. Will you take me on? And he said, yes.
- Annie:** Will you explain for our friends listening who aren't in the music world at all what a Chris Hauser does? Like, what does it mean you hired someone independent, a guy like that?
- Jordan:** Well, Chris is basically your liaison, your voice to every radio station. Chris is the kind of guy that has deep, meaningful relationships with all these people. It's so

beyond work. He wants to provide something of value for them to serve their community.

So we saw eye to eye on that right away. I'm like, you know what? I'm not here to become famous. I'm not here to become rich. I think I've got something of value to serve our world with, and I believe you're the guy to serve that up.

So Chris then takes that song and he highlights it among the 300 other songs that are being pitched to these radio stations. It's like you're a needle in a haystack unless you have somebody like a Chris Hauser. And so he serviced the song and he did his best.

He's fighting an uphill battle because a) it's a brand new song, which is always hard. Now you have a brand new artist. So he's fighting two battles for me.

Annie: And it's not a worship song.

Jordan: And it's not a worship song. So it is what it is. And I'm like, You know what? Do your best. I just know that I need to stay faithful with what I believe that I'm supposed to do in my life. So we went for it. And you know what? We would get one ad, two ads a week. Oh, then maybe three, then back to one. And we're like, Man, do we stop?

And the information we got is like, if you're getting one radio ad a week and you're signed to a big label and you're doing it, you're winning.

Annie: Oh, wow.

Jordan: So we're like, okay, we're going to stay steady on this. I believe we got to September or October-

Annie: Of '18?

Jordan: Of 2020.

Annie: Oh, geez.

Jordan: We wrote the song in 2018, but we released it Easter weekend in 2020.

Annie: Oh, good gravy.

Jordan: Pandemic, right? I'm ignorant to everything. Thank the Lord. I didn't know that this was the worst year to be doing this. But again, God's timing is perfect. It really is. I

believe the world needed a song that didn't tie a bow on it, but just said, "I am with you. This is going to be a hard slog, but we're going to get through it together."

Again, I didn't know any of that. I didn't know how to really write a Christian radio song. I'm just trying to write my heart and my story. And Chris took this to the airwaves around October. BEC, my current record label, came knocking, offered me up this beautifully amazing deal and we started working together and took the song to-

Annie: Are they based here? Is BEC here?

Jordan: They're based in Seattle.

Annie: Oh, okay. Did they used to be Tooth & Nail?

Jordan: They still are.

Annie: They still are Tooth & Nail?

Jordan: That is their umbrella company.

Annie: Oh my gosh, you're so cool being with Tooth & Nail.

Jordan: I went to so many Christian festivals as a kid and it was all these Tooth & Nail bands, MXPX and Value Pack and-

Annie: Oh man, Pillar?

Jordan: Pillar. Oh yeah, absolutely.

Annie: Oh, I crushed some Pillar stuff.

Jordan: Supertones. You know?

Annie: Yeah.

Jordan: Oh my gosh. And so this was a moment for me to bask in of God doing what He does best. So that song got us really thinking, Okay, we need to move. I was on tour, doing a Christmas tour with Casting Crowns, and it was a three weeks away from home tour. And that was the final-

Annie: With no break.

Jordan: Well, we had breaks, but because I lived in Canada, getting home was-

Annie: Right. You're like, I'll be on the bus.

Jordan: Okay, I'll fly home for a day. It'll take a day to get home. I'll stay home a day and then I'll fly back. I'm going to be done.

Annie: Yeah, that's right.

Jordan: At that point, we had another little song, Weary Traveler. Hit the radio and basically-

Annie: Everybody listening is like, Yeah, we know Fires, yeah, we know Weary Traveler.

Jordan: Right, right. Weary Traveler started to climb the charts. And I told my wife, *Fires* is what's going to bring us to Nashville, and it did, but we can stay if Weary Traveler impacts people. And it did.

Annie: It did.

Jordan: So here we are. We've been living in Tennessee for just over two years. The miracle of this story is crazy because my wife, her prayer, her heart for all of this was like, God, we already have everything we need. We don't want to move.

Annie: Is she Canadian as well?

Jordan: Oh yeah. We grew up 15 minutes apart from each other.

Annie: Oh, wow. Okay.

Jordan: We had the house that we desired. We lived on the block that we loved. Our neighbors, our communities, we had like 30 kids living on our block. All our kids' friends were there. We brought each one of our kids home to this house. Why would we want to move? And we just felt God expanding our hearts.

So my wife's prayer was, God, you know the community, right, you know the street, you know the neighbors, you know the kids, you know the schools, and you know the healthcare system for a little girl. And you know what? It was maybe six months ago, we have all our neighbors over, all their kids. And I'm looking at my wife with just this look of like, "God did it."

Annie: God did it.

Jordan: He did it.

Annie: I mean, don't give us your address, but what part of town? Are y'all Franklin-y?

Jordan: We're Murfreesboro.

Annie: Oh, Murfreesboro.

Jordan: What's a Murfreesboro? This was not on our radar at all. We moved in '22 where everything was crazy. You had to buy houses sight unseen. So we literally didn't see the house before we got it. And we literally walked in with tears in our eyes looking like this is for us. Again, you can't make this up. You cannot make this up.

So we live in Murfreesboro and we've got like a 15 year plan with our kids. We're like, we're locked in.

Annie: How many kids?

Jordan: Four kids.

Annie: Four.

Jordan: Yeah. Boys, Aiden and Liam are 13 and 12, and our girls, Willa and Emery are 9 and 5.

Annie: Okay. So many of our friends listening are raising kids and at some point they're going to move. They have to move for a job.

Jordan: Oh gosh.

Annie: They have to move for a health reason. They're going to have to move because the parents feel like God is saying, we are supposed to move across the country or to a different country, as you just did. How do you walk with kids through that? I mean, if your kids are 13, 11, I mean, they were kids of age of knowledge.

Jordan: Oh, yeah.

Annie: So you're bringing a fifth grader and saying, Hey, God's telling us to move to a different country. What does that look like?

