Randy Frazee:

You're listening to the Bible Roots Podcast with pastor Randy Frazee. If you're a church leader looking for creative ideas to help your church engage more deeply with the Bible, this podcast is for you. Now, for today's episode.

Randy Frazee:

Well, welcome everybody to episode five of the Bible Roots Podcast. My name is Randy Frazee, and I get to be the host of this wonderful show. This podcast is totally devoted to the topic of Bible engagement. Why? Because Bible engagement is the number one catalyst for spiritual growth with no close second. If you're not convinced of that, I encourage you go to episode one where we lay that out for you to discover. Now, if you're a pastor or responsible for leading people spiritually, maybe through education academics, a small group, your family, or even one-on-one coaching or discipleship, this podcast is for you and everybody that you know. We want to encourage you to share this podcast with others.

Randy Frazee:

Well, today is going to be a great conversation. My guest is Dr. Phil Collins. Phil is the Professor of Christian Ministries and the Director of Taylor University Center for Scripture Engagement. He is the general editor of the Abide Bible project and participates in Taylor's theology for high school students called Empower. Phil has a PhD in Educational Psychology from Purdue University and a Master's in Christian Education from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School and a Master's in Old Testament History from the Institute of Holy Land Studies. Holy cow, that's a lot of stuff.

Phil Collins:

Okay. I went to Holy Land Studies. I didn't finish up there. I came running back to get married. I took classes there, don't have a master's degree. [inaudible 00:01:50].

Randy Frazee:

Well, that gives me some level of comfort because I'm thinking maybe I shouldn't be interviewing you at all. Hey and before we get started, Phil, thank you for being on the show. I just wanted to say that I've enjoyed also your music over all these years.

Phil Collins:

Yeah. Right. It's a little sideline thing I do. No, no. That's a different Phil Collins. I do like his music. He's got this great song, just Another Day in Paradise. I think that's one of his big songs. I really like that one.

Randy Frazee:

Yeah. I like, the one I listen to is the one from the Disney show-

Phil Collins:

The Tarzan.

Randy Frazee:

The Tarzan one. I love that song and his voice, it's really good.

Phil Collins:

The college students do not know anything about Phil Collins, but one will turn to the other and say, "You know, Tarzan." That's how they know about him.

Randy Frazee:

Then they get it. Yeah.

Phil Collins:

Yeah. That's right.

Randy Frazee:

It's Disney literacy. Then I'm sure occasionally you get confused with Dr. Phil, the psychologist.

Phil Collins:

Exactly. I get no respect anywhere with my name. I'm always making people laugh.

Randy Frazee:

Well, I love my name, Randy Frazee. I think there was a distant guitar rock and roll star, but he faded years ago. I am the one and the only Randy Frazee. That's for sure.

Phil Collins:

Right.

Randy Frazee:

Hey, well, let's just jump right in because we got a lot to cover. I'm super excited about this conversation, but I want to begin so that everyone listening or watching can get a peek into your life, your personal life, your family, your faith, your journey. Just anything you want to share about your personal life.

Phil Collins:

Yeah. Yeah. I'm glad to do that. Well, thank you. It's great to be here with Randy. I mean, it's just good to see you again.

Randy Frazee:

Yeah, you bet.

Phil Collins:

I've been married 38 years now to my wife, Terry. We met here as students actually at Taylor University back in the day. We got two adult married children. No grandchildren yet, but the first one's on the way. We're really looking forward to that.

Randy Frazee:

That is so cool.

Phil Collins:

That's exciting news.

Randy Frazee:

You grew up in a Christian family, right? Yeah.

Phil Collins:

I did. I grew up in a Christian family. My grandfather was a huge impact on all of our family. He was a pastor. I just wanted to always grow up to be like my grandfather, he was just an amazing man. I worked with Youth for Christ and as a youth pastor for 16 years. Now I've been at Taylor here in Christian Ministries program for the last 23 years.

Randy Frazee:

Yeah. We're going to talk about that in a little bit, the amount of energy that you've given toward high school and college students. Did you ever have a... I know you, Phil, and I think I know the answer to this, but did you ever have a period where you walked away? I don't think you did, did you?

Phil Collins:

I tried walking away and I couldn't do it. I struggled deeply with my faith probably from my junior year in high school until my sophomore year here at Taylor. I came to Taylor to try to figure out if I really wanted to be a Christian. I thought they would help me with the answers and in a roundabout way, they really did. But for me, I didn't walk away. I couldn't get over the resurrection, to tell you the truth. I just really believed there was a person named Jesus and there was great evidence for the resurrection. There were a lot of things I struggled with, but I always came back to that foundation. I just really believe in Jesus.

Randy Frazee:

Yeah. Well, I admire that because I grew up in an unchurched home and I would've really given anything to have parents that knew the Lord and were from the very formative days of my life were really working that in. I think it's caused a person like me to have to rework things in those formative years, rework them. What a great privilege you have in that. I know a number of people because I think it's the right answer, who, it's all about the resurrection. I think if anybody listening, who's into Bible engagement. At the end of the day, there's only really three serious monotheistic religions, Judaism, Islam and Christianity that are pretty substantial.

Randy Frazee:

Monotheism is really pretty significant. If you're going from atheism to agnosticism, you go into theism, then you got to decide who is the revelation of that god. With Christianity, you don't have to decide whether you believe the Bible is the word of God, I do. You don't have to decide if Jonah was swallowed by a fish, I'm comfortable with that. You don't have to believe the world was created in seven literal earthbound days. Lots of different views on that. But the end of the day, you can answer this whole thing on whether or not you believe Jesus rose from the dead. If you believe he rose from the dead, you got your answer. If not, walk away. Right?

Phil Collins:

Yeah. Yeah. Then I build the rest of what I believe off of that truth, that Jesus is who he said he was, that we learned about Christ and God through him. That's really, really the foundation and building block. That always is, and always has been for me.

Randy Frazee:

Well, with so many confusing things going on today, it's just really hard with so many competing philosophies and everything that's going on and Christianity can be overwhelming. Now there's this evangelism. What's it called? It's the deconstruction and just so many different things for people and sometimes really anchoring yourself on a foundational truth like the resurrection for Christians is really it. Everyone listening, watching, just be reminded that you could be overwhelmed maybe even a little bit with our conversation today, but just take it back to the resurrection, start from there. If you get nothing else right, you'll be able to build everything from that. That's [inaudible 00:07:13].

Phil Collins:

I really believe in that. That's true. Been that way for me personally.

