

[00:00:00] <music>

Annie: Hi friends! Welcome to another episode of That Sounds Fun: The Seasons. I'm your host Annie F. Downs. I'm so happy to be here with you today and so happy to have these guests back for the 16th time. Y'all are happy too. Today on the show, we're answering the question, what are the seasons inside of a season?

And before we dive into today's conversation, I want to tell you about one of our incredible sponsors. This show is sponsored by [BetterHelp](#). We're quick to talk about red flags we see in other people. Whoops, yep. But how about pointing out the green flags too?

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Intro: Well, you know it. Today on the show Raechel Myers and Amanda Bible Williams from She Reads Truth are back. You know we love to talk about the church calendar around here and the way it guides our seasons, but today we're putting it on top of our seasons. We're talking about Lent and digging into what the seasons are inside this winter season.

The interesting thing about Lent, you guys, is that it actually straddles winter and spring. It takes us between the two seasons. So what does that mean for our spiritual lives and our prayer lives? This is a note-taking episode for sure. So grab your journal or your TSF Seasons Guidebook. We're going to be on page 17. If you want to grab that guidebook, that's [AnnieFDowns.com/seasons](#).

Here's my conversation for the 16th time with my friends from She Reads Truth, Raechel and Amanda.

[00:02:27] <music>

Annie: Amanda and Raechel, you guys.

Amanda: We're back.

Annie: You're back. Let me tell you. I think y'all know this. You're the most returning guest on the pod. This is your 16th episode.

Amanda: 16th.

Raechel: And we intend to keep just at the top. What we're not going to do is let that ranking slip.

Annie: Nor am I.

Amanda: Sweet 16th.

Annie: This is your sweet 16th.

Raechel: That's right.

Annie: That means you are on... I'm just going to do the math real quick because I'm not great at math in my mind. So I'm going to do it on my phone. I think you are episode like 950. 16 divided by 950. You are on like 2% of the pod. That is a lot. If I just did that math right.

Amanda: Do you know what that said? I mean, it speaks to you prayed over our long friendship. Like thank you, Lord, for long friendship, which amen. But to me, it just also speaks of just your generosity of spirit because you, I mean, anyone wants to be on That sounds fun. Anyone.

Raechel: I mean, you get Matthew McConaughey.

Annie: Once. And I don't even think he told his wife. I think the only people who knew were us. But it was very enjoyable. But so are y'all. Well, I mean, I think the other thing is our friends listening tell us a lot what they want and they want to hear from y'all as do I. And they want to know the people we're talking to about scripture are trustworthy. And She Reads Truth over and over shows y'all yourselves, themselves as trustworthy people to lead us to scripture.

And as we are working our way through the winter... I told y'all before we started the funniest response has been... there've been so many responses of people liking

this rhythm. The funniest response maybe we'll be like, I don't like it because I'm tired of winter. We're like, yeah.

Raechel: Yeah, here we are. It's what we're talking about.

Amanda: No kidding. Just wait for it.

Annie: Yeah. That's it. Will you, one of you, whoever wants to, I ping back and forth on y'all every year asking you to do this, will you kind of overlay the Christian calendar on top of our seasons? Can you kind of talk through... Rae, I'll let you kind of start. Will you overlay the Christian calendar on top of our seasons? For people listening, this is Raechel Myers speaking to us, so that they will put your voice with your voice.

Raechel: Hey guys.

Amanda: One and only.

Annie: That was Amanda.

Raechel: I always start with the, Hey guys, Raechel here.

Annie: Yeah. That's right. That's what you do.

Raechel: Here's what I love about the church calendar. It is set up for a lot of reasons. I'm not going to go into like the history of how it came to be. But what it does is, like you said, it sets up seasons within the seasons of the earth. But it does that because we are a forgetful people. And without that structure, without that rhythm, we are liable to forget, to take the time to remember things.

And yes, there are ups and downs. There are really fun things about the church calendar. We get Advent, right?

Annie: Christmastide. Hello.

Raechel: Hello. Advent, Christmastide, Epiphany, all of that great stuff. We get Lent, which we're going to talk about today. And Annie's favorite, ordinary time.

Annie: Oh, ordinary time. If it wasn't the summer, I wouldn't survive it. If they tried to ordinary-time us in winter, I wouldn't survive it.

Raechel: We got to-

Amanda: You know that's the name of Annie B. Jones's book that's coming out in like, I don't know, April, but it's called Ordinary Time.

Annie: Oh. And does she love it though? I bet she does. She's a better person than me.

Amanda: I think it's about how even the ordinary time matters.

Raechel: Well, sure, sure, sure. But one thing I like about ordinary time, these seasons of the church calendar have colors. I'm sure they're not fully agreed upon all the way, but ordinary time is green. I love that. They circled back to us another time and they were like, "Hey, new covers for the She Reads Truth Bible?" And I was like, "Could we do a green one?" Like I want a Bible that says this is for ordinary time, you know?

Annie: Wow.

Raechel: And so we have a bright green She Reads Truth Bible.

Amanda: Like an emerald green. It's so pretty.

Raechel: And one of the first colors of the She Reads Truth Bible was an evergreen. Like just going like, this is for ordinary time. But I have completely digressed from your question.

Annie: No, this is great.

Raechel: Which is, why does the church calendar exist? It exists so that we can remember what Christ did. Like if more than anything to remember the work of Christ, the story of the gospel and how it overlays into our life, how it mattered for them then, and how it matters for us now, today. Like we need an Ash Wednesday. We need a day to go like, from dust I came to dust I will return. We need a good Friday. We need a holy week. We need Lent. We need this very long, longest season on the church calendar.

Annie: Yep.

Raechel: No, no, not the longest.

Annie: Eastertide.

Raechel: Eastertide.

Annie: By like a day or something.

Raechel: A day. Yes.

Annie: But they are the longest two.

Raechel: But we need this very long season to look back and not just go like, God, I'm sorry for my sins, but to go, God, show me my sin. Take me to what you see and help me see what you see. Show me my heart the way you view it. So that when Good Friday comes and we mourn the greatest injustice of all time, of the perfect God-man dying for our sins that we just spent all of Lent reflecting on, repenting of, when we see that sacrifice in light of what it cost, that's what makes Good Friday Good Friday for us.

Like we need the church calendar so that we do that buildup, we do that work. And then we have that day where it feels so dark. Because it was so dark. And then in the church calendar, we need Holy Saturday. We need that quiet down beat of like, okay, this is what it cost. And then we need Easter Sunday.

We need the buildup. Because if it's just Easter Sunday and we're putting on our ruffle socks and our gloves, that's beautiful for photos. But we need to go, not only did He die, but He conquered death. Like it's over. It's once and for all. It's paid and now He lives and now I get to live.

I want Easter Sunday to remind me to live into Eastertide, the longest season on the church calendar. I want to feel Eastertide in the same way that we feel Advent.

Annie: That's what I feel about Christmastide.

Raechel: I mean, you love Eastertide.

Annie: I love Eastertide and Christmastide because they're always the fun one. But I'm always like, yeah, Advent was great. I'm glad we did the waiting.

Raechel: We did the waiting.

