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Annie: Hi friends! Welcome to another episode of That Sounds Fun. I'm your host Annie F. Downs. I want to tell you why you're hearing from us on a day you're not used to hearing from us. As you know, we have a community called the Single Purpose League where we are really actively serving and partnering with unmarried friends and trying to be a resource for them. And not only in community but in content and in conversation.

Every month we have a podcast episode that is uniquely for our Single Purpose League. And the big question we're asking in Single Purpose League is: What is my single purpose? And what is my purpose while I'm single?

Today, live, as I'm talking to you just minutes ago, Katy Boatman, who helps run our Single Purpose League, and I had a conversation about how you find your purpose and what it looks like to live in your purpose while you're single.

Normally, we save this just for our friends in Single Purpose League. It's one of the advantages is we get to have a little bit deeper, more vulnerable, more intimate conversations with that community. But this one just felt a little different.

So, afterwards, when we finished, we talked through a couple of things we are editing out of this version of the conversation. Our friends in Single Purpose League will get the full version. We've edited out a couple of pieces here. But we want you to hear this conversation. We want you to hear and be able to share with your unmarried friends who are also walking a faith life of trying to live in their purpose and hold the tension of not having everything that they want, particularly not being married, if that is their desire. How do we live in our purpose in the middle of that?

So we wanted to share this with you and share this with the single friends in our lives who are not in Single Purpose League yet. And so this is a version of the conversation that Katy and I just had for our Single Purpose League members about how you find and live in your purpose.

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Annie: Okay, so what have you learned in the last six months? I mean, you are in Single Purpose League every day of the work week. You are in Single Purpose League every day. You know a lot of these people by name and by story. What are you learning and what have you learned from us hosting this community for the last half of a year?

Katy: So much, honestly. I mean, I think the thing that stuck out to me the most, and I know I've said this to you, is it feels like community is the thing we're all craving more than anything.

Annie: Yeah, that's right.

Katy: You and I could talk every day and record something every day and it would still be that people want connection.

Annie: Which was a surprise to us, honestly.

Katy: Yeah. We were like, Oh, let's just put some content out there.

Annie: Because most of the groups I'm in like this, whether it's a Patreon or a Substack or a community, I mostly am going there for content. But then what we have realized and what you've seen really profoundly and what we are glad for is people are like, Yeah, we love the content, but what we actually were hoping and what we have seen this become is we wanted friends who understood where we were. And that's been incredible.

Katy: Yeah, for sure. So it's been really interesting to see so many people meeting up in their cities, going to baseball games, going to lunch, and just wanting more of that and more of the opportunity. I think that's where my wheels are always turning and yours too of like, Okay, how do we equip y'all to do that?

What has also stuck out to me, and this is kind of like a duh moment, but like I just am always reminded how hard this is too. And maybe that's just the week that I'm having. I don't know. Maybe that's just where I am today. But I'm like the single life has so many things that I love about it and it has so many things that are hard and frustrating and feel lonely.

And I think getting to hear everyone's stories in Single Purpose League and hearing what they're praying for and hearing what they're sharing with each other in the chat is a reminder of like this is really hard. And therefore, like I feel more excited to lean in and try to help one another. But we're all walking a road that's not easy.

Annie: Why does that feel so profound to you today? I mean, you don't have to spill all your beans, but I'm curious why. Because I think the ebb and flow is really important to people.

Katy: I don't know. I'm not really sure. I think it's one of those things that I've been like, why do I feel different this week about just the loneliness of singleness, dating, yada yada. And I'm not really sure I have the answer. I think it's just, again, one of

those roller coaster moments of it. Because next week I probably will be like, this is the best. Don't mess up my schedule. I'm loving life. So, yeah, I don't know. I don't think I have a great answer to it yet.

Annie: I think that matters. You know, when people talk about waiting, particularly in the church, as the majority of our friends listening are faith people, when we talk about singleness, there's often this like, "But everybody's waiting." I do this. Because when I'm thinking about the That Sounds Fun podcast episode, I want our married friends to feel included. And so we say everybody's waiting for something.

