

Doug Smith ([00:07](#)):

Hey leader and welcome to episode number 356 of the L3 Leadership Podcast, where we are obsessed with helping you grow to your maximum potential and to maximize the impact of your leadership. My name is Doug Smith and I am your host, and today's episode is brought to you by my friends at Beratung Advisors. We're also recording from the new reiturn.com studio, which we're really excited about. You'll hear more about them in a moment. And if you are new to the podcast, welcome. I'm so glad that you're here and I hope that you enjoy our content and become a subscriber. Know that you can also watch all of our episodes over on our YouTube channel as well. So make sure you're subscribed there at L3 Leadership. And if you've been listening to the podcast for a while, it would mean the world to me if you would subscribe and leave the rating and review on Apple Podcast or Spotify, or whatever app you listen to podcast through that really does help us to grow our audience and reach more leaders.

Doug Smith ([00:53](#)):

So thank you in advance for that. Well leader. In today's episode, you'll hear my conversation with Christian artist Micah Tyler. I got to know Micah because he partnered with Ben Roethlisberger to raise money for Light of Life Rescue Mission, which is the nonprofit I work at here in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, through their different t-shirt campaign, which was a huge blessing. They ended up raising enough money to provide over 10,000 meals to people in need, which was just incredible. And as I got to know Micah, he actually came to the mission and played a few songs for the men and women that we serve, which were such a highlight of the year and blessed the men and women that we serve so much. But in getting to know him and hearing a little bit about his story, I knew that I wanted him to come on the podcast and share his story with you.

Doug Smith ([01:31](#)):

And in our conversation today, who actually share his story and his story, and again, I'll just give you kind of a brief preview, but he went from selling everything and he had in his life and moving into a trailer with his wife and becoming a sausage delivery truck driver to ultimately signing a record to you, writing a book and having a national platform. And he has so many lessons along the way that I think are gonna be a huge blessing to you. In fact, when he was sharing his story, I got so fired up because if I had one central theme for my life, it would be the theme of faithfulness. Just be faithful with what God puts in your hand. And that is exactly Micah's story. That is the theme of his life as well. And so I just love, love, love this conversation, and I think you will too.

Doug Smith ([02:10](#)):

But before we get into that, just a few announcements. This episode of the L three Leadership Podcast is sponsored by Beratung Advisors. The financial advisors at Beratung Advisors help educate and empower clients to make informed financial decisions. You can find out how Beratung Advisors can help you develop a customized financial plan for your financial future by visiting their website@barungadvisors.com. That's B E R A T U N G advisors.com. Securities and investment products and services offered through lpl, financial member of FINRA and SIPC, Beratung Advisors, LPL Financial and L3 leadership are separate entities. I also wanna thank our sponsor, Henne Jewelers. They're a jeweler earned by my friend and mentor, John Henny. And my wife Lauren and I got our engagement and wedding rings through Henne Jewelers and had an incredible experience. And not only do they have a great jewelry, but they also invest in people.

Doug Smith ([02:58](#)):

In fact, for every couple that comes in engaged, they give them a book to help them prepare for marriage. And we just love that. So if you're in need of a good jeweler, check out hennejewelers.com. And I also wanna thank our new sponsor reiturn.com and leader. Let me just ask you this. Have you ever had an interest in investing in real estate? Well, now for as little as \$500, you can become a commercial real estate investor. Just visit reiturn.com to learn more. That's reiturn.com. Investing involves risk. Please consult a return offering circular if you're interested in investing. And with all that being said, let's dive right in. Here's my conversation with Micah Tyler.

Doug Smith ([03:35](#)):

Micah. Tyler, it is a great honor to sit with you, my friend on the L three Leadership podcast. We got to know each other through actually your friendship with Ben Roethlisberger. You guys partnered together, uh, to support our rescue mission here in Pittsburgh that I work at. Uh, and we can talk more about that. I know a little bit you guys raised \$36,000 and provided thousands upon thousands of meals for the mission. And, uh, we're just so grateful for that. And it was just so great to get to know you through that. And you got to actually play for our men and women in our program, and that was such a highlight of 2022. So how are you doing, man? How's your 2023?

