

Dive Deep Interview with Rob and Joanne Tiegen

www.NoMorePerfectDateNight.com

[music]

Jill Savage: Well, this is Mark and Jill Savage, and we are super excited to have joining us today, Rob and Joanna Tiegen. And Rob and Joanna are coming to us from Michigan. Welcome to No More Perfect Date Night, Rob and Joanna.

Mark Savage: Hi, guys.

Rob Tiegen: Thank you. Thanks for having us.

JS: Absolutely! Well, we'd love to hear just a little bit about you guys. Can you share a little bit about your family, what do you do? I know you've written some great books, we're gonna dig into those in a minute, but tell us a little bit about yourself.

RT: Yeah, we'd love to. So, we just celebrated, in the end of March, 28 years of marriage. So that was a good, good milestone. We've got five kids from the ages of 9 to 26. Our oldest is married. And then we've got three daughters and then an adopted son on the... And that's 9. So, yeah.

Joannan Tiegen: Yeah. We were noticing not that long ago, we had a preschooler and a grade-schooler and everything in-between, so it's been fun to have these ages and stages overlapping.

JS: Yeah.

RT: Never a dull moment.

JS: We did. We had that at one time. I said I was potty training and driver's training at the same time.

[laughter]

JT: Yes.

RT: Yeah, that's what it feels like, for sure. Yeah.

MS: Yeah, it's so true.

JS: And at one point, we had one in, let's see, it was grade school, one in junior high, one in high school, and one in college, and it was like, "Oh, my goodness," it was just nuts.

RT: Yeah, yeah.

JT: Right.

JS: But it's all good.

RT: I miss all that excitement.

JS: Yeah, yeah.

RT: It is exciting. Yeah, just packaged different.

JS: Yes, exactly. And I think I read that you guys are actually... You started out as foster parents. Are you still foster parents?

JT: Yeah.

RT: Yeah, that's correct. Mason, we got him when he was 2 months old, and we were fostering as a family. And we had gotten into fostering with the intention that we were gonna keep fostering. We didn't know we were gonna adopt, but two and a half years later, he was still with us and he was definitely part of our heart, and we were praying hard, we didn't know what we would do if God would've had him move on at that point. And so it was a very long journey, a hard journey up and down. We didn't know to that point if we were gonna keep him or not. And then it was another year until the adoption was finalized. So even though he was with us at 2 months, his adoption wasn't finalized till he was about 3-1/2.

JT: Right. And our kids were right in the mix. They were just as passionate about foster care as we were. But it was very interesting to me after we had several babies and gone through that journey with Mason, that even our college-aged son was like, "Mom, I think you guys need to stop, 'cause I don't wanna say goodbye to any more babies." And I didn't realize even away at school, he was bonding to these little ones so much. But that was a really powerful season, but we did end up closing our foster license.

MS: Mm-hmm.

JS: Okay, gotcha.

MS: Wow. Yeah.

JS: Wow. Well, we're actually foster grandparents.

RT: Oh, wow, that's great.

JT: [03:28] ____.

JS: Yeah, our youngest son is 23 and his wife, they... Actually, they're now pregnant with their first, but they've been fostering before they ever had any of their own children. They have a 1-1/2... Well,

actually, this month they're turning 2 and 3.

MS: Yeah.

JT: Oh.

RT: That's so great.

JS: Yeah. And our hearts are already... They've won our hearts, so it's gonna...

RT: Oh, for sure.

JT: They do, don't they, in about half a minute? It's amazing to me how tightly and how quickly you can bond to these little ones, they're so dear.

JS: I know.

MS: Well, and just how they've changed, and it's not even been a year. Well, I...

JS: Yeah, they're in foster care because of neglect, and man, they have just blossomed in nine months.

MS: Yeah. Yeah.

RT: That's phenomenal. Yeah, I used to say marriage was kind of a school of prayer, and then having kids was a school of prayer.

[laughter]

RT: But then fostering and adoption was a whole another. So it just keeps compounding, so yeah.

JT: And you know what I think that did though, I think it really did change the culture of our family, even after we closed our foster license, because when you get in a mentality that your home is open and your door is open to whoever God's gonna bring through it, that lasted. It's been amazing. So, we were able to get involved in a really neat ministry at our church that serves international college students. And over the last five years, some of these young people have become our kids too. Actually, one of our students from the Middle East is living with us for most of the summer, and she truly is our other daughter. So, I really, I'm grateful that God had more in mind even through foster care than we understood when we started.