But I do genuinely think there's a really profound difference to our weight over some others, because it feels like for the majority of us who have never been married, that this has been the thing we have prayed for for our entire adult lives and have not been answered. And for our friends who are divorced and widowed, this is the thing they prayed for their entire lives and they had it and then it was taken away.

I think that — I think it is fair to say in this community. It'd be harder to say this outside of — this is why I Love Single Purpose League because I have to say stuff here that we can't say everywhere else. I think it is really fair to say this is a profoundly different kind of pain that people who are not in our seats do not know. They just do not know it.

Katy: Yeah. 100%. What have you seen or learned or experienced about this so far?

Annie: I mean, it's what you said, the community part surprised me — how much people pretty immediately were like, How do we get together? How do we get in the same place? How do we know each other? How do we find each other on socials? I just didn't expect that as... loud as that has been for the whole time. So I'm glad that we have solved that in some ways and we're continuing to solve that in other ways and open up new opportunities for that as this continues to grow and we keep doing this.

You know, I did a video when we launched Single Purpose League from my friend's couch because I was watching their kid when their other kid was in the hospital. And I did this video of apologizing to single people for not choosing to see them sooner and not choosing to see our people group sooner. And I have just felt this real invitation from God to be like, There is a reason this is the right time for this. Like yes, I still feel that a lot of my own pain kept me from stepping into leading a community like this sooner. And also, one thing, as we're listening to people, as we're getting conversations, as we're getting feedback from people inside SPL and outside SPL, I keep having these moments of going like, Man, this is not accidental. This is really purposeful right now.

Katy: I agree with you because when I think back about just how this all came about, it was the Lord. I mean it wasn't because you had been dreaming of talking about this for so long or whatever. It truly was like God's nudging and the Holy Spirit's nudging in you like, there's something that needs to be said here.

I think that's also the same way that we feel as we move forward of just this open-handedness of, okay what do you want to do with us next, you know?

Annie: Yeah. When we started this, a) I thought everyone who would join was someone who was wanting to get married. And that's not true. We have a good size percentage of our SPL members who are like, "I'm good. I just want to be in community with other people who are dealing with the same financial questions I'm asking and the same relational questions I'm asking and the same sex questions I'm asking and the same family questions I'm asking."

I think when we started this, if I'm honest with you, I would have called success people being like, I met someone, I met someone. And we have had some of that, which is really fun. I like when people share their dating stories. And we do want people who want to get married to find courage within our group to put themselves in places where that moves that ball forward in the ways that they can.

But I am really sensing that success in SPL is far more about people going like, Man, I feel seen and cared for and now I can do the thing I'm called to do. For some of us, the thing we are called to do is put ourselves out there more in a dating way and meet more people and get out of our house because so many of us desire to be married. But the biggest win is this community being activated to go hard after the thing that they are uniquely called to do, that being single today allows them to do that being married would not allow them to do today. While holding the same tension you already expressed and that I feel of "but this is not what I want." I would still pick to share bills and to share a house and to share a life. And that is not my current reality. So holding both.

Katy: For sure. And it's interesting because I often think about my purpose, like what I feel called to do and... Gosh, I'm so teary today. But I feel so clear about it. Also, I feel so clear that I want a partner in it. You know, like I want a ministry partner in it who feels as passionately as I do about the things that we're running after. And we're supporting each other in that.

So when we talk about our purpose and our calling, it is like, how do we do this? How do we keep our eyes focused on Jesus and what He's put in front of us, and also continue to ask, like, can you bring someone in with me? And that's hard, you know? Some days it's easy and some days it's hard

Annie: It can also just be a level of heart all the time. It's just different degrees of how hard it feels today.

Katy: Yeah, for sure.

Annie: I've been both on the side of like... I mean, I had a season where we were experiencing some pretty significant spiritual pushback for our work and it was playing out pretty profoundly in my life. As the leader that is going to be true. That's fine. I'm not afraid. I have a sword tattoo on purpose. I know what I'm doing.

I have said in those seasons I feel like it's asking a lot for someone to sign up for this with me. And so I've said to the lord a few times, You know what? Don't worry about it. This is too much to ask somebody to partner in. This is harder. This is too much to carry. Some guy ain't gonna sign up for this.