Randy Frazee:

Yeah. Yeah. I just did a memorial service for a good friend of mine that I was helpful in leading to the Lord. He was an atheist, he was a surgeon and he just really struggled with evolution and creation. He just always held back, but he was being drawn into the faith and I gave a message one time on alternatives to seven days, literal creation. I know people feel... I wasn't exposing which particular view I have. I wasn't there, so I don't really know exactly what happened. He said, "Wow." He took away, I don't have to commit intellectual suicide in his mind.

Phil Collins:

Yeah.

Randy Frazee:

Now I got a look at the resurrection and when he concluded he was out snowshoeing and he concluded that's it. He says, "I got to give in, the resurrection..." He says, "I'm 85% sure Jesus rose from the dead and anytime I'm 85% sure of anything, I go for it." He fell down in the snow and gave his life to Christ. He came to Christ on the belief of the resurrection and he just passed away from ALS at the age of 67 and-

Phil Collins:

Oh wow, really?

Randy Frazee:

He had so much hope, Phil, in his life. He said, "I believed the resurrection of Jesus got me here and it's the promise of my resurrection that gives me hope to face Him."

Phil Collins:

Yeah. Yeah, powerful.

Randy Frazee:

Yeah. Hey, let's talk about because we talk about a lot of college students and high school students and a lot of challenges today, but you've been working with high school and college students for a very long time. If you could think about maybe trends, what have you seen over the years you've been working with them? What's been happening in terms of trends, in terms of biblical literacy and spiritual passion, church attendance? What's good and what's worse?

Phil Collins:

Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. That's a good question. It's a little hard because my sample size is limited to my experience, but I would say that students have changed in some ways, but not in others. That's my experience and as I read about college students and younger people also. For me, I would say spiritual passion is one of the things that you brought up. I would say that's actually the same. There's something about being young. They're passionate. They feel strongly, they're thinking strongly. I would say that has not changed. People come and their spiritual passion, sometimes it's misdirected, sometimes it's spot on, but they feel strongly. I would say that's fairly consistent from what I've seen over the years.

Phil Collins:

I would say one of the things that I have seen here at Taylor and we're reading about it here at Taylor, that's happening in every single school that we know about, that this age is struggling with mental health issues at a more pronounced rate. I don't think it's just because we're paying more attention to it or labeling it. I just think they're actually struggling more. We're dealing with that here. Great people, loved by God. Sometimes often deeply passionate for the Lord, good homes, but they're struggling. They've got these mental health issues that are hurting them and hurting those around them and whether it's them or their families, it's a big deal.

Randy Frazee:

Yeah. I wonder do you have... so one of the things you said, and again, you and I have our own limited context, but we do reading on a broader level and I would concur. We talk with our student pastor here and he says, "The number one thing that parents are coming to me with, these are kids that are inside of the church is how do they help their kid with the mental health issues? Depression, anxiety, suicidal ideations, just confusion, and just really struggling." You said, "I think it's not that there's more people. It's not that it was the same and we're just talking about it, you think it's actually grown. Do you have any sense, I mean, I know maybe getting outside of both of our personal professions in terms of any sense of what's causing that societal wise?

Phil Collins:

Yeah. Yeah. I don't know for sure. I would say a few things that are probably in the mix would be just the growth of social media issues that are there. There's constant comparing with other people and presenting a face that's not real. A lack of authenticity in that world, so people don't see each other in a real way, "Everybody else seems fine and I know I'm not fine, so what's wrong with me?" I think that comparison process is probably a big part of it. This maybe is a little controversial, but a lot of people would say that young people, teenagers are in some ways being abandoned by adults, that they scare adults, so they deal with them more in a contractual relationship. You do this, I'll do this, as opposed to immersing themselves in their lives and loving them and bringing them along and caring for them. They're hearing from their peers and less so from loving, caring adults in their lives. I think those are some of the pieces to all of that.

Randy Frazee:

Yeah. Wow. I want to dive just a little bit more into this because I know a lot of people listening, in our church, this is the number one thing that our Christian parents are struggling with. A couple things I want to, before I forget this one, because I wasn't thinking about the distance between the communal relationship between parents and the extended community around our students. That's very fascinating. There was a study that came out several years ago on the role of community, and they were basically saying the number one thing to help kids, I don't know if it's the number one thing, but one of the biggest things that kids need was this adult community around them, including their parents and extended family, but it needed to be what they said was not authoritarian, but authoritative. Meaning authoritarian is heavy-handed, lording it over them and just bossing around. Authoritative was really more of this loving sets of boundaries and loving them and walking with them, like in the book of Proverbs. He says, "That absence of that has caused them to drift." You're maybe even suggesting that it's like Lord of the Flies. They're on an island by themselves-

Phil Collins:

Exactly.

Randy Frazee:

... without any guidance and that didn't turn out so good.

Phil Collins:

Yeah. It did not.

Randy Frazee:

Another thing I think is the social media. We know that for women, girls, the bullying with girls on social media, but I think you hit the bigger one and it's not only with young people, but it's with adults. The Instagram face that we put up is just not who we really are. We know it when we post it, but yet when other people post it, we think, "Wow, their life is so great, but isn't any better than ours, but we then compare ourselves. I think our identity is really challenged in that experience, which I think identity is a big one for sure. I think there's fear factors, but I know that right now, what I've been listening to is that in our day, it was Russia. It was the possibility of nuclear war. Now of course, that's reoccurring right now again.

Phil Collins:

Yeah.

Randy Frazee:

It was always that we thought, "Oh, we're going to have a nuclear war." That trauma, but more recently I've read that it's a climate issue for a lot of young people and it creates this existential angst in their heart that I think works through that.

Phil Collins:

Yeah. That's really interesting. I had not heard that. That makes a lot of sense to me. Definitely a topic of conversation.

Randy Frazee:

Yeah. I think within the brain structure, amygdala is always looking for something to fear and we've transitioned it from the Cold War to climate control. I think there's all kinds of issues with younger kids now coming up with the gender issues and confusion related to that and adults coming to them and putting things into their heads and maybe that's where they're at. I just think it's a bit overwhelming from the peanut butter and jelly sandwich era that I felt like I grew up in.

Phil Collins:

Yeah.

Randy Frazee:

Yeah.

Phil Collins:

One of the things you also brought up was biblical literacy. For sure, all of us that are in this department, I'm actually the chair of the Bible, Christian Ministries Philosophy and Missions programs here at Taylor and across the board, we would say that changes over the last 23 years that I've been here, that students are coming in with less biblical understanding. Their desire and value for the Bible is high, their actual reading and knowledge is low. That's been another change we've noticed.