Annie: But Christmastide, give me the 12 days of Christmas and epiphany. I love it. I think it is so fun. This is the first year... I think it's because we're paying such close attention to winter, spring, summer, fall. I've never realized the overlay of the Christian calendar on top of the seasons. And again, we mention this every now and again, but you know, half the world is in the summer right now. So they are not in the winter the same as we are.

Raechel: This is good. This is a good world, global reminder.

Annie: Yes. And our Australian listeners are like, we're sweating. And I'm like, I hear you. But nonetheless, we have winters in our lives that are sitting on top of Advent. And then we have winters that are sitting on top of Lent.

Amanda, the interesting thing this year that... Our today's question is, what are the seasons inside of a season? And I think that matters because Lent actually straddles winter and spring. Does it do that? I'm sorry to ask you this. Does it do that every year?

Amanda: Yes. Yeah.

Annie: Wow.

Amanda: Because it always starts somewhere in February, sometimes early March. I mean, in spring is always around what?

Raechel: March 21st.

Annie: March 21.

Amanda: Yeah. So around or on. Sorry.

Raechel: But it never starts before March 21st.

Amanda: No.

Annie: Right.

Amanda: And-

Annie: It never ends before March 21st. You mean Lent?

Raechel: Well, it never starts after March 21st and it never ends before March 21st. Sorry for all that confusion.

Annie: Always straddles.

Raechel: Always straddles.

Amanda: The answer to your question is yes.

Annie: Crazy.

Amanda: Yeah. You know, it didn't have to be like this. I think the more that we get to know God as we walk with Him over the course of our lives, the more specific and nuanced everything becomes, you know, where you just are like, "Wait, why did you make it that way?"

The people who created the church calendar, I mean, humans did that, but thank you for Eastertide being longer for life, winning even in the numbers over death, you know? I just think that it also is so kind because it makes me feel so seen that like it is not just cut and dry that, you know, there are going to be seasons of sorrow and seasons of joy, seasons of darkness and seasons of light. Like, yes. But usually in my experience, it's like they all overlap each other.

And sometimes you have a winter or a dark season of the soul that you get to the end of it to realize that actually there's like a PVC pipe overlapping it and it starts a new one. And you're like, wait a minute.

Annie: Yeah. That's not a cut dry-

Amanda: That's not the deal.

Annie: Yeah. Interesting.

Amanda: There was supposed to be a flood of light. I was supposed to be dancing and-

Annie: Close the door behind you.

Amanda: And sometimes, but a lot of times hard seasons but up against each other. And sometimes seasons of joy and light do that as well. And so I just think it's such a good, helpful reminder that just helps us. We spend so much time... "We" is just as humans. And I don't know, I've only lived in America my whole life. So I feel like maybe this is something that we do especially well, which is that we pretend that the stuff that's happening isn't really happening. You know, our bodies aren't really failing or aging, you know?

I mean, I spent more than five minutes putting on some makeup today because I knew there would be cameras in the room and I'm like, cover up those bags and like do all the things. And that's okay. We're not going to shame us for that. It's great to feel good in front of a camera. But we spend a lot of time trying to portray that we are in a season that maybe we're not really in.

I don't think that's necessarily sinful or... but I do think it's good to be mindful of it. To know that there are hard things always. And if we're not... I mean, how many

times have we looked at each other and said like, "If you're not in it now, then it's coming." I mean, I'm so sorry to be the Debbie Downer, but it's true.

Annie: This is Wowie Zowie. [wowie zowie]. That's a Wowie Zowie moment. Because what the gifts you're actually offering us is to say, just because it's summer outside doesn't mean you need to be okay, and just because it's winter outside doesn't mean you need to not be loving this. You're just giving us permission to go like, Hey, the season doesn't have to match your experience every single day.

Amanda: Yes. Okay. What is the song? You're going to have to help me because I've only listened to the album a couple of times so far.

Raechel: I will be of zero help.

Annie: You mean our Winter album?

Amanda: Yeah.

Annie: *Memory Bank*.

Amanda: The *Memory Bank* record, the one where it says it's... I don't know, I'm going to botch it, but it's basically like, it's okay to be glad to be alive.

Annie: Yes. Yes.

Amanda: And I think that like, just like seasons, it's good to remember — thank you, Drew and Ellie — that there can be awful things happening in the world and even awful things happening in your own life, in your own community, in your own family, in your own body and still be glad, like still have... I mean, I think of the joy of the Lord, right?

Annie: Yeah, that's right.

Amanda: But like that can coexist with deep grief.

Annie: I'm even thinking that the Covenant shooting that affected all of us deeply in our community happened in the spring and suddenly we were all kind of-

Raechel: Six days into spring.

Annie: We were spun into a different season.

Raechel: That's right. Did not feel like spring.

Annie: Right. I was telling y'all before we started that I've been with Cross Point and God Behind Bars. I've been at the Tennessee prison for women a lot lately. Every woman in there is in a season of incarceration. But that is not their only season. They're also doing winter, spring, summer, fall. Some of my friends there are also getting their college degrees. So they're also in a season of learning and growth in the midst of a season of incarceration. Right?

Amanda: Good.

Annie: So for our friends listening that is kind of like, Oh yeah, it is winter, lent is coming, spring is coming. In our family, we are thriving. It's summer in my job. Something's changing in my job and things aren't going well and I may end up believing it's the fall. Talk to me about what... this is like such a spring on you question.

Raechel: I'm excited.

Annie: What does a prayer life look like? What is communing with God look like in the middle of acknowledging there are a bunch of seasons inside of this season?

Raechel: Amanda, I liked what you said a minute ago about sometimes wanting to project and this is like winter, spring, summer, fall, seasons aside, but just like life seasons. Like you were like, sometimes we're projecting we're in a certain season, even though that's not even true. To me, I was just like, can we bookmark that for our listeners to like-

Annie: Yes. I'm glad you did.

Raechel: ...to hear that. Because I hear that. I think that's so good. Amanda and I have been in a season, apart from the weather and apart from the solar system, of prayer. Like the two of us together. And for us, we've called it the hot potato season. I mean, just truly where there are some things that are very heavy for us and people we love. Like just like all sorts of things.

And when there are things going on, you know, this Annie, you just want to give it to the Lord. You just want to walk with the Lord. And it becomes like where you sometimes struggle with that "in all things" prayer. Right. And sometimes-

Amanda: Like, what do we even pray for?

Raechel: But sometimes it's not hard at all because like breathing in and out is prayer. Like where you really are just going Lord, right this second we need you, right this second I need you. So we've been talking about like... even apart from each other

when we come back together and talk about certain things, it's just like, I've hot potato this.

The hot potato is when a certain topic comes to mind, we just keep finding ourselves going like, Lord, it's yours. Like hot potato. Like it's in my brain, but I'm tossing it to heaven. So truly we have hot-potatoed so many things in the last several months-

Annie: Just releasing them back.

Raechel: ...for each other.

Amanda: And it's a long game of hot potato. These are not quick seasons.

Raechel: That is what prayer life has looked like, honestly, for the two of us. And that's seeped into our homes. Like for Ryan, he and I, even our oldest Ollie is 18 and he's got some real hot potato things going on right now. I mean, just like college-

Annie: And figuring out his life.