Often when I've expressed that to my mentor Nancy or to pastor Kevin or to my counselor, the pushback has been that the Lord never intends for us to carry stuff by ourselves. No matter what the mantle is you have on you, no matter what your leadership is. And that if I don't get married, that is not why. And I think I needed someone else to say, Your purpose is not bigger than a man can handle.

And anybody can feel that. We were reading stories today of some of our friends that follow me and follow us. And there are stories of single women who are fostering seven kids. My friend, Megan, here in town, adopted four children from Africa before she met her husband and was like, "Hey, quick note, I've got four kids in Sierra Leone that I am adopting. Are you in or are you out?" All of us can feel like our purpose is what makes us unavailable to marriage or to a partner.

And then the other side is, man, where is the guy who will help me carry this? And where is the dude who is my protector and my partner and my... you know?

Katy: Yeah.

Annie: So I'm with you on both of those sides. But I think it's important, as we're talking about purpose, to remind people, no matter your purpose, it does not exclude you from the opportunity for marriage.

Katy: Totally.

Annie: And I have felt that that's what had been one of the most... Once the enemy stopped having power and telling me it was my body, the next thing he started telling me was it's your purpose.

Katy: And of course, he would. He's gonna try anything to tell you that.

Annie: That's right. To steal hope.

Katy: Yes.

Annie: He doesn't know the answer. He don't know whether I get married or not. The enemy is not all-knowing. So he doesn't know how the story ends, only the Lord does. But he will take anything that we consider, any degree of a weakness, and say, The reason you don't have what you want is because of that. It's just whether you get the thing you want or not, that's not true.

Katy: I'm thinking about friendship. So the truth of it all is I'm not having to carry everything alone because there are people around me. We've had this conversation around here a lot, when you did your Build Your Board series, just talking about the people that have been put in our lives to help us chase after the things that we feel called to.

So that is where I also find hope in all this is that there is not a day where if I feel super alone that I can't still pick up the phone and call somebody.

Annie: Or jump into SPL. Jump into the general chat. Jump into your chat that is for your particular group of friends. Yes.

Katy: Exactly.

Annie: Yeah. Because even when we get married, you know what I don't want? I don't want to be my husband's actual everything.

Katy: For sure.

Annie: I need him to call his friends and his parents and his brother and his pastor. I can't solve all of his problems. And so I can't go into a marriage expecting him to hold all the weight of my life either. Right?

Katy: Right.

Annie: So we need our friends. What we're doing now is cultivating a wide community that can care for us while holding that there are things a husband and a spouse carries for us that friends can't.

Katy: Right. Yeah, for sure. So when we talk about what is our single purpose and what is our purpose while single, I'm curious, are those answers the same for you or are they different?

Annie: I think... we'll have to find a link to it. I did a talk a couple of times a few years ago about how we have one calling with multiple expressions. And I think when we're in the nitty-gritty of figuring out what your purpose is, there's a whole conversation there.

Katy: Sure.

Annie: I think when we talk about our single purpose I think it has to be love God, love other people as you love yourself. I think it just has to be that. For me. I don't like to "should" people a lot, but I feel like this is... if ever an appropriate time, tis now. But I think love God, love other people as you love yourself. It is not just love God and love others. Love God, and love others as you love yourself. I think that is going to be the single purpose for the rest of my life.

And I think it's in that order. I'm not the person who's gonna tell you have to love yourself the most and then everything flows out of that. I think you love God the most and then you work on loving others as you work on loving yourself and the way God made you and the purpose He's given you. But my purpose why I'm single I think will be different than my purpose when I'm married.

We've talked about this. Jennie Allen and I had a really... I think it's okay for me to say this publicly because it was a private conversation, but it was about my life, not hers. But we had a really direct conversation as Jennie does, and as I do. I mean, you can imagine... you've been with me and Jennie, but Jennie and I do not pull punches. We are so direct with each other. And we had a really direct conversation about whether I should get married and have kids as it comes to what God's asked me to do on this planet.

And a lot of what we were talking about earlier and one of the things she talked about was how different your priorities have to be when there is someone else that lives in your house, whether it is a dog or a husband or four kids or a foster kid or a baby. And kind of like counting the cost of what that means.

