

00:00:38 I am your host, Shannon Bishop, and today it's just me, just little old me here to talk to you about. Actually, I wanted to just sort of recap all the episodes that we've had thus far. So, this would be episode 13, I believe. And so, I just wanted to give a little brief overview of the episode that we have had so far in the past. And so that way, if you're just tuning in and you're like, what's this all about?

00:01:07 Or you don't know where to start, I'm just gonna give you a brief summary of each one that we've done, so that you can just sort of log that away and be like, you know what, I wanna hear about that, or that's something that I'm dealing with right now, and I'd love to hear more. So, yeah, just sit on back, sip on your coffee or if you're driving, whatever you're doing, and let's just talk about what we've talked about so far. All right, so episode one was way back, a while ago, and that was Emily Burgess and I. Emily Burgess is a friend and a lovely woman here at our church who's been at this church for a long time. She is from the area, so she's been in the Port Charlotte area for her whole life.

00:01:57 So she knows everybody. You can't go anywhere with this woman and not have her run into someone she knows or somebody that knows her. But she and I were on the very first one, so I think that one is kind of long, to be honest, because we were all, like, nervous and giggly and didn't know what we were doing. But that one, we're discussing the mission and vision of women's ministry here at Family Church and the mission and vision of the podcast, which is to share the stories of what God is doing in the lives of women. And that's just something that we really value.

00:02:32 And I mean, that was the whole birth of this podcast. So, if you want to hear about that, go check out episode one. And then episode two, we talked about the importance of putting our hope in Christ and not putting our hope in our husbands. Not saying you can't have expectations or be hopeful about having a good marriage, but we are supposed to put our hope in Christ and Christ alone, because other humans are always going to disappoint. Or, you know, it's just if you put all your hope in your husband, you're putting him on a pedestal.

00:03:08 You're holding him up to a standard of which he cannot fulfill. Only Christ is the only one that can do that. And so, we had some guest speakers. That was Kenley George and Marlena Bender were on that podcast with me. So that was a good time.

00:03:25 I liked that one. You're, you know, in your marriage, you might be struggling or you're just having a tough time. That would be a good one to listen to because we share some testimonies about that, and it's just really encouraging. So be sure to check that one out. And then episode three, we're just sailing right through this, guys, because it's just me here in the studio, and I didn't want to be like, oh, what do you think about this, Shannon?

00:03:52 I can't interview myself. So, yeah, we're just going to be zipping right through. So, episode three was a testimony, and I really loved this. This was with Danielle Felix. She is a teacher here at Family Christian Academy, and she has a powerful testimony of just how God pursued her, how she was in some real difficult relationships with men, moved to Hawaii to kind of escape, you know, her life, in a sense, and just being in a difficult situation and then just crying out to God and seeing how he revealed himself to her, so his pursuit for her and then just how he's changed her life drastically.

00:04:41 And so that's a really good one. I felt like the Holy Spirit was really guiding that discussion that she and I had. It was so good. So, I encourage you to go back and listen to that one. That was episode three.

00:04:56 And then episode four, I had my husband, Pastor Jason Bishop, with me, and we discussed God's design for relationships and basically just how to love each other, because he's very good at loving me. And I've learned so much about God's grace just being married to that man. So, yeah, we just talk about grace. Grace is the key to loving others the way that Christ loves us, because it's through his grace that we are saved. It's through his grace that we're able to be forgiven.

00:05:33 And so grace really is the key. So, if you are struggling with loving other people, that would be a very good episode for you to listen to. And then episode five, we got another testimony, and that was with my good friend Abby Snyder, and she is a young adult. She comes to visit here, to visit her grandmother here in the Port Charlotte area. But she lives in Virginia, so she was down, and she visited our young adult's group and she and I just hit it off right away, giggling about everything.

00:06:06 She's like the younger version of me. But we had a great time talking and getting to know each other. And so, when I found out that she is a childhood cancer survivor, I was like, oh, wow, you've got some stuff to share for sure. And so she came on and we talked about, you know, navigating through that time, how the power of prayer just really got her through, her and her family through such a difficult time of chemo and just everything you go through, the fear, the sadness, the not knowing what's coming next, and God really brought them through that. And then she had a tragedy happen.

00:06:49 Her older brother passed away from a drug overdose. So, she's been through a lot. And yet when you meet her, you would never know it because she's full of so much joy and laughter. And so, her testimony is very powerful, just how God brought them through. And yeah, you'll just have to listen to it.

00:07:12 I don't want to spoil things by saying everything, but. So that was episode five, so please go back and listen to that. For sure. Episode six was just me. So, kind of like today, but it was just me talking about developing the healthy habit of spending time with God.