Raechel: ...and school things. I mean, talk about another season, that season of launching a kid. But he now has been using that language. Just like hot potato. Like, I'm giving this to the Lord. And not just saying it, but doing it. Like let's not let hot potato be like a thing where we're just like, ah-

Amanda: Never mind.

Raechel: ...hot potato. No. Actually, I'm gonna hit my knees real quick. You know, like, this is yours, Lord. The minute my brain goes to anxiety, to worry, to what will happen on a number of things, we just go, "Lord, this is yours.

Amanda: It's the like, I want what you want. Because I don't even really know what I want. Like there's some things that get so complex that you're just like, I don't even know what to ask other than just thy will be done.

Raechel: Thy will be done. And I think it's a prayer of surrender and it's a prayer of faith. And I think even if it is that brief, I think that I've found some real comfort and peace in hot potatoing to the Lord.

Amanda: I love that so much.

Raechel: It was Amanda's TM, for the record.

Amanda: TM.

Raechel: Trademark, Amanda.

Amanda: We'll have some merch coming. No. And I want to add to that, that another, which feels very different yet also similar to that concept is something else that I, in terms of seasons, am finding a lot of solace and help in my communion with the Lord is breath prayer. It's not anything new agey weird. It's like just literally using the rhythm of our breath as a way to pray.

So you mentioned it, Raechel. And then what you can do is... and there are some books on this. Maybe it's Jenn Johnson has a book called *Breath Prayer*, but where you can-

Annie: And *Practicing the Way*, the John Mark Comer's. They teach some breath prayers too.

Amanda: Right. And so it's really simple or... you know, think about those lines from scripture that are just such good nuggets and you can pray them. So maybe on your inhale it's "the Lord is my shepherd". [inhales] The my shepherd. And then as you exhale, "I have everything that I need". The Lord is my shepherd. [inhales] I have everything that I need. [exhales] And so just like repeating that.

And because we know that our bodies take a cue, like our anxiety takes cues from our bodies, so if we are like, man, I'm anxious about this thing, I am learning to stop and actually breathe and like do some box breathing, you know, the like four, four, four, four. Quick Google tell you what that is. Super easy. So I will kind of combine that with some breath prayer and stuff.

I think it's a way of whatever the seasons look like and however it's pulling us in different directions are overlapping and we're like, I don't even know what season it is. Everything feels like such a, you know, jumbled, tangled-up Christmas lights. Then it's a way for me, with my mind and my soul and my body, to just reorient of like, your will be done. Like here's what's true. And it can just be a simple truth from scripture, but it's enough.

Annie: I think that's so encouraging to remind people to involve your body in your prayer life. Like kneeling, walking, raising your hands. Like if you will switch breathing, if you will switch... I've got this new path. I have a hallway down the center of my condo and I historically would just walk the hallway. But then I was like, I need a new path. I've prayed the same things on the same hallway for so... And so now I have a new path through the room where I sit in the mornings. And so just having a new path even has changed my prayer.

Raechel: That's interesting. I have always remembered your path. Like while you're coffee brewing [inaudible 00:22:19] and you do your praying.

Annie: That's exactly right.

Raechel: Well, I have pasted something inside my coffee cabinet, like a liturgy, a morning liturgy to read that kind of like releases yesterday and invites the Lord into today. I've done my own version of that really because of what you did. But I like that you carved a new path.

Annie: I just had to, I just got more mad and I needed.... I was like, I need to move the path a little bit.

Amanda: Because the season is still there and you're like, shouldn't this be over by now?

[00:22:51] <music>

Sponsor: Hey friends, just interrupting this conversation to tell you about one of our incredible partners, [Wayfair](#). I am headed back to my New York place soon. I'm telling you, it is almost exclusively furnished by Wayfair that I purchased. I love what I've picked out there. I'm especially excited to get back to that couch. It is one of my favorites. And the chair... Oh yeah. The couch and the chair.

With Wayfair, there is something for every style and every home no matter your space or budget. You get free and easy delivery, even on the big stuff and they'll help you set it up. Remember that changed my life with that chair.

I've gotten their help and I am so thankful they offer this. When you're looking online, you're looking for white glove. When it says that, that's when you know they're going to set it up for you. Getting furniture moved into a New York apartment, it was not for the faint of heart, you guys. So their help mattered a lot.

Find all of your spring living essentials, your storage solutions, your decor, and more all in one place. Give your home the refresh it needs with Wayfair. Head to [wayfair.com](#) right now. That's [Wayfair.com](#). Wayfair: every style, every home.

Sponsor: And I have another incredible partner I get to tell you about, Hiya Health. Y'all know we've been talking about [Hiya Health](#)'s chewable vitamins for kids for a while around here. They're seriously the best. No sugar, no gummy junk. Instead, they're pumped with essential vitamins my MiniBFFs need.

But I want you to know about Hiya Health's new kids' daily greens and superfoods too. It's a chocolate-flavored greens powder designed specifically for kids that has 55 whole food ingredients in it. And it supports brain power, development, and digestion. How cute would it be for you to fix your kids their own little greens drink in the morning while you have yours? Except this one from Hiya Health tastes like chocolate. So they win for sure.

Hiya Health is designed for kids two and up and sent straight to your door so you also have one less thing to worry about. We've worked out a special deal with Hiya for my friends. Y'all get 50% off your first order. To claim this deal, you got to go to [Hiyahealth.com/thatsoundsfun](https://hiyahealth.com/thatsoundsfun). Again, that's Hiyahealth.com/thatsoundsfun. Get your kids the full body nourishment they need to grow into healthy adults.

Sponsor: You guys often ask about what devotionals are apps I use to kick off my time with God in the morning. And I want you to know about the [Glorify app](https://glorifyapp.com). I think you're really going to love this one. Just this week, they've started the daily experience with quotes from some of my favorites like Bob Goff. You know, we love him around here and Andrew Murray. Oh, y'all. I love his writing.

When you open the app each day, it'll guide you through. You start with a quote to read, and then it takes you to the scripture passage for the day, then a short devotional. You choose to listen to it or read it. So you just really get to choose your own adventure.

They also have extra resources each day that you can engage with. There's a song of the day if you love to kick your day off with worship. There's a daily walk with God experience. It's like a guided prayer. It is really cool. And there's a guided meditation as well.

So visit [Glorify-app.com/thatsoundsfun](https://glorify-app.com/thatsoundsfun). And my friends can download the Glorify app for free. That's [Glorify-app.com/thatsoundsfun](https://glorify-app.com/thatsoundsfun) to download the glorify app for free.

Now back to our conversation with Raechel and Amanda.

[00:26:20] <music>

Annie: I mean, I think so many people followed your story, Amanda, of your son, Toby and his... chronic?

Amanda: It does, putting it mildly. Yes.

Annie: Right. So there are so many people who are listening that are like, I live in Lent. I would love to see Easter. I live in Lent. I live in winter. Is Christmas ever going to come? What does that look like? Can we talk about that or would you rather not?

Amanda: Yeah, no, we can.

Annie: What does it look like to live in Lent in some ways? Probably not in every way.