So I do think when I get married my purpose will change to some degree. My purpose while single. My single purpose will not change. My purpose while single will change. What do you think? Do you think it's going to be the same? I think you can. I don't feel like you can't disagree.

Katy: Right. I think for me it is. This is what I was processing a little bit earlier. I think I'm with you. What is my single purpose? It's loving God, it's loving other people. I always just quote the Great Commission in my head, like to go and make disciples. That's solid, clear. That doesn't change for me when I get married. And I know you're not saying that it does for you either.

That's where I want someone to come join me in that, if that makes sense. And maybe that is like... I don't want to say unrealistic. I don't think it's unrealistic.

Annie: I don't either.

Katy: But I don't know... As life goes on and if I were to get married, I might be like, Oh, I actually just needed this gift of a person, this best friend or whoever it is to do life with. I didn't need them to be in ministry with me. But because that feels so clear in my life of how I spend my time both at work and outside of work, I think that's where I'm like, well, this doesn't... I don't think I want anything to change, I just want somebody else in this with me. So it feels kind of the same to me.

Annie: I mean, this may be a splitting hairs thing because, you know, that one calling multiple expressions idea. I've been gifted with one skill set for my whole life. It has played out as a volunteer leader with my youth group, as an elementary school teacher, as a speaker on a stage, as a podcast host. But I've got one calling. It just has played out in different ways. I know what God made me to do.

My purpose may, again, splitting hairs, may feel a little different than that to me only because I'm really in a... I mean, part of this is a conversation I had this morning that I shared with you about someone having a kind of a prophetic word for Single Purpose League. But between that and some other conversations we've been in lately, because my purpose right now while I'm single feels like, can we bridge the gap between pastors who don't understand singleness and beyond early 20s and singles who are longing to be seen by their church? Because I feel profoundly called right now to bridge that gap. I'm curious if that shifts when I get married. Or if it doesn't. It may not.

But I think so because at the top of my purpose right now seems so deeply tied to my lack of marriedness. I'm curious if that will shift. I mean, I know my schedule will shift. When I'm dating someone, my schedule shifts. I know my schedule will shift. I know who I get to spend time with shifts. What happens to... Hey, Lillian, thank you for fixing the curtain in the studio. It looks very good. Johnny, you do not have to cut that out. I want people to know that I appreciate Lillian fixing something.

Katy: Go, Lilz.

Annie: An independent woman. Lilz didn't need no man to come fix a curtain for her.

Katy: Lilz can fix anything.

Annie: Independent woman, living her purpose in her single life. Sorry, Lilz, I just outed your singleness. I just think it'll be really... Things will change when we are no longer the center of our own world. And I kind of am that. I mean, I am the queen of my castle.

Katy: Oh, sure. I mean, the way that I control my calendar, my time so intentionally, I'm like I understand that to share my life with someone and maybe children would mean a different things, you know?

Annie: I was sitting with a pastor last night who's married, has kids, been pastoring for a long time, and we were talking about the profound... what he is seeing in his church of single women particularly, the profound sadness of being unmarried and not having kids, while also trying to pursue... he pastors in a big urban city, right in the middle of a city that has a lot of women who are professionals in a day-to-day job outside of their home. And he was saying how impressed he is watching these women who are just kick and tail at their job and, you know, top of the org chart just going for it, and meanwhile holding profound sadness. And he was speaking about how that really deepens to him the power of their purpose.

Oh, I thought that was really interesting the idea of like, man, when you... and this is something that could be true of our married friends. When you live in your purpose through pain, it really brightens the color of your purpose. It makes you more impactful in general.

Katy: Yeah. One of my friends just turned 40 and she did this really beautiful post on Instagram about it and she sent it to me before she posted and just was like, "What do you think?" And I was like, "I literally never heard you be this vulnerable publicly and I'm super proud of you." But it was that exact thing of she's a leader of her organization. She is doing all these really fun things, and also she was like, "This is not the life that I thought I would have at 40. There's still all these pieces missing that I thought I would have and still long for."