Jordan: It's heartbreaking. It's heartbreak. You see these kids lose everything they've known and traded in for something that they know nothing about. My 12 year old Liam

would still choose back home and we're just over two years in. How do you navigate that?

I wrote a song about it on the new album. It's called A Way For Us. It's our journey from...

Annie: Oh, I totally hear that now when you say that. Yeah.

Jordan: And this is it. And so for those listening, honestly, it's a step by step thing. As somebody who loves to see 10 steps ahead, you don't get that. You don't get that. You literally get to step.

Annie: And you have to shepherd their little hearts through trusting God.

Jordan: And you have to be okay with getting it wrong.

Annie: Oh, interesting.

Jordan: And that is hard because God does not call us to take the right step. He calls us to take the next step. So he's like, I'm the director of your steps.

Annie: Do you think you can get it wrong?

Jordan: Absolutely.

Annie: Oh, okay.

Jordan: Oh, yeah. And that's where we were talking about earlier. It's like, sorry, covers everything. And you know what? As I've been able to apologize to my boys, especially when I can be too cold or when I can be too loud in my discipline, you get to show them the same way God has showed you.

Annie: But when you're thinking of moving cities, I'm thoughtful... So I want to chop this up with you.

Jordan: Canadian to American.

Annie: I mean, if you moved here, would it have been wrong? Or would the Lord have just gone, Okay, let's go? I mean, is there a-

Jordan: This is my philosophy. This is my philosophy. It's my hot take. I don't think God cares as much about what you do as you think He do.

Annie: I think you're right.

Jordan: God is a good Father. And when I look through the lens of being a father with my kids, it's a lot less about what they end up doing and more about who they are. And so here we are.

Annie: Like picking colleges. When your boy start picking colleges.

Jordan: Exactly. God, where do you want me to go? It's like God's like-

Annie: What do you want to study?

Jordan: Well, yeah, what do you want to do? He wants you to participate in the journey. And when you kind of throw that on Him, he's like, No.

Annie: I'm like you. I mean, I grew up a Christian. I got saved when I was five. I meant it. I knew what I was doing. And I'm forty three. So I'm working on thirty eight years of doing this. And probably on one hand, I can count the times the Lord's been like, Do this.

Jordan: Wow.

Annie: The rest have been like, what do you want to do? What do you think? And once I released the like, I need to hear a yes and capital letters in the sky, instead like what makes sense and what if I try this and it isn't right?

I remember when I was moving here, I was riding in the car with a friend and he said... I said, what if it don't work out, Gary? And he was like, You come back home.

Jordan: That's right.

Annie: I was like, Huh? I am not locking doors behind me.

Jordan: Can I ask you a question?

Annie: Yeah.

Jordan: What does your prayer life look like? Like for me, it is a constant conversation that doesn't end.

Annie: Yeah.

Jordan: I think when we operate that way, we have less of a hard time of thinking we need to hear the voice of God before we do something.

Annie: Because it just feels more like we're doing every day together.

Jordan: Every day together. Every moment. I'm a crazy person.

Annie: I want to sit and read in the mornings. I want to have focus time.

Jordan: You want to devote-

Annie: I want to pray for other people.

Jordan: Absolutely.

Annie: But when it's me and the Lord sorting stuff out, I'm like, between here and the chiropractor, we got to talk about what happened at work today. We got to talk about, you know...

Jordan: We're just hanging. We're bros all the time. So there it is.

Annie: That's the ease of when scripture says, Pray constantly. You're like, I could never. And then you're like, Well, yeah, I can talk all day.

Jordan: I can talk all day. Literally.

Annie: I can talk and listen all day. Like, yeah, I get that. I think you're right. I think that eases up. But then teaching that to kids and going like, Hey, you guys, we are trusting that God is opening these doors and we're going to do the best we can with that. And here we go.

Jordan: It's an impossible-

Annie: Setting them up for a great life.

Jordan: It's an impossible task because I remember when my parents moved from the city to the small town we were in, I was in first grade.

Annie: And you remember.

Jordan: I remember the pain and I remember developing a sense of self that was not positive because I was the new kid. I think I still carry that with me today and I'm

not bold. There's areas I'm not bold in that I wish I was bolder. There's areas I second guess myself in now.

I don't see it as a negative now though. I see the gift that my parents gave us by growing up in a small town. However, there's a bit of a wound there that I've had to take stock of and do work on for sure.

Annie: Wow. And that's a really interesting career to get into because us on the outside looking in, we go, Well, Jordan's a mainstay of CCM. Jordan's a voice that we know and he's on the radio. And you're going like, I'm still the new kid.

Jordan: I'm still the new kid. Yeah. You know what? I'm a huge hockey fan.

Annie: Have you come over to our Preds?

Jordan: I have not come over to the dark side.

Annie: I know.

Jordan: Again,-

Annie: What are the Winnipeg? Maple Leafs? Isn't that somebody up there?

Jordan: The Toronto Maple Leafs.

Annie: Okay.

Jordan: The Winnipeg Jets.

Annie: You could have bought me a house for that and I wouldn't have gotten the house.

Jordan: Fair enough. Fair enough. They are just the classic underdog, you know, small team. Not a lot of people want to come to Winnipeg to play hockey for the Winnipeg Jets. And you know, there's a mentality there. There's a grit, there's a blue collaredness that they represent that I love. And one day they're going to win.

Annie: Mathematically that's probably true.

Jordan: Mathematically, maybe. However, I take a lot of that with me. I forget what we were talking about.

Annie: No, that's it. I mean, that moving your kids, that carries with you.

Jordan: That's right. There's this grind that comes with that, this tenacity that's built in. So that's carried us a long ways.

[00:22:25] <music>

Sponsor: Hey friends, just interrupting this conversation real quick to share about one of our amazing partners, [Butcher Box](#). Listen, our Butcher Box gets delivered to the office, and you have never seen a people group more excited than when a box of meat shows up. It is the best day.