Micah Tyler ([04:09](#)):

It's, it's been good. You know, I we're, we're kind of, it's been a little bit of a slow start. I, we had such a crazy 2022 that around like the second week of December we shut it down. So I just kind of went off the road, went off the grid, spent time just sitting with my wife and kids hanging out, just, just trying to build all the memories we could. And so I, this is like my first week, like back on the job, so we're now getting back to running and gun and doing the whole thing, everything. But dude, there was so many wonderful things that happened in 22 and literally one of my highlights, one of the main, the main ones was getting to hang out and get to know what you guys do and see it firsthand and, and really playing there at the, at the mission and serving food. Those guys was just a, it was a blast, man. It's so special.

Doug Smith ([04:49](#)):

Yeah. Well, hey, I want you to, to share your story. So I knew a little bit about your story, but I read your bi, I read your bio on your website and I had no idea that you were a sausage, you, you were a sausage delivery man. Is that, is that

Micah Tyler ([05:01](#)):

Accurate? That is actually true. Yeah. So, so my wife, her uncle is Richard Beasley who owns Beasley Smokehouse Sausage. Okay. And, uh, and when I became a youth pastor, so I, I went into ministry super young, so I, I felt the call to go to ministry. I was 17, became a youth pastor right outta high school when I was 18. And, uh, and we needed to make ends meet. We were, we got, my wife and I got married, we were high school sweethearts and we couldn't wait any longer for us to be poor. So we got married at 20 <laugh>. So, come on. When you start, when you start the family that early, it's like, I gotta, we gotta figure some kind of way for us to make money. Cause a part-time youth pastor. So I drove a truck then for a couple years and then I became a full-time youth pastor.

Micah Tyler ([05:37](#)):

So I pulled away from that job. And then when God kind of, uh, I started playing guitar when I was 20, I bought a guitar wanting to just lead worship for the youth group, started leading a few songs. I had buddies calling me after they go lead worship for their groups and stuff. And then I had, I played some

camps and some retreats and then all of a sudden the lord like really changed my heart towards like what faithfulness looked like. And I, I, I wasn't trying to be successful, I just wanna be faithful. And so it music kind of became this thing. And so, uh, we sold over half of what we owned, bought a single wide mobile home trailer, put it on some borrowed land, and I started substitute teaching and I, I picked up the old sausage delivery truck driver keys and started driving a couple days a week for that. Just again, just trying to make ends meet. Had a wife and two kids at the time. We had a third one that was about to be on the way. So at that point it's like, you know, a poor man will find a way to get a sandwich. And so <laugh>,

Doug Smith (06:25):

I was, is that a proverb?

Micah Tyler (06:28):

That's back to the book of Micah part two. And so yeah, so I, it was like, let's, let's, let's get there. And so, yeah, so when we first started doing music, it wasn't cause we had a record deal or a tour bus picking us up. It was literally like, God, we're gonna be faithful to whatever you put in front of us. And so I had a faithful, I mean, I had a family that I needed to be faithful to and take care of. And so, yeah, so I drove the truck and, and like I said, did some odd jobs makings meet until the, you know, money was, was able to be provided by just doing music by itself. And so, yeah, that was it.

Doug Smith (06:56):

Yeah. When, when did that happen? So, you know, walk us through, through timing cuz you hear a lot about being faithful, but you know, the time between when the dream starts and when you actually see it come to fruition Yeah. Can be pretty long. How long was that for you?