I mean, she said so many things so well. But it's the tug and pull of the back and forth. And yet I would not look at her life or anyone else's and be like, Man, there's something missing. I look at what she's doing and see God's hand in it and see the work that He has prepared for her since I've known her. I'm like, Of course, you're doing these things. I don't look and be like, "What is wrong with you?"

Annie: How's that?

Katy: Right, right. Exactly.

Annie: People are feeling that, the sadness plus purposefulness. I have an interesting question for you. I have wrestled with this with my family — our parents hoping we get what we want, hoping for us to have what we want that also is what they want. They would like son-in-laws. They would like grandkids. And yet they're very proud of us living in our purpose. I think I underestimated until probably four years ago what God is doing in my life, His provision and His non-provision honestly is deeply affecting my family. And yet they're proud. I mean, none of them are like, I wish you stayed home and made more banana bread. They're not like wishing that I was not living my purpose. But I think I've just been interested in the pain and sadness my family has felt around me not being married yet and not having kids like we all thought was my path for my whole life.

Katy: I probably could say here and just sob about that because I've had some of those conversations with my parents before. Like actually talked about it.

Annie: Me too.

Katy: And they are feeling the same thing. They feel the joy and the sadness at the same time. I've called my mom after a breakup where she also was invested in... you know, like he'd been around my family, that kind of thing and she cried with me. And she's like, I saw it too. Like, "I saw why you liked him." And also they call and get excited when something really cool is happening.

Annie: How soon do you tell your parents if you're going on a date? Do you tell them every time you're going?

Katy: No.

Annie: We have a three-date rule in my family. I tell them after the third date.

Katy: That's great. I don't have a set rule. Honestly, I don't tell my parents unless I'm like, I think it's about to turn into a relationship, which hasn't been like a ton. But I pretty much keep it to myself. We kind of haven't understood.

Annie: It helped a lot when I said to my parents, Because I want to hold their hope with kindness and respect too and I want them to feel involved but not... I want to help and I also can't deal with the... I can't hold the pressure of what my parents think here is gonna... what they hope for here needs to inform my decision-making.

Katy: Exactly.

Annie: So once we establish the three-date rule, that has helped me a lot. They don't follow up with me very much. Sometimes they ask. But more often than not, they are waiting to hear if I made it to three dates.

Katy: Well, it's kind of the same reason why the older I've gotten the less people I tell if I'm going on a date.

Annie: Oh, interesting.

Katy: Because I have gotten tired of getting other people's hopes or getting people invested.

Annie: I know. I know.

Katy: And it depends. I mean, sometimes I still tell everybody. Like y'all know. But that's part of it too with a family. I cannot be able to get my mom's hopes up about something and then calling like-

Annie: Sorry, I don't want... yeah.

Katy: I have tempered my emotions for the most part to understand how this goes. But she's not having to live the dating life. So I'm like, I'll tell you when it feels important.

Annie: That's right. I think when it... especially because for those of us that have healthy relationships with our, or healthy-ish relationships with our families. No one is perfectly healthy. But, you know, those of us who carry this tension, I think the other hope that our families and friends would have for us is like, But are you doing what you're called to do? Okay, that really matters. That really matters. Whether you're doing a day job that is not your calling, but you're volunteering in some way that is really ministering to you, or your day job is your calling. I think both can be true. Or you're in a season where you lost a job or you're between jobs and you're figuring it out.

I do think there is such beauty and hope and... But I kind of know I'm on this planet and I kind of know one of the ways that that is playing out professionally for me or in a day-to-day way for me or in a volunteer way for me. And therefore, God has not abandoned me. You know, I'm not alone in my life. Do you feel like you're living in your purpose?

Katy: Yeah. I do.

Annie: Professionally and outside of work?

Katy: Yeah. A couple years ago I did this thing called a life plan.

Annie: Oh, let's go. Colorado Springs.

Katy: Yeah.

Annie: Did you do it with Brooke or did you do it with [inaudible 00:30:06]?

Katy: No, I wish. Both of them are amazing. No, it was somebody else on their team just because she had the first availability. It was really clarifying for me to sit down and you literally map out what the things you're passionate about, you map out turning points in your life, you set goals, you come up with an action plan, all these things.