Listen, we get all this high quality meat to keep on hand to cook whenever I need it at my house or when someone on our team wants it at their house. It is the best part. I'm telling you there's nothing better than having meat delivered to your door.

And their meats are seriously so good. It's 100% grass fed beef, free range, organic chicken, pork raised crate free and wild caught seafood. Plus it's all humanely raised with no antibiotics or added hormones. And there's always free shipping on my order. So it just makes sense. I'm telling you it's the happiest our team gets is when our Butcher Box arrives at the door.

Butcher Box always has the best deals. Get this. If you sign up for Butcher Box today by going to butcherbox.com/TSF, like That Sounds Fun, and you use the code TSF at checkout, you're going to get your choice of bone in chicken thighs, top sirloins or salmon in every box for an entire year, you guys. Plus you're going to get \$20 off. Again, that's butcherbox.com/TSF and use the code TSF.

Okay, now back to our conversation with Jordan.

[00:23:50] <music>

Annie: I think the other thing that I noticed when I was listening to the My Foundation album, it is... I mean, I'm so glad people get to listen to this. It is so important. It's a really important album. But what I heard over and over is God has always been the same for me.

Jordan: He's always been the same.

Annie: Even you're like, I moved in first grade, like that comes into this album that God is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Jordan: That's right.

Annie: I mean, did you mean to do that? Did you mean to write an album that had that subtitle?

Jordan: I think subconsciously, yes, but also there's these stories. One of them is there's a song called Generation to Generations. That song was birthed out of a visit that I had with my grandpa. This was a couple of years before he passed away. And he came over and... we didn't have a deep relationship. My grandpa was not a part of my life for the majority of it because him and my mom had a tough relationship.

So we invited him over and we had this conversation just about a life and my kids are running around being kids. They're loud. I'm like, guys, settle down. And it kind of caught my grandpa's attention. And he just made this statement of "I'm so glad that I'm not raising kids this day and age." And it hurt. It really hurt because as believers, I've never understood that train of thought.

Now, I'm not his age. I'm not living in his generation. But my immediate thought was, Grandpa, you lived through the great depression. You lived through World War II. You know what I mean? Things are not that bad. And it just got me thinking how every generation has their battle.

I know my kids are going to be okay because the God that we believe in stays the same. He stays the same. He is the same through the generation of World War II and he'll be the same through the generation that walks through artificial intelligence or social media or all this stuff that we're like, kind of-

Annie: I mean, one of your quotes is we don't have war in our country currently, but we have TikTok. I was like, That's a thing. I mean, parents are facing some hard things. I mean, when I was growing up, you had to look for pornography. Pornography comes running toward us now.

Jordan: It does. It's a wild thing. Our oldest is 13 and we held off getting him a phone forever. He was the uncool kid. The hard thing is we used to live in a small town. Now we live in a city and he's miles away from us at times. And we're calling his friends' phones. And we're like, Okay, we can't be those parents. We've got to instill some independence. And so we got him the phone and it's locked down. You know what I mean? There's no social media. There's no nothing. He can call and he can text.

But it's important. Man, it is not the church's responsibility. It's not the government's responsibility. It's not the school's responsibility to teach our kids these things. As parents, we need to be on the front lines to lead the way. And it is impossible. It is hard. But we've got to do it.

Annie: And that song, Generation to Generation, as I was listening to it, I was thinking, the idea of God being the same as kind of His and I theme right now. So when your whole album was out, I was like, well, I know. That's what the Lord is trying to say to me anyway.

But when I was listening to generations and when I was listening to Help, I thought these are songs that say to me, you are invested in us as listeners, but you're actually raising people on the planet too. Like those felt like ones that a dad sings.

Jordan: That's amazing. That's amazing.

Annie: I mean, they're all songs that the dad sings because it's you, but those two particularly felt like, Oh, he's thinking of me as a listener, but he's thinking of generations of.

Jordan: Absolutely. You know what? Like, like we were talking about rescue taking forever to kind of get where it needs to be a success for me and my team. Those are the kinds of songs I want to be a part of because you want deep roots. Deep, deep, deep roots. I think deep roots means just great stories.

Annie: So when things take a year, when a song like *Rescue* takes a year to break top 10, which for our friends listening, do you ever listen to smart list? Do you know smart list?

Jordan: I had to stop because it's just pure entertainment.

Annie: It's so entertaining.

Jordan: And I say this lovingly because I love junk food, but it is the junk food of podcasts and those guys might be the funniest guys.

Annie: So they always talk to Tracy. Sean Hayes, a sister who doesn't know anything about, you know, it was like to explain to Tracy what's going on. So I feel like I need to come up with someone that we explain things to. But when a song hits top 10, that means things are going up. And it's not like, Oh, that was cute. That's like, Oh, we need to pay attention right now because it's going to go somewhere.

Jordan: Right.

Annie: As you and I were talking before we started, in our careers and everyone's careers, you are either climbing or you are descending.

Jordan: That's right.

Annie: There isn't a lot of like, I'm at the top and I stay there forever. That's what happened. Church change every week. What's the internal work you do when people get to hear these songs and can give you feedback on Instagram when your song is climbing and... but it took a year. You sat in a year of this, of touring constantly.

Jordan: It's hard.

Annie: What's the emotional work? For all of us who have jobs, what's the emotional work of that?

Jordan: The industry side of things, you know, pay attention to the charts, looking at the numbers on Spotify, all these things are brutally cold and calculated. And it's cruel. It really is. It's a cruel thing. What I tell people is I do not rest my head there. I do not sleep in the industry. And I think a lot of us think we need to sleep there.

So I go to the industry, I do my job, I love people as best as I can, but I do not live there. Because it is an industry. It is a very closely tied to money. The Bible talks very clearly... It's like you've got two paths. It is God or money. Now, I think money is a part of our everyday life, and we need to acknowledge that. But you cannot rest your head there and stay healthy. There's just no two ways about it.

Annie: I just watched a documentary that called money... that this man said, I'm just a supply line.

Jordan: Oh, wow.

Annie: He said, "God just gives me money so that I can send it where it needs to go."

Jordan: Amazing.