Amanda: Yeah, not, not in every way. Did you say he's very funny, Toby?

Annie: Yeah.

Amanda: Oh man. He is to me proof that the joy of the Lord is a real thing. Because it's supernatural the joy that he still has after everything he's been through. That is-

Annie: How old is he now?

Amanda: He's 11. He is the tiniest little nugget of an 11-year-old. I mean, he's itty bitty. But yeah, I mean, I think it looks a lot of like... I want to say it's actually not that bad. It is. It stinks. It stinks. And it looks kind of dreary. It's like an overcast day that sometimes you can see a little light through the clouds and that's like a nice reprieve, but overall the forecast is clouds.

I've been thinking about this a lot as our kids, our older kids age, and as Toby ages that I think we thought, even though I know in my brain that medically this winter is... I mean, there are moments where you're like, Oh, we're kind of veering into a spring. And then you're like, Oh, now we're veering into like a hard freeze. But overall, this is a winter that's going to last until dot, dot, dot.

So I think that the reality of that is still in some ways like settling in and I'm like, okay. Then we have to create seasons within the season.

Annie: Wow.

Amanda: You know, we have to be okay with our spring and summer and fall not looking like a traditional spring, summer, and fall. Like we don't travel much as a family. That's a bummer. We didn't travel when I was a kid. That wasn't something that we were afforded to do. But for some reason, I feel like with my kids, I'm like, man, I feel like I'm sliding them somehow. And I'm like, but we're not.

Our bright spots are very, I don't know, simple, you know? It's like games at home or movies at home, or we did get to, and this is news to the internet because I have

not shared anything from it. But we got to take a trip. We got to take a Make-A-Wish trip.

Annie: Oh, wow.

Amanda: And so it's the only like not to see family... like we've traveled a little bit as a family since Toby was part of our family, but not a ton. And this is the first purely just a vacation for the six of us that we've ever taken together. And so we went to Disney and Universal because obviously, we had to go to Harry Potter World. It all revolved around Harry Potter World. And it was magical. And I will share some photos.

Annie: Did everybody love it?

Amanda: Yeah, we loved it. We loved it. I mean, our big kids had never been and Toby had never been and David and I hadn't been since we were children. But yeah. I mean, the truth is that it's a long kind of like a cold jury day. But it doesn't stop joy. It's just that the joy looks different. And you take what you can get, you know?

Annie: You build the seasons inside seasons. I mean, I think that's nice to hear. We have some agency inside of the season we're living in.

Amanda: We do. And I think for a long time, I didn't want to admit that because I just wanted the season to change and I wanted it to become easier. And then it's like, you know what, we could just call this what it is. What can we do? Like, where can we create moments of summer? You know what's interesting is... I never liked summer. Growing up, I was like, Oh, it's hot. And I'm not like a big water sports person and whatever. And now I love summer.

I think a lot of that has to do with Toby, because it's easier... I think just the actual presence of the sunshine matters so much more than it did, because we're indoors more than I was for first 40 years of my life. So I just think it matters more the longer days.

Annie: Do you have thoughts?

Amanda: Raechel always has great thoughts.

Raechel: I'm still forming them. Sometimes I hesitate to form out loud. But it's just like what you have described is, in winter, it's like a season where things are dormant that you wish weren't.

Amanda: Yes. There's a dormancy that-

Amanda: Say that again. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Raechel: And I think that probably a lot of our listeners have things that are dormant, even if they're by and large in a spring season or whatever. But like, I think we all probably have some things that are in winter and maybe always will be. But Amanda, what you described is, you know, like to go like, travel for us is dormant these days.

There are things that we would love to be a part of to, participate in, to do and that's dormant for us. And what we know about dormancy, and I don't know, again, I'm like processing out loud. So you guys can be like... I don't know. But like-

Amanda: As long as there's some gardening coming, I'm excited.

Raechel: But with that dormancy, it's just kind of going like, what do I need to let be dormant now so that I can thrive in the next season? You know? I don't know. If dormancy points to thriving, there are all the things. Like the things underground, the things in the soil, the things that you wish didn't take so long in the soil. Also just going like, what do I like, actually let go of and allow dormancy in?

Annie: What can I do and what shouldn't I do?

Raechel: Yeah.

Annie: That sounds like somebody's Sabbath work. This weekend you need to sit with the question of, in the season of winter I'm in, whatever it is, what is mine to do and what isn't?

Raechel: And what is dormancy doing in this season so I can gain strength for the next season? What is that doing? What is going to be the fruit of this dormancy?

Amanda: When I look at this Lent study that we're going to do together, it's called *He Will Save Us*. Because there is the truth of what Jesus came to do and what He did, He successfully did defeat death on the cross. And yet there are seasons, like there is this winter. So does that mean that that is not true in... like does a reality like, you know, Toby's long winter, does that mean that the promise in the declaration "He will save us", does it mean that like "except for these things where they don't end"?

What you just said, Rachel, it brings to mind like if... and we're just gonna... bless him. He wouldn't mind if we were to continue to use Toby as an example. But like, if Toby's a garden, and I have this image of like the rosebush of Toby is... I would try to say it... won't be in its full glory until glory. That's just a reality of his body. Okay, I got past that hard part to say. But there is life all around him.

Annie: That's right.

Amanda: The big headline thing of like the star of the show, of the garden, right, is usually like... let's say it's the rosebush. It is going to be dormant. It will bloom. It will. I mean, barring like a million miracles, which we've already seen a million. So Lord, do what you will.

Annie: Easter morning, sitting in the garage.

Amanda: Oh, my word. That's a good one. Yes, that's like-

Annie: Wasn't that Easter morning?

Raechel: It was Easter morning. But there is life all around him. There are other things blooming that are just as beautiful. They're just not. When people look at him, the headline is like his medical, physical status. Right? But there's so much more.

Annie: That's not all.

Amanda: No.

Annie: That's really good.

Amanda: It's not the whole garden. And the whole garden is blooming even in winter. So I just think that like this promise that we're given in the book of Isaiah... you know, Isaiah was the... there were all these prophets that were saying like, "Pay attention, your sin is destroying you. Pay attention, Judah. Your sin is destroying you. This is not going to end well."

And so you look at the timeline in this reading guide and you see that Jonah prophesied and Hosea prophesied and Amos prophesied. And here comes Isaiah. And Isaiah has the megaphone, right? He's like this long book of the Bible and it's the message is long, but it's like, you are going to be held accountable. Like your sin is an affront to the God that loves you and made you, the holy God. He is a God of justice. He is just. Period. He is also merciful. Thank God. He is also loving.

Isaiah eventually lays out that He will save us. He even gives us glimpses of what that will look like in Jesus. But it was a grim reality. But the salvation and the restoration is just as true as the sin and judgment. He will save us. It is true.

Raechel: I mean, what you're saying, Amanda, you're describing... even in your example of Toby's life, you're just kind of saying like, here's the reality of his limitations. And we all have them.

Amanda: We all have them. We don't all wear them.

Raechel: Like we just said, from dust we come to dust we will return. We all have these limitations.

Amanda: Amen.