I was so curious walking into it, am I going to have this big revelation, you know of like, oh my gosh, I'm chasing the wrong things or whatever. That wasn't true but 90% of that was just affirming that I know I'm passionate about Jesus obviously, I know I'm passionate about the next generation, I know that I love to write, I love to create content, I love to... all this. And so every part of my life right now is getting to play a part of that and ultimately pointing people to Jesus. That's the only thing I get excited about.

And so, ever since then, I have a list where I can go back and if a new opportunity were to come my way, I can compare it to this list, and red, yellow, or green light it to say, do these match, these things?

Annie: I'm so glad we were a green light here at AFD Inc. Wow, what an honor.

Katy: Little did you know I was doing that life-playing right before I took this job.

Annie: I didn't know that.

Katy: You got greenlit.

Annie: Wow.

Katy: But all I can say is because I'm in a season of life where I feel so clear, I am running hard, you know/

Annie: Yeah.

Katy: Again, it's just finding people to come alongside me in that.

Annie: Yeah. I feel that. I met someone in the most... a man, a single man in the most briefest of ways. Let me tell you. Does not mean soft launching. I don't know his last name. That's how much this is a pass-by.

Katy: When was this meeting?

Annie: That I cannot disclose because it tells too much of the story.

Katy: Oh, got it.

Annie: I was living in my purpose. I was actively living in my purpose and he was at the same place. And we literally stood next to each other. Like stood next to each other. That's the fullness of it. And because of my role and his role, when we were both living our purpose in that moment, I felt very protected and I had the moment of like, This is what I want with my whole life is I want to be living on my purpose and be with someone who feels like-

Katy: Who's in your corner.

Annie: Yeah. And that a part of what he is meant to do with his life as a husband to a wife is as protector. So anytime I feel that. I mean, that's one of the jokes I always say, like, it's why I always fall in love with tour managers and why we don't take single men on the road anymore, ever. Because I always fall in love with one of them because they take care of me. It's why your brother, who is a married man, is a tour manager for me. Because I know that he is married and cares for me like a brother. We've been friends for almost two decades now. And almost half my life, really. Yeah, that's true. 17 years.

That being said, anytime I had a glimpse of that, it makes me sick for how much I want it. The next day... I don't know the guy. Again, I don't know him at all. I could not find him today if I needed to without three phone calls. Don't know his last name genuinely. That being said, I said to my counselor the next day, "I am devastated I don't know who this person is. It is not about him. It was purely I was running in my calling, he was running in his calling and we stood next to each other in the middle of that." And that is what you and I... not everyone listening wants that. That's what you and I want-

Katy: Sure.

- Annie:** ...someone who is running in their calling alongside us in some way. I don't need someone else who gets on a stage necessarily or another podcaster. I want to marry another podcaster. What a wild story that would be!
- Katy:** I can't wait for that podcaster.
- Annie:** Anyway, I'm just confirming that in the last few months, I had an experience like what you're describing of wanting someone and it made me heart sick.
- Katy:** Right. I know. I have been dreaming about writing another book.
- Annie:** She's already got two books out, Ladies and Gents. Lady and Gent, however many you're listening.
- Katy:** I know. I was realizing, I was like, Oh, I know what I need to process in counseling next. The last two books that I've done, I have been in relationships during that process. Not intentionally. It just was interesting timing. And so there was always someone that I would just like vent with about it.
- Annie:** Release.
- Katy:** Yeah. Like, oh, today I rea... I'm so sure. Or I had this light bulb moment. And so as I've been dreaming about another one, I'm like, Uh, uuh, there's not a person.
- Annie:** Interesting.
- Katy:** But I don't want to get to a place where I'm like, I have to have a person to do this, because I can do this. Me and the Lord can do it, right?
- Annie:** Yes.
- Katy:** But yeah, I was like, well, let me add that to my list for my counselor.
- Annie:** Let's finish here with this part. I have loved this, by the way. Let's talk to our friends who are celibate by choice. They don't ever want to get married. They don't plan to pursue relationship with anyone else romantically. How do we not let our purpose take over our whole life? How do you still have a work-life balance when you aren't...? Because a lot of times what balances work-life balance is a romantic relationship. What's your advice for people who are celibate by choice, not getting married, not pursuing relationship romantically but want to have a balanced life between running after their purpose and having healthy relationship and intimacy?