Annie: I was like, that's how I want to think about money. Oh, great. Here we go.

Jordan: As soon as we think it's alive, we're done.

Annie: Oh, alive. That's beautiful.

Jordan: It's neutral.

Annie: It's neutral.

Jordan: It's neutral. It's a tool. I worked in construction forever. It is a hammer to do the job that needs to get done. And that's it. And if you can think about it that way, I don't think you're going to be controlled or manipulated by it.

Annie: Did you have to work through that or is that...?

Jordan: Absolutely.

Annie: Okay. Me and my ego are at odds. I mean, we are fighting it out right now.

Jordan: And I think that's the point. If you feel the tension, you're going to be in a healthy place.

Annie: Oh, great.

Jordan: As soon as you're not-

Annie: Can't wait.

Jordan: It's not going to get resolved. That's the...

Annie: Yeah. It doesn't get resolved.

Jordan: It doesn't get resolved. It is very much a characteristic of being human and living on this earth.

Annie: But when you don't feel it, that's when...

Jordan: That's, I think, when you're in trouble, to be honest. Absolutely. Again, because there are two things pulling at us. It's God, His Spirit, He's pulling us toward Him. Or it's money and it's the world. And I don't know why, but I mean, the Bible's very clear on that. It talks about those two things.

So I brought this up to one of my guys on my team and I'm like, Man, there's a lot of money coming in over here. There's some over here. And you know what? I don't know what to do. It seems weird bringing this message forward and there's a lot of money." And he just said the most profound simple thing. Well, if you find yourself in a place where you're uncomfortable, you can just give it away. You know what I mean?

Annie: That's right.

Jordan: And I'm like, Oh, you're right. It really is that simple because I am not the provider in my life, God is. And I get to show Him that I am trusting Him by like, hey, this does not control me. I can give this away.

Annie: I've had a harder time in the lean times. It is harder for me to be separated from my ego in the lean times than in the successful times.

Jordan: Wow.

Annie: Because in the lean times, I think, well, I should be able to... and I should... you know, like I'm in charge of all of this. I have the power. And they're like, Oh, wait, when everything was abundant, I didn't actually make that happen.

Jordan: Wow.

Annie: And so if the Lord actually brings us abundance, then the Lord actually brings us lean times, too. And therefore, all I can do is be faithful again today with whatever God's handed me. And the outcome of that is not mine. But that's why-

Jordan: Totally. Speaking to this, is this all a test?

Annie: Like earth?

Jordan: For sure. But especially when we're talking about finances, especially when you're talking about North American believers. Is this all a test? I think it is. Right. I don't think God will tempt us because He's loving and He's kind and He's not manipulative. But I think this is a test. This part of our existence is short.

Annie: That's right. The short part.

Jordan: And we get to go have a little chat with Him, you know, when this life is done and we go on to the next. That that little chat is my filter for everything.

Annie: Do you think you do music in eternity? You think that's the work you'll put your hands to? Or will you be building houses for us?

Jordan: I think we love as believers to fill in that. I definitely have... I believe that peace is at the core of heaven.

Annie: That's good.

Jordan: And I think there's so much weight that we carry here in this life that will be shed. I don't know that doing the way we do it now will be there. Because I think so much

of what we do there's an agenda behind it or a motive. Like, I think about doing music all the time. And I'm like, man, do I just do music because my dad wanted to be a singer songwriter? And am I just trying to prove to my dad, hey, look at me? And I think that's part of it. I really think that's part of it. Is that pure? Well, not really.

And so, you know what? I think we're gonna be in process for eternity. However, I think we get a bit of a leap forward because of the proximity to the spirit of God that we will receive in heaven and our motives will begin to be refined.

Annie: Someone just recently... I was on the road and someone said... they were saying something like, well, for all eternity, God will be the only one that is all knowing. And I was like, we get to keep learning.

Jordan: I have to believe that.

Annie: Oh, my gosh, we get to keep learning forever?

Jordan: Yes.

Annie: The idea of knowing everything is part of what makes it scary to me of like, Okay, we know everything. I'm like, Oh, we get to keep learning and exploring and featuring? I can't wait.

Jordan: Isn't that the ultimate characteristic of being human? Because as soon as we get to all-knowing... well, that's God. You know what I mean? All knowing is God.

Annie: That's right.

Jordan: We are the needy person. He's the giver of life. And it's always going to be that. And I love that.

Annie: Okay. So can we jump here to talking for a minute about Emery? Yeah.

Annie: Because I can't imagine a story in your life... I'm sure there are multiple, but Emery story in your life must be one that reminded you like He's all knowing and we are not.

Jordan: Oh my gosh.

Annie: And God is handling it and we can't... So tell us a little bit about her and her medical life that you want to share.

Jordan: Talk about finding your limits. So my little girl, Emery, was born six months after I wrote the song Fire.

Annie: Really?

Jordan: So this song Fire was not written for her. It was written out of someone else's testimony that needed a miracle, God came through. But my question was, God, why do you allow us to walk through the fire first and then save the day? He's like, I got an answer for you. You know what I mean?

Six months later, my wife gives birth to our youngest of four, Emery Grace born with this beautiful red hair. Like we're talking about salon quality, all the highlights at birth. To accompany this beautiful red hair was this beautiful birthmark on the left side of her face. And she is delivered and my wife doesn't see her yet. And I look at the nurse and I look at Heather and Heather's like, "What's wrong?" And the nurse says, "Oh, I think that's just bruising." And I'm like, "That's not just bruising." You know what I mean? This is a crimson mark.

So within the first 24 hours, we had an MRI and that MRI revealed that the left side of her brain was suffering from atrophy. It was shrinking.

Annie: Wow. Oh my gosh, what do you do?

Jordan: I didn't have words. Again, like I said, I'm a planner. I like to know what's coming down the pipe.

Annie: And you've done this three times.

Jordan: Done this three times.

Annie: I mean, you're probably like, Oh, did we even pack a bag?

Jordan: Exactly. Let's knock this out and go home and continue with our life.