00:07:29 So as believers, we should all be spending time with God daily. I know when life is busy, sometimes that just sort of falls to the wayside, and we have so much to do. But really, our life isn't supposed to be our life. Our life is his, and everything we do should be for Him. So, I just spend some time talking about that.

00:07:49 I have this cycle that I learned about where it starts with discipline and then moves to desire and then moves to delight. It's like a circle cycle that we go through with God where spending time with him, I should say, where at first, it's a discipline, we've got to discipline ourselves. And then a little while after we've been in the discipline mode, we kind of switch without realizing it to desire, where we're just desiring that time with God and it's not so much of a discipline anymore. And then after that desire, we begin delighting in God and it's that beautiful place where it's not that it's a discipline anymore, and it's not that you desire it, but it's where you are just delighting with the Lord daily. And it's not a chore, and it's just a beautiful thing.

00:08:38 And so that's kind of the cycle we go through. Look at me. I'm pretty much saying the entire podcast right now. So that's an encouraging one, because no matter where you're at in your walk with God, you can always come back around. If you're in that discipline phase, you know that desire is coming, and delight is next.

00:08:58 And so it's a cycle. It never stops. And so, wherever you're at with that, that would be a good encouragement for you. Episode 7 I Talk with Susan Coleman, my mentor. She's amazing.

00:09:12 She's like me, but the older version of me. We always have a great time. Every time we get together, it's about once a month when we sit down for coffee, even though I don't drink coffee and neither does she. So, we sit down with water or tea, but we have a good time. And she is just so wise.

00:09:34 And God has really gifted her with the gift of teaching. And so, she's able to speak into, I mean, any Bible story, any Bible character. She can tell you some amazing things about them and what God did. But in the podcast with her, we talked about mentorship and discipleship and her testimony of how she was discipled, and then now how she lives her life to disciple others. And just, you know, the beauty of when God pursues you and you receive him as your Lord and Savior, and then you pursue him back, obviously, by spending time with him.

00:10:21 But then there's a third part to that, which is where you pursue others for Christ and you pour into others what God has taught you, you share the gospel, those sorts of things. And so that's what we talked about with her. And that was a really great one. Super encouraging. If you're in a place in life where you feel like there's got to be something more, like, you know, just going to church on Sundays is not enough.

00:10:48 It's good to be filled up, but then what are we pouring back out to others? And then episode eight was with my good friend Courtney Windham. We talked about entitlement with God and entitlement in marriage and how sometimes with entitlement with God is where you just look at something and you say, well, I deserve that. How come God didn't give that to me or God? Why aren't you doing this for me?

00:11:16 Or just sort of that attitude. So just really being honest about how we've seen that in our own lives. Some little testimony moments I remember in that podcast and, you know, just discussing that and then in marriage, too, how we can be entitled in our marriages and just think, okay, well, my husband should be doing this because I'm doing this. Or, you know, well, he's my husband, so he should be blah, blah, whatever it might be. And just sort of, you know, figuring out how to shift our thinking away from entitlement and back onto grace for others and thankfulness with God with what he has given us.

00:12:02 I mean, he died on the cross. He owes us nothing. So, who are we to walk around thinking he owes us something? And with marriage, again, we should be loving our husbands the way Christ loves us. And so, again, husbands don't owe you anything.

00:12:20 It's. It's. It's grace that we love each other with. So that was a really good one, too. And then.

00:12:27 Okay, where we at? So, then episode nine was Testimony again with Katrina Espada. I can't say her name normal. I just have to have an accent when I say it. But that was a really great one because she was so vulnerable and so talkative and so I like she would when she was sharing, it's like she would go into the next thing with without me even asking her.

00:12:51 And I was like, what am I here for? But, yeah, she did a fabulous job just expressing her heart. So open, so well spoken with everything. She has overcome so much in her life. Addiction, husband's addiction, like all kinds of things.

00:13:10 And so that is her testimony of how God pursued her and then how she pursued him back and how he just rescued her from. From her addictions. So that was an amazing one. So please go listen to that. Episode 10 was another testimony, but also kind of a shout out like we're trying to spread the news about.

00:13:33 Cami Crites, upcoming star. She is a Christian singer and songwriter. She grew up here in the area, so she's been going to family church and now she lives in Nashville. And she shares about her journey of faith and her insecurities and how much she struggled with her identity in Christ and just her value. So that would be a really good one if you've got a teenage daughter or even just as a woman, if you're struggling with value or feeling worthy.

00:14:11 And what's really great is at the end, we play one of her songs. That is so beautiful. I love it so much. To me, when I hear it, I'm like, I should be hearing this on the radio. It was just.

