Today on the girl to find show, Kirsten and I are about to. Reveal something that I. Don't think we've ever. Revealed before so. Way back in the day over. A decade ago, Kristen was falling in love with her amazing husband Zach, and she was like, hey, he goes to this small church out in Fredericksburg. I really want the whole family to go and just like, see his family and see the church. And I was feeling a little bit awkward, like, OK, I know some of these people that this is small church. We're gonna be such a grand entrance. Hi, we're Kristin's family. Little did I know that at that moment, over 10 years ago when I pulled up to the. Church, I would lay eyes on my future husband, but would not realize that he would be my husband for like another 8 to 9 years later y'all. It was crazy thinking back and realizing like God has such an incredible plan. He had such an incredible plan. I just had no idea what it was and when I felt so awkward walking out to that church and meeting, you know, all these people. Everyone you know excited for Kristen and her her Zach and look at them. They're so cute. And I'm like, I kind of just wanna go home, not realizing like they're my future husband is literally steps away like ohh. But we can look back on life and see what God was doing. It's amazing, but it takes surrender in the moment because we don't. Know what's happening. So it's gonna be fun. It's gonna be a fun episode, but we're also gonna talk about surrender and how even now that's something. Chris and I are both working on. Stick with us because I promise this is going to be an episode that will benefit you and help you grow. In your relationship with God so much. Well, hey, Sister Hood, it is Kristen and Bethany here and hearing that intro was making me laugh. Especially when you. Zach, you're Zach, or I know is that?

Kristen. Zach. Like.

When you're podcasting weird things come out like, where does that come from? Hi, my Zach. Yes, it is crazy to think back on this and I don't know if we've ever. So we wrote about we shared your whole story in Chapter 8, if not part of the plan in our book, which is what we're digging into today, specifically as we dive into the not part of the plan book study. Book club we have going on. Welcome. If you're joining us for that. If not, join us. Stick around, go back, listen to the previous episodes. Grab a copy of not part of the plan. Trusting God with the twists and turns of your story. And join us. It's not too late. Go to girl to find.com/book club. We're so pumped for this. But yeah, thinking back. I remember when you wrote your chapter about when you met Dave, which we're going to get into that story. And it is a. Great. One. That moment you met him and you had no idea he was your future husband. We were at the church where Zachary was going. Our family was going to a different church in San Antonio at the time. And for anyone who's like Fredericksburg, like, how do you even say that? And what is that? It's a town like, an hour away from our hometown from our hometown little hometown, San Antonio. One of the top ten biggest city.

Yeah, it's small.

Was in the country? No. So we were. I was driving out there to meet Zach, and I mean, not meet him. I already knew him meet his whole community, I guess. And so Zach and I ended up getting married, obviously. And then going to that church for a little while. OK. But you have to share, like, because people, if you don't go to a small church, you don't always understand how these things work. So announce when when they announced that you and Zach were officially in a relationship and the whole church.

OK.

OK. Number one only in a small church with somebody announced that a couple is officially dating because that's the best small churches are the best. I'm trying to even remember that moment my school, OK. It vividly sticks out in your mind. I remember some.

OK. Oh, I remember. And and I don't even.

Know I think.

What that?

You got it.

Stood up and or maybe it was his.

Dad. OK. So, like, why would I don't know. It's a small church, small country church. Yeah. And I just remember any. So anyone who gets into our relationship, it's like a big deal. Anyone who has a baby, anything that happens, it's like a big deal. The news spreads really quick. Everyone knows. And so I remember when Chris and Zach officially and they called it.

You share.

Back then cuz. It's so they I don't even know how he is. I don't know if it was Zach or I don't know who announced it. I just remember. They announced that, like you were in him, were officially in a relationship and it was funny because you were like an outsider. You. Right? I was not going to this church. I had only visited a few times, I think. Yeah. And so they it's like you and you're very tall. We're both 6/1. So it's like this huge, tall family. And this really tall blonde girl coming in from the outside. And then they make the announcement, Kristen.

And the sack are officially in a relationship.

And literally the whole church arrests and cheers.

Everybody was excited, I guess. Yeah. I don't think I would have received that so.