Annie: And y'all were still in Canada.

Jordan: Still in Canada. This changed everything. It really did. I felt as a father... Honestly, I think the core of it was like I felt like a failure in that moment because I could not lead my family through this because I could not keep on doing it the way I'm used to. But as a believer, I was starting to see that I was winning because I had to fully relinquish my power and control or at least what I thought was my control upon God.

Again, I think when we come up against situations like this, we realize how little control we have in the first place. It's like, Oh, I thought I was in charge the whole time. And I wasn't.

And so that first year was... there's no other word to say it, but it was godawful. It was godawful. The doctor's visits for the first five and a half months, it was just visits and figuring this out what is this. Turned out to be a condition called Sturge-Weber syndrome.

So in her case... it presents itself differently in kids. We're all just so different. For her, the blood vessels on the left side of her face and her head grew to about three times the size they should be. So those blood vessels are stealing blood from the brain that needs it to grow.

And this just meant high risk of seizure activity, high risk of stroke, blood clotting. She has weakness in the right side of her body. And at this point as a young baby, it was really weak. Her right arm was starting to curl up like this, which is a sure sign of epilepsy and debilitation on the right side of her body.

So at five and a half months, she had her first seizure. I'm at work laying floors, my wife calls me, "Jordan, you need to come home. Emery's having a seizure." I got there. This little girl is just... You think she's dying. You think she's not coming back from this.

I call my mom and I cannot utter a word. And my mom, she's... like she knew I was on the other end of the line and I could not utter a word. And she's like, "I'll be right there." I just lost it. We're literally getting out the door and all the kids come home.

Annie: Oh gosh. From like school?

Jordan: From school. She's still seizing. Her right arm is just twitching. And we're like, I don't know what's happening. And all we know... in Canada, the healthcare system is very reactionary. So we weren't given seizure protocol. We don't know what this looks like. We don't know what to do.

Now we know you call the ambulance ASAP because her O2 levels go way to the bottom and she needs oxygen stat. But we took her to the hospital.

Annie: Sure.

Jordan: So it took a while to get everything sorted. And she came back to us maybe about 80% and we took her home and slowly, but surely she bounced back. It's like a computer resetting. Now the hope is all the programs boot back up. That's the thing.

Annie: But only time tells

Jordan: Only time tells. And the brain is so fascinating. People don't know. Even the most knowledgeable experts in neurology, they cannot give you answers.

Annie: They sort our brain stuff. Yeah, that's right.

Jordan: So our neurologist gave us the worst case scenarios. Your daughter is likely going to need a hemispherectomy. Because the damage part is on the left side of the brain, they will do hemispherectomy where they will cut down the center of the brain, disconnect the lobes, disconnect all the connecting tissue, and she will live her life on the right side.

Annie: Oh my gosh. I did not know we could do that.

Jordan: This is like science fiction. Now, typically they say if we can do this, I want to say before seven years, but that seems long now. This has been a long time since we've had this information that she will live a pretty decent life. And we're like, okay, that is the plan. That is how we serve this girl. The best we're going to go and we're going to be brave and we're going to do this. And then she stopped having seizures and her medication started working.

And then you kind of regain your hope and regain your sight and then bam, you're back in the hospital again with seizures. It's just been a crazy journey of holding on and letting go. Really. For real.

Annie: That's why I think it's important. The part where you said Heather was praying neighbors did it and medical care. Because people now they're hearing like, oh, the actual layer of this is Emery and the kids, and meanwhile career, meanwhile moving and you've got a very medically fragile child.

Jordan: Leaving our parents, who's our support system, who's our 911 people. Two doors down from us, we found our 911 people. You know what I mean? He used to be in the music business, played for Kelsea Ballerini. You know what I mean? Like all of a sudden it's like, Oh, you're our people because you understand the lifestyle and you have two young kids. And it's like, okay, so where we live is where we were placed. Like God literally picked us up and put us there.

So our little girl is five. And guess what we did last night? She had her preschool graduation. And she has been seizure free for just... let's see, almost a year and a half.

Annie: Wow.

Jordan: The MRIs reveal that she should be having a lot more seizure activity. And the doctors... The theory is that everything is kind of wired naturally rewired onto the right side of her brain. And here we are.

Annie: Wow.

Jordan: And this little girl has her wit. Her intellect. Like everything that are kind of metrics for just a positive view of her life are there.

Annie: That's incredible.

Jordan: I don't even know what to say.

Annie: We'll link to... People Magazine is featuring this story over Father's Day. So we'll link to it so everybody can see it.

Jordan: Amazing.

Annie: But I mean, it's just a... everyone's life is so much deeper than we know. There's so many more layers than we know.

Jordan: Absolutely.

Annie: And the idea of you having to go, Do I take this three week tour? Every single time I take a tour, am I risking Emery having a seizure when I'm gone?

Jordan: And that happened.

Annie: Oh my gosh.

Jordan: I was on my first big U.S. tour with Jeremy Camp. We were in San Antonio, Texas and I get a call from my wife. We had just moved to the US. And we're terrified of the U.S. healthcare system to be completely honest.

Annie: You still don't know how it works, yeah.

Jordan: We don't know how it works. We ask our friends, how does this work? And they're like, We don't know how it works.

Annie: We don't actually know either.

Jordan: Honestly, the best way for you to figure out who your team is in the healthcare field, unfortunately, is to have an episode, Emery having seizures. And so she went in and we found our neurologist. We found our epilepsy specialist. We found all these people to surround her. The beautiful thing, when we walked into Vanderbilt Children's Hospital, they did not bat an eye. They're like, Sturge Weber? Yes.

Annie: Oh, wow.

Jordan: You know what I mean? Heather... my wife is amazing. She is an ambassador for our little girl. But when you have to fight so much to be a voice in the healthcare system, it weighs on you. And she just felt such a sweet sense of relief when she walked in and people validated what she was going through.

Annie: Oh, and just like knew when they looked at Emery. Oh, what a gift.