Raechel: But what you're saying is that in these seasons, like this winter season, which is Toby's reality, you're just declaring the overarching truth of the power of the resurrection. We're just going, in winter the resurrection is true. It's not just on Easter Sunday, but like in winter the resurrection is true. In dormancy it's true. That word of salvation like "He will save us" it's true for every one of us in every one of our limitations and every dormant thing will come to life because He came to life.

Annie: For anyone listening that has a longstanding medical pain or someone who's divorced... that's how you keep thinking about a divorced person that may be listening that thinks like, well, here is this season now. The resurrection is true in the middle of it. And the rose bush may be this one thing in your garden, but there are all these other things. I mean, singleness, illness, there are so many things that fit around-

Raechel: Loss. I have so many friends that are having repeated losses in their lives.

Annie: And job change. And city change. There's the reminder that there is resurrection in the middle of it is really important. Why did y'all pick Isaiah this year?

Raechel: It's a truer thing.

Annie: Why is that what we're doing for Lent?

Raechel: I mean, here's a two-part answer. One, just about any book of the Bible that preaches the gospel, which is all of them is great for Lent.

Amanda: True.

Raechel: But Isaiah does it. Isaiah really has these three movements, these three acts that mirror Lent. So it's really beautiful. Like the first 39 chapters are just like, Hey, sin and judgment. Like look at this. And it's interspersed. It's not just hard-hitting with nothing, but it is very frank.

I was reading it this morning. I mean, there is just like, why do you want more beatings? Why do you keep on rebelling? The whole head is hurt and the whole heart is sick from the sole of the foot, even to the head. No spot is uninjured. Wounds, welts, festering sores, not cleansed, bandaged or soothed.

Annie: Wow.

Raechel: This is your reality that you're choosing. But then there really is this movement of promise and salvation and pointing to Jesus. I mean, Isaiah is the book of the Bible that is like... he's the prophet who's the most referenced from the New Testament. Jesus quotes Isaiah. But all of this pointing specifically, not just to like "God will save you", but like He, the Savior, the Messiah is coming and will save you. There's the truth and the truer truth. The truth that can be changed of like, Hey, repent, and the truth that cannot be changed, which is He will save us. It is done even before it was done. Right?

Annie: I mean, thousands of years.

Raechel: Thousands of years before it was done, it is done.

Amanda: It feels important to note as an aside, because we are talking about like these seasons of life that there's so much we don't have control over, physical realities, you know, often being one of them. It feels important to note that the chronic illness that Toby is experiencing, the chronic illness that a lot of you listening are experiencing, sometimes the trauma that many of you have endured at the hands of others, or just life circumstances in general, all of those types of things, those are not judgments for your sin.

Those are realities of the broken and sinful world that we live in, our bodies that are not yet restored. Now, of course, we have choices and sometimes we make choices that destroy ourselves. And we are going to have no problem finding ourselves in Isaiah. Like, just say like, Hey, Hey, this thing that you're holding up as an idol is actually eating you from the inside out. That applies. It's not a stretch.

Annie: That fits.

Amanda: That fits. That tracks. And also there are painful circumstances and realities in our lives. It's like Job's friends, you know? Like, "You must've done something because this is terrible." And what does God say? Who are you all? Where were you included? Where were you? You have no idea what you're saying.

And we see Jesus too, saying it like, neither this man nor his parents sinned. You're way off. So I just want as... as we're talking... because we're having two conversations and they talk to each other and they definitely overlap, but I just don't want anyone who might be new to scripture to hear-

Annie: Not new to scripture. I mean, any of us can say, Is the reason I'm still in this season because of my sin? And it is an important question to ask.

Raechel: Does sin have natural consequences? Like it's a whole nuanced conversation where like... I mean, we say in our home, natural consequences are the third parent.

Annie: Oh, wow.

Raechel: Welcome to your traffic fine. Like that feels like it's yours.

Amanda: Welcome to your detention.

Raechel: Welcome to your detention. Welcome to how sore you are right now. Like whatever it is, natural consequences are real and important in training us. And it's a very nuanced conversation, Annie.

Annie: But no, I think it's really important to say what you're saying is to say to people, you have not brought this on yourself. Even Elijah when he is just stood up and done so much for the... it's Elijah, not Elisha, right, who then sits under the tree and is like, "Forget it. I don't want to do this at all." And the Lord goes like, "Take a nap and have a snack." Even that, those are the moments of going like, Listen, this is how this is going to go. We live in a fallen world. This is how this is going to go. Now, do we want to check ourselves? Yes. That is what Lent is about is whether-

Amanda: Yes, Holy Spirit.

Raechel: Yes, come on.

Annie: What's the Psalm? Test me.

Raechel: Search me and know me.

Annie: Search my heart-

Raechel: 139.

- Annie:** We want to do that, but we also don't want to accuse our lives of being shaped the way they are because of sin when that isn't what it is. That is, we live in a fallen world and things are going to go wrong constantly. Jesus promised us.
- Amanda:** There's a lot of shame that the devil can heap on us-
- Raechel:** The enemy of us all.
- Amanda:** ...when we convince ourselves that what we're experiencing is our own doing or just lack of God's goodness or both.
- Annie:** Yeah. Because when we think it's our own doing that also is a... I mean, tell me I'm wrong. But that also is a little bit of pride thinking I have some control over getting out of the season. Well, it must be sin, so I'll stop doing that and I'll repent and now I'll be out of the season.
- Amanda:** Or you turn super legalistic and you're like, Hey, I'm going to start doing... And y'all should too.
- Annie:** Yeah, that's right.
- Amanda:** Because you start seeing that in yourself, you're going to be like, well, you must... you know.
- Annie:** I think you will.
- Amanda:** It is a quick thing.
- Raechel:** We know that His will and His work cannot be thwarted. That is what's true.
- Annie:** That's right.
- Amanda:** Praise God.
- Raechel:** We have "we messed things up" and His will and His work cannot be thwarted.
- Annie:** That's why we want to know scripture, right?
- Raechel:** That's Lent, Annie.
- Annie:** We have this wild... I don't have time to tell you. I don't want to use your time to tell you a story. We had a wild spiritual warfare experience a couple... I did a couple

of weeks ago. And in the middle of it, I thought, the reason I can pull up what to do right now is because of scripture.

Raechel: Because the word of God dwells in you richly.

Annie: Well, I hope so. I try. That is a goal of my life is to know scripture. So if what will last is His name and His word, then we need to know those. If that's what's not getting thwarted, we've got to know the word. It is our sword. I think so much about... I'm like, you have something to fight back with.

Raechel: You have a whole armory of swords.

[00:46:28] <music>

Sponsor: Hey friends, just interrupting this conversation one more time to tell you about one of our incredible partners, [Our Place](#). We played a little get-to-know-you game at work the other day, and the question I drew was how often do you cook? Well, listen, here's what had to happen. Everybody else on the team was supposed to answer. And because they know me well, they answered on my behalf rarely ever. And it is true.

But I can cook. And even though I don't do it often, I genuinely love using Our Place's cookware when I do. I'm not super interested in toxins being in my pots and pans and Our Place's cookware is non-toxic and so cute.