Randy Frazee:

Yet they're probably more educated in terms of exposure to education maybe than any other generation and yet [inaudible 00:15:57].

Phil Collins:

Yeah, that's right. They're unable to articulate their faith and what they believe and why they believe it, but they are very much able to articulate things that they've studied in school. Christian Smith is really behind all of this. His research on this generation, it's just fascinating. It's not that they can't do it. They can, but they've not been provided opportunities to talk about their faith, think about it, verbalize it, so that when they're in other situations, they can do the same thing and that biblical understanding really is dropped off.

Randy Frazee:

I think we need to probe this just for a little bit longer Phil, then we'll move on. Because again, a lot of adults, whether they're pastors or teachers or just parents listening to this podcast, their number one driving concern is the outcome of their kids. I mean, that's number one for them. Here you are, someone who lives in the space of the kids leave their nest and they come to you. A lot of them do, and they're coming with this lower grade of literacy in the scripture, which this whole podcast is saying, "Man, engaging the Bible is the number one catalyst for the life that you were always intended to live." What brought us here? We're going to point our fingers to ourselves, but what have we failed, what is the church failed to do, the family failed to do? Then what are societal issues that has caused maybe us to be in this spot?

Phil Collins:

That's a great question. Let me talk a little bit about churches and you have to understand, I'm a deep church goer and member. This is me talking about my family, not throwing stones at somebody else.

Randy Frazee:

Yeah.

Phil Collins:

But just sheer statistically, people are attending church less often.

Randy Frazee:

Yes.

Phil Collins:

Right. If you consider churches talk about you're a regular attender, you're attending probably once every three weeks. The amount of time that people are coming to church is lowered. I would say that over the years, churches have less of an education program than they used to. There's a lot less actual training, whether that's Sunday school or other opportunities where people are sitting down, learning about the Bible, what does it say? How does this work? What are the books of the Bible about? What's the big flow of everything? Right. Coming back to your storing idea from your previous work that you've done. I think it makes sense if we're going less, we're being educated less, families haven't been equipped in most cases to do the education of their own children, which they're responsible for in the home. There's just a lot less going on educationally.

Phil Collins:

The students, young people are not being trained in this area, then they have a lack in this area. Great Commission in Matthew 28 talks about making disciples of all nations, baptizing them and then teaching them to observe all that I've commanded. It's that all piece that is really that educational aspect of the church that we need to focus in on and try to learn more about that. I think just basic biblical literacy, knowledge, those kind of things, the church needs to prepare parents and the church needs to find a way that fits this generation to do that process.

Randy Frazee:

Yeah. It's just popping off a lot of things in my mind, because it's like a perfect storm almost. While church attendance has declined, the opportunity for and pressure for parents to get their kids involved in so many other things is way greater than when I was a kid. I played summer Little League. It wasn't like all year round Little League, select sports and then that's just one thing. They've got this pressure to be involved in all these things and there's only so much time available. They're coming to us less, so even if we have a heart for discipleship in the church, they're not giving us as much time. While they're not giving us as much time, they're also in this information age, they're also taking in volumes of content other than back what used to be in the day when I first started going to church as a teenager, my family wasn't going, it was Sunday morning, Sunday night, Wednesday night. Remember all of that and we weren't getting [inaudible 00:20:06].

Phil Collins:

Yeah, sure. Did all of that.

Randy Frazee:

All of that. Now we're getting one a month, but it's being bombarded with a totally different worldview in so many other places in their life. I think that's a big part of it for sure. I think for the church, there has been an era that we're coming out of, and I think COVID maybe have helped us where we're shifting away from attendance fascination to engagement.

Phil Collins:

Yeah.

Randy Frazee:

I think that's going to be a healthy outcome of this. Don't you think?

Phil Collins:

I hope so. That would be a very good outcome from a hard situation.

Randy Frazee:

Yeah. We've just orchestrated a institute today, a series with engagement being a bigger issue from us. If you would even ask me today, I would know what we had on Sunday only because someone just told me, but we're not focusing in on the attendance as much as we are the engagement. We started these essential classes where we said, "These are the fundamentals that you need." We're trying to provide them in the different venues, online and stuff. One of them is called, This is the Bible, which is just the fundamentals of how's your Bible laid out. It's the largest class we have. We have 120 people in this current, I think it's seven week program. The number one by a long shot. People are like, "If you'll just help me with the basics and the fundamental, that would be pretty good."

Phil Collins:

I think those of us who are professional Christians, we are in this world, we often overestimate the people that we're serving, what they know and their experiences and talk in a way that is past people. Sometimes we very much need to go back and provide different levels of learning from very early to, yes, we need more advanced things and I like teaching the advanced things, but there's an awful lot of people who need some really core basics. How do I start? How do I do this? Help me.

Randy Frazee:

Yeah. That's really good. Man, you and I could go on, I want to keep drilling down, but I had another thing I want to ask you to rank and we've covered a little bit of this, but I'd love to see if you could put them in a particular order from your perspective and I can give you mine. It says, rank and order what you believe to be the biggest barrier to people engaging the Word. I gave you four, maybe you'll have more. One of them is margin in time. The other one is they don't have a plan, they don't know what to do. Number three is just interest. They're just like, "I don't really care about it." Number four is just biblical illiteracy or biblical literacy issue, meaning that, "I don't have the ability to do this."

Phil Collins:

Yeah. Yeah. Very good.

Randy Frazee:

How would you rank this?

Phil Collins:

Well, when you ask people to rank them, why don't you read the Bible? Margin is the first one.

Randy Frazee:

Mm-hmm.

Phil Collins:

Just say I don't have enough time. In one way, I totally understand that. We're busy, running fast, lots going on, but the truth is that's an excuse.

Randy Frazee:

Yeah.

Phil Collins:

I find time in my life for the things that I delight in and if I'm too busy for something, it just is another way of saying I don't delight in it.

Randy Frazee:

Right.

Phil Collins:

Psalm 1 talks about delighting in the law of the Lord, in scripture. In some ways, maybe that's the place to start is to help people to find their delight in meeting Christ in scripture. Going to the Bible, I meet Christ, it's amazing to have a sense of a relationship with Christ. It's what I'm built for, and then the margin things starts to drift. I find time for the things I love.