00:14:23 It was just that good. So definitely take a listen to that one and start following her on Instagram and all the places. So that's Camie Crites music. Cami is with a C. Crits is with a C.

00:14:37 So she's really great. Episode 11 was with Christina Egle. Oh, my gosh. I loved this one too, you guys. I can't pick.

00:14:44 I have so many favorites. So, this was with Christina. She is a young adult in the area, and she works for Child Evangelism Fellowship. So, she shared her testimony, her personal testimony, and then we also talked about CEF and what an amazing program they have. They basically teach you how to share the gospel with children, and then they put you in a team where you can minister to these kids in public schools.

00:15:17 So you get to be a part of this good news club. And you go there, and they give you all the tools. You're all trained, and you just get to love on kids, share Jesus. You get to see kids come to know Christ. Just an amazing program.

00:15:33 So please check them out. That's Child Evangelism Fellowship. You definitely want to check that out. And then episode 12 was my husband back on the podcast with me, and we discussed how to disciple your kids or one of the ways that we disciple our kids at home. And it's through something that we had learned somewhere.

00:16:00 And it's where you take your last name and then you come up with a little phrase or a value for your family with each letter, like a biblical thing. So, for Bishop, we had something for each letter and then a Bible verse to go with it. And it's something that we talk about with our kids frequently to keep it fresh on their minds and to just sort of have like, a mission and a vision as a family. So, I don't remember all of them right off the bat, or I don't want to tell you all of them right now, I should say, because that will, you know, spoil the episode. But be in Bishop was for be a blessing.

00:16:39 And so as a family, we try to be a blessing to everyone we meet. And, you know, when I say goodbye to my kids when they go to school, I say, okay, love you. Be a blessing.

And so that was a really fun episode for us and really informative, I think. So, if you are a parent or even a grandparent and you want to sort of be more purposeful in your relationship with your kids or your grandkids, definitely take a listen to that one, because I think that was really good.

00:17:11 Okay. And so, episode 13 was with this wonderful, amazing, smart woman named Deborah Younger, and she actually is an inventor. Like, she won Woman Inventor of the Year for the United States back in whatever year that was. But she. Very impressive and quite a testimony of how she basically, God pursued her even as a young child.

00:17:41 She was from a Chinese Japanese family. So, like, the mom was Chinese, dad was Japanese, or I might have those mixed up. But she's the first generation American. So, her whole exposure was through American television, like Charlie Brown Christmas and, you know, the Snoopy Thanksgiving episode, Like, things like that was how she learned about Christian ways or things like that. And so, she just didn't really know much.

00:18:11 But. And then she went to church with a friend, I think. And so, she was learning these names like Jesus and John and things like that. But so, at night, she would pray. She would look up into the sky or at her ceiling or whatever, and she would just say, well, I know you're up there.

00:18:28 You know, Jesus and John and Mary and I don't quite know how it all works, but you guys feel like a loving family. And, I mean, just such a pure, like, way of the Lord just making himself known to her, even though she didn't know all the details, she didn't have all the right theology and everything, but she. She knew that there was a creator up there who loved her. And so, yeah, her story is pretty great. And then also all of her accomplishments and what she's doing, how she pursues Christ through her gifts and talents.

00:19:06 And so, yeah, I think that brings us up to today. That should be all of the episodes. And so, I really hope that you. We're taking notes as we talked, or maybe even you stopped listening because you went on and clicked on one of these other ones. And that's totally great, too, because I want these messages to get out there.

00:19:27 And I know when we first started, it was kind of like on the down low, like, not everybody knew about this podcast. And so now that it's getting some traction, I just wanted to, you know, do a little recap and let you guys know what we been discussing. So, if you are hearing this and you're thinking, I want to be on a podcast episode, I have something to share about what God's done in my life. There is no. You are not being prideful by saying that now.

00:19:54 If you have a prideful heart about it, where you're like, I want everyone to know about me. That's not what we're talking about here? We're talking about glorifying God through the stories of what he has done in your life. So, if that's you or you know somebody, please reach out. Our email is togetherpodcast@familychurch.com.

00:20:14 Or if you just see me around, be like, hey, Shannon, I'd love to talk to you a little bit about a podcast. And usually what we do is we'll meet for coffee. Again, I don't actually drink coffee, but we will meet somewhere and just get to know each other a little bit. Just let me hear your story, and let's see where the Lord leads in that. And so, it's not like you just come here and all of a sudden, boom, you're talking to me and we're being recorded.

00:20:41 It's. None of. It's not scary, okay? I promise. And so, yeah, just think about it.

00:20:47 If the Holy Spirit's tugging on your heart, don't ignore it. Reach out to me and let's talk. Okay? So, thanks again for listening, and we'll catch you next time.