Of cheering welcome at any other church in the country. I don't know, maybe. So for sure not the church we were going to at the time in in San Antonio cuz it was a big church. So like, you're not announcing things like that. But I thought it was sweet and I thought the thing about it, I think looking back even now that I think was sweet about it is that people were invested in one another in such a personal way. Like the relationships were so close.

It's funny.

It wasn't just like, ohh, everybody knows everybody's business. It was like. Really cared about each other, like small town people's lives are really interconnected and so something like that. Like especially a guy like Zach, they had many of those people had watched him grow up, and so then to see him, like, bring his girl to church and like, oh, who's this girl? And then, ohh, they're officially in a relationship. Like it was a sweet moment and I did feel a very warm welcome and I am grateful we did get married. Or else that.

Would have been awkward.

Yeah, it's like, well, Christina.

Is no longer gonna be coming here.

Yes. So I didn't meet Zach there, but that was the church that Zach and I I started visiting and then ended up becoming. A member of. Yeah, married. And then shortly after that, well, I don't know. Why don't you tell about the first time you.

Met Dave.

Because that is, I think, so crazy that the first time I was going to meet all of Zacks Community at his church. Why were you also coming? Ohh just like. For support, support or whatever, I don't know.

But it was so.

Oh, I just, I remember the crazy part is these things that you remember. Like we went up there and at that time, like my grandparents had given me their old car, which is, like practically 100 years old. Not really but it. Was like the. Oldest car for. When you gotta describe it, it wait. Classic. It was a classic and most people. Are like, why did you get rid? Of it. But it was a really old like 19. It was a 1990 Volvo, which I didn't realize. There's like a whole club of people who love this specific Volvo and like, you know, I would get compliments all the time when I would drive and offers for people to buy it. Like, literally, I drove this car for 10 years.

And offers.

After like my grandparents, you know, had driven it, they bought it brand new, had driven it forever and then they gave it to me. And then I drove it for 10 years. But isn't there another piece of this? A piece of the. Car. No a piece. Of the car that's important. Like someone was born in.

The back seat or something? What? Wait. Am I making that? I think it's OK.

Ohh never mind.

On so I it was like such a classic, but I was so embarrassed to drive it, but for whatever reason I was we drove that car out to Fredericksburg. I mean, it was such an old car. I'm like, how did it even survive going out there? So I was already kind of embarrassed to be driving it.

You get me.

We nicknamed it the Volvo Crest. So it was a Volvo, but I didn't like it so much that I called it a crust like I literally. So I'd be. Like, oh, the Volvo. Crust which is sorry. Sorry Grandpa later on.

It just got.

Named the crust just was completely falling apart. It was just called the crust, but I'm I'm telling you, I was a cool kid on the block with. I'm probably mostly the older men which.

230 the 67 year.

Sounds crazy?

Old retired man who wanted to collect.

Her literally. And there are groups on Facebook like and people like. If you're you, you know, if your family has one of these cars, you know, OK. So anyways, we drive, we drive out to Fredericksburg in that car. But basically Chris. Him was going to this, you know, kind of had started to go to this church with Zach. And so we were like we we just wanna go like this and are only a year and a half part in age. We wanna go into our support sisters and like meet the. Community. We knew a few of the people. That, but we really didn't know like most of them. And so like we said, it's a really small country church. They were meeting in a barn at the time. Like, that's how right how it was. What I didn't know is that Dave, my now husband, the Beals, their entire family was going to this church as well. And Dave, he shared with me. He remembers when we all got there cuz we're like. This is how he dies us with this extremely tall family. Like almost everyone is above 6 feet. Chris and I are both 6. One and back then I was really into the phase of wearing like those modern kind of like Tutu skirts, you know, like. How they're like. Like, cool. Yeah. And they're like adult tutus. Like, they're just, you know, like, they were a thing back then. And so all date set is here. Remembers, like, this really tall family coming in. And all of these girls standing in a row with, like, these tool, like, really flowy, colored.

Kurtz he was just like wow, OK.

But thank goodness. OK, so. The crazy the crazy thing though.

Is how old was he in?

You know, and this is where I get like the. And how old were? Internet goes crazy like how my. I guess how dare she? OK, so just.

How dare you marry him? How?