Their products have the most durable toxin-free ceramic coatings, ensuring a healthy, safe cooking experience. And they come in so many fun colors. In addition to cookware forever, chemicals are also frequently used in appliances, especially air fryers and pressure cookers and crock pots, and even the rim of blenders, you guys.

That's why Our Place came out with the non-toxic appliances too that are changing the game. Go to [Ourplace.com](#) enter my code TSF at checkout, and you're going to get 10% off site-wide for all of our friends. That's from [Ourplace.com](#), and the code is TSF. Our Place offers a hundred-day trial with free shipping and returns.

Sponsor: And I have another incredible partner to tell you about, [Ritual](#). Did you know, 97% of women ages 19 to 50 are not getting enough vitamin D from their diet. Yikes! But one of the things I love about Ritual's Essential for Women 18 multivitamin is that it's shown to increase vitamin D levels by 43% in a clinical study. We are here for that.

Their Essential for Women 18+ multivitamin also has high quality traceable key ingredients and clean bioavailable forms. So you know you're getting exactly what's listed on the bottle. Y'all know that's not true in every product out there. So that's really important.

Just take two capsules a day, which have nine key nutrients and the capsules feature a delayed release, which means it dissolves later and it's easier on an empty stomach. And it has this great minty essence too. Ah, I love it.

Rituals Essential for Women 18+ is a multivitamin you can actually trust. My friends get 25% off your first month for a limited time at [Ritual.com/thatsoundsfun](https://ritual.com/thatsoundsfun). Start Ritual or add Essential for Women 18+ to your subscription today. That's [Ritual.com/thatsoundsfun](https://ritual.com/thatsoundsfun) for 25% off.

Sponsor: Y'all know I'm trying to be a protein queen. And even though I didn't love beef bone broth in my hot chocolate, I do like to find snacks that pack some protein and aren't full of ingredients I can't pronounce. [Thrive Market](https://thrivemarket.com) makes it simple to find the best options and they ship everything to me, which is just the best. They have chopsticks and protein shakes. I like the OWYN brand.

And they take the guesswork out because all their products are 100% non-GMO and free from over a thousand harmful ingredients. One really cool feature they have is their smart cart feature. When you create an account, they ask about your needs, and then automatically that builds a cart full of cleaner versions of your favorite things.

You can tweak it before checking out, but it's a great way to get started, especially if you're trying to phase out some of the junk food. Head to thrivemarket.com/thatsoundsfun. And my friends get 30% off your first order plus a free \$60 gift. That's thrivemarket.com/thatsoundsfun.

And now back to finish up our conversation with Raechel and Amanda.

[00:50:08] <music>

Annie: So I was recently... everybody's fine. I'll lead with that. I was recently spending about 12 hours in an emergency room with not Toby, another one of my children who is kind of in this maze of like, what is going on with our body? I found myself in like an exam room by myself for an hour with nothing to entertain. I didn't have my phone. I didn't have a... what I did have was my Apple watch. And so I did call David from my watch awkwardly for a minute.

And then I was like, Wait, Hey, Siri, pull up Isaiah 40. And I was looking for something else, I was looking for a different passage, but the Lord gave me Isaiah 40. Because that's where I thought it was parked. And so I read-

Annie: Oh my gosh, in your brain, you kind of thought, "I think this verse is an Isaiah 40" and it wasn't. But you pulled it.

Amanda: Yeah.

Annie: I love that about the Lord.

Amanda: And I felt super overwhelmed by the reality of the situation. So I pulled this up on my watch and like, I also wouldn't... if prepared would have had my readers. So I'm reading... no readers on my watch.

Raechel: So you've got it as far away from you as you-

Annie: Miracles.

Amanda: It's bad. Okay. But I read this. The reason this comes to mind now is, well, I mean, everything we're talking about, but also that Job moment of like, where were you? That happens in Isaiah. So the beginning of section two... So as we go through Isaiah, there's sort of these movements and themes of Isaiah. The first one being what we just talked about, which is judgment and justice. The second sort of phase or act is salvation and solace. And then the third one, repentance, and restoration. But right at the top of the salvation and solace section is Isaiah 40, which is where I read. And so I'm just reading this aloud as my child is undergoing, you know, I think it was as an MRI and like across the hall.

So I read this out loud and it just sweeps over me because what Isaiah 40 will remind you... Well, I was like, This scripture needs to be in this room for me, but also for the people who come after me. It's one of these chapters that is like, Make no mistake, God is God.

And so I'm just going to popcorn-read a little bit of it. I'm not going to tell you when I'm... so I'm not reading it straight through. But it begins, comfort Comfort, my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem. So we have this picture of like, because we've been... we have 39 chapters of justice, right? We're like, whew, we gotcha. Which did they? I don't know. Did they get it? And then you start hearing these echoes of Jesus coming right into verse three, a voice of one crying out, prepare the way of the Lord in the wilderness, make way, a highway for our God in the desert. Every Valley will be lifted up. Every mountain will be leveled.

The uneven ground will become smooth and the rough places a plane and the glory of the Lord will appear. This is from Handel's Messiah. If you're hearing it.

Raechel: Handel's Messiah is from this.

Amanda: Yes. Sorry. You're right. And all humanity together, we'll see it. And then it talks about like, this is where that verse that we often quote at She Reads Truth, is from the grass withers, the flowers fade, but the word of our God remains forever. And then there's this section where it's like, who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand or marked off the heavens with the span of His hand? Who has gathered the dust of the earth and measured or weighed the mountains on a balance and the hills on the scales?

Annie: It does sound Joby.

Raechel: It does sound very Joby.

Amanda: Very Joby. Verse 18, with whom will you compare God? What likeness will you set up for comparison with Him? An idol, something that a smelter casts, and a woodworker plates? It's calling us out, right? Of like year idols. Sure. You got your cute little idol, but the "here is God". Verse 21, Do you not know? Have you not heard? Has it not been declared to you from the beginning? Have you not considered the foundations of the earth? God is enthroned above the circle of the earth, its inhabitants. That's us. We're like grasshoppers. He stretches out the heavens like a thin cloth and spreads them out like a tent to live in. He reduces princes to nothing and makes judges of the earth like a wasteland.

You think about like... there's a part in here. I don't know if I've already passed it. Just like the nations. It's like, guys, they're nothing, you know?

Raechel: I love that you opened the wrong chapter and it started with comfort, comfort.

Annie: Right.

Raechel: And that right within that chapter, it's going comfort, comfort. And it's going with whom will you compare God? Like the things that you make, the things that you do, the things that other people make. Like Amanda, in that moment, what is your comfort? There were all sorts of things that you could have turned to, but there's nothing, Amanda, that you could have read out loud in that room with the power of God's word.

Amanda: I mean, my comfort is the character of God and the truth of what it is to work in the world. That's my comfort.

Raechel: I love Isaiah. Do you see like Isaiah for Lent, Annie?

Annie: I know.

Raechel: I mean it.

Annie: And one of the things y'all have done in the book that I loved is on page 148, for when people get their book, it is all the names of God in Isaiah. Everything that Isaiah labeled.

Raechel: They're so many.