Jordan: Now, don't get me wrong, there are still things that we still have to fight for. And it's hard. However, this was a beautiful part of the story. We're in a tier three or tier four neurological center. I'm like, okay, God, see what you're doing here.

Again, feeling like a failure as a father, being on the road, God, am I trading what I'm supposed to be doing up for what I'm doing on the road? Like, this is crazy. Like music and fame and getting hit songs, these are things that a lot of people aspire to be. And they are at the... you know, that's the mountaintop moment for them. And I'm like, God, help me trade that moment in. Don't get me wrong. I still desire it, you know?

Annie: Yeah.

Jordan: And I believe-

Annie: That's okay.

Jordan: It's okay.

Annie: It's good.

Jordan: But the identity has to be reworked.

Annie: Geez. Jordan, I'm just thinking about... well, I'm thinking about Gabe & Rebekah Lyons. I don't know if you know them.

Jordan: No.

Annie: But they have four kids. Two of them have Down syndrome and two of them... the older two... no, I'm sorry. Kate is the oldest with Down syndrome. And then there's two. And then the youngest, Joy, has Down syndrome. And often I've talked to Gabe & Rebekah and I've heard them talk about like, what plan God must have for all four of them, but for the children who have grown up with medically high risk siblings.

And so I'm thinking about your other three and Emery for that matter of like, what God must have for them? That their like training ground of the first 18 years is like, here's a couple of traumas and.. but He has helped them, right? We all have traumas. So you don't have to put anything on them. It's just like the Lord going like, Yeah, I'm preparing them.

Jordan: I've got a story. This just ties in perfectly. Before Emery was born... So Emery was not planned by the way. We were done. We sold the crib. We got rid of everything. All of a sudden Heather's like, I'm pregnant. We felt the shame of that. You know what I mean? Like, we've got to go tell our family like, Hey, we're not as in control of our lives as we thought. Here we go. We're having another child.

I remember praying to God, not for this pregnancy, but just for my kids. And I remember praying this prayer and I haven't shared this with this family yet. And I hope they hear it one day. I'm actually going back to my hometown this year to play some shows and I need to share this with them.

We had this beautifully amazing family that lived around the corner from us, four kids, and their girls would babysit for us. They were just this beautifully sweet, God-fearing family that we looked up to. And we never really conveyed that to them, but we felt it deeply.

I remember praying, God, help me lead my kids in the ways of the Schmidt family. Their kids are amazing. They're super sweet. They seem honest and genuine. And I desire that for my kids. And I started thinking like, what makes their kids that way? What is it?

Well, their youngest Andrew had Down syndrome and he is just the sweetest, most lovable, affectionate guy. And every time we saw each other, it was just this beautiful moment that he created. Right? It wasn't me. It was all him. And I'm like, that's it.

Annie: What a gift.

Jordan: And then here comes along Emery. And she brings this sweetness to our family, this deep sense of compassion that we didn't see before. And what she did is she opened her eyes to the world's needs, right? Those around us. I'm like, oh my gosh, how do we love our world now that we see all these deep need? It's such a weight. Oh, it's so practical. Go mow their yard. Go bring them a gas gift card. Bring them a meal. Sit and listen. It's so practical. It's not this big, overly spiritual thing. It already is spiritual. So that's really the story of that family.

Annie: That's beautiful. I'm telling you, what a gift. Got it.

Jordan: What a gift.

Annie: There are so many people on the planet... I live part-time in New York. I don't know if you know that, but this year I'm like back and forth. And a lot of times when I see people in New York who seem to have had a much harder time than me, we've gotten where we both are and I bet their path has been a lot harder, I always think, Lord, what's the gift that you have them offering the world and me offering the world?

And I'm often thinking about there's a gift in all of us.

Jordan: That's right.

Annie: And there's a gift in that person for the world.

Jordan: Amen.

Annie: I think you're teaching a beautiful thing. You talk about New York. Yeah. And you love the pace.

Annie: I love the pace.

Jordan: I lived in New York for two months. This is way back in the day. 2002. Served with Youth with a Mission at Ground Zero.

Annie: Oh my gosh.

Jordan: And so we got to-

Annie: Did you do a DTS?

Jordan: We did a DTS.

Annie: And then your-

Jordan: The mission was in New York City.

Annie: Wow. Where did you do DTS?

Jordan: Montana.

Annie: Wait, okay.

Jordan: Lakeside, Montana.

Annie: I have so many friends at DTS'd in Montana.

Jordan: Really?

Annie: Yes.

Jordan: Come on.

Annie: And my sister was at Honolulu. And then she and her husband run YWAM Base.

Jordan: Oh, come on.

Annie: Yes.

Jordan: Wow.

Annie: I know.

Jordan: That's crazy.

Annie: Okay, sorry, go ahead. So you're in Ground Zero.

Jordan: No, no. The pace of New York City was a beautiful thing.

Annie: It's great.

Jordan: And I get it. I would never raise my family there. But in that season of life, it was the most beautiful time. And man did I learn how to walk.

Annie: Listen, I mean, my body likes walking so much more than riding.

Jordan: Oh, yeah, yeah.

Annie: It's been great.

Jordan: We flew in to New York and we literally walked everywhere for two months.

Annie: Yeah, I bet.

Jordan: And then we got back into a car and then we... like we did not touch a car.

Annie: Y'all probably slept in like a church basement.

Jordan: Okay, so here's-

Annie: YWAM.

Jordan: Here's the facts. I'm gonna say this, but don't think of it yet. I'm gonna fill out a story.

Annie: It was also 20 years ago, everybody.

Jordan: We stayed in this \$2 million house in the Upper East Side-

Annie: Did you?

Jordan: ...that needed a renovation so bad, it felt like we were sleeping in a church basement.

Annie: But they let the whole team stay there.

Jordan: It was a rundown, old-

Annie: That's amazing though

Jordan: What do they call them? The tall... like a brownstone.

Annie: A brownstone.

Jordan: Yeah. And it had an elevator in it and I can't believe no one died.