Micah Tyler (07:08):

So, so actually January 31st, 2011, which was 12 years ago, was my last Sunday as a youth pastor. Wow. And, uh, and so we had just moved into the mobile home then, and we lived in that mobile home for nine years. Uh, I, I did independent music for about five and a half, almost six years. Um, and crazy story, the short version is, um, so locally, the local radio station started playing my music as this little station in Beaumont. They had a 15 mile radius and they were like, Hey, if you want, we can start playing some of your songs. That'd be amazing. And I just, I recorded some little, little songs. So they started playing them and the response was really neat for our area. And I started getting called to like, do more things around Southeast Texas and stuff. And uh, and then I became known as like the local opener.

Micah Tyler (07:52):

So if a national tour was coming through and they had an extra 15 minutes in the night, they would give it to me. And so like building 4 29 came in and the, the promoter goes, Hey is a local guy, can he get up and do an acoustic set? And he say, sure. And I do that. Um, and then I remember Phil Wickham coming in. So Phil comes in, um, he, he is so kind. He, he's an amazing, he's the best singer I know. And so I opened up that night and he was so nice to him, was over with. He just said, Hey, can we just talk? Like, I just wanna know more about your story. And so he poured in and, and at the very end of it just kinda said, Hey, let's, let's do this again sometime. And I was like, I, that'd be amazing cause I got nothing going on <laugh>.

Micah Tyler (08:25):

I gotta drive a truck on Monday. And so, uh, I get a call probably like six or seven months later saying, Hey, would you want to go do a show in Tyler, Texas? Well that's like three hours away. So well beyond the 15 mile radius, the radio station. Like no one knows women. Tyler, I've never been there before. Let's do a show. That'd be great. So went to Tyler for the show. I got there and the short version of the story is, um, Phil Wickhams plane never showed up. So he was flying from Pittsburgh to Chicago, Chicago to Dallas, Dallas to Tyler. The Pittsburgh flight got delayed, made him, missed the Chicago flight, but they found another Chicago flight. But now he wasn't gonna make the flight from Dallas to Tyler. So they're gonna pick up in a car and drive him down. So the whole day they're going like, Hey, can you play one more song?

Micah Tyler ([09:07](#)):

Cause Phil's gonna be a little late. Hey, could you like two more minutes? Cause Phil's gonna be a little bit late. And it's 6 45. I had no idea. 6 45, 15 minutes before the show starts sold out, Phil Withum show, no one knows who I am. Um, I'm told by the local DJ and the pastor of the church that there was a storm cloud sitting on Dallas Fort Worth airport and the plane never could land. So he's in Oklahoma City, he will not be here tonight. Can you do the show? Wow. I hear people in the other room going, Phil, Phil, Phil. It's like a nightmare. Right? And uh, and I remember honestly, they, they said, you would, you please do, it would save us. You know, I, I know nobody knows who you are, but maybe you could, like, you can play as long as you want.

Micah Tyler ([09:47](#)):

And so I went back in this little dressing room and I sat there and I just, I I started thinking about like, I'm supposed to be faithful to what's in front of me. Mm-hmm. And what's gonna be in front of me are gonna be 500 disappointing people who are here for a Phil Wilham show. And he's not here, but you know what, let's do it. So I walk out there, um, walk out with a local dj and I, what I love is that they don't, the audience has no idea. They have no idea if Phil's not here. So they're just like, wow, they're going crazy. They're hold up signs. It's the whole thing. And uh, and I walk out there in the local DJ starts talking, and he, and he's just talking about things coming up on their calendar this year. And he's like, stalling.

Micah Tyler ([10:21](#)):

I'm going like, please don't stall anymore. Like, he's not coming. Let's go and do the show. And finally he ends it with, and one more thing, Phil Withum is not coming tonight, but please help me welcome the Michael Taylor Band. Okay. And he took off and the crash was going, what? And I walked to the microphone and I said three things. I said, um, number one, my name is Micah Tyler. It's not Michael Taylor. I'm so sorry. I said, number two, um, I'm by myself. I am not a band also. So sorry, <laugh>. And number three, and I don't know if this is the right time to mention this or not, but I just decided to start a cover band called Will Fem <laugh>. This a stupid joke and much about what you did. People just laughed a little bit. And I remember honestly thinking I, I went, okay, I think The Lord's still here.

