

Q: What do you think we're missing? Why do you think that is such a gap right now and what can kind of us or people watching do about that?

April: Well, I, I think that one thing is I, I think, uh, in our American culture, a lot of times, the feeling is that you have to be an expert at something, you know, you're an expert in your field or you have a major in college, which means you're supposed to be really good at that thing. And, um, so, oftentimes, you might feel like you don't have something to give because you're not an expert at relational advice or (laughs), um, whatever the thing is and ... Or, um, I know a trap I fall into a lot of times I'm like looking for the, the woman who is absolutely perfect, who has a ... marriage, who all her kids are following the Lord, who, you know, prays three hours a day. And, um, so just not falling into the trap of wanting to find someone that's perfect and doesn't have anything wrong 'cause, obviously, that's just not, um, true, but, um, that God has given each one of us a story and, if we allow him, he has taught us through those things. And so, um, being able to pass on what we've learned from our weaknesses or our strengths, um, our not so great moments, and our great moments, um, I think is a really great way to be able to do it.

Jeremy: Yeah. I would say another thing that happens is we've grown up such ... and it's just like a peer-centered culture that it's difficult for me to even know how to cultivate a relationship with people upstream, with people downstream. Um, that doesn't feel very intuitive or natural. I mean, for me, I was, all growing up, I was always around kids my own age and so friendship and being in that environment, and so to really figure out, okay, people 10, 15 years old that me, how do I ... what do I have to give to them if it's, if it's not friendship? It just ... it's like the relationship can never really kick off, if you don't ... we don't have a good context for that.

Q: How do you cultivate that upstream value?

April: Well, I think that one thing that, that I've tried, um, is ... so Titus 2, in the Bible, is a passage where it talks about, to the older women, like, "Older women, train the younger women in these really, really important tasks." And, um, so I, I just, to your point, um, I created, what I call, Titus 2 Club and, um, because I wanted a platform for the older women in my life to be able to, to honor them and give them the place and say, "You are older than me and these, uh, younger ladies I'm inviting and, um, I want them to hear what you have to say. And there's no other natural place where you guys are crossing paths, so I'm going to make it happen." So like once a quarter or so I have this thing called Titus 2 Club, where I invite my mom and my mother-in-law and some other older ladies in our community and then a bunch of younger women, and, um, we do a little bit of prep for it and I just kind of ask them to talk about what's on their heart, and we've done everything from like how to make pie crust from scratch to like talking about what was life like on the farm growing up and then just like actual scriptural, um, passages and truths.

Jeremy: Now I would say, I think, for a lot of guys, like ... it's funny. I think about getting a mentor a lot like the dating relationship, you need to learn how to like have a good pick-up line, "Here's a really good pick-up line that works (laughs) really good if you want a mentor," which is not, "Hey, will you mentor

me?" That's the worst pick-up line ever. They like have no idea what you mean and it sounds terribly committed and all the weight that falls on them. But, but the pick-up line is just simply find somebody that, that, that is upstream that you have some respect for that is doing something and say, "Hey, um, I'd like to buy you lunch, take you to coffee," like do something that feels like you're giving to them 'cause I have some questions about this specifically. I see you doing this, and I have some questions." Um, that's it. If, if they say no to that, then, then, then don't feel too bad, but, man, 80, 90% of people, even that ... even people that are incredibly busy will probably say yes to that because it's like, "Whoa, they, they're respecting my time." "They've noticed something that I've really spent years cultivating. They seem like probably the kind of person who might be a good steward of that, um, if I give it to them, and I'm looking for people that I can possibly pass this wisdom off to. Um, that sounds like a really cool meeting. I'll take that one."

Q: What advice would you give for finding a marriage mentor?

April: I would say to be bold, be brave, in those approaches because, um, if there's someone who is, you know, trying to live their life biblically through the Word, tho-, those commands are there in scripture for the older people, and so it is, um, it's a way for them to kind of live out those scriptures. Maybe there isn't anyone asking them and they feel weird like putting themselves out there to someone, so, um, being approached, it might be a way for them to be able to follow a scripture they haven't been able up til that point.

Jeremy: I think that, clearly, anyone whose marriage that you want to emulate, uh, you're noticing things that they do together that, um, is really inspiring and, um, you know, be talking to other people and asking, you know, what, what are the marriages in our community, in our church, that really are thriving and are kind of at this stage. Um, people tend to know, you know-if you don't know those people, um, that you're probably one relationship from whoever that, that couple might be. Um, so I think knowing who they are, identifying them, is, is really critical first step, and that takes a little bit, a little bit of work, but probably just a few questions. Somebody who's really well-networked in the church or in your community can probably point out some, some ideas for you. Uh, and then, from there, I think, I think, oftentimes, you know, you might want to make it a personal ... either the wife with the wife, the husband with the husband, as ... and that, that's the ... probably the lowest hanging, uh, fruit in terms of they'll, they'll probably be willing to like take a, take coffee dates or something. You also kind of need to woo them a little bit, um, because this is a huge thing for them to consider and, as soon as you pop the question about mentoring, it's going to feel like a big, giant weight was just put on them oftentimes, and you might get, you know, some negative reaction. But, oftentimes, if you, if you do it slowly, let the relationship evolve a little bit organically, uh, you can make your way into a really great mentoring relationship, uh, and, and so that's, that's one way to think about it.