Amanda: And I think it is so important to know God's names because you get to ask Him. I mean, we talk about this a lot in Single Purpose League. Then in Isaiah, it's where God says, I am your husband. And we lean on that in Single Purpose League to go, Have you asked God to miraculously step in? Because He says He is. So because He says He is, are you asking Him to actually help you in ways that a husband would help a wife when you are not married today?

I think going to the names goes so far for helping you in your prayer life and in your spiritual life of how do I know what I can ask God to do? Well, what does He say He is? What is His name?

Raechel: Wonderful counselor. Rock of Israel. Lord of Armies. Mighty one of Israel. Mighty one of Jacob. Do you see how it gets big and then it gets little? Mighty one of Rachel. He is the Mighty One of His people.

Amanda: There's so much language in Isaiah that it is such a juxtaposition of might and strength and power and tenderness. I mean, I skipped it, but in chapter 40, verse 10 says, see, the Lord comes with strength and His power establishes his rule. His wages are with him. His reward accompanies him. And then listen to this verse 11, He protects his flock like a shepherd. He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them in the fold of his garment. He gently leads those that are nursing.

I mean, that's feminine language. That's mother language of like putting the lamb in the fold of your garment and being gentle with that. I mean, that is-

Raechel: Tender.

Amanda: That's our God.

Annie: What's the third movement of Isaiah?

Raechel: The restoration. There's two Rs, but I can only think of restoration.

Annie: Repentance and restoration.

Raechel: Repentance and restoration.

Annie: That's great. As I'm sitting here thinking about Lent straddling winter and spring, I'm realizing Advent straddles fall and winter because winter starts December 21.

Raechel: Oh, you're right.

Annie: So Advent also straddles this.

Raechel: It's almost more in fall than winter. Yeah.

Annie: Both of these really important seasons are that PVC pipe, like you said, Amanda, that will connect these important seasons. And the fact that we will get into spring and there will be repentance and restoration.

Raechel: That's right. That's right.

Annie: It just feels like, what a gift.

Raechel: I feel like it's one of my favorite seasons to be a she, like in Lent to be able to like read a book of the Bible, especially Isaiah, because I just love that so much. But we kind of have a little bit of a tradition where we really do stop... We keep that book to end right before Holy Week. And then as a community, we do Holy Week together. And so in this book, actually, like Holy Week is the last week of the books. You are reading the story of just that... and where like time goes fast and then it slows so far down. You are like verse by verse, day by day looking at that intentionality of the salvation was a big idea, and here it comes. Like when Jesus turns His head to Jerusalem and just like, I'm here.

Annie: Comfort.

Raechel: I am salvation. I bring salvation. I'm doing this.

Annie: I think our friends listening... I think I've said this, that they've already heard it, but my plans for Lent are Isaiah. We're going to share this with everybody. But I'm going to watch one episode of *The Chosen* every weekday. You start on Ash Wednesday, you finish Holy Week.

Raechel: Oh, cool.

Annie: For the four seasons that exist right now. So we're like typing up a plan and is going to share it with everybody.

Amanda: Do you know that I've never seen it?

Annie: This might be a great time to watch it one episode a day.

Amanda: I don't know why... I'm not a big TV... I just don't watch a lot of TV, but I also... when you're in a long winter, sometimes when you do watch TV, you return to things that you already know. Yeah, of course. Because you're just like, I don't need new emotions.

Annie: That's right. You will have emotions if you watch *The Chosen*. It is very-

Amanda: I don't know if I could do one a day but-

Annie: Only during the weekdays. Because for me, I normally watch 45 minutes to an hour TV a night at the end of the day. And so I'm like, okay, well, one of my "sacrifices" will be not tons of other TV, but going like, have you actually done this discipline? Because that match with Isaiah feels like, what an interesting way to walk through the season, to walk into Easter and Holy Week. I'm with you, it's one of my very favorite things y'all do at the end of Lent, is that we always read Holy Week. The language you said, Rae, of how you go through so much and then it slows so far down.

Raechel: Right.

Annie: That's also what *The Chosen* is modeling for us is we've gone through Jesus's life for four seasons and season 5 that's coming is Holy Week. And so you're like, man, 33 years and then a week.

Raechel: A week.

Annie: I think that is so important. Okay, what did we not say about Lent do y'all wanna make sure we say?

Amanda: I want, and I want to be sure that... I feel like sometimes we, as Christians or in the church, we can make things really complicated. And what I want people who may be new to scripture or new to Lent to hear in that last section, that repentance, and restoration, repentance is a big word that just means turning, turning back to God. It

means like a turning away from the stuff that's been eating us alive, the things that have offended God and that are not for our flourishing, and turning toward Him.

Raechel: The things that we've turned to for our comfort.

Amanda: Yeah. And that can look lots of ways and it is a lifelong pursuit. It is a life of turning and turning again-

Raechel: That's right.

Amanda: ...and turning back. But it is also just as simple as just turning to Him. So I just really want you to... you open a book like Isaiah. I mean, even this reading guide, you get it. And because it's seven weeks' worth of reading, you're like, whoa, this is a lot. You know, it's a thick book. It's because we print it all. It's all like, we're just taking it by the hand and walking you through it.

But I don't want it to sound more complicated than it is. The invitation is there for you and it is just as simple as turning toward and just saying like, I want to know you, Lord. Lent is such a beautiful opportunity to do that.

Annie: Agreed.

Raechel: I think that as we talk about Lent in regards to the seasons and the overlapping of seasons, the seasons within seasons, even as we described the book of Isaiah as having sort of three seasons, even within that, like I said, like even in that first, like the judgment season, there is the truth and the power of resurrection remains and it holds.

Annie: That's right.

Raechel: Even in chapter one, Isaiah is like, hi, we're going to do 39 chapters of judgment and justice, you know? But even within chapter one, he says, come, let's settle this, says the Lord. Though your sins are like scarlet, they will be white as snow. Though they are crimson red, they will be like wool. If you are willing and obedient, you will eat the good things of the land. But if you refuse and rebel, you will be devoured by the sword for the mouth of the Lord has spoken. Like here's what's true. Here's the very most concise gospel of, if you are willing, this is for you and it can't be shaken. Come.

Amanda: And if you forget-

Raechel: In chapter one, I love that it's just like, hey, we're going to cover a lot of ground. This is what's true. Don't lose sight of this.

Annie: TLDR. Read chapter-

Raechel: Yeah.

Amanda: Yeah. And if you forget as you're in those chapters, there's like the running footer at the bottom of the reading guide has the title. So you just look down and you're like, He will save us. He will save us. This all sounds real dark. And He will save us.

Raechel: You know why it sounds dark? Because it is.

Amanda: I mean, if we really look at the reality of humanity's plight.

Raechel: We need a savior.

Amanda: Yeah, we need a savior. We need a good God and we have one.

Annie: I mean, on the first page, it says someone is coming to forgive it all. And that is like, what a gift.

Amanda: What a gift.

Annie: Off-topic, I do need to ask y'all a question. Did y'all see the influencer Kat share the She Reads Truth Bible?

Amanda: Excuse me, what?

Annie: I thought I sent it to y'all.

Raechel: No.

Annie: She's a big deal influencer. And she was pretending... she was doing like a breakup thing.

Raechel: Oh no, you did send it to me.