How dare I?

Where are you?

Him, but for some reason it's OK for, like, every celebrity to marry someone like. 20 years younger like Ohh.

Brad Pitt. He's amazing. He can marry.

That 20. A girl 20 years younger, but it's like me.

And 20 feet shorter, a dollar.

That for.

For you, it's not.

Me. He's 5 1/2 years younger, but I'm literally like the worst person on Earth. OK anyway, so Dave, he was, I think 15 or I think he was 15 or 16. At the time, maybe 15, I don't remember if he was 16 and I was like 21. So I will confess that when we went there the first time, I don't remember seeing him. I don't remember ever meeting him. He remember seeing me and he remembers. But it wasn't like we were so far apart in age at that time as far as like seasons of life, that there was just absolutely nothing but our family. He was. You were like a woman. I was a girl. And and I. You've been so giant like a giant woman.

He was a teenager and he was a teenager.

So obviously there was nothing there and I actually had my eyes on a different guy who went to that church as well. OK, my starts. Getting way too. Yeah, yeah. Got just surrender part already. Didn't even think. About him. OK. So Long story short. I am, you know, I end up being totally single. The guy was interested in and that doesn't work out. We share so much about this in our books, but particularly not part of. The plan, trusting God with the twists and turns of your story, and may sound serious, but y'all we could put like all the goods in there. Like all of these stories, all of this fun, all of the serious, all of. The surrender. The moments. Where you're in bed like, well, God. What are you? Doing this is all in that so. Go to girldefine.com/trust or get the free PDF. Download where you can really. Study it with us at girldefine.com/bookclub. That's where you get the free download and really dig deepergirldefine.com/book club. So years go by. My family and Christian, we end up all actually going to this church in Fredericksburg and Dave's family is just like super Nice to meet. His sisters are like so kind. Just as like welcoming us into the Community. But my brother Tim, who's you know what, he's several years younger than me. Him and Dave became friends because obviously they're like the same age, you know. And I'm like the old woman, grandma, over here. And so Tim and Dave become friends. Dave's family ends up moving up north for work and stuff like that. Dave ends up coming back and settling, kind of like in the San Antonio area. And so he's kind of in the community several years go by. It's where now? He is a legal adult. OK, so now he's like, when the crowds go wild. 22 and he my brother Tim, continues to invite him around to these events, these parties, these gatherings that our family is having. And I can tell you honestly, like I just did not notice him in that way. We were just like in different worlds, doing different things. I just viewed him as someone younger. But it wasn't until I was in my I was literally 28 going on 29. At this point. That I had come to this place of just like, really surrendering my future to God, really surrendering my desire for marriage, my longing for what I thought that I wanted. I just, you know, was like, God, you are. You are good. Like I believe that now I truly believe I've been fighting this for so many years. You can read all about it and not part of the plan but I really believe that you are good and it was during that time of just surrender and really. Trusting that God had a good plan for my life and really surrendering the pen of my story to him and saying God, I want you to write the story of my life. I don't want to write this anymore. It was in that time that I started to see life in a new way and I just started to. Do I feel like I've opened my eyes in a new way to maybe the people around me that I was just overlooking and I always joke because I'm taller than Dave, so I was like, literally overlooking him. I don't know if he listens to our podcast, but he probably won't like.

That joke. Sorry, babe.

Because I'm taller than. Him too. And so things like that like I. Had to add my.

Kristen's picking up. Sorry, I'm just dying. It's too much. Keep going. We're just being, like, weirdos today. We have coffee and it's late in the afternoon. And so we are. Like squirrel. And we should probably start talking a little slower because I can barely. Hey and I know you.

On all the podcasting apps, you can slow down the speeds. You can make it half speed, so instead of messaging us saying talk slower, you've got the you control, maybe slower. Listen, OK, go and so. And so I don't even barely remember I just.

Slow down.