JS: Oh, I love that, that your home is open to others. We've done the same thing. We just had a young lady from Canada that lived with us for almost a year. And then we've had them from Korea and China, and two of them... Well, one has asked you to do their marriage, their wedding.

MS: Right.

RT: Oh, that's great.

JS: So, that's been really neat. Yeah, I love that. Well, let's talk for a moment, because you dovetailed there into, you said that marriage was a prayer of school, parenting, you guys really have a passion for prayer because some of your books are, I think, isn't it "100 Prayers for My Daughter", or it's "Prayers for My Daughter, Prayers for My Son"? Maybe I'm thinking...

JT: Yeah, we have two sets of prayer books. We have shorter packet-sized ones you can grab and go, and then we have our full "Powerful Prayers For Your Son and Powerful Prayers For Your Daughter" that are... They dig in a lot deeper to pretty specific needs that our kids have as they're growing up.

JS: Yeah, so talk about prayer as it relates to marriage, and talk about that journey for you guys, what really prompted that in your marriage?

RT: Yeah, well, it's interesting, because we met at Bible college, so you would think we would have that figured out, but it was a journey through our early marriage years to figure out how to be vulnerable in prayer together, be intentional about prayer together. So that was a journey in and of itself. And really, when I think, God broke the dam with that, I guess, was when we did fostering and adoption because we... For the first time in our life, I think, we were really at a place where we couldn't fake that we had any control over the situation, over his life, over our future with him and everything. And so I think we both grew up in Christian homes, and we had this feeling when we went into marriage that our job was to create a perfect marriage; that's why I love your book, "No More Perfect Mom" and "Perfect Marriage" because being in a Christian home, that's what we thought. Even though we saw our parents do it imperfectly, we still love them, we had this idea that we could change that and we're gonna have a perfect Christian marriage. So we set out on that, and of course, that failed pretty quickly.

[laughter]

MS: Yeah, yeah.

RT: But yeah, so that when we got to that point, it really released us from that burden of feeling like we had to raise perfect kids. Because we really just... For the first time, we prayed differently for our marriage, we prayed differently for our own kids and their struggles, prayer really is a release. And we saw things unlock and answered prayers in ways we never had, because we weren't playing prayer anymore. You know what I mean? It became real when we were in that situation. That was a gift... In addition to our son, that was a gift that God gave us through that journey.

JT: Right. Right. And I think part of why he allowed the process of making him our own to last as long as it did was, we learned, I think, to be persistent, and that was something we never really had to learn in quite the same way before either. So it wasn't even releasing control, it was releasing control today, and tomorrow, and in six months, [chuckle] and six months later, and just this ongoing process of surrender. And so that built a habit that I don't think could have been built if it had been a shorter road.

RT: Yeah. Yeah.

JS: Gotcha. You said you learned to pray differently. Define that. Can you dig into that just a little bit more? How would a couple pray differently? Well, let's back up first. A lot of couples don't even

know how to start to pray.

MS: And they want to, but they're... Right.

JS: And they want to, but then... So would you have any wisdom for that? But then also, what made the difference when you turned a corner and prayer became something so much deeper?

JT: Right.

RT: Do you wanna answer that or... I mean, I would say initially, when she referred to persistence, but intentionality too, I think we did get busy, we had a big family, and it's just, how do you juggle all of it? And I think there is... There's just an intimacy side of prayer that even in the best marriages, when you come together that way, it's different. So prayer really is a journey. It's like our faith journey. And so we started being intentional about praying together. So it was a matter of actually setting time, just like you do with date nights and things like that where you actually set that time aside and pray together. So we were just much more consistent. And I think we approached God differently, more expectantly, because of what we saw him do in that persistent prayer.

JT: Mm-hmm.

JS: You guys had a house full of kids. When were you praying?

RT: At our church, we have a prayer garden, which has been really great for us, it helped us set a foundation. So we go there. We set the time aside to go there, sometimes it's over at lunch hour or in the evening. But we go there at least once a week, and then we try to do the morning thing or the evening thing as we can. But just that intentionality is setting it out. I think we, like you do, you bite off more than you can chew, and then you realize, "Okay, let's start this and try to build in a habit." And so if you can pray together once a week even intentionally, and then build from there. So it's been a journey. He's 9, so it's been in fact long of a journey.

MS: Mm-hmm.