Randy Frazee:

It's really interesting. American Bible Society did a Bible engagement study here in Kansas City where I live and margin did come as the number one reason. But I think you've drilled underneath this a little bit more. I'm thinking of Dallas Willard. He had a thing called VIM, Vision, Intention and Means. He said, "A lot of times we go right to the means of how do you do something when a person doesn't have the intention and the reason they don't have the intention is they don't really have a vision for what this will do for them, so that you're going away from the systemic down to the fundamental root cause here.

Phil Collins:

Yeah. I think that's true. Then if you have a vision, then I would list as the second most important thing is that people actually don't know what to do with the Bible. They don't know where to start or how to read or listen, because an awful lot of people are not readers, so you're asking them to do something that's quite difficult. They don't do a lot of, they're not good at it, whatever. What are other ways to come to scripture besides reading, listening, doing things in groups, there's all sorts of other ways of doing that. But I think we've probably done a poor job of helping people to know how to come to scripture, that we just tell them, "Go do it." But it's not that easy just to know how to do it. It seems like, "Well, just go read a book." Well, there's more to it when it comes to scripture. So-

Randy Frazee:

Oh Phil, this [inaudible 00:25:13].

Phil Collins:

[inaudible 00:25:12] number two.

Randy Frazee:

Yeah. Yeah. Well, this tease up what we're getting ready to go into and why I wanted you so desperate to be on this podcast. So excited about everybody listening and watching to hear, but I think you're absolutely right. I mean, so if a person does get a vision, which again, us as church leaders and other small group leaders and youth leaders, we need to do a better job of giving people that Psalm 1 delight, and then they'll automatically go to intent. But they're also struggling at what do you do with it? I remember when I was 14 and opened up the Bible for the first time, I was not... The Bible is a well, it's a bit of an interesting book, to be honest with you.

Phil Collins:

It is.

Randy Frazee:

It's got weird names and weird customs and things in the old Testament, I'm not really sure that should have happened. Just Virgin births and I don't know, miracles and fish swallowing up [inaudible 00:26:05]. I think that it's a bit of an odd book. While I am all about scripture distribution, I think that's a big part of the deal. The idea of just dropping Bibles out of a helicopter is a problem. I think another thing is 70% of the world, their method of learning is not reading. They are auditorial or visual learners that is not-

Phil Collins:

Oral learners. Yeah.

Randy Frazee:

Oral learners is what I meant. Yes. Now more than 70% can read, but 70% even people who can read today in the United States, they don't choose to. This is a big, big part of it. If you want to say something else you can, but I really want to make sure we leave a lot of time for the main reason for this conversation, because you have given a large chunk of your life to this project called Abide, which I've been privileged to help you with all of this. Let's dive in there. First of all, what is Abide and why did you decide to do it?

Phil Collins:

Yeah. Abide is really just a process of learning to, back to book of John, abide with Christ. How do you have somebody who learns to dwell, to live with, to abide with Christ? Premise is, the primary way that we do that is we come to scripture to do that. That's what you've been saying. The research says, that's exactly right. We've been doing research here at Taylor. It says exactly the same thing, that this is the foundation of how to love God and to love others is to be engaged in scripture. That doesn't mean to just read the words like a textbook. I read the words I'm ready for the test. You got to soak it in and understand it. In the case of scripture, let it transform you. But really the question that grabbed me, I don't know, 12 years or so ago was how do you teach somebody to read the Bible?

Phil Collins:

I didn't have a good answer for that. Now I was old enough and I was secure enough in myself to say, "I don't know." When I was younger, I think I would've said, "Oh, this is how you do it." And I didn't know. Then I got to the point where, you know what, I don't... Reading scripture has been the most important part of my spiritual life since I was 12. It's changed me, but nobody's really taught me how to read scripture, to be transformed, to meet Christ. I have all these years of ministry experience and I was just willing to say, "I don't know. I have not done a good job at this." I've really committed these last dozen years or so to try to learn how to do this better. It's not a new problem. It's not a new solution, really. The church has been quite good at this over the years, but we need to teach a new generation. We need to focus in on this process to have this vision, to help people learn how to engage scripture for spiritual transformation.

Randy Frazee:

Well, a couple things come to my mind. One, by really anchoring this all on the concept of abiding in Christ, that you're obviously wanting people to engage the Bible with their mind, but at the end of the day, you want it to be a real relationship with Christ and that's really where it's going to be transformable.

Phil Collins:

Yes.

Randy Frazee:

I think it's a brilliant name for that. Then number two, just the acknowledgement that we've got a different world today than we did back in the day when people were just learning to read for the very first time the Gutenberg press and all of that, and the majority of them could read back then, but reading without as many distractions. Reading was something where people were doing longer, deep dives of content. Well, that's changed in our world today.

Phil Collins:

Yeah.

Randy Frazee:

We are the 140 character culture. But even before all of that, even before that, the Bible offers up many ways in which to engage the scriptures, which I think is really, really important.

Phil Collins:

When we talk about this, Randy, I really don't want to make this too complicated. The Bible's for everyone. Eugene Peterson says, "It's for the little shepherd boy and the little shepherd girl." It's understandable. Yes, there's complexities. Yes, you just don't go pick it up and read it, but we can do this. It's not that complicated. We can learn some basic things and help each other go through this process. It's very doable. This is not beyond us.

Randy Frazee:

I think we got to keep saying that over and over and over again because people look at the Bible and it just seems overwhelming to them. I think coming back and saying, and another thing you said, Phil, that was fascinating to me is that you've been in this for a long time and people ask the question, "How do I read the Bible?" I didn't have a good answer for that. Mean, well, this is captain obvious here. Both of us, we should have had this as one of the fundamental things that we learned how to do in our education and one of the fundamental things, but the truth is here you are, I mean, one of the most decorated guys out there and you had to admit 12 years ago, "I don't really know if I had a real good answer for that." Well, that's important.

Phil Collins:

Yeah. Yeah. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, back in the day in his seminary said that seminarians come because they want to learn how to pray and how to read their Bible. I'm not sure that has changed too much over the past years. That's what my students want. They want to know, have that close relationship with God. How do I do this? This is the foundation. Let's do that.

Randy Frazee:

Well, this is a clarion call for churches and educational institutions that are committed to training up, that we really need to get back to the basics again, really have a fundamental commitment and to transition our margin. If COVID has not taught us anything, it's taught us we need to transition our priority and our focus to really having these things down. You can't just serve it up in a boring way. It's got to be effective and wooing and simple as you've been saying, which I think is a... okay. I really had a lot of fun interviewing you for this new project coming out Abide, which is, I'm so excited to do it here at Westside Family, where I'm at and I'm excited to encourage everybody to engage it because I think it's going to be just a revolution for people. In it, you have a lot of ways in which to approach the Bible, but we did five specific ways.

