



# Front Row Seat

Encouragement *for*  
Pastors' Wives





Kristen Wetherell



Kari Olson

In each episode of this 10-episode video series, hosts Kristen Wetherell and Kari Olson invite a pastor's wife to discuss specific topics pertaining to this unique ministry calling. If you are a pastor's wife, an elder's wife, a seminary student's wife, or the wife of someone in full-time ministry, this series is for you. We want to encourage you to have a renewed sense of joy and assurance in who God is and what he is doing in your life.

*Join us—we've saved you a front row seat.*

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[www.tgc.org/frontrowseat](http://www.tgc.org/frontrowseat)

# Episode 1: Walking with God

with Joanna Kubiak

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## Questions for Reflection

1. Recall Joanna's story of her grandmother whose secret to walking with God was "a cozy chair and a tattered Bible." What practical steps can you take this week to walk with God? Is there a place you feel most connected to Jesus? Spend some time this week in that special place where you can reflect on God's Word and experience his presence.
2. Where are you seeking sustenance in this season of your life? Is Jesus the vine you're clinging to for everything you need?
3. Are you in a season of running on fumes and experiencing spiritual exhaustion? Spend some time in prayer this week, asking God for his strength to endure. Then consider reaching for the "holy coping gifts" Joanna mentions in this episode: (1) God himself, (2) nature, and (3) community.

## RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

[27 Pastors' Wives Gathering](#)

with Joanna Kubiak

[How to Thrive as a Pastor's Wife](#)

by Christine Hoover

# Episode 2: Engaging God's Calling and People's Expectations

with Jani Ortlund

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## Questions for Reflection

1. Have you ever felt intimidated by your calling as a pastor's wife? Reflect and ask God to remind you today that your primary calling is to himself and your second is to your husband. Allow him to refresh you as you reflect on your primary identity as his beloved.
2. What are some of the greatest joys you get to experience as a pastor's wife? As 1 Samuel 12:24 says, consider what great things the Lord has done for you!
3. Read Matthew 14:3–9: Think of some of the biggest challenges you're facing in your role as a pastor's wife. How does Jesus's response to Mary of Bethany encourage you? What is his heart toward you amid your unique challenges?

## RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

*Help! I'm Married to My Pastor*

by Jani Ortlund

*The Pastor's Wife: Strengthened by Grace for a Life of Love*

by Gloria Furman

*He Restores My Soul*

podcast with Jani Ortlund

# Episode 3: Supporting Our Husbands

with Susan Yates

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## Questions for Reflection

1. In this conversation, Susan Yates reminds us of 1 Thessalonians 5:24: “He who calls you is faithful.” Take a deep breath and let God refresh you with the truths that you can rely on him, he will equip you in this calling as a pastor’s wife, and he will be faithful to you.
2. What was the most encouraging takeaway from Susan’s episode about how to support your husband in ministry? What was one thing that challenged you?
3. Susan talks about the “marriage vitamin,” which entails praising God for your husband. Spend some time thanking God for one trait you appreciate in your husband.
4. If we want to support our husbands well, we must first spend our own time with the Lord. Reflect today on how you can fix your gaze on Jesus, taking the pressure off yourself.

## RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

*Risky Faith*

by Susan Yates

*Barbara and Susan’s Guide to the Empty Nest*

by Susan Yates and Barbara Rainey

Resources from Susan Yates on her [website](#)

# Episode 4: Loving the Church

with Megan Hill

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## Questions for Reflection

1. As you serve your local church, what are some of the pressures, opinions, or tasks that make it most difficult for you to keep a servant mindset? How does remembering you're ultimately serving the Lord help you continue to serve the people in your church with a joyful heart? Spend some time in prayer, asking God to refresh you and to remind you of his heart for your church.
2. If you're a pastor's wife who is seeking where you can best serve and love your church, what are your gifts? Are there immediate needs in your church you can help meet? Remember, there's no perfect place to serve, and you can rest knowing that God will be faithful to equip you to serve right where you are, whatever season you're in.
3. Megan Hill outlines ways to diagnose if we're paying attention to "lower priorities" over "higher priorities." Higher priorities are tending to your own soul, being present with your husband and family, and then your local church and community. Are there priorities you want to reevaluate? Do you feel like you're trying to be everything to everyone at once? Spend time in prayer today, asking God for wisdom in prioritizing.
4. There are times where the needs of the church might "take our husbands away" on what was supposed to be a date night or a dinner celebration, leaving us feeling alone or disappointed. Megan encourages us with the example of Paul in 1 Thessalonians 3:1-3, who says (though he's not married) that he was willing to be left behind as he sent Timothy (a beloved brother) for the sake of the church, to encourage the church in their afflictions. The same Spirit who was at work in Paul is at work in you, dear sister. How does Paul's sacrifice for the church help you think about your role as a pastor's wife? Spend time in prayer asking the Lord to increase your love for the church and to be near to you when you feel disappointments. He cares, and he's with you!

## RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

*Meg Is Not Alone*

by Megan Hill

Articles on loving the church by Megan Hill for Crossway

“Help for Discouraged Pastors’ and Elders’ Wives”

with Megan Hill, Lauren Hansen, and Lindsey Carlson at TGCW21

# Episode 5: Raising Pastors' Kids

with Karen Hodge

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## Questions for Reflection

1. In what area of your life as the mom of a pastor's kids do you need the gospel to remind you Jesus is enough?
2. In the same way we might feel pressure and expectation from others because of our role as a pastor's wife, our kids also can experience pressures around what they "should be like" as a pastor's child. How can you help your kids remember the gospel and apply it in their own lives? How can you remind them only Jesus can be all things to all people?
3. In this conversation, Karen Hodge reminds us of Psalm 34, which invites us to magnify the Lord with the psalmist. As a family, how can you magnify the Lord together in your own home?
4. Karen talks about the importance of having "heart check-ins" and modeling this for our children. What are some ways you can incorporate these check-ins with your own kids, reminding them their behaviors and actions overflow from their hearts? Karen suggests fostering this is the pathway toward spiritual maturity for our kids. Spend some time in prayer today, asking God to strengthen your family in the area of heart check-ins, leaning on the Spirit to help you live this out with grace.



## RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

**“Worship with Your Family in 5, 15, or 30 Minutes”**

by Jason Helopoulos

***Glimpses of Grace***

by Gloria Furman

***Humble Moms: How the Work of Christ  
Sustains the Work of Motherhood***

by Kristen Wetherell

**For the Bible Tells Me So**

by Kristen Wetherell (a book collection)

***Raising Kids in the Way of Grace***

by Bob Kellemen

# Episode 6: Moving to a New Place

with Irene Sun

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## Questions for Reflection

1. Is the Lord leading your family to a new church and a new place? Spend some time in prayer and consider writing down your requests: What are you asking God for? What do you want to see him do in you and in the new place he might be calling you to? Remember you can trust the Lord, your true dwelling place. He'll lead you and be with you, wherever you go.
2. When moving to a new church as a pastor's wife and family, we can often feel like the spotlight (sometimes literally) is on us. Irene Sun encourages us to "behold, not behave"—to focus on the face of Christ, take our gaze off ourselves (and how we want to appear to this new congregation), and truly see and pray for the people we've been called to minister to. What challenges you or encourages you from this guidance?
3. What are some of the unique challenges or fears your new church is facing? Ask God to empower you and your husband to create a safe spiritual environment where your congregation can tangibly experience the truth, love, and kindness of God.
4. Let this encouragement wash over you today, especially for the pastors' wives who are already in the middle of a transition or are about to transition to a new place or season in ministry: God sees you. He knows what part of the process you're in. In fact, he ordained it before time began, and he'll walk with you all the way. He has good things in store for you. Behold him.

## RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

*God Counts*

by Irene Sun

*Taste and See*

by Irene Sun

**“Motherhood and the Hope of the Gospel”**

with Irene Sun, Christine Hoover, Laura Wifler,  
and Trillia Newbell at TGCW21

# Episode 7: Cultivating Deep Relationships

with Christine Hoover

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## Questions for Reflection

1. Christine Hoover encourages us that there are going to be imperfections in our own definitions of friendship and, certainly, within the friendships themselves. But we can take heart: we're secure and safe in our relationship with God. That's the perfect friendship. What's your definition of friendship?
2. Consider the friendships in your life you hold the most dear—in what specific ways do those relationships model God's design for community and relationship? Spend some time praising God for those friendships.
3. What are some of the challenges you face as a pastor's wife when it comes to making or sustaining deep connections with other women?
4. Are you in a season where you lack real friendships? Spend some time in prayer today, seeking God's wisdom and asking him to show you women whom you can trust and with whom you can cultivate deep friendships.
5. Christine talks about the difference between loneliness and isolation (time stamp 29:24 in the conversation)—what does she say are the differences between the two? If you're in a season of loneliness, how can you use this time to cultivate deeper intimacy with God? Join the psalmist in crying out to God with the words of Psalm 42:11:

Why are you cast down, O my soul,  
and why are you in turmoil within me?  
Hope in God; for I shall again praise him,  
my salvation and my God.



## RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

*Messy Beautiful Friendship*

by Christine Hoover

“The Hard Work of Lifelong Friendships”

with Christine Hoover at TGCW21

“Friendship and Gospel Culture”

with Sam Allberry and T. J. Tims on *You’re Not Crazy*,  
a podcast from The Gospel Coalition

# Episode 8: Nourishing Your Marriage

with Kristie Anyabwile

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## Questions for Reflection

1. What are some things you learned from Kristie Anyabwile that you'd like to incorporate as you continue to cultivate a healthy marriage?
2. As a pastor's wife or ministry leader's wife, does the health of your marriage affect the health of your ministry? What ways have you seen this in your context?
3. Are you in a difficult season of marriage? As you stay rooted in God's Word, prayer, and taking care of yourself and your family, take time to process some difficulties you're walking through in your marriage.
4. Spend time in prayer today, asking God to intervene and strengthen your marriage, especially if you're in a difficult season. Remember, there's nothing too hard for him.
5. Reflect on these words from Kristie: "The Lord gives grace, he gives strength, he gives wisdom for us to walk through difficulties, trusting him and knowing that our God does all things well. And he is for us, not against us. And he is with us in the midst of it. . . . Look for evidence of the Lord's grace in the middle of the difficulty. [Certain difficulties might not go away] but we know that the Lord is with us in it. And we know that he wants to show us more of himself in it. And so we can look for that, and be encouraged by that."

## RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

### “How Do I Honor God When Marriage Gets Tough?”

with Josh Squires on TGC Q&A, a podcast from The Gospel Coalition

### *Literarily: How Understanding Bible Genres Transforms Bible Study*

by Kristie Anyabwile

### *Marriage and the Mystery of the Gospel*

by Ray Ortlund Jr.

# Episode 9: Navigating Sunday Mornings

with Jen Carter

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## Questions for Reflection

1. What comes to mind when you think of the significance of Sunday morning as a pastor's wife and the importance of the "front-row seat"?
2. How do you prepare throughout the week for Sunday morning?
3. As a family, when is your Sabbath rest? What helps you feel rested and filled up after pouring out on Sunday?
4. We might feel a pressure to "have it all together" on Sundays. What are some things you can let go of, resting instead in God's grace for you as a pastor's wife?
5. What was the most encouraging takeaway from Jen Carter's episode about Sunday mornings as a pastor's wife? What was one thing that challenged you?

## RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

"Get Your Kids Ready for Church in 5, 15, or 30 Minutes"

by Megan Hill

"Sing Your Way to Sabbath Joy"

by Leland Ryken



# Episode 10: Hearing from Pastors

with Tom Olson & Brad Wetherell

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## Questions for Reflection

1. Are there any “nuggets of truth” you’d be interested in learning more about from your husband’s time in seminary? Consider making some time to hear from him on those doctrines or areas of his study.
2. As husband and wife, are you in a season of “dialing it back” (needing to slow down in ministry) or “turning it up” (serving in more areas, getting more involved)? Take some time to evaluate where you are in your unique season of life and continue seeking the Lord’s wisdom as you navigate.
3. What was the most encouraging takeaway from Brad Wetherell and Tom Olson’s conversation with their wives, Kristen and Kari? What was one thing that challenged you?
4. Brad and Tom both share what prayers they pray for their families and their wives (Ps. 16 and 1 Thess. 3:8). What Scriptures are the foundation of your family that you can pray for one another as pastor and pastor’s wife? Remember: God sees you, he sees your husband, and you can trust he has good things in store for you both.

## RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

*12 Faithful Men: Portraits of Courageous  
Endurance in Pastoral Ministry*

by Collin Hansen and Jeff Robinson

**“Finding Rest for Your Soul”**

with Ray Ortlund and Sam Allberry on You’re Not Crazy,  
a podcast from The Gospel Coalition

Articles by Tom Olson at [open.thebible.org](https://open.thebible.org)

Articles by Brad Wetherell at [open.thebible.org](https://open.thebible.org)