Remember I was overlooking so. You were talking about that point in your life for you were late 20s and you were like, Lord, I surrender. Yeah, my dreams and plans. And you talked about that in the book, but you it wasn't like an instantaneous thing. It had been years and years for you of, like, struggling, wrestling, going to the word. Playing, like crying out to God. You even went through a few really hard breakups between that time when you met Dave and when you actually married him years later. So it's like the dream and the hope. Like ohh I. This might work out. And then it all comes. For sure. Yeah. And we talked about this in previous chapters of the book study and in the book. So you'll see one recently on a break up, you'll see if you go back through the episodes, we have multiple episodes on singleness. You'll see Kristen's story. Dave and I have shared our love story on the podcast. So go back and look at the previous episode so you can get caught up. But yeah, that's where I was. I was in this place of like, really surrendering. I had struggled for so long through really hard breakups, just really like wrestling. And just. Feeling like life is not what I thought it would be. This is not part of the plan. This is not what I wanted and so it kind of came to that point of feeling like, you know what? God, I am willing to live life as a single, if that's what you want. And I am willing to serve you and live for you in whatever way you see fit. I'm not going to do things the way that. You know. And I think that they need to be done and I'm not here, you know, to make my name great. You know, I'm not here to get all the things that I want anymore. I'm not here to gain all the accolades and praise like, I'm not here to build up my Kingdom like I realize now that I'm here to build your Kingdom and to point others to you. I realize that my life purpose is to glorify you and live for you. And if you have marriage in my future, my purpose remains the same that I am here to build your Kingdom and to point others to you. And if I remain, you know, single get married, whatever my life season is, I am here to glorify you. And that's something Chris and I have both learned throughout all of the different seasons and hardships that we've gone through. Like we are here to glorify God however he sees fit. And it wasn't like this magical moment, like, I came and surrender to the Lord. And then he brought the man, like, not at all. But I think my eyes. Just what? Like they were open. Like of what I desired in a husband and what I wanted. I think that just changed. And so for me to be totally honest, marrying someone who was shorter than me back in the day would have been like, hard, fast deal breaker like. Are you kidding? No way. Must be taller. Must look like this. Boom. Boom. Boom, boom, you know? But as I really started to surrender my heart to God and realize, like, my life is about building his Kingdom, things like day thing shorter than me really became a non issue because I was like, why does that matter? What's the big deal? Like if we if we make a better team for God together than apart. Like who cares if I'm an inch and 1/2 or two inches taller and look really tall cause I'm already a girl, you know like. That doesn't matter. Who cares if I'm 5 1/2 years older than him if? We truly make a. Team Better Together than apart then like shouldn't that be my primary desire? And shouldn't that be what fuels my interest in a guy anyways? And so those? Were all the work works that? The Lord was doing in my heart that brought me to the place of actually being interested in Dave and I don't. Think for either of us we would have been interested in the other person if we hadn't really chose to surrender to the Lord and want to live for him because neither of us were just on each other's radars like we were just in different places in life. But it was through that surrender that I think God really brought us together. And so Dave one day showed up to a party and he. Had gotten a haircut. And I thought he was looking really good and I. Can tell you. Sound effects sound effects. It was that day that I feel like I truly feel like God opened my. Eyes to him. Like I don't, it was the the haircut. Just it made him seem like a more grown up man. Like he went from boy to man just with a haircut and you? Never have thought of him in a romantic way until that moment. He walked in with that new haircut.

Absolutely not. That is crazy.

It's weird cause like with you and Zach, you noticed him like immediately. Like it was more like the infatuation was the first thing.

Yes. Yeah.

His haircut was already there. With Dave, it was like the opposite. It was like we had kind of started to become friends. He was mostly my younger brothers friend. We had had a few conversations, but literally absolutely nothing like 0 crushed 0 interest to 0 anything. He was literally just like another guy at a party. And so when he got that haircut that was, like literally a light. Switched on and it was just like. Like you, I don't know. I feel like he just grew up in my mind and all of a sudden I was talking to this, like grown up man rather than like this boy. That was Timothy's friend, you know? So that's what happened. And, you know, even through that relationship, Dave didn't express interest in me for like, it was like at least a year and a half, maybe two years from the point that I started to notice him, which I actually. And all all of my thoughts. I journaled all my thoughts, and so did Dave during this whole process of like trying to figure out him trying to figure out if he should express interest and me trying to surrender my feelings for him. Both of us were journaling at this time and I actually share those journal entries in our book, not part of the plan. So if you want an inside glimpse. Into like what did the heart struggle? Actually look like like for word for word took those journal entries and put them in not part of the plan. Chapter 8 so you can go and read them and justice be encouraged to know like you're not alone when you're struggling when you're wondering, like what's going on in his mind or what's, you know, here's a peek behind the scenes of the raw and authentic way that people and Christians really struggle to trust God struggle to know his well. And I can just tell you, I'm so grateful that Dave and I both were seeking the Lord. I wanted him to speak up a lot faster. But now when I can look back at his journal entries and see that he was, like praying, he was seeking the Lord he was seeking wisdom and he he wasn't going to start pursuing me until he really felt like it was the right time and that God was really, you know, opening that door and that he was getting good, you know, direction and wisdom. The mentors. And so he didn't. And for me it was a lot of struggle of just surrendering daves over and over and over again and saying, you know, if you want him with someone else, that's great. Like, I would love him. And I think we'd make a great pair, but I'm not gonna manipulate. I'm not gonna do things my way. I'm not gonna force this relationship. I'm gonna let it happen. If it's supposed to. You can better believe that I was being his friend and being around and being friendly and making sure he knew I was available and ready, but I think it's that place of both of us surrendering that ultimately brought us together in the perfect time. And so one day he did he one day, you know, asked me to be in a relationship with him and it was full speed ahead. Bum, bum, bum, bum, bum. Bum. And so yeah, you can read the rest of the story all about that in not part of the plan. You can get that at girldefine.com/trust. But what we really want to focus on for you is we know everyone has that thing. Like they want. Whether it's a relationship, a job, whatever that is where you're like. Just want this like. That's what not part of the plan is all about. But what does that heart of surrender actually look like? So let's dig into that for you. Let's make that really personal for you. Yeah. And maybe just think right now, I'm sure you were already thinking, but it's easy when you hear someone story like Bethany on the other side of marriage. Right. And I know I remember as a single hearing, married women talk about like, ohh, when I was single and it was. So hard and you're thinking, well, you're married now. So like. It it was just easy for you. Yeah, but it wasn't. It was years and years of surrender, of trusting God of actually not knowing for sure. You were ever gonna get married, and in fact, one of the the sections in this chapter and not part of the plan is titled. OK, with never getting married and you talk about how you came to the place where you genuinely before the Lord had to say God, you truly are enough. I am OK. You are enough. If I never get married and for you maybe you're married. Maybe you're not. Maybe that is something that you're currently in that season of struggle. That season of unfulfilled longing, of crying out to God. Maybe it's something else. Maybe you're more in the season of. A little bit later, married but struggling to have kids like the season that I find myself in. Or maybe it's something else, a health issue or a job or something with family, and for each one of us we have to come to that place. Where we genuinely before the Lord are able to say God, even if you never give me this, you are still enough. And one of the the verses that we highlight in this chapter is from Luke 2242 and it is such a key verse of surrender because it's Jesus who obviously is God's son, king of the world. He can make anything happen, but he is submitting to the father's will for his life. He is willing. To go to the cross, even though he says to God, if it be your will. Could you remove? This cup, but if not not my will but yours be done, and word for word in this verse Jesus literally says not my will but yours be done. And I think Jesus's example is such a beautiful, powerful, convicting picture of true surrender. Because here he is, God in flesh saying not my will God but yours be done. Even Jesus was coming to that place of surrender and trust in the father and that same place of surrender and trust in the father is the place that God wants each one of us as his. Children to come to. And so I just want to read some of these things we wrote out in not part of the plan. Maybe your cry right now is God. I desire marriage so much. However, not my will. But yours be done. And that's the key we bring our desires to God. Bethany brought this desire to God, probably on the daily. I know the desires of my heart to this day that are still unfulfilled. I bring those to the Lord, but we can't end with God. You better give me this or else, or else you aren't good, or else I won't serve you. Or else I'm going to, you know, live in a state of fear and anxiety, because I want to control this. I want to change this. We say God, I want this so much. However, not my will, but yours be done. Maybe your prayers. God, I love to get into that school. Well, however, not my will, but yours be done. God, I'd love to have children. However, not my will. But yours be done. God, I'd love to adopt someday. However, not my will. But yours be done. God, I'd love to have my own place right now. However, not my will. But yours be done. God, I'd love to get that promotion. However, not my will but yours be done. God, I'd love to serve you on the mission field overseas. However, not my will. But yours be done. God, please help me with that scholarship. However, not my will but yours be done. God change my circumstances. However not my will. But yours be done. God, please. Please answer this prayer. However, not my will but yours be done. And as you heard me read those things. What was it? That. Came to mind for you. Was it something in that list? As I read or is it something else? And do you feel that conviction of your loving father saying bring that desire to me, bring it to me fully with open hands. Tell me the longings of your heart. But remember, I'm a good father. I love you. I have plans for your life that may not be according to your plan. But they're according to my plan. And my good purposes and my Kingdom.

Trust me with those.

Be willing to say God not. My will but yours be done so living a surrender life to God ultimately means that he comes above anyone and everything in life, whether you're single, married with children without retired or anything else, the purpose of each of our lives should be. To glorify God. And this is going to be a little bit of a quicker episode. We're going to wrap things up here, but I just want to share with you a prayer that was written by a missionary. Several decades ago now. And she was a missionary who penned a prayer, having no idea that within I think it was only a few months later she was martyred for her faith, meaning she was killed for her faith. Guys, I think both her and her husband and so. That that's the level of surrender that ultimately is like the ultimate sacrifice, that's what. Jesus did. Yeah, he. Made the ultimate sacrifice. He surrendered to the, you know, to the point of death, even death on the cross. Which scripture talks about. And he he came to that point of saying God, I want your will above everything else, even if it means death on a cross. Something that is so impossibly excruciating. Imagine that's the level of surrender, and there are some people in this world who it's just totally the power of God and them that they are able to come to that same place of saying God, I am willing to give up my life for you. I mean, most of us are probably never going to have to face that reality of. Actually giving up. Our life, but sometimes it's those daily things that are so hard. And we just, yeah, we don't. We say God, I would die for you. But what about that daily thing? Are you willing to surrender that idea of a relationship? Are you willing to surrender those things to truly live for him right now? And so Betty Scott, Stan, the missionary, and. Append this. A few short months before she died and it. Says Lord. I give up my own plans and purposes. All my own desires, hopes and ambitions, and I accept your will for my life. I give up myself, my life, my. All utterly to. You to be yours forever. I hand over to your, keeping all of my friendships, all the people whom I love are to take. Second place in my heart. Fill me now and seal me with your spirit. Work out your whole will in my life at any cost. For to me to live is Christ. Amen. Now I want you to make that your own prayer. I really encourage you to go and get the free study guide for the book club over at girl to find.com/book Club. I think this prayer is included. Or you can just grab a copy of not part of the plan. So that you can have this prayer on hand. But y'all make this your prayer. Make this your prayer as well. Write it out, put it in your Bible, put it on your mirror because this can be the cry of your heart too. Like you can make this God, I give up all my plans and purposes. I I give up all my desires, hopes and ambitions. And I want your will above all else. Like we don't have the strength in within us to make that our reality. But we can. Ask God like God help me to want this. Help me to desire this. Help me to make this prayer genuine for me and the power of the Holy Spirit within you can. Help you to truly long to live that surrendered life exactly where you are, sister. I just want you to know that we are praying for you and that's the entire reason we wrote not part of the plan. Trusting God with the twists and turns of your story. Because we know how difficult it is. We know how hard it is to trust God right where he has you, no matter how big or small that aspect of trust seems it's. Hard. And so I encourage you to take that next step of reading, not part of the plan, trusting God with the twists and turns of your story. Like, don't go a year or two years continuing in this. Struggle. Take you know, spare $12.00 spare 2 lattes out of your you know your next week and buy this book because it will radically change your life. We spend money on so many other things, but then when it comes to our spiritual life, like we're not willing to set aside the time or investment. But it's so important. Whenever I've done that, it's been so life changing. So I encourage you set aside whatever you need. To to invest into this resource to change your life. And I think that you will read this book. And then I think on the other side, you're gonna look back and see how much freedom you have to live. That surrendered life and trust in God. It's been so fun chatting with you today. I can't wait to see you again next week and we will see you there.