

178 The Gift of Noticing with Kelly Blackwell

[00:00:00] Welcome to the Encouragement for Real Life podcast. I'm Julie Lefebure, your host. Life is remarkable, sometimes raw and always real. And some days we could use a little extra encouragement for our real lives. Here, you'll find that, along with personal life impacting stories, helpful life hacks, timely inspiration, biblical insight, and a fresh perspective.

The Encouragement for Real Life podcast equips you to be a light in this world and to shine bright wherever God has you. I'm glad you're here today.

Julie Lefebure: Well, Happy New Year. Well, almost. It's almost New Year's. But as we are here on this very last day of 2024, I just want to wish you a very happy New Year. May all of God's blessings just surround you and encourage [00:01:00] you as you begin, uh, 2025 tomorrow.

But we are ending 2024 with our guest episode today. And joining me is longtime friend, Kelly Blackwell. Kelly and I met online years ago, and even though she and I have never met in person, we haven't, I consider her friendship, one of God's many blessings in my life. Kelly is a beautiful woman inside and out, and her words are full of hope and encouragement.

She wears many hats. She's a wife to Scott, a mom to Alex, and she's been in Christian radio ministry get this, for 17 years. Yeah. She, um, mentions often how she loves to pray with others. And I've been on the receiving end of her prayers and let me tell you, they are truly blessings from the Lord. So, in this episode, we talk about everything from her [00:02:00] life to the gift of being a noticer. Which is really, really a cool thought and a cool reality in our lives. And also, um, the beginning of a new year. So I believe that you're going to be inspired and encouraged through Kelly's words. So without further delay, let's get into this episode.

Julie Lefebure: Well, joining us today is the wonderful Kelly Blackwell. Kelly, thank you for being our guest today on the Encouragement for Real Life podcast. I'm so glad you're here.

Kelly Blackwell: Julie, I am beyond excited to be here. When I think of like, gosh, it was a whole different decade when we were part of the same group with, um, Compel.

[00:03:00] Yeah.

That was a long time ago. And seeing how you've got this beautiful book and this podcast, which I love so much. And I quote you all the time. So to be part of this is such a huge blessing for me.

Julie Lefebure: Aw. Well, you are welcome. Thank you. And yeah, how many years ago was that, that we were part of this little group of five of us or six of us?

Kelly Blackwell: Like 2013, I think it was.

Julie Lefebure: Oh yeah. Oh my gosh.

Kelly Blackwell: Yeah. it was a long time ago.

Julie Lefebure: It was. It was. And yeah, I've stayed in touch with most, most of our little group, but we've all kind of gone our different ways and done different things. So that is great.

So Kelly, um, I just, I love your heart for, for what you do, your ministries. And not many people, at least maybe in my circle or in the Encouragement for Real Life podcast circle, know who you are. So we want to know more about you. Um, so tell us all about your life, um, what you're passionate about, why you [00:04:00] do what you do and just who is Kelly Blackwell.

Kelly Blackwell: All right, well, number one, I am married to Scott Blackwell, and I was really excited to take his name. We got married late in life. So anybody who's single and think that, you know, there's just no way, it's not going to happen. It was four days after my 40th birthday. So, um, it's and it was his first marriage too, and he was 38.

So, God is really good, and He's really faithful. And I think if He puts something on your heart, it's for a reason. And I never felt called to be single. But I was definitely called to wait and grow while I was at it. But, um, we've been married for 17 years.

I have a son. Um, he's 30. Yes. I was a single mom and yes, I didn't do it the right way. Um, but you know, what do you do? You, you appreciate what God's given you. [00:05:00] But I have a son, Alexander. He's amazing. I was a single mom for 12 years and I think it's uniquely helped me with what I do now. I've been in Christian radio for 17 years. And I, I started out just answering an ad for a receptionist because I loved radio. But it's funny because it was a passion of mine from when I was a small child. My grandmother and I used to listen to radio together. And for her, it was something she grew up with. Radio was their entertainment, you know, and live things and for me, it was just cool to listen to. And, but my mom was like, that that's no career. You need something you can fall back on. And so I studied to be a dental hygienist. And here's how God is a character.

He gave me a hand tremor.

Julie Lefebure: Really?

Kelly Blackwell: Yes, he did. It [00:06:00] came out of nowhere while I was in school.

Wow.

A hand tremor. So like nobody wants a hygienist, like, you know. So I did a lot of other things. Singing telegrams. I worked in hospitality for years. Um, I, I was an extra in a movie. Like all kinds of weird things I did. Um, but after Scott and I got married and I moved to Arizona, I really was praying to God because Christian radio had been important to me, even when I did, work in the dental field as an x ray tech. But, um, I would listen to Christian radio when I was doing records and I was all by myself and it was really always ministering to me.

So when I got married and moved I really prayed to God about maybe finding a job in Christian radio. And there was a station that ended up hiring and they were literally five minutes from my house.

Julie Lefebure: Wow.

Kelly Blackwell: So it was just god like [00:07:00] rolled this, this opening and I knew how to answer phones. And so that's what I did. I answered phones. And, they happened to get a new website. They invited me in for that, for the training and the person who was supposed to admin the website ended up

quitting. So I became the web admin, you know. Cause this is when everybody was doing blogs and stuff like that. So I,

Julie Lefebure: Yeah.

Kelly Blackwell: knew how to pretty much handle basic maintenance on a website. So I did that. And then I started doing voice work for them. And then I was a former single mom, so I used to tell the morning show host all different ways to save money because he was a single guy recently divorced. And him and his co host would be like, oh, you should come on the air and share these once a week.

So Kelly's Thrifty Tips started and it just kept going from there. And now I'm like, just in the best place I could be. I'm ministering on mid days, which when you like, look at [00:08:00] your radio slots, like mornings is like the big thing. And, you know, afternoon drive is your big thing. Middays is, eh. But for me, middays is that person who hung out with me when I was at work by myself,

Julie Lefebure: yeah,

Kelly Blackwell: doing records. Middays was that person who, there was a time when my first station got sold to a larger radio ministry and we all lost our jobs. And um there was a point where my boss was like, you got to find something. You got to find something. So I took a job at a school and I'd sit in the parking lot for the whole week and just cry on my lunch break and listen to the Christian radio station and text with my best friend who'd be like, God has you right there for a reason. I know He does. And because of that combo I knew that's where I wanted to stay. Even when I got offered opportunities to do mornings or even afternoons, I was like, no, there's that [00:09:00] person who's having that hard day right in the middle.

Julie Lefebure: mm,

Kelly Blackwell: And I just want to talk to them like I was talked to.

Julie Lefebure: mm hmm, mm.

Kelly Blackwell: So that's the blessing that I have now um where I'm at. In fact, um, during, during the day we have 10, I'm on at 10 to 2 at the Promise FM and at noon we call it pause to worship and specifically every song is about worship. Even now with the Christmas songs, I only pick the worshipful ones and I put those in. And we get a time to pray. And I say we, and I don't mean like a

collective we. I mean, I, I try to be like, I'm talking to my one person, you know. That one friend who's listening, we get to pray. I get to pray for them and I never know how it's going to be, but I know that God wants to say something and He wants to help their heart. So that's like my passion is to get to do that. And like I said, I quote you a lot. I quote you on there [00:10:00] quite a bit. And I'll say, Julie Lefebure said. Or I got this idea from Julie Lefebure. So yeah, it's, um, a thing that I like to do because it's kind of, in addition to sharing my heart, I get to share other women's hearts for the Lord.

Yeah.

So, you know, and you being one. I know one of my listeners started following you.

Julie Lefebure: Oh, really? Oh, that's so sweet.

Kelly Blackwell: I was super excited when she did that. I'm oh, cause she, she likes your stuff all the time now.

Julie Lefebure: Oh,

Kelly Blackwell: So yeah. So I just think it's. I don't know. That's my passion is definitely for that person. And it's man or woman. I get phone calls during that hour, well, a lot of times during the day anyway, but just asking for prayer. And so yeah, that's my passion to just be like, I guess at my age now be everybody's auntie or friend.

Julie Lefebure: Yeah, oh my goodness what a, what a wonderful [00:11:00] gift that you are. And that can be streamed anywhere, right? I mean, we can listen to that anywhere. Cause I've listened to it before from I'm in Iowa and you're, you know, another place. Yeah. So how can people find you or listen there?

How can they?

Kelly Blackwell: Well, we do have several ways. Um, we have an app. And our app is actually Northern Christian Radio, because we have the Promise FM that I'm on, and then we also have WLJM, which is all worship, and then we have The Source, which is talk and teaching. And that's fairly new that we have these three. Um, so, and that's Northern Christian Radio app. Or people could go to thepromisefm.com and listen. Um, and they can also listen via Alexa. I think they ask for the promise FM. Um, I have a woman who listens from Zimbabwe.

Um, and she, she does that same thing. She streams through her app. My, my son's grandma listens through Alexa. yeah. And one guy, [00:12:00] um in New Mexico said he found us on a thing that would pay you to listen to like and give your opinions on stations and we happen to be one. And he started listening and he had only listened like for a few days and then he called up to give during our gift drive because he liked

Julie Lefebure: Wow.

Kelly Blackwell: the ministry so much. So yeah if anyone wants to listen thepromisefm.com is a great place to do that.

Julie Lefebure: Yeah, I've done that before. And um, I remember one time I was with our, our, my grandson's, oh gosh, this might've been last year. And it was, it was, uh, we were driving, it must've been before lunchtime, and, and I said, that's my friend Kelly. I'm like, you know, they heard someone on the radio that, that their grandma knew. It was kind of, you know. They're four and too, so it was, you know, they kind, they just thought that was a big deal. So.

So, how long have you been in radio?

Kelly Blackwell: It's been 17 years. From all working my way up. As far as on air, that has been about, I guess counting thrifty tips, about [00:13:00] 15 years.

Julie Lefebure: Wow.

Kelly Blackwell: So 17 altogether. 15 on the radio. I was 10 years in Arizona and really learned about trusting God in that place. Cause we were there eight years when the station was sold. And you know, at that point I, I gave up like a total dream. Like this is what I wanted to do as a kid. I had a tape recorder when I was 10 years old that I would record radio shows on. This is something that I wanted and so to have it go, it was like, man. But God like picked us right up. Because there was a larger, um, I guess broadcast media that had like several stations. They had country, they had rock, they had everything, R& B. But they didn't have a Christian radio station. And they were like, we don't think local Christian radio needs to go. So we're, we're going to give you this signal to work at. And they hired us in and [00:14:00] we got to be on one of their old signals. They, they switched things out from an oldies. I guess they finally were like done with oldies and they put the Christian radio on there. And I ended up working for this big group instead of a small one. And God gave me an opportunity. Now I wasn't on air at this point, but an opportunity to learn traffic.

Which I used to think was like literally traffic. And it's not, it's about scheduling commercials.

Julie Lefebure: Okay.

Kelly Blackwell: Yeah, so

Julie Lefebure: Yeah.

Kelly Blackwell: I didn't know any of that, but I learned how to do that. It was like all kinds of learning. And then my husband's own angst over his job that he had been doing for 17 years that he was so over and his discomfort there um, led us to moving to Michigan. And, and it was weird because I was okay. I was at another station. I was making the same money. I was ministering. I wasn't on air, but I was still ministering and with people I knew in the community. [00:15:00] But, um, yeah, Scott was just like, I can't, I can't do this job anymore. And I was the person who found a job and it was in Michigan. He's like, okay, well, there's a change of seasons.

Julie Lefebure: Yeah,

Kelly Blackwell: That sounds good.

Julie Lefebure: Big change.

Kelly Blackwell: Yeah. So, and he was originally from Pennsylvania, so we got to

Okay.

be closer to his family too. So it was a good thing. But, but yeah, everything was like everything I loved that God gave me, it's like, God was like taking this back right now, but just trust in Me. And we did. We trusted Him in the whole process. And now I'm, let's see I'm going into my eighth year at the promise FM.

Julie Lefebure: Wow.

Kelly Blackwell: So yeah, he's

Yeah.

Never fear when God like asks you to set something down, like there's such a, there's a reason, you know, there's a reason. And He always, always restores in a different way and always a better way.[00:16:00]

Julie Lefebure: Hmm.

Kelly Blackwell: Always a better way.

Julie Lefebure: That's a word right there. I think one of us, some of us need to hear that today. Yeah. Thank you for that.

Kelly Blackwell: Mm-hmm.

Julie Lefebure: So, you know, as you were trusting God and as you are, um, you know, you've been there eight years, how, I know you've read the book, Right Now Matters, my book. So how are you living, how are you tangibly living as a right now woman today in, in just, just in your everyday life?

How are you doing that?

Kelly Blackwell: I'm a noticer now. I'm more of a noticer because I wasn't, you know. I was not.

Yeah.

I did not take the time. Um, I was like so busy thinking 10 steps ahead. And, and of course what was right in front of me that I never hardly saw what was in front of me. And, and I really got a chance like in reading that to just know I need to like stop, you know. Especially when I feel like the tensions mounting. [00:17:00] Stop and take that time to not just even the drive to work. Like that's always been my prayer time anyway, my drive to work. But I pray, drive to work, park and then run into the building. But now I'll stop. And I go two days a week at like five in the morning and I'll get to see like the sunrise. Well, not now that the time changed. But when I get to see the sunrise and stuff, like I stop now and I look and I appreciate. And I know I could take a picture of it too, but the picture's never going to do it justice. You know, so I just like, look, and I really try to see God in that moment. I try to see what other people are doing when I'm at a restaurant or by myself having a coffee like watch what other people are doing and saying. Which is something I did at one point, but then I lost. So right now, like, that's what really got me is like, you know all the things that I was like missing, not [00:18:00] allowing myself to miss anymore. So being that noticer. Really like giving that time and asking God to show me

Himself in however He wants every day. Because it could be in nature. It could be in the stillness. But God can also show up in the busyness. You know, he's not a God who like in and out of our lives. He's

Julie Lefebure: Right.

Kelly Blackwell: always in our life, you know. He's not like when you stop, I will be there. No, He's there. So like even in the busyness, I can see Him, I can find Him because He's already there. So I got really more cognizant of that and that just breathing, taking that in and taking that time and being a noticer. Like, like, like how Jesus was a noticer. How Jesus took time. And, and I always took time for like, I don't want to say for the weirdos. But it's [00:19:00] like Jesus took time for who everybody thought was the weirdos or the inconvenient or the outcasts and the... He always took time for them. Tree climbers. And, and

Julie Lefebure: Yeah.

Kelly Blackwell: I always like have felt like a affinity towards people like that. Because I was kind of like the outcast kid. I was the 1st kid in my school to have divorced parents and I went to a Catholic school. So that was kind of a big deal. I was, uh, you know, didn't have a lot of money. I had my mom would buy long skirts for me so she could hem them and keep letting the hems down you know. That kind of thing. So I'm really drawn to that. And I think if you're gonna like minister to people of every every walk, but if you're gonna minister somebody who's felt like an outcast then you really gotta stop and you really gotta look because they're the ones who are gonna back in to the quiet darker spot so you can't see them necessarily but they do want to be seen.

Julie Lefebure: Yeah.

Kelly Blackwell: Yeah, so [00:20:00]

Julie Lefebure: Yeah. Absolutely.

Kelly Blackwell: I got a lot out of it. But yeah, be that noticer.

Julie Lefebure: That is great. Wow. Yeah. And that is definitely a right now woman noticing what's right in front of her, you know. Not missing out on life anymore and embracing what God has for you right now. Yeah. I'm so glad you shared that.

Kelly Blackwell: Thank you. It takes you so much better into tomorrow if you do that noticing today, for sure.

Julie Lefebure: Yeah. You're absolutely right. Yeah. Well, um, is there any encouragement on your heart today that you would love to share with someone listening today? Anything that's, that's on your heart that you just think, I just sometimes it's what we need too, um. But anything that any encouragement that you could offer today.

Kelly Blackwell: Well, the thing that I always seem to need is just that just that reminder, you don't have to do this all by yourself. You don't have to be the [00:21:00] strong one all the time. You don't have to make everything okay. Um, in fact, when things aren't okay, so much growth happens. So, so much growth happens in that harder spot. And then you can see it from the other side later, but, sometimes it's laaater.

But, you don't have to do it all on your own. Whether you're asking people who are around you for some help. Again, I was a single mom. So even now I have those places where I feel like I should be doing this myself. Um, don't, you know. Talk to other people, speak to other people, and by all means go to God. Go to God with your need. Go to God , you know, when you're upset, when you're cranky at Him, when things are unfair, go to Him every single time. And don't feel bad even for going to Him with your complaints [00:22:00] because He's the boss. He's the one that you're working for, you know, in the long run. So who's the one who can do things for you? Your friend? They can definitely be someone who can listen to you. Your co worker? Sure, they can listen to you. But there's a point where you get into a spot where all it is is back and forth of complaining and agreeing how bad something is.

But God's the solver of the problem. He's the one who can hear you, really hear you. And He's the one who knows why this is happening. He's the one who knows how this is going to impact your heart. He's the one who can, you can say, God, please show me what I'm supposed to be learning so, I don't go and knock at this door anymore. Because you know how you find yourself sometimes, why am I in this mess again?

Yeah.

So if you ask God that and He's so faithful to listen, to answer to solve the problems. He is the solver of the biggest problem of this world. He sent our Savior Jesus.

Julie Lefebure: Yeah.[00:23:00]

Kelly Blackwell: to save us. There is nothing He can't listen and hear and solve. Um, so just go, go to Him. Um, I think that's the most important thing.

Julie Lefebure: Mm hmm.

Kelly Blackwell: And yeah, and I'd say, yeah, when it comes to work, because I know a lot of people right now who are really having a hard time with work, um,

Julie Lefebure: Mm hmm.

Kelly Blackwell: you know. Bring it, bring it to God. He's sometimes the only 1. Sometimes you really are in a place where it's only got to be God and that's the best place to be. Because He's really the only. He's the one and only.

Julie Lefebure: Mm hmm. Yeah. You know, and as today, this, this airs on, um, uh, the end of the year on December 31st. So, what, what piece of advice or encouragement would you have for someone maybe who didn't have a great year and is looking forward to a new year. Or who maybe had a great year and you know, anything, anything in that realm, what, I guess this [00:24:00] is a two part question.

Any piece of advice or encouragement you would have for someone beginning the new, all of us as we're beginning the new year and is there anything specific that you do to prepare yourself for a new year? Because that might be really some, um, some helpful, helpful encouragement and advice for someone that doesn't really know what to do. Maybe they're stuck in a spot that not sure what to do here. So, yeah, I'm turning over to you. I'm talking too much. I want to hear from you.

Kelly Blackwell: Well, um, one thing that I started doing this year, I've done the word of the year and I love picking a word. Um, I think, I think it's really great if you can focus on a word. Don't have one right now

Yeah.

to give for the year ahead. I'm still praying on it. But for, for me right now, um, I get a planner, know, I get it from like, you know, Walmart, whatever. But the kind that has the [00:25:00] month and every day. It's,

Julie Lefebure: Okay.

Kelly Blackwell: Maybe 4 lines. And every day I, you know, I used to be like, oh, you should do this in a journal or whatever. But sometimes you just don't have time to journal. But I do have time to write something in that planner that was great for that day. So I've been really very, um, intentional with every day I write down a quote, something I heard that impressed my heart, something I saw that impressed me, something I'm thankful to God for, and I make sure that there's one of those things in every day. And, um, I always pick a Bible verse for the Sunday. So there's a Bible verse for the Sunday that's, you know, going to be my verse. But then I have those, you know, what have I heard? What have I seen? What am I thankful for? And it all changes every day. And the neat thing is it's something that I can look back at. , And the other thing that I started doing about six months [00:26:00] into this year is when things come up that are kind of weird physically,

Julie Lefebure: yeah.

Kelly Blackwell: I write it down. Anything that, you know, oh, like, like my shoulders injured right now. Um, but I'll write down if something feels a little funny. And that might seem kind of weird, but then when I go see my doctor, I actually can say all of the things that are happening um, because I have it. Because so many times we forget.

Julie Lefebure: yeah,

Kelly Blackwell: You know, so it's too late. So I know this is very like, you know, not like mad scripturally or biblical. But

Julie Lefebure: That's okay.

Kelly Blackwell: It really helps. And it, it reminds me of even of your book again. Because I was just thinking about writing down things I notice. I think you mentioned something like that in the book.

Julie Lefebure: Mm hmm.

Kelly Blackwell: It's been a while since I've read it.

Julie Lefebure: Mm hmm. Yeah. It's fun. Yeah, I do. You're right.

Kelly Blackwell: So, yeah, and what's easier than getting a \$9 planner and doing this, you know. You can get a small one and keep it with you. Because you've got a lot of [00:27:00] great things that are going to happen in the year and there's going to be days you're not going to believe that.

But if you start going back you're going to see all these things. And I think that's one of the important things is, um, remembering the good thoughts God has for you kind of thing. Well, remember the good things He's given you and the good, good word you've heard from someone else. Um, the sweet moment you saw with a family. I'll never forget the reason that I buy creamy tomato soup is a moment I noticed. Okay, this is going to sound so lame, but

Julie Lefebure: Oh, no, it's not.

Kelly Blackwell: I was at a Trader Joe's doing my shopping. It was a brand new Trader Joe's. I'd never been in one and I'm shopping and just watching people and picking up a couple items. And this little boy, probably four. So picture your grandson.

Julie Lefebure: Uh huh.

Kelly Blackwell: Dimples for days. Yeah. Cutest little thing. And he comes running up to his mom with a box of tomato soup. [00:28:00] And he's jumping and he's like, mom, can we please have this tomato soup? Can we please have this soup? Can we please get it? And she's like, sure, sure. And she gets it. And he starts dancing all around. He's so excited. And I'm like, dude, I'm buying this tomato soup. So I've never forgotten it. And I always buy the soup now.

Julie Lefebure: I love it. I love it.

Kelly Blackwell: But yeah, you know, you never know what God's going to show you that's going to be kind of fun or a memory you're gonna grab.

Yeah.

You know, just seeing a child delight in a soup. I don't know. I thought it was pretty cool, especially tomato. I mean, when I was a kid, I would have been like.

Julie Lefebure: Yep.

Kelly Blackwell: That's why they make grilled cheese, right?

Julie Lefebure: That's right. Oh, yeah. Mm hmm.

Kelly Blackwell: I tell yeah, that would be it.

Julie Lefebure: I love it. I love it. Yeah. And we can carry that with us, you know, through the whole year of just, yeah, not only writing those things down, but being a noticer. We got to become a noticer first. And even noticing what's, what is going on in our [00:29:00] bodies. You know, what is happening? What, what are the things that we can just be aware of and, and then we see God's faithfulness. We can look back and see wow God was so faithful. Think of what that would be like at the end of the next year. You know, we look at, we look back, yeah,

Kelly Blackwell: Yeah, we have a prayer jar that, you know, it's kind of neat at the end of the year, we open it up and look at the prayers to see what's been answered and what hasn't. And it's always been amazing because like, even when we first moved here, we didn't have a place to live. We lived in a basement of my friend's house for a week. Because then they had to move because their house got sold. And then we lived in a KOA camp. Oh my word, how God came through. We had a house that we rented with a propane leak that almost blew up one night. Yeah. It's just, Oh girl. Yeah.

Julie Lefebure: You got stories.

Kelly Blackwell: Thank God for radio. But yeah. Yeah there's, there's a lot. This is going to be a great year. I [00:30:00] know it because God's in it.

Julie Lefebure: Yeah. Absolutely. Yeah.

Well I love to ask this question um, what's one question that hasn't been asked of you regarding what God has done in your life, but you would love to answer? Do you have anything?

Kelly Blackwell: God has shown me that I'm an overthinker

Julie Lefebure: Hmm.

Kelly Blackwell: recently and in a beautiful way. Um, I, I was trying to figure out, I, we had a really, really lovely, um, Christmas party already with my, um, team. And the, the waitress was taking away our plates and she wouldn't take my plate. She wouldn't take my plate and she wouldn't take my plate. And I was like, what's going on? And I remember earlier, like, we had gotten soda from

her and I gave her \$5 and she's like, oh no, the soda's free. And I was like, well, I used to be a bartender so I [00:31:00] just feel like I should tip someone. Is that okay? And she's like, oh yeah, that's fine. So that, so anyway, she never took, she wouldn't take my plate. Finally, I actually got up with it to go set it somewhere, you know, just out of the way, because they were trying to do stuff. And then all of a sudden she's standing there and I gave it to her. And I overthought that for days. Like, was she mad at me because I gave her a tip and she didn't want me to give her a tip?

What, you know, like all these things. Instead of you know what, sometimes somebody just doesn't take your plate.

Julie Lefebure: Yeah.

Kelly Blackwell: God was just like, stop overthinking. Because immediately when we overthink, aren't we always , our worst enemy?

Like hmm. we never overthink ourselves into a good place mentally.

Julie Lefebure: No, you're right.

Kelly Blackwell: So that's what God just recently did for me. Stop overthinking. Sometimes they just forget your plate.

Julie Lefebure: Aw that's good.

Kelly Blackwell: Yes. He's so cute. I love God. Cause he does these things. You know, when it's not your voice.[00:32:00]

Julie Lefebure: you're right. Yes. Oh yeah, you're so right. I love that. Sometimes people just don't take your plate. I love that. People do. Yeah, right. Oh, thank you. So good.

Kelly Blackwell: Thank you.

Julie Lefebure: Yeah. Thank you for sharing that.

Kelly Blackwell: For sure.

Julie Lefebure: I hate to wrap up our time. My goodness. I could just talk to you for hours and someday we just need to maybe just get on, on I, some video call and talk.

Yes. Yes.

Kelly Blackwell: I want to go visit Iowa.

Julie Lefebure: I would love that. Yes, I would love that. But before we do that, I would love to do this, called This or That. It's just four questions, four basically little things that you choose between one or the other, which better suits you. Um, and so the first one is, uh, would you rather have dinner with friends or a night alone?

Kelly Blackwell: Oh, that depends.

Julie Lefebure: Mm hmm. Mm hmm.

Kelly Blackwell: I really am leaning towards the night alone because I, I, oh, I love [00:33:00] just, I don't get a lot of alone time and I love that. But my best friend's in Arizona and if I could have dinner with her and her husband, um, cause they just got married about a year ago. Yeah, I would choose that.

Julie Lefebure: Yeah.

Kelly Blackwell: Yeah, because I miss her tremendously. So, she's the one I would text while I was crying. Like,

Julie Lefebure: Oh,

Kelly Blackwell: She's just the best. So if I could have I would, if it was dinner with Monica, I'd be all about dinner with friends. Otherwise, give me a book and some, some quiet time and I would be fine.

Julie Lefebure: Hmm. Yeah. Yeah. That's nice. How about mountain or beach?

Kelly Blackwell: Beach.

Julie Lefebure: Hmm.

Kelly Blackwell: All day. I'm a California girl. Um, yeah. And then in my 16, I moved to Rhode Island. But again, beaches. Um, I, I tell people, you know, I've been working my way back.

Julie Lefebure: Oh, there you go.

Kelly Blackwell: California, Arizona, Michigan, we still got [00:34:00] beaches here. We got beautiful lakes, so it's pretty close.

Julie Lefebure: Yeah, you do.

Kelly Blackwell: Yeah. Huge ones,

Yeah.

They look like the ocean. It's crazy.

Julie Lefebure: Yeah. It's beautiful up there. Mm hmm.

Kelly Blackwell: So give me the beach.

Julie Lefebure: Good. How about early riser or night owl?

Kelly Blackwell: You made me snort.

Julie Lefebure: Love it. I love it.

Kelly Blackwell: I am definitely a night owl,

Julie Lefebure: Are you?

Kelly Blackwell: But I'm purposeful because two days a week I get up extra early to be at work for, um, you know, five, six o'clock in the morning, um, because then I can stuff done and I can leave at 2 when my show's done. So I, love feeling like I have more day. So I will get up early to give myself more day. But oh man, I love being up at night. I am a night girl all day. And God bless my son. He's just like me, poor Oh kid.

Julie Lefebure: Oh, wow. [00:35:00] Mm hmm. Mm hmm. That's great. And Sweet or Savory?

Kelly Blackwell: Savory, definitely savory. Yeah. I remember beef jerky was like my number one thing. made me feel like a cowgirl. Yeah, savory.

Julie Lefebure: That's great. Uh, this has been so fun, Kelly. So if someone wanted to get in touch with you or reach you somewhere, what's the best way to do that? And I'll plug in the, in the show notes, the, the Promise FM's, um, website. But yeah, how about you personally? Is there a place that someone could, could find you and follow you or,

Kelly Blackwell: Well, my goal this year is to get back into my blog. I have been terrible with it. Um, so, but kellyblackwell. com still exists.

Yay.

So that's one thing. And then, um, Instagram, I'm kelly, and then underscore Blackwell, um, on [00:36:00] Instagram.

Julie Lefebure: Yeah.

Kelly Blackwell: Go to X, it's Kelly Blackwell. Because I was on Twitter when it first started, so I have like my real name all smooshed together, but

Julie Lefebure: Yeah.

Kelly Blackwell: I would love if anyone, um, wanted to listen in. If you want to call in, we have a toll free number. I'm happy to pray with you.

Julie Lefebure: Oh, that's great.

Kelly Blackwell: That's probably my biggest passion is getting a chance to pray with others.

Julie Lefebure: And you're so good at that. Yeah. Yeah. Well, thank you, Kelly, for being here today, sharing your hope and encouragement with us. And I'm just so grateful for you, your friendship and yeah, for coming on the show today. Thank you.

Kelly Blackwell: Oh, Julie, thank you so much for having me. I am so grateful for you and for everything you do. You have been such an encouragement for me so many times. Like between your book, the things you've written, your

emails, your podcast, [00:37:00] so long. I am just so grateful that God has placed you where He has. And like I said, it's not just me.

I know you've had a lot of listeners and a lot of readers and my listeners have gotten a lot of good love of God from you too. So thanks for that.

Julie Lefebure: Oh, thank you. All right. Till next time, Kelly. Thank you.

Kelly Blackwell: Thank you, dear.

Julie Lefebure: Before we close out this episode, are you ready to begin a brand new year? I cannot even believe how fast this year has gone. But I invite you to start it with purpose and a heart ready to follow God's calling.

If you live local to me, I invite you to join us for Coffee and Calling. It's a special gathering where we as women come together over a warm cup of coffee or tea or some sort of sweet drink to reflect, connect, and prayerfully choose a guiding word for 2025. It's happening this Saturday, January 4th in Cedar [00:38:00] Rapids, Iowa. Whether you are stepping into the year with excitement or uncertainty, this event is designed to help you find clarity, courage, and spiritual direction as you embrace God's calling for your life. Tickets are \$15 and you'll find the link in the show notes. ,

To officially close out this episode and 2024, allow me to share with you how much you mean to me. I am so grateful for you. I pray God has used this little corner of the podcast world to encourage your heart and to add a lift to your step this year. And I look forward to journeying with you through 2025. As always, I thank you for tuning in and God bless you.

Thank you so much for joining me here today. You can find more at JulieLefebure.com and until next time, stay encouraged.