JT: And I think too, there were plenty of days in there where we just really weren't okay. And so my own individual prayer life was growing pretty dramatically, I was praying Scripture daily for probably the first time. Our pastor had challenged us to find our psalm, and God gave me a psalm in that season, and I was literally praying that psalm every day, just trying to make it. And I think as a marriage, you see each other stressed or hurting or feeling so out of control and getting beyond yourself, and you have so much empathy for each other, but you can't fix it for each other. And so I think we did a lot more spontaneous praying too when like, "I wanna carry your emotions with you, but this is the only way that I can." So there was a lot more prayer before we'd go to sleep or before we'd come downstairs in the morning, just coping. [chuckle]

RT: Yeah.

MS: Mm-hmm.

RT: And I think I discovered as a parent first, but then I see how it applies to our marriage too, that

we oftentimes try to have control of the situation. And when I rely on my own power, I guess, I usually step into things when I need to stay quiet and let God do the work. And then I usually stay out of things when God says, "No, you need to step in and serve your wife here, or you need to confront your child here." So in my own wisdom, I'm always getting it wrong. And so, the posture of prayer just allowed us to slow down and hear God's voice and be okay sometimes waiting and sometimes leaning into it.

JS: Mm-hmm.

MS: Mm-hmm.

JS: Right, right.

MS: Yeah. And just even from... We've just answered so many questions over the years of people not knowing how to even begin praying together. I know for Mark and I, we do what we call popcorn prayer, where he might say two or three sentences, and then I might say a sentence or two. And sometimes then we're just quiet. And when we're quiet, we've determined we're not gonna be uncomfortable with that quiet.

MS: Right, that's right.

JS: We're gonna just let God speak to us in that quiet. We're just gonna... Until he prompts the next thing that we need to be lifting up, we're gonna sit in that. I think a lot of times, the only pattern for prayer that people have is a pastor praying at church on Sunday. They don't know what that looks like.

JT: Right.

MS: In an everyday life.

JS: In an... Right.

MS: Yeah.

RT: Yeah, that's so wise. I mean, just being comfortable with the process. Joanna and I are working on launching a podcast and the one we're gonna record actually this afternoon is, Praying as a Couple. And I, as an analogy in my mind, I'm like, "You know, I think learning to pray as a couple is a lot like trying to start a podcast. [chuckle] We don't know what we're doing, we don't know all the ins and out and the technical, and we literally are learning as we go and it's awkward and we're starting again. " But to remember that the Holy Spirit is with us in the process, and just when we're new believers and we're excited and we're learning all these things, you can bring that same aspect into it. So another thing that we did and do, it's become an exciting pattern of our prayer life together was, we started praying the Psalms, like she said, and that was just a nice way to just open the Psalm and pour our hearts out together. We would each take a verse and go back and forth, and then pray through that. And then if any of those things related to something one of our kids was going through or something in our marriage, then we'd just address that to God too. And that was a nice way to help teach us how to do it too.

MS: Yeah.

JS: Yeah, because the Psalms are just lots of prayers. It's lament, prayers of lament a lot of us have. [chuckle]

MS: Yeah, a lot...

JT: Oh, I'm sorry.

RT: Yeah, go ahead.

JT: Yeah, I think an area that our prayer life together has matured over years too is, at first, here, yes, we were in crisis and that was the tool that God used to teach us a lot about prayer, but the feeling of the prayer was, "Lord, I need you to meet my need," which was true, which was true, but of course He wants us to approach Him for many other things besides just Him coming to us as our helper and our provider. And so I can see now we have prayers of confession with each other, where in each other's hearing, we confess how we have failed to show respect or failed to love or failed to be full of grace toward each other. And so as we confess that in prayer side by side, it's super healing for our relationship for sure.

JS: Wow, yeah, that is definitely powerful. And that takes intimacy, "in-to-me-see", [laughter] to a whole different level, doesn't it?

MS: Yeah.

RT: It does. Yeah, in a little of the research I was doing for the podcast, there was a Gallup poll that showed that couples that prayed together on a regular basis, less than 1% actually end up in divorce.

JS: Whoa!

RT: Yeah, I was surprised at that, too. But if you have an opportunity to have something that'll strengthen your marriage that much, it's worth the... All the things that we do with trying to learn to communicate and things like that, if there's something like that that shows how it bonds you together, it's worth like anything else leaning into it and letting God help you do it.

MS: Oh, absolutely, yeah.

JS: Wow, that's a powerful statistic.

MS: Right.