Micah Tyler ([11:06](#)):

Let's just see what happens. And for the next hour I sang every song I knew. I told every story I had. I I just spent as much time in that room just trying to love the people in front of me. Laughed, cried, the whole thing in between. And God moved in this like, super, super sweet way. It's one of the most special nights of my whole life. Wow. Walk off stage. Um, and, and, and I get a call the next day from Phil's road manager going, what did you do last night? I said, yeah, I was trying to survive. I have no, I, I think I

blacked out. Like, I don't know. He said, we just keep getting so many people telling us how great of a job you did. Like we'd love to do something else with you. So the first tour I ever went on was I went with Phil and Shane and Shane on their Christmas tour.

Micah Tyler ([11:46](#)):

I did eight shows with them. And what's funny is I had bought tickets to their tour, um, the two years previous to that, my wife and I, I sat there and watched their tour. And so the first tour ever went on was with those guys. Um, and then Phil invited me to go and meet his manager who became my manager. Um, he introduced me to his record label who became my record label. Booking became my booking. And so yeah, the way I got a record deal is because Phil with them didn't show up to a show, you know, <laugh>. Yeah. But that's, that's it.

Doug Smith ([12:12](#)):

That's an incredible story. I wanna talk a little bit more dive into to the Journey. So Faithful for nine years. Were there times in that nine year period maybe when you were sitting at the show, uh, watching Phil, you know, two years prior, were there times where you're just like, I don't know if this whole faithfulness thing is gonna work out? Oh, uh, and what, what caused you basically to keep going? Cause I mean, I think a lot of people want to do what you're doing and Yeah. Easily throw in the towel before maybe they get their shot.

Micah Tyler ([12:38](#)):

Yeah, well no, it was, it, it was, it was really hard. I mean, I, so even once I quote unquote made it, it was still hard because what happens when you're a new artist is that you just have to say yes to everything. And so, um, so yeah, I mean, when I was driving a sausage delivery truck in a, in a truck that had no radio, so I couldn't even listen to music to be inspired. I'm just by myself in a truck for 11 or 12 hours driving behind, uh, grocery stores and dropping off things at Walmarts and different places like that and, and putting out product and then driving the next store. And I'm just alone the whole time. It, it can get really lonely that way. Um, and so I remember when I signed the record deal, I was like, okay, we did it.

Micah Tyler ([13:16](#)):

I made it. This is great. Um, I wrote the song, never Been a Moment, the day that we signed the record deal. Um, and then that was the first song on Christian radio like nine months later. And like I said, we're just working so hard and I'm traveling like crazy. I traveled almost 250 days the first year that I had a record deal. So I got busier when I found things didn't get automatically easier. Um, and it wasn't because I was, you know, getting paid to do these things. I was just having to be available. Cuz at that point it's like, Hey, we need to get you in front of as many eyes and ears as we can, so can get to know you. So maybe they could trust you. So I'm visiting radio stations and I'll never forget, I was on tour with Phil on his Children of God tour and I, and we were on a tour bus.

Micah Tyler ([13:54](#)):

And, uh, and so what happens is, is that you fly into a city, you hop on the tour bus and then you live on that bus for four days and then after the, you do shows on Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and then on Monday you fly back home. Um, and so we fly home and then you stay home for Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, then you fly out again on Wednesday night or Thursday. Then you do shows on the bus for Thursday and you just do that over and over again. Well, I couldn't afford to fly back and forth, I just couldn't. And so we were doing a show in California, which is close where Phil, in San Diego where Phil

lives. So they were able to just like drive back to their houses. And I just said, Hey, is it okay with you guys if I just live on the bus during, in the off day?

Micah Tyler ([14:27](#)):

Like I, I I can't get back home. And they're like, and I probably didