

BFF368 Our 44th Anniversary Report

Scott Moore: Welcome to the "Building Faith Families" podcast with Steve Demme. I'm your host, Scott Moore. Thanks for joining us today. Good morning, Steve. How are you today?

Steve: I am up. Bright-eyed and bushy-tailed.

Let's pray, and then I'm going to give you a report on our last weekend. Thank You, Father, for this opportunity to once again, not only connect via technology with brothers and sisters in Christ all over the place, all over the globe, but also to connect with You. We draw near to You now in faith, believing that what Jesus said was true, that the blood of Jesus makes us nigh unto God through Christ, and believing that where two or three are gathered that there You are in our midst. Be in our midst today and guide us in our conversation. Let this time be helpful, edifying, and encouraging to all who hear. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

Scott: Amen.

Steve: Guess what happened last weekend?

Scott: I don't know.

Steve: It was my wife and I's 44th anniversary.

Scott: Happy anniversary.

Steve: Thank you. We think it's only the fifth time that we have had the better part of the week together, just the two of us, out of 44.

Scott: Wow.

Steve: Do you guys get time, just the two of you?

Scott: Yeah. It hasn't been as planned out lately as we've liked. Frankly, this year has been such a blur that I can't remember much of when the last time was. On a side note, we're on cloud nine for the last 24 hours or so because we found out there's a good chance Henry's going home in a couple of days.

You can finally see his face without any medical stuff attached, so it's very cool.

Steve: Does he look like you?

Scott: He looks like a baby. He doesn't look like an alien, which is what he looked like when he first came out.

Steve: We have to ask the forgiveness of all the ladies who are listening, but a typical male response. Praise the Lord. I'm sure there's a lot of happy people to hear that.

Scott: Thanks to everyone who's prayed because, wow. I'd love to share more thoughts about it sometime, but I don't have them all organized yet. It has been a miraculous experience to watch.

Steve: It's very different being on the receiving end, isn't it? Of people's prayers and care and help?

Scott: Yeah. Overwhelming at times.

Steve: We rejoice with you.

Scott: Thank you.

Steve: We started planning a few months ago when we thought we could pull this off and our caregiver had offered the time. We thought, "Where should we go? Should we go to New England?" You know what we did? We played miniature golf at 8 courses.

Steve: Johnny was trying to get us to golf last night. It's something that the three of us can do together. He enjoys it and he's good at it.

Sandy and I thought, "Well, why don't we see if we can plan a route and hit as many as we can on the way up." We found eight different courses over the time that we were allotted. She won three and I won five.

Scott: Are you OK, or are you recovering still from the losses?

Steve: No, I'm OK, I'm older. Although I was playing that last round back in my head. "If I had just puttied a little bit more to the right."

Scott: Good competition, a healthy ingredient for marriage.

Steve: I think I'm getting older and more laid-back if that's possible, but it doesn't mean I don't try to win. It just means that I have to say, "Good game, honey. Nice putt, dear."

Scott: Is she anyway near as competitive as you?

Steve: Nope.

Scott: See, we're the reverse in our marriage. I'd be the one who didn't care about winning and my wife would be hyper-competitive. She'd want to win everything.

Steve: We used to play ping-pong together a good bit. She's good ping-pong player, but she talks about how, if the game gets close, my eyes get a different look and I take my game to a different level because now it's not just fun, I have to win.

Scott: Awesome.

Steve: Let me go back to this relationship thing. It was her sensing that we just needed two of us time without John, bless him, who's wonderful, and you know I love him to pieces, and without the pups, which we enjoy. She said, "We just need time, the two of us." We played miniature golf on the way up. We had an adventure.

We ate at this small restaurant attached to the miniature golf course. It was Memorial Day weekend, so there was a lot of people out and about. It was beautiful weather, and it was sublime. It was really good, but I needed to listen to her that she knew that we needed some time together, and we did.

When we were coming home, I said to her, "Man, what a special time we've had." She says, "It was." Our relationship went to a different level. I don't know how else to describe it. We built puzzles. Then we worked on the cabin. We did projects. We didn't mind doing it. We worked together. We were laid-back in what we ate. We didn't even eat a meal out. We did play cards.

Steve: I'm going to make a gentle exhortation. As soon as the smoke clears a little bit, and you get your breath, just carve out a date night.

We rarely did overnights until the kids got older, and we had some really trusted people. Our parents didn't live near us. We didn't know people well enough that they could watch our kids for us. I see now that wives are more in tune with our relationship. I wish I had taken initiative and said, "No, let's carve out the time. This is our anniversary. This is the time when we can do something." No, it was her, and I listened to her. That's the only piece of credit I get. I listened to her.

Steve: I did keep doing, what I call, my priestly prayer times, twice a day. That's the one thing I want to comment on, because I've created 13 studies. I'm actually working on number 14 and 15 right now. I'm going through most of the passages now for months. You'd think they would get a little sterile, but they don't because it's God's word.

Each of these studies has a theme, based on an aspect of God's character. I learned that from Psalm 100 where he says, "Yes, give thanks. Praise His name. Come into His presence with singing, make a joyful shout." We've talked about that many times. He also says in Psalm 100:5, "Jehovah is good. His steadfast love endures forever, and His faithfulness unto all generations."

Whenever I think about God's loving kindness and His faithfulness, I think about Lamentations 3 which says, "Jehovah's lovingkindnesses, indeed, never cease, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning. Great is Your faithfulness."

Many days I've awakened and said, "Praise the Lord. There's a whole new batch of lovingkindnesses that are new this morning. They never cease. They never fail." That's why they're new every morning because the stream never stops flowing because God is faithful and God, He says He's full of lovingkindness and truth.

The word of God is a living word, and it's inspired, and it's profitable, and it comes to life in different ways. God continues showing me different things from it. In this particular study, it's the concept about God's faithfulness and God's lovingkindness, but what do you think the song would be for that? What hymn comes to mind?

Scott: "Great is Thy Faithfulness?"

Steve: Absolutely. You get a star.

Scott: That one wasn't too hard.

Steve: I pretty much have that song memorized now. Sometimes when I can't sleep, like last night I was struggling a little bit to go to bed, I lay there in bed and I sing the hymn.

When I was in the car coming home from our trip on Sunday, I was able to pretty much recreate the study that I'd done the previous day, just in my mind, because I'm doing it over and over. It's helpful, and it helps me to stay on task of continuing to pray, seek God twice a day.

Lovingkindness is one of my favorite words in the Old Testament. In the Hebrew it's, Chesed. We don't really have a English equivalent sound to it, so you have to do like a C-H, but guttural. Chesed is used over 200 times in the Bible, and over half of those

are in the Psalms. David knew God. David knew that He was a loving, faithful God who never changed, and His steadfast love endures forever. That's been my theme this week.

Scott: You can do a lot worse than that.

Steve: Absolutely. We're here to know God, and we're here to love God. These two go hand in hand. The more I know Him, the more I love Him, and the more I love Him, the more I want to know Him. It's helpful to me to keep that in mind.

By the way, I'm going to be speaking at the Virginia Homeschool Conference in two days, and I'm also get the opportunity and the privilege to speak at their graduation on Saturday. That's when I want to remind them, it's not to make money that we're here, it's not to be successful, it's not even to have a great, thriving ministry. The reason we're here is to know God and to love God. Everything else stems from that.

Scott: Amen. It reminds me, I don't know if I've mentioned this before on this podcast, but my wife and I had the privilege of seeing Rich Mullins in concert only a few weeks before he died, actually. It was the last time he played in this area. I wasn't even all that interested in going, but my in-laws had tickets and asked us if we wanted to go. I went, "Sure. Why not?" It was one of the more moving experiences, still to this day, of my life in terms of worship-type concerts.

One of the things he said that night that stuck with me, was similar to what you just said. He said, "People often say to me that when they read the Bible, they find the answers to their questions, and I find that funny, because when I read the Bible, I have more questions, but I find that I love Jesus more."

The older I get, I've told my kids that many times, "There are some things where I've read the Bible enough times that I look at passages differently." I'm like, "That doesn't mean what it did the first time I read that." I see new shades of meaning, and things mean different things to me because of life experiences and whatever.

Steve: I had a similar thought this week, is that I don't know the answers, why things happen to certain people, why things don't happen, all that. Ultimately, I don't understand everything He does and everything that happens around me, but I know Him. That's my rock.

I know that He is full of lovingkindness and truth. I know that He is righteous in all His ways. I know that He's not only God is love, God is good, and I trust Him. That's what changes it. It's not that I trust the outcome, it's not that I trust the events, I trust the one where the buck stops, and that becomes my rock.

My brother passed away in automobile accident when I was 22 and he was 20 and the more the circumstances unfolded, I can see God's fingerprints on it. One of them was, we had our second-ever family portrait taken two weeks before it happened. We didn't even have the proofs back when he passed. We had one when we were little peanuts and one when we were in our 20s. God knew, and God provided us with a family portrait. Isn't that special?

Steve: Your mind could go off on all kind of tangents. God knew, and that's enough. I trust Him. I don't understand, but I know that someday I'll be in His presence and maybe He'll let us look back. We'll go, "Oh, sorry. You really did know what You were doing, and everything You did I can see Your fingerprints all over. You are an amazing God."

Steve: Let's wrap this up. Father, thank You that we have the privilege of reading the book that You have authored by Your Spirit. Thank You for opening our eyes to see Jesus in every aspect of it. Thank You for carving out this weekend for Sandy and myself, actually, two weekends, and taking our relationship to a deeper level and a better level.

I appreciate her. I appreciate her sensing that we needed it, and we certainly did. Thank You for taking care of John while we were gone. Thank You that You're good and that You're God and every aspect of You is full of lovingkindness and truth and faithfulness. They ooze out of Your being because that's who You are. We love You and we worship You and we commit ourselves to You. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Scott: Amen. That's our show for this week, folks. Thanks for joining us for the Building Faith Families podcast with Steve Demme. If you have a question for the show, email Steve at spdemme@gmail.com. If you have a question for me, you can reach me at scott@unsocializedmedia.com. Thanks for joining us. Have a great week.