JT: Yeah, in our marriage mentoring, it's been fascinating with each couple that we have spent time with, how when you meet, there tends to be some area of life where they each want their own way, and it becomes such a painful point of conflict. And again, prayer seems to be the medicine for that when you go to God with this point of conflict instead of saying, "Lord, give me my way," you have two people coming together and saying, "Lord, tell us what's your way," and it's incredibly unifying, and we've watched the Lord do this in front of us repeatedly. That's one of my favorite parts of marriage mentoring. It turns the "me versus you" into that submission, "Lord, just tell us and we'll

both go with you."

MS: Yeah.

RT: And one of my favorite verses is in James chapter 4, where it talks, "Why is there quarreling and fighting among you? Is it not because you desire and you can't have?" And so then it says, "Pray to God but you have not because you pray with the wrong motive." And I think oftentimes we come to situations where we don't know what to do and we say we want God's will but a lot of times the conflict comes 'cause I want my will. But when I pray separately, it's easy to throw in a little prayer now and then and say, "You know God, change Joanna's heart. She doesn't see how important this is." But when we pray together there is more of a submission to God with our things together and God says, "You have not because you don't ask and you don't receive 'cause you ask with the wrong motive." And when we come together in prayer, we can really lay all of our burdens together down before God and hear him in a different way I think even than when we're praying for each other alone or for situations alone.

JS: Yeah.

MS: Wow.

JS: Very powerful.

MS: Yeah, that makes a lot of sense, really. It provides a mutual accountability just by the nature of it.

JT: Yeah, you're right.

MS: No, that's cool.

JS: Yeah. And I think, I don't know, I think accountability has a negative connotation for people, but it's a mutual vulnerability.

MS: Yeah.

RT: Yeah. Yeah. That's a good way of saying it.

JS: Yeah. And I think most of us long to be more connected to our spouse but we don't realize how much we hold the key to that based upon our own willingness to be more vulnerable.

MS: Yeah.

RT: For sure.

JS: More humble, more surrendered, all of that. We really hold the key to that.

MS: Yeah.

RT: Yeah, and I don't wanna generalize but I think that's even more so oftentimes, the longing of a

wife's heart because there is more of a relational sense there of connection. And so, sometimes I think that's a great place to start for a husband maybe who struggles to share feelings or things like that, to come together or in either case, it's a great way to start breaking down those walls and being more vulnerable and allowing your spouse to see you in that vulnerability. So it builds in so many foundational things into our lives.

JT: Yeah, it's a pretty huge trust builder for me with Rob. If I know, by hearing him pray, that he is committed to following the Lord and putting our family in God's hands, I would follow this guy to the ends of the earth, 'cause he's not just pulling out some plan out of his head, you know what I mean? So I feel like it gives me a lot of confidence.

RT: Yeah. And we've had that so many times where we react to each other. There's a situation. Probably the most recent is, I wanted to look into rental property, we've been praying about that for a long time, and we had different feelings about it. I wanted to look into it and take the risk, and she didn't. And so whenever we would come to that talk, part of the reason it took so long, I don't think it was because God wasn't hearing our prayer was because we either didn't wanna address it or it brought tension. So when you come together with those different situations of conflict, we all have different feelings and emotions, it could be fear, it could be fear on this end of being dragged into something, it could be fear on this end of not getting something. And so ultimately, like that verse in James, it's like laying those quarrels and fighting aside and coming together and saying, "We really do want what God wants in these situations whatever they might be."

MS: Yeah. Yeah. That makes sense.

JS: Beautiful. So you guys, your ministry is called Growing Home Together, correct?

RT: Yes.

JS: So what has been the impetus behind that? What caused you to launch that ministry? And obviously you minister to marriages, as well as parents, and just anything that has to do with home. What was the journey there?

RT: Yeah, so we... God has never taken us in a straight line.

JS: Has he for any of us?

[laughter]

RT: No, I don't think so, but we met at Bible college and she thought she was gonna get somebody going into ministry, and then I ended up going into, which sorta was a ministry, but Christian publishing as a sales and marketing professional for 20 years, which is how Jill, I think I worked for some of your publishers, so that was how we initially got connected. So I did that for 20 plus years, and then back in 2010, in addition to working for a publisher, we started publishing, and that took on a life of its own. We didn't anticipate that. We wrote from our hearts and what was important to us. Family was really important to us, so we started with a... Well, I wrote a kids' book in 2010, and then we started writing together in 2012, and it was, 88 Great Daddy-Daughter Dates, was our first book.