Annie: I thought I sent it to you. And she was making jokes.

Raechel: Okay.

Annie: But inside the joke, she's got this pile of things she's bringing to help her friend. And she says, a Bible, a da-da-da, a da-da-da. I don't know where her faith is at all, but she drops the She Reads Truth Bible.

Raechel: That's right.

Annie: Let's go.

Raechel: It's a good one, Annie.

Annie: It's a good one. So if anybody's looking for... I heard a friend last night tell a story of his girlfriend buying her first Bible. And I thought, oh yeah, the She Reads Truth Bible is sitting right there and it's available to us. So I want to remind people that if an Easter gift is a Bible, She Reads Truth Bible is a beautiful one.

Amanda: Yes. Available in so many beautiful colors, including green.

Raechel: Ordinary time. When is the new one coming out? We have a new color coming out. March.

Amanda: I think it's March 15th. And so it's not just a new color, it is a...

Raechel: So there's a thing, Annie, that's like...

Amanda: There's a world that exists.

Raechel: Something that we didn't know, a world that exists of premium Bibles.

Annie: Oh, who knew!

Raechel: Who knew! Genuinely, there's a whole group of...

Amanda: Mostly men knew.

Raechel: Mostly men. But people who just are like, I want this kind of leather, I want this kind of paper, this kind of binding.

Annie: So it's not the language on the inside, it's just the shape? I was like, did they include the Apocrypha? What makes it premium?

Raechel: No, no. What makes it premium? Guts are the same. Guts is how you just say the inside pages.

Annie: So like gold around the edges.

Raechel: So B&H invited us to design a premium She Reads Truth Bible, which was the most fun process of soft, soft leather.

Amanda: Do you want to guess what color the leather is? You've had some hits already.

Annie: Is it green?

Amanda: It is.

Raechel: It's so pretty.

Amanda: It's beautiful.

Raechel: It is so pretty. And there's also a thing called a yap.

Amanda: She's really getting it. We're getting there now.

Raechel: You're gonna need video for this. So the cover extends past the pages and like a full yap, the cover back in front would be able to fold together to close over the pages.

Annie: Oh, got it.

Raechel: A full yap for a Bible of the She Reads Truth size is... it gets gross. Like it's way too big. We got to extend the yap a little bit in a cool way and like more ribbons.

Amanda: And we get to talk about yap.

Raechel: Like it's just...

Annie: More ribbons?

Raechel: Yes, ma'am.

Annie: Y'all are already so generous with the ribbons.

Raechel: Thank you.

Annie: Oh, I can't wait for more ribbons.

Raechel: Nothing that we love to give like ribbons.

Amanda: Larger ribbons. Also green. It's so pretty. Anyway, what a fun little activity to do this fall is pick a premium Bible. And so that one's coming out in March.

Annie: Oh, good.

Amanda: And I mean, you gotta like... it's something you're gonna want to put on a list and have somebody else buy for you.

Annie: Yes, yes, yes. It's a gift.

Raechel: She's a present.

Annie: She's a present.

Amanda: She's gonna last you a real long time.

Raechel: Anyway.

Annie: Well, thank y'all for coming back for a 16th time.

Amanda: Unreal.

Annie: I'm so grateful.

Amanda: Happy 16th, Annie.

Annie: Rae, will you pray for us as we jump in?

Raechel: Oh, I would love to.

Annie: I mean, whatever comes to your mind. You pray what's on your heart. So for our people in winter that are walking toward Lent than towards spring.

Amanda: Spring.

Raechel: Oh God, what if we started by thanking you for dormancy? Sometimes it's hard to thank You for the hard things, but when we're talking to God, we don't have to even... we can thank You for hard things. We can thank you because we know nothing will thwart Your will. Nothing will thwart Your work. And we know that dormancy for us is work for you. And so if we know you're working, we can give you thanks. So we'll start there.

Lord, we thank You for the things that we know. We thank You for the things that we just know are true and unshakable. We thank You for the power of the resurrection. The thing that happened on the timeline of history, 2000 plus years ago, we thank You that that happened and that the power of that extends forward to us today, on the day that we're recording, on the day that this airs, that it's just true and that it has power over the whole earth, over our bodies.

The resurrection has power over our bodies. It has power over our minds. It has power over our circumstances, over our heartache, over everything. And because of that, we get to live with a little bit of spring in us all the time. And we get to look forward to the full flourishing that you've promised us. It's kept in heaven for us. Summer's coming and it will be the new creation. It's promised. Isaiah promises it. Your Son promises it. Like it's coming. And it's ours. And we just have to repent and say yes.

And so Lord, for our friends listening, every one of them, whether they call you their savior, whether they do not, Lord, I pray for that person right now, that they would repent and just say, Yeah, this is too dark. I can't do this on my own. I've made a mess. The world is a mess. Everything hurts. I need help. I need You. I repent of it. I turn from it. I turn to you. I turn to the hope that can't be shaken. I turn to the power of the resurrection that can change everything. Even if not in my present circumstances today, in eternity, I cling to that.

So I pray for those people. I pray for us. I pray for our friend Annie. I thank you for what's true and that every one of us can white knuckle and not let go of. And Lord, even when we do let go, you've already white-knuckled us. Thank you for that. And it's in your Son's name we pray, the one who died, the one who went to the grave for us and who rose again. It's in His name that we pray. Amen.

Annie: Amen.

[01:10:27] <music>

Outro: Gosh, you guys, aren't they the best? Every single time. Every single time. I know y'all took some notes on this one. Listen, we want to know what stood out to you. So grab a picture of your note-taking sheet in your TSF Seasons guidebook, if you want to, if it's not too personal, and post it. Tag us, Annie F. Downs, and That Sounds Fun podcast, so we can see what you're processing after this conversation.

And of course, we have a code. You can go get your Lent study over at SheReadsTruth.com and use our code ANNIELENT, and you're gonna get 15% off the Lent collection.

If you enjoyed this episode, I think you're gonna love going back to last year's conversation about Lent and fasting with one of my favorite pastors, Darren Whitehead. That is Episode 861.

And for my mini BFFs and parents, I want you to know there is a special mini-series over on Annie's MiniBFF podcast for the next three weeks, leading up to the release of *Where Did TJ Go?* It all starts today. It's about who we are, why we are here, and where we are going. Be sure you subscribe for the MiniBFFs in your life. Again, it's called Annie's MiniBFF podcast.

If you have any questions from this episode, drop them in the Q&A box on your Spotify app, if you're a Spotify listener like me, or send them to us on Instagram @thatsoundsfunpodcast, which is exactly where you're gonna send your note-taking page from today, so we can see it, and we'll try to answer any of your questions.

If you need anything else from me, you know I'm embarrassingly easy to find. Annie F. Down's on Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, TikTok for now. Anywhere you need me, that is where you can find me.

I think that's it for me today, friends. What a good episode. What a good episode. I'm just so full after that. I hope you feel the same.

Go out or stay home. Do something that sounds fun to you, and I will do the same. Today, what sounds fun to me, it is 50 degrees outside, I'm going on a walk. Y'all have a great week. We'll see you back here on Monday with one of my favorite humans, Aaron Moon. We'll see y'all then.