Annie: [inaudible 00:51:20]

- Jordan:** I know. But it was like, you walk in and it was drab. And you know what? We loved it. Again, it's amazing how you just need a space to cultivate community, to shove people in like sardines for a long period of time and now you're gonna love them for the rest of your life. That's it.
- Annie:** I mean, listen, YWAM... I mean, Loren Cunningham that founded it just passed away recently. And I say, man, when he got to heaven, if the Lord just pulled out a map and was like, look at this. You had an idea and look at this map. Like all these lit up places... I mean, yeah, I just.. I can't imagine the reach that YWAM has had.
- Jordan:** I love that idea because so often we think we get to heaven and it's negative. You didn't do this, you didn't do this, you didn't do this. Man, imagine if I did that as a father to my kids. Oh yeah, they're gonna love me.
- Annie:** Right, right, right.
- Jordan:** Again, it's not about God receiving love. It's about, we know He's good. We know he's faithful.
- Annie:** That's right.
- Jordan:** And don't get me wrong, I think He's gonna have tough conversations with us because He wants us to draw close. But He's gonna give us a hug.
- Annie:** Oh yeah.
- Jordan:** Come on.
- Annie:** Show us a map.
- Jordan:** Yeah, show us the map.
- Annie:** And just be like, Look, you made this choice instead of that choice and look at that trajectory. I mean, that's what you would do as a dad is go like, oh man, you know how you turned right instead of left? Look at how that paid off.
- Jordan:** My wife talks about this story of like, you know, when our kids don't quite measure up or our friends or, I believe God is up there championing. Like a father or a brother at a football game. Yep. And he's like, oh, so close. You know what, you missed it that time and you know what, that's okay. You're gonna get it next time.
- Annie:** That's okay, go again. Yeah, go again.

Jordan: Because I'm like, we think through our human lens, our failures and our mistakes. And we think they're just the be all end all. And God sees infinitely longer than us.

Annie: Right, right.

[00:53:04] <music>

Sponsor: Hey friends, just interrupting this conversation one more time to tell you about one of our incredible partners, [Hiya Health](#). This one is for my MiniBFFs. We all want the kids in our lives to stay as healthy as possible.

Hiya Health is the pediatrician-approved chewable vitamin that is super powered and made with zero sugar and zero gummy junk, yet they still taste great and are perfect for even the pickiest eaters. Typical children's vitamins are packed with sugar and other gummy junk that makes my miniBFFs not happy. They do not need that. It's basically candy in disguise, right? And that's why we love partnering with Hiya Health.

Hiya fills in the most common gaps in modern children's diets to provide the full body nourishment our kids need with a yummy taste that they love. A lot of my MiniBFFs love them and I love knowing they're getting the nourishment they need without any of that junk.

We've worked out a special deal with Hiya for my friends. You can get their bestselling children's vitamin for 50% off your first order, you guys, five-zero. To claim this deal, you just gotta go to hiyahealth.com/thatsoundsfun. That's hiyahealth.com/thatsoundsfun and get your kids the full body nourishment they need to grow into healthy adults.

And now back to finish up our conversation with Jordan.

[00:54:25] <music>

Annie: Tell us, if it's public, where are you touring in the fall? Like who are you out with? How can we... because now you've got like all these That Sound Fun friends who are gonna be like, how do we go see Jordan?

Jordan: Okay, it's not public yet.

Annie: Oh, okay. But there will be a tour.

Jordan: But I am doing a headlining tour, the My Foundation tour.

Annie: Yes, great.

Jordan: I'm so excited. This is kind of a first big thing for me.

Annie: Oh, you're gonna be such a good tour leader. That's awesome.

Jordan: I'm just so excited to be a part of... to be honest, don't get me wrong, I'm excited for the shows. I'm excited to just be a part of leading the tour culture. You know what I mean? And just creating a space for people to feel loved.

I'm excited to lead the charge when we step into churches saying that we came to serve, we came to leave more than we take. That is the whole emphasis of really creating a foundation in our lives. It's like we came to serve. Jesus came to serve. We wanna follow in that way.

Annie: I can't remember who started this in me, but a few years ago, someone coached me that when... and we do this, me and whoever's traveling with me, my tour manager, my assistant, whoever. When we pull up to a church for a speaking event, before we get out of the car, the last thing we say is, they could have picked anybody and God could have picked anybody. I'm thankful they picked us.

Jordan: Absolutely.

Annie: And that switched my brain from I'm walking in as like lucky you, to I'm walking in as lucky me. They could have picked anybody.

Jordan: I'm not the person. You know what I mean?

Annie: I'm just the one that got picked for this. Have you talked any of... are you friends with CAIN?

Jordan: Yeah. We've hung out, we've toured together.

Annie: We've talked a lot about leading tours-

Jordan: Oh great.

Annie: ...and the spiritual, emotional responsibility. Because I'm always like, when you're out with me, when we are done I want you to be healthier in every way.

Jordan: Amen.

Annie: Because we see people come home from tour, like they've actually been like imprisoned.

Jordan: That's right.

Annie: Or they've been on a binge. And you're like, you are not healthy in any way.

Jordan: That's right.

Annie: You were gone for two weeks and you look worse for the wear. So I love that you're leading a tour because I feel like your humility and your care is going to send people home healthier and you got them.

Jordan: Well, thank you. Thank you. That means a lot. We've got to do it better. We've got to do a better job. You know, and I think-

Annie: And the headliner decides.

Jordan: Oh, the headliner dictates everything. I think for me, my philosophy has always been, how can we decrease the space between the stage and at front row? You know, we are not special. Yeah. As being the, the artist or the speaker.

Annie: That's right.

Jordan: We are not special. Yeah. We just happen to like speaking and singing. And we're all in this together. But how can I prove to you that I'm your kind of people because you're mine. You know what I mean? And we're all here.

Annie: Give me an example of someone that you... a headliner you went out with that led really well.

Jordan: Oh, come on.

Annie: Shout down somebody.

Jordan: Mac Powell. Come on.

Annie: Amen.

Jordan: You know what I mean? Mac Powell. I speak no ill will towards anyone else I've ever toured with.