Phil Collins:

Right.

Randy Frazee:

Again, I just want to give people a taste that might get them back to that Psalm 1, passion for delight. We covered five different ways to engage the scripture. Do you mind if we just take one at a time and just a little snippet of what we covered?

Phil Collins:

Sure. Yeah. That'd be great. These are five good ways to engage scripture. There are other ways written about some other ways, more than five. I think we wrote about 13 of them or so that are on Bible Gateway, on that website. But these are five good core ways. What I want to start to say is that there's many ways to exercise, but you got to need to get your heart going. You need to have some resistance with your muscles, you need to do cardio things, but there's a lot of ways to do it. You might, I think you're a swimmer, Randy, and have access to swimming and like swimming. I might drown if I get in the pool, if I'm not a swimmer, right.

Phil Collins:

That doesn't mean everybody needs to be a swimmer to exercise. You have to find your way through and say, "These are the pieces that I want to do, but there's ways to mix and match them." That's the foundation. There's not one size fits all. This works for you, doesn't mean it works for everybody. You as an individual probably need to experiment and if you're a ministry person, you need to be aware of some other ways, because you've got people that you love, that you want them to meet Christ in God's word, in the scripture and you need to be able to help them experiment until they find what fits them. So...

Randy Frazee:

Yeah. That's-

Phil Collins:

Let's talk about the first one. Yeah. Go ahead.

Randy Frazee:

Yeah. Go... yeah. Well, I just want to say before you dive into the first one, that's brilliant. It's a wonderful, simple analogy that everybody understands that some people like to say swim, some people like to run. Some people like classes and other people like competition. Some people like to be alone and there's just these different experiences. Some people like to use weight. Some people like to just use body resistance. The reality is there's a lot of people jump out of exercising because someone told them there's only one way to do it and they don't like it. It didn't work for them. And so-

Phil Collins:

Yeah. Yeah. Or it works for a period of time, but it doesn't work later.

Randy Frazee:

Oh, beautiful. Yeah.

Phil Collins:

You know you-

Randy Frazee:

That's happened in my life. Yeah. Yeah.

Phil Collins:

Yeah. Yeah.

Randy Frazee:

Okay. Now dive [inaudible 00:34:47].

Phil Collins:

[inaudible 00:34:47].

Randy Frazee:

Yeah, dive into [inaudible 00:34:49]. Hi, this is Randy Frazee, host of the Bible Roots Podcast, which is brought to you by my friends at HarperChristian Resources. HarperChristian Resources equips you to understand the scriptures, cultivate spiritual growth and disciple your people with Bible study resources from today's most trusted voices.

Phil Collins:

Yeah. The first one, praying scripture. This is not complicated, but the idea is simply to use the words of scripture to guide your personal prayers. You're gaining your language for your thinking, for your emotions, the things that you want to express from a passage. The most easy and well-known example of this would be praying the Lord's prayer, but there's other prayers we can pray. There's topics we can pray through. If I'm feeling anxious or need to grow in my love for other people, I can read those passages and think about how to pray those passages, but really you can pray any passage. You just take the ideas. What is this teaching me about God? What am I learning about myself? Then immediately turn that into prayer. Praying scripture is really straightforward instead of reading and then praying. It's a read and pray all at the same time.

Randy Frazee:

Yeah. I like it. I'm assuming it won't work for every passage of scripture, but is almost putting your name in almost the first person in some of the passages. Some they won't work, obviously [inaudible 00:36:18].

Phil Collins:

Yeah. Yeah.

Randy Frazee:

Putting your name in there-

Phil Collins:

Yeah. That's a very good way to...

Randy Frazee:

Yeah. Romans 8 I'm thinking of, where we are more than conquerors to say, "I, Randy Frazee am more than a conqueror through Him." You just pray that out. The other thing I think I like about this, because this has become an important process for me, is that in the process of reading the scriptures intellectually, you're also having a relationship and a conversation with God. Would that be [inaudible 00:36:41]?

Phil Collins:

Yes.

Randy Frazee:

Yeah. That's really good.

Phil Collins:

Yeah.

Randy Frazee:

We're going to link it-

Phil Collins:

Our faith is more than our minds, it's our whole being. We need to work on that, especially somebody who tends to lead with their mind like I tend to. I need more than just my mind to have a relationship with Christ.

Randy Frazee:

Yeah. Yeah. That's really good. Again, I want to go in so many directions on that, but we're going to just give a nice little taste here.

Phil Collins:

Sure.

Randy Frazee:

We're going to link to all of where you've written and spoken on all 13 of these and where the current project that's coming out is going to be at. Is the next one engaging through art?

Phil Collins:

Yeah. Let's talk about that one. That's a different one. It's something I've been learning a lot about. It's taking a photograph or sculpture of a painting that connects in some way with a passage and you're letting the artist who has studied a passage, make a commentary on the passage. But instead of using words and writing about history or the context of the passage or theology, the artist looks at a passage and tries to help you to connect with it emotionally. You can use the passage and the commentary by the visual artist as a way to connect into the passage emotionally. I have started doing this with people and just get the most amazing reactions out of most people. But for sure, a certain group of people are just so visually oriented that this really amazing scriptural art that's out there can be really a good way to connect with what's going on in a passage.

Randy Frazee:

I think that someone listening, watching might go like, "Oh yeah, I'm not that artistic type." It may actually be surprising because, and I'm encouraging everybody to get the curriculum. When we had this session, we actually put up some artwork and led them through that whole experience. I know you have one particular that we use. That's not the painting behind you though, right?

Phil Collins:

Yeah, it is.

Randy Frazee:

Yeah. It's-

Phil Collins:

I've got a pretty large example here. Let me [inaudible 00:38:42].

Randy Frazee:

Yeah. Go ahead and turn your... yeah. Those of you who are listening, you might want to go-

Phil Collins:

I didn't just put that up there for today. This is very meaningful to me, the calling of Matthew by Caravaggio. It's meaningful to me. It gets to me emotionally and makes me think about my relationship with God.

Randy Frazee:

Well, we won't go through it because that's why we want them to pick up this curriculum.

Phil Collins:

Yeah. There you go.

Randy Frazee:

Because you walk them through this experience right there on the program, I think this is really, really awesome. This is not just for the creative types. This may be surprisingly the missing piece in your walk, a journaling. Okay. I saw that one coming, but tell us a little bit more about that one.

Phil Collins:

Sure. There are so many people that journal scripture. The idea is instead of just reflecting on what's going on with the passage in my mind, I pull out a pen and paper and write about the passage, what I'm thinking about it, what I'm feeling about it. Questions that I have, maybe hand copying out a verse or two, writing out a prayer. There's just all sorts of things that you can do and it's a way to open up yourself to God's voice and a way to ponder really, to meditate on God's word. I know you're a big journaler.

Randy Frazee:

I am.

Phil Collins:

Tell us about your experience a little bit, Randy.

Randy Frazee:

Oh yeah. Yeah. They're sitting right over there. I've got a big journal and a small journal. I've got now in the small journal, I started really putting them in the same type of journal back in '05, I think it is. I just started journal number 63 on that journal.

Phil Collins:

Wow.

Randy Frazee:

Yeah. I had never been really much of a journaler before then. Now one of the things about my journal, I use it for everything. If I'm going to do my budget, I'll do it in that same journal because I found that if I only do it for the spiritual time, then I only do it when it's all the way over there. I carry it with me all the time and I use it for everything.

Phil Collins:

Wise.

Randy Frazee:

I just [inaudible 00:40:41] it. That helped me. That may not work for everybody. Then I can just go back to dates and what really convinced me, but after I got committed was the studies that are out on what happens to a person when they do this journaling for 20 minutes or 10 minutes a day for four times or whatever it might be and how God's wired us to go deeper with it. I went through a season of depression and basically I was instructed by my doctor to journal through the Psalms and I got up every morning and I did exactly what you've suggested. I'm telling you, it was a major part of lifting me out of that depression. I've become now to a point where I feel very anxious if I don't do it because I feel like it's a very important practice for me.

Phil Collins:

Yeah. Very good. It's become a delight for you. You don't have to be told to do it. You want to because it's-

Randy Frazee:

It's a salvation for me, not in the same way as my [inaudible 00:41:40], but it's like it keeps me in a place of joy.

Phil Collins:

Yeah.

Randy Frazee:

It works for me in a big way. Okay. Let's go to picture it.

Phil Collins:

Yeah. Yeah. Picture it. Yeah. This is pretty simple. When I go to a movie or read a story, I tend to imagine myself into the story. I did this more when I was younger, I think, and better when I was younger. But the idea of putting yourself in as a bystander or as a participant in a biblical story. Put yourself in. What does it feel like?

Randy Frazee:

Oh. Yeah.

Phil Collins:

What does it smell like? What does it look like? What are you hearing that's going on? Live the story. Jesus told so many stories in the whole Bible, about 70% stories is what I've been told. All those stories are inviting us to go in, experience what that would be like to meet Jesus, to watch the Red Sea part, feel it at a deeper level. You can be trained to do that.

Randy Frazee:

Yeah.

Phil Collins:

I think we train ourselves not to do that and we need to train ourselves back into doing.

Randy Frazee:

Yeah. I tell you, I can give an example. I'm taking two groups to Israel and I'm meeting with them to prepare them and to get their journals all set to them. I did this because you really taught me about this. I said, "Now on the last day, the very last place we're going to go," I said, "Now I want you to close your eyes." I took them there and it's in the valley where David slew Goliath. I said, "I want you to go there with me." I just took them there. "Now you're in this situation and how are you feeling?" Saul's armor and all this stuff and you're standing, this guy is nine foot tall.

Randy Frazee:

You've had this experience with the Lord that He's been with you when you wrestled a bear and a lion and boy, people were weeping. They really were. Now I said, now we're going to actually be in the valley. That's a lot easier to picture when you're in it. But what you're saying is even if you can't go there, you can read the story and just imagine you're a teenage boy standing before this giant. If you lose, Israel is going to become subservient and lose their eyeballs to the Philistines. Is that similar?

Phil Collins:

That is it exactly. I think this is why God tells us stories to invite us to adjust the stories of our lives to this broader story that God is telling in scripture of what's true and right, and real. The world tells us a story. Our family tells us a story. We invent our own stories for our lives. But God's overarching story and how we fit into it is a game changer and imagining yourself into those stories, that picture it process can be very powerful. You can take it too far and do stupid things with it. That's not what we're saying.

Randy Frazee:

We're not giving you a license to be stupid.

Phil Collins:

We're saying, use the Bible the way it's supposed to be. Yeah.

Randy Frazee:

Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. Absolutely.

Phil Collins:

Yeah.

Randy Frazee:

I think I would say, Phil, that I probably use picture in my sermon preparation more than any of these is that because I'm trying to help my congregation or who I'm teaching, I'm trying to help them enter into the story and let the worldview of the character of the story in the Bible connect with their worldview and then to create that disruptive idea where they either did something they shouldn't have done, or they did something that was the game changer, and for them to say, "That's what I need to do."

Phil Collins:

Right. Yeah. Very good. The modeling, both positive models and negative models in the Bible are great ways to learn. It's good education, really.

Randy Frazee:

Yeah. I think one of the simplest ways also, one of the simplest ways also, Phil, I think that parents, children could do the stories of the Bible. Again, instead of just telling them as a distant thing, really invite their kid to be that character and teach them the stories, not only biblical literacy will rise, but I think there'll be a deeper connection. Is that fair?

Phil Collins:

Yeah. I actually think some of the best scripture engagement processes teaching-wise happen with children. You got to be creative to keep their attention and help them learn. There's a lot of passion that happens in children's ministry that is really done well that somehow we wander away in some ways as we get older.

Randy Frazee:

Yeah. That's for sure. Okay, contemplate. It's so easy to... We just want to dive into all of it, but let's do this contemplate.

Phil Collins:

Yeah. Yeah. All right. This contemplate is a longstanding practice of the church of doing four steps in scripture engagement. It's reading, just simply reading passage, then meditating on it. Meditating is the process of turning over the ideas, the images, what's going on in the passage over and over in your mind. It's not Eastern meditation. Biblical meditation is a strong focus in on what's going on. I read, I meditate, and then that meditation becomes a stepping stone into prayer. Reading without meditating is empty. You read, meditate, ponder, reflect, dwell on a passage, abide in the passage and then you pray. You turn the passage, your life that you've been meditating on in light of the passage and you turn that into a prayer. Then the last stage, contemplating is just being quiet with the Lord. Being with the Lord, not talking, not wanting, it's just enjoying His presence. It's like being with a good friend or my case with my wife, Terry of 38 years, we just like being with each other.