Katy: Well, I think that goes back to how much we talk about rest and Sabbath around here and you've done such a great job of modeling that, but making sure that there is space so that you can unplug and not be coming up with the next great idea that you're going to do for the thing that you're passionate about or whatever it might be, but that there's space for you to actually rest, connect with the Lord, just be with people to get off the internet, to get off your phone and work from that place and run from that place instead of getting burnt out. What do you think?

Annie: I think about it a lot because my go-to when someone breaks up with me or when I'm not dating is, well, at least I can work hard and get what I want professionally. That has not panned out to be true all the time. But my inclination is when other things aren't going the way they want them to, I go deeper into ministry. Not because I love Jesus more on those days, but because I'm trying not to hurt.

So I'm really cognizant of how do I not let my purpose and my professional life be my whole life. Because we get really celebrated for being successful women. Particularly, people like to celebrate successful single women because, you know, boss, queen, you know. And so I think you're right. I think rest is important. I think expressing it to my community and saying, Hey, don't let me only talk about work. That's my first clue is what am I talking about?

I was at a... Let me think where I was, where this happened. We were at a meeting with a team we work with and we were at a lunch after the meeting and one of the team members from the other team looks across the table to me and says, Besides work, what else is going on in your life? And I said, Absolutely nothing. And it made the whole table awkward. And I could not come up with an answer.

I was like, I go to soccer matches with my friends. Church is good. Church is for me because of my role at our church is still operating on my purpose and my calling not attending, is not what I was talking about. It was a very red alarm moment for me of like, Oh, because of pain and because of worry, I have currently made my job my whole life.

We've been in a season where some of that was required. This is not how I always operate. But we've been in a season where that was a little bit necessary to some degree. But I think it's worth saying to people listening, if you find yourself talking about work all the time, this may be an opportunity to expand your life and to make some space and figure out why that's true. Your purpose is not meant to be your life. Your life is meant to be lived on purpose. And so figuring that out I think is important, whether you're planning and hoping to get married or not But I also know that there's a real inclination if you are choosing to stay single the rest of your life to go like, Well, I'm all in. Don't care about people, you know?

Katy: Yeah.

Annie: But I'm also not the person who's ever gonna be, like, your calling is not gonna hold your hand when you're dying. I do not like that line of thinking. I think that's super unfair to single people. But I do think it is worth paying attention to work-life balance when you are unmarried.

Katy: Because we don't make it to 100, your goal-

Annie: My goal!

Katy: ...by running ourselves into the ground.

Annie: People are going to be so disappointed if I don't make it to 100. I've made a real mess of my death now.

Katy: That's good.

Annie: Friends, I hope you found that conversation helpful. I really did. I mean, we finished and I was like, "Katy, I want all my single friends to get to hear this." But this is what we are doing in Single Purpose League. We are having these conversations. Coming up this fall, we're talking about boundaries. We're talking about sex. We are talking about how do we build the life that we want when we don't have everything that we want.

There are over 2,000 people already in Single Purpose League. We have got meetups happening. We have got a big event coming in December just for our Single Purpose League friends. If you are unmarried, whether you have never been married, whether you are divorced, whether you're widowed, we are mostly women, but there are some dudes in there. So, dudes, you are welcome in Single Purpose League as well. We would love for you to be a part. You can just go to SinglePurposeLeague.com and that is where you can learn more and join us, \$7 a month, so that you know we're invested, you're invested, everyone there is invested in this community.

We would just love for you to be a part... The window to join Single Purpose League will only be open for a little bit of time and then we are going to close it in the fall so that everyone can get to know each other, so that we can celebrate Advent and our unique Advent series together this winter. So this is your chance to join Single Purpose League.

I have told Katy this before, but I've had a couple of DMs in the last couple of months of people being like, "Hey, I want in Single Purpose League and I can't get

in." This is your chance. Join us. Join us as we really pursue what it looks like to live in our purpose while we are waiting and hoping for things that we do not yet have. For any of our unmarried friends, you are very, very welcome in Single Purpose League. SinglePurposeLeague.com. We hope you'll join us.