JS: Yeah. That one's on our shelf.

MS: Yeah, I led my daughters through most of that. Yeah.

JT: Aww, that's so fun.

RT: Oh, awesome. Yeah, and that just came out of my heart. I traveled a lot with my job, and I just wanted to connect with my kids, so I started doing those dad-daughter dates at a young age with each of my three girls individually, and so we just thought that would be a great resource. And that just led to more and more family products, to a point where we were really praying, "God, we have to make a decision here, 'cause we're out of balance." We were doing so many projects on the side and really, it ended up being a prayer of stewardship, where we just felt like we're ministering to families through the books and trying to encourage families, walk alongside them, but we don't have any way of connecting with them. If they really want us to pray for them, if they really need us to get in the trenches with them, in the struggles and challenges, same ones we've had, they don't have any way of getting a hold of us. So we felt we need to kinda... We did things backwards. We started with the books and now we're trying to let people know, "Hey, we're here if we can pray for you or help you, let us know."

[chuckle]

JS: That's kind of been our journey too. I feel like that is exactly what it's been, so yeah, totally understand that. You guys really have quite a few products that are conversation starters and ideas, and I love that because I think that that's just the really practical side of parenting, of marriage, of relationships that a lot of times, we miss out on, or we don't know how to get started.

JT: Right.

MS: I know.

RT: Right.

JT: I know we're definitely feeling in the pandemic, like, "Okay, we're under the same roof all the time." But it is incredibly hard in this situation, especially, to feel like you're connecting in a meaningful way. All the days sort of blend together, and it takes a lot more intention. And so a little tool like a conversation card can help you create a moment when you just don't know how.

RT: Right. And we've always felt... We've never felt like experts. We feel like God's taught us as we've gone. And so our resources, even our books are very much like, "You wanna pray more for your kids? Here's some prayers. You wanna have time with your daughter? Here's not how to do it, here's just ideas. Go do it." Because that's how we've had to learn through life. And so we feel like we're just walking alongside with people and saying, "You wanna communicate more in your marriage? Here's some cards. You wanna connect with your kids? Here's some ideas." And that's how it started. And again, that how God works even when you're not sure where the future is going, we're able to build relationships and connect with gift publishers and things to get some of those other things out that we wouldn't know how to do.

JS: Yeah. No, that's great. So if you could go back and you could give wisdom to a young Rob and

Joanna, what would you tell them? What would you whisper in their ears as they are launching into marriage and family, and particularly as it relates to marriage? What do you wish young couples really knew?

JT: Oh, the first thing that comes to my mind is just God really does mean what He says, that He is going to finish the work He started in all of His people. And so if you're looking at your spouse and they're not there yet, you can become... My old nickname from Rob was Junior Holy Spirit, which wasn't super effective.

RT: Not real kind.

[laughter]

MS: Yeah.

RT: If I could go back, I would take that back.

[laughter]

RT: I lived with one of those.

[laughter]

JS: Yeah, God doesn't need our help.

JT: No, but He really does work in your spouse across your life together. And really, that's one way that God has even made me fall in love with Jesus more, is watching Him work in Rob. And so, if you can set yourself free and let God be God and do what He does best, you get to watch Him just do His great stuff right in front of you. You just have to get out of the way a little bit.

RT: Right.

JS: I love that.

RT: Yeah, and I think going back to, again, what you've written about Jill and that we find out as we've moved along, that it's okay. Part of marriage and parenting is God's work and sanctifying process. And it is a growth process. And I think, like I said earlier, it was a real... Those first years of marriage were really hard because we were looking to each other to bring complete happiness and fulfillment, and we were looking to our kids to make us feel better about the areas where we felt not sufficient and things like that. And it became this journey of struggle, rather than releasing, again, that's why prayer has become a foundation of what our ministry is about, releasing those things to God and letting God do the work in your marriage and in your life, and that takes a lot of grace. And so I think we've learned over the years to give each other a lot of grace and take the forgivenesses as real, even if we've done those offenses against each other 70 times seven times to believe that it's real. And that each time you forgive each other, it can be a building block, not something to look back and say, "Oh, they did it again," but see that you're both willing to move forward from there. So I think that's what I would say is, let God work in the process.

JS: Yeah, exactly. It makes me think of Gary Thomas' book and the subtitle, "What if marriage wasn't designed to make us happy, but to make us holy?"

MS: Yes, yeah.