Randy Frazee:

Yes.

Phil Collins:

It's calming your soul before God and just enjoying Him. That's a hard one. At least it is for me. Nobody ever taught me I was supposed to be quiet with the Lord.

Randy Frazee:

Yeah.

Phil Collins:

Just told me to read and pray, which is good. But those are the four steps.

Randy Frazee:

I like that. It's an ancient process and has a name to it, right?

Phil Collins:

Lectio Divina.

Randy Frazee:

Yeah.

Phil Collins:

That just is Latin for divine reading or holy reading, godly reading. Yeah. Those are the four steps that people have been writing about for at least 1400 years. But I think anybody who's read the Bible fairly often reads, thinks about it and maybe talks about it. That's a natural process, but this is contemplate, Lectio Divina is a good way to train people how to do some of the foundational ideas of what we're talking about with scripture engagement.

Randy Frazee:

Well, this is super popular now because anybody who has an iWatch, it reminds them several times a day to enter into a little season of mindfulness, which is basically for many people a new idea, but the reality is historical Christianity and even the Old Testament scriptures invites us to meditate and we're just adding maybe guidance to effective meditation, which I think is a good thing.

Phil Collins:

Yeah. It's really a focus in on what God is saying through His word. Yeah. Good.

Randy Frazee:

That's really good. A couple things as we wrap up. As you've been doing this now for 12 years, have you found any of these five that's emerged as maybe the more popular?

Phil Collins:

Yeah. There's some research evidence. I saw one study that asked people what they do and journaling, your topic. There's a lot of ways to journal, but sitting down with a pen or pencil and paper is probably the most positive or popular, I should say. As I've done scripture engagement workshops, many different places and groups that have come here, I ask, do any of you do this? Journaling is almost always, there's a group of people that are very loyal and it's pretty good size group. I would say journaling is probably of those five, the most popular. Yeah.

Randy Frazee:

I spotted that. It is true for me. I am though venturing out for some new discoveries and really engaging through art is the one I'm really working through now. Again, you said it's also seasonal. Is there one maybe in this season that's working best? Which one's working best for you right now?

Phil Collins:

Yeah. I probably do a combination of praying scripture and picturing it most often. I tend to read a passage not too long and I usually actually look at some study Bibles and just try to understand what the passage says. Then I read the passage through a number of times. I don't know, I don't catch it all the first time. I can't just read a passage and know everything about it the first time. I read it multiple times and then I go back and I try to picture myself in the passage, if that's appropriate.

Randy Frazee:

Yeah.

Phil Collins:

I try to say, "Okay, what's happening here? What can I see? What do I need to pay attention to? Oh, here's something obscure. Maybe I need to look at that. What's it really trying to say and in a deeper level connected to my life? Then I go through and pray. I talk to God about what the passage is bringing up in me and turn it into a conversation. Yeah.

Randy Frazee:

That is awesome.

Phil Collins:

That's just where I'm at right now.

Randy Frazee:

No, I get it. Yeah.

Phil Collins:

It doesn't mean that's for everybody again.

Randy Frazee:

Yeah. Yeah. You and I, we traffic in this stuff quite a bit. We're trying to, the person that's working a full-time job and raising little kids and all that, just to encourage them to not be overwhelmed.

Phil Collins:

That's right.

Randy Frazee:

To pick one and go to the one that just draws you. Going back to your word Abide. Let me ask you the question about for leaders, which is primarily our audience, introducing or incorporating Abide, which is an experience that is coming out through Zondervan. What's the best way to introduce the idea and ultimately this material you've created into the life of the church?

Phil Collins:

Yeah. As I've talked to various pastors really around the country, we just might be chatting and they'll ask me about what I'm up to and I'll bring this up. I go from a casual conversation to a real focused conversation very quickly. They want to know, how do I help my people engage in scripture? That's always been very encouraging to me. Not trying to push something on people that they don't want, but people actually I think are very interested in doing this. I really believe in the leadership of the church, that God has given leaders to the church to help guide them, that shepherding idea. It's really our job to lead people to places where they can eat and drink and be spiritually healthy. Part of our shepherding, pastoring process and really a focus leader can have a huge impact on a group of people.

Phil Collins:

I'd probably say there's three places to do that. Maybe simply, one is the preaching, teaching level. I think many churches are actually pretty good at this. They're good at helping people understand what a passage means in depth. I love good preaching. I listen to sermons during the week and Sunday, I do want to caution people in those teaching, preaching situations. Sometimes we can overemphasize this idea, you think this passage means this, but let me tell you what it really means. That's true. I don't want to downplay that, but sometimes our message is heard. The Bible's so complicated, I can't understand it. I have to be a professional. That's your job. We somehow need to both teach and help people be equipped that you can do this, right. There's logical term, and this is all about college, learning a new word. Perspicuity, the scripture is clear enough to understand. We need to have both this balance of teaching, but equipping to say that you can do this also. It's not just for professionals. That would be one place.

Randy Frazee:

Yeah.

Phil Collins:

Two more if you want them or [inaudible 00:53:54].

Randy Frazee:

Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. Let me stop there just for one second. I mean, this is good stuff, and I think so a pastor, teacher could really model this and really can draw upon the multiple sensory options we have in a modern society today are visuals that we can use on a Sunday or in a classroom, or are animations for art and just so many different ways. If we could model this for them, it'll take away the mystique that it's all that hard. That's number one. Yeah. That's really good. What's number two?

Phil Collins:

That's good. Besides that preaching, teaching level, I'd really equip people for small groups. They really need to learn from each other. All of our research says that people that are engaging scripture with other people are also really, probably the best way to put it is more spiritually mature. They're reporting their love of God and love of others and their changed lives. You need to do this, not just by yourself. That's where I'm going next. You should do it by yourself, but not just by yourself.

Randy Frazee:

Yeah.

Phil Collins:

If the professional like us, we study the Bible and the Bible's behind us and we're here and then the congregation's out there in between us and then the image of this group, the scripture, Bible in the middle of us and we'll gather around it and read it together. See how just our little group here understands it and can live it out and talk about that process. Then the ministry leader can provide training and materials. That's really about what Abide curriculum is about is to provide a place for small groups to learn how to talk and engage. I think too often people actually don't talk about the passage. They get in small groups and they do pretty much anything else except coming to scripture. That's really-

Randy Frazee:

Yeah.

Phil Collins:

Yeah.

Randy Frazee:

That is really good.

Phil Collins:

That'll be a second place [inaudible 00:55:49] small group level.

Randy Frazee:

Yeah. I will tell you for us here at Westside is, so the preaching is really, really, this have really been helpful for me as I'm even preparing and saying, "Yeah. I think I've been doing this, but I could step this up a little bit." Then for us, I think we've learned, when I learned this through the story that in breaking a bad habit, if you try to do it on your own, your statistical chances are zero. If you add an effective tool, it inches up to 5%. But if you wrap that tool around community, it jumps all the way up to 40%. I think the same thing with breaking a bad habit is also engaging a good habit. With Abide, if you do it in a small group, for us, I told you earlier about this ongoing class we're offering several times a year with these essentials called This is a Bible.

Randy Frazee:

Abide is a great way as an ongoing offering and the curriculum I was a part of doing with you is just show the video and engage the process and just make sure that you encourage your people that one of the things that we really want you to have in your foundation is how to engage the Bible. One of the ways practically to do this is wonderful interactive, communal experience called Abide. I think that's what you're talking about. Yeah.

Phil Collins:

Yeah. Exactly.

Randy Frazee:

Yeah. Do you have one more or did-

Phil Collins:

Yeah. That's more the image that I grew up with, which is just me, my Bible and Jesus. Right. Individual time with scripture. Again, I think that's important to do, critical to do. I do that every day, but it can't be the only thing, we've got to be involved in community and we need to teach people how to do this. This is the thing that nobody taught me how to do. Give me some tools, give me some training. What am I looking for? How do I go about this process? Again, what works for one person might not work for the other person. Trying to look at these tools of how to come to scripture on my own in a way that I'm focusing in on, not just information, but transformation by meeting Christ. And-

Randy Frazee:

Yeah. I think this is such a-

Phil Collins:

That's part of the Abide curriculum too. There are practices. Yeah.

Randy Frazee:

Yeah. Man, I've seen it and I'm just so excited for the church to get this and realize that you have given a lot of your life to providing for the church and for other organizations for that matter. But for the church, particularly a way to tangibly move from this attractional attendance focus and Sunday morning and whatever you're doing to this engagement experience, and you're overwhelmed with it, just model it and then just offer up the Abide experience every three, four times a year where people can sign up for it and just make sure it's a part of the regular process. New people come in. It wasn't something you did once. It's an ongoing thing and creating a culture of expectation that we want you into the word of God and this is a good way to do it. Okay. Really quick here. We're going to wrap up with this one.

Phil Collins:

Sure.

Randy Frazee:

Because you've been Phil Collins, the singer, you've been Dr. Phil, the psychologist, but I'm calling you King Collins now, if you could be King Collins for a day and people had to do what you told them to do, they couldn't give you any lip or anything, what would you tell them to do and include pastors? What's your big pet peeve. Now you're such a gentle man, but I'm inviting you to be a little less gentle. What's the one thing that just drives you crazy or one thing you would encourage us to do?

Phil Collins:

Yeah. Well, I think I would talk to the pastors first of all. I would tell them a line from the Reveal study, a study that came out on scripture engagement really about 10 years ago. They got this great line that says, "If they were trying to change the church," they said that they would do three things, inspire, encourage, and equip people in the church to read the Bible specifically to reflect on scripture for meaning in their lives. Right. Those would be the three things that I would really encourage ministry people to do. Inspire, we've been talking about that, encourage and then that equipping process.

Phil Collins:

I would call that to our pastors. Then for just the average people in the church, I would just say, there's nothing better than meeting Jesus. The primary way that we meet Jesus is in scripture. I would try to give them an experience of that, so that they taste it and not just, "Oh yeah, that's probably true." But have this heart knowledge and experiential knowledge that says, "Oh, I want more of that." Because if that's what happens, if there's a desire there and an experience, if I could pull that off as King Collins for a day-

Randy Frazee:

You did.

Phil Collins:

... that would be a good day. That would be a good day.

Randy Frazee:

Force them to do it. That would be a good day. Yeah. It would be good for everybody else. That's why I think you so wisely named this Abide because you're trying to connect the head and the heart together. If that Psalm 1 delight emerges within, the job is done. Because we have the tools, the means, if we can get the vision or the delight going. Okay. Is there anything that we haven't said that we talked about that you'd like to wrap up with?

Phil Collins:

Yeah. Maybe that there's just some good resources out there. There's a group of us that are working and other people too. It's not just somehow we've got the corner on this. There are other people, but there's the Abide Bible, the Abide Bible journals. If you're a journaler, there's some good tools out there. The small group curriculum that's coming out. There's a lot of resources if you just Google scripture engagement, you'll find quite a bit of resources out there. Some of them, stuff that we've been involved with, some of us and others that other people, wonderful people who have hearts just like us. This is many people doing really good things all over the world.

Randy Frazee:

Yeah. If we can get that heart going. Yeah. That's really good. We're going to link everything in the show notes to everything. But if someone wanted to find you or about you, where would you encourage them to go?

Phil Collins:

Yeah. Probably the simplest way is just Google Phil Collins, scripture engagement. You'll see things there. Taylor University, you could do that too. Don't just do Phil Collins, you get this British rocker guy. [inaudible 01:02:13].

Randy Frazee:

You'll be back to Tarzan again.

Phil Collins:

But back to Tarzan. Yeah.

Randy Frazee:

Which is good. Just not as-

Phil Collins:

My name and then scripture engagement. Yeah.

Randy Frazee:

You can picture you in the Tarzan movie. That's good. Well, thank you so much, Phil.

Phil Collins:

Yeah. No, don't do that. Yeah.

Randy Frazee:

That's not going to work. Yeah.

Phil Collins:

No, no.

Randy Frazee:

Thank you so much for giving us this time. What a wonderful resource that you have given your life to. I can't wait for the world to experience it.

Phil Collins:

And you, you have been so involved. That's really good, Randy. Yeah.

Randy Frazee:

Oh, it's a real-

Phil Collins:

Sorry.

Randy Frazee:

... delight. Real delight of mine. Thank you so much. Well, that wraps up our episode today. I would encourage you if you'd liked what you have heard, leave us a comment and more than anything, share this with people you know that would be encouraged. Pastors, leaders that are looking for tangible ways to inspire their congregation and to really engage them in the word of God, which is the single greatest way that you can catalyze their spiritual growth, which is what our job is all about.

Randy Frazee:

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