Annie: Sure, that's why I said... don't tell me negative ones till we're not recording.

Jordan: No, no. And there haven't been a lot of negative ones. And even in the negative ones, there was always a lesson to be learned. I don't take it for granted.

Annie: That's exactly right.

Jordan: I remember the first time I toured with Mac we got on the bus... This was I think a K-Love Christmas tour 2022 or '23. And we got on the bus and we'd done a few shows. And we got on the bus and it's kind of this down moment. And Mac is like, "All right, we're going around the room. Everybody is gonna say something about the other person that you admire. I'm gonna start. Jordan, I love the way, you know, when you're on the bus, you're not quick to speak. You're just quiet and you're listening." I was just like, "Oh man, you see that. You see me. But you're Mac Powell."

Annie: Right, right, right.

Jordan: I think he has a very... just this deep sense of what being a father on the road looks like. And he cares for people deeply. He doesn't just hug you, he hugs you. He's spoken so much into my life. And what a gift. What a gift.

Annie: Agreed. Is there anything we didn't say you wanna make sure we say?

Jordan: Did we talk about the record?

Annie: Yeah.

Jordan: We did. Yeah, we talked about the record. Comes out... yeah, you said that. Comes out Father's Day. I mean, that's it.

Annie: Okay, great.

Jordan: You didn't ask me what sounds fun.

Annie: That's what we're about to do.

Jordan: Ah, let's go.

Annie: Last question.

Jordan: Come on.

Annie: Because the show is called That Sounds Fun, Jordan St. Cyr. What sounds fun to you?

Jordan: This is what sounds fun. Just hanging. Just talking.

Annie: I know. I love it.

Jordan: I was so excited for this interview because-

Annie: Oh, thanks.

Jordan: Again, I get the sense you have a genuine love for people. Now, you are a seven-

Annie: Yes. What are you, by the way? What do you identify as?

Jordan: Okay, what do I identify.

Annie: I don't wanna make you... you are that number.

Jordan: That's right.

Annie: There's a number you pick, yeah.

Jordan: So it took me a while. I knew I was this. Then I kinda thought I was this, but I'm a one-wing nine.

Annie: Okay, great.

Jordan: Absolutely.

Annie: Beautiful.

Jordan: My wife is a nine.

Annie: Oh, great.

Jordan: And you know what? I go to a seven in health.

Annie: Yeah, you do.

Jordan: And so when I'm on, I'm like, oh, there I am. A little fact about me. My wife and I, we quit coffee a year ago. And we're just like, I'm dehydrated. I was losing my voice. I'm like, I gotta do something drastic. Now we do coffee Saturdays.

Annie: Oh, what a bliss.

Jordan: And I don't know if y'all know this, but caffeine is a drug. It will take you places. Especially when you're off of it. And now we do coffee Saturdays. And it's just, again, I get to welcome my warm friend back into my life. But it's just a way that me and my wife we set time to just hang. And we get to do the thing and talk about.

Annie: When you're touring, do you pick a different day? Is it like Coffee Tuesday or something? Or is it like, sorry, we only did it for three weeks.

Jordan: I'll try and stick to the thing because then when I get home, we can still enjoy the coffee together. However, we might sneak in a coffee Thursday.

Annie: Yeah, I would think so.

Jordan: If we're having a rough day.

Annie: If your Sabbath is actually on a Tuesday after touring, I think you should have Coffee Sabbath.

Jordan: Absolutely. But I will say this. If you are listening to this and you drink coffee every day and it's not working, I dare you to quit. And I dare you to start enjoying it again, it will change your life.

Annie: I bet.

Jordan: It has been amazing to kind of re-experience coffee.

Annie: I don't drink coffee either. I'm a tea person.

Jordan: Oh, tea's great too.

Annie: I still do a little caffeine but... I mean, I wake up like this. The world doesn't need me on caffeine. Can you imagine? It wouldn't serve anybody.

Jordan: A seven on caffeine? Come on.

Annie: Yeah, it would be too much for my team, too much for me. The volume would be bad.

Jordan: No, this thing would just blow up.

Annie: That's right.

Jordan: Like it would just be so huge because there's so much of you.

Annie: That's right. Jordan, thank you for coming on the show.

Jordan: Thank you.

Annie: I hope it is not your last time. You're welcome back here anytime.

Jordan: Thank you so much.

Annie: Please, I don't know who will make the call first, but you make the call or I'll make the call, but I would love for you to come back.

Jordan: This has been a joy.

Annie: Thanks.

Jordan: I love conversing with people who want to talk about the deep things in life and keep Jesus at the center. So thank you for what you do.

Annie: Well, same to you.

[01:01:20] <music>

Outro: Oh, you guys, isn't he the best? I know. I told you. I told you. Make sure you are streaming his album, My Foundation, wherever you love to listen to music and get thyself to one of Jordan's shows when he travels your way.

Be sure you're following him on social media, tell him thanks so much for being on the show.

And if you liked this episode, I think you will also really enjoy Episode 191 with Zach Williams or episode 77, old school, but a goodie, with the friends from Passion Music. Those are linked in the show notes below as well.

If you have any questions from this episode, just drop them in the Q&A box on your Spotify app, if you're a Spotify listener, or you can send it to us on Instagram @ThatSoundsFunPodcast, and we will answer them there for you.

If you need anything else from me, you know I'm embarrassingly easy to find. Annie F. Downs on Instagram, Twitter, Facebook. All the places you may need me,

that's where you can find me. Well, when I'm back in July. That's where you can find me when I'm back in July.

I think that's it for me today, friends. Go out or stay home, do something that sounds fun to you, and I will do the same. Today, what sounds fun to me is a quick walk in Central Park. I love that place.

Y'all have a great weekend. We'll see you back here on Monday. We have two more shows before our whole team takes a Sabbath break the week of July 4th. On Monday, you're gonna get to hear from one of my favorite Instagram accounts, influencers, and healthy friends, really very crunchies, Emily Morrow. We'll see y'all on Monday.