JS: And we had our own crisis eight, nine years ago, and I think that was one of those moments, it still sticks out in my mind because so much of it was your journey of just being midlife crisis, angry at God.

MS: Yeah, yeah, being a mess.

JS: Walking away. And when he returned home, he'd probably been home like a month.

MS: Yeah.

JS: And he walks in the door and he says, "You know what struck me today?" And I said, "What?" And he said, "I'm happy. I'm truly happy. And I've been pursuing holiness, and I am happy." And he'd been unhappy for a lot of years. And so that was really...

JT: Promising.

MS: Yeah.

JS: That was a very powerful moment, I remember, just thinking, "Wow, I think Gary Thomas is right." [laughter]

RT: Yeah, yeah, that is so beautiful because that is our life when our faith is a life of paradoxes, isn't it? God says, "If you lay down your life, you'll gain it," all these things. And that's true in marriage, too, when we really surrender ourselves to our spouse and we are concerned about their happiness and their joy. And we can't be their only fulfillment of it, but when we lay down our own lives, God brings joy to both of us. And that strife, so much of that strife melts away. So that's beautiful.

JS: Yeah, yeah. Well, this has been so good, you guys. We've so appreciated it. We have a question we ask all of our interviewees, and that is, what is your favorite date night activity? So we'd love to know what is your favorite date night activity.

RT: Okay. Okay, you wanna start?

JT: Sure. So I don't know how you are on your dates, but you tend to, especially when your house is full of kids, use your dates to really download as much as you can of how you're doing and what's going on and what's on your mind and all that kind of stuff. And so sometimes by the end of our dinner out or whatever, you're kind of carrying a lot, and so I don't wanna over-spiritualize our dates but, we do end most dates parking somewhere and taking all this stuff that we just downloaded, and praying with each other before we go home. So we'll try to find somewhere pretty or whatever, and just give ourselves a half an hour. And I love that we can come back from our dates with all of that kind of handled and lifts the load a little bit.

JS: Well, it's kinda when you've been downloading it, it's all inside of you, and then really, you're

ending your day by handing it to the Lord. Yeah. That's beautiful.

MS: That's cool.

RT: Yeah, mine's way less spiritual than that.

[laughter]

JS: That's perfectly fine.

[laughter]

RT: It's funny because you have different seasons of life, and we used to never do movie dates because for that reason, we felt like we never get a chance to connect face to face when we had little kids running around and stuff, so we'd wanna do things where we could look each other in the eyes and talk and stuff. Well, as we've gotten older and our kids, we've been doing more movie dates. And I just find those so nice. So we'll do dinner before and maybe ice cream or dessert after, but being able to just sit together and relax, and there's a theater downtown that has the recliner seats and just enjoy a movie together, and then it does give us something to talk about in addition to those heavier things, something light and enjoyable, whether we hated it or not, and so that's something we've been doing more at this point in life and I've really been into enjoying that.

JS: Yeah. No, that's great. That's great. And I do love when we can really use movies or something that we're watching. We've been watching this little series on television.

MS: On Netflix.

JS: Netflix. It's called The Kindness Diaries, and it's been quite interesting. And I mean, I'm telling you, every time we finish one, we dissect it and talk about it. And we've really appreciated the conversation that it's launched.

RT: We've been watching Call To The Midwife with our daughters, but she's not pulled me in there yet. I don't know if she will.

JS: Oh, we watch it all the time together. Rob, you're missing it.

MS: I do. I was like, "Jill, I'll do this for you, but... "

[laughter]

RT: Wow, you're a better husband than I am.

[laughter]

JS: But now, in fact, we just were talking about last night, I said, "Hey, I think a new season came out on Call the Midwife, we gotta start watching that after we're done with Kindness Diaries."

MS: I like how they weave history into it. And then we've been able to go to London a couple of

times, so it's fascinating.

RT: Okay, alright. Alright, I'll give it a try. I'll get a dozen chocolate chip cookies and give it a try.

MS: There you go. Maybe two.

[laughter]

JS: That's great. I love it. Well, this has been a great conversation. Thank you guys so much for you joining us.

MS: Yeah. Thank you.

RT: Thank you so much.

JS: Yeah. And this is Mark and Jill Savage, along with Rob and Joanna Teigen, with a reminder that a real marriage isn't perfect, a real marriage is two people, being perfected.

MS: Two people being perfected.

JS: Thanks for joining us.

JT: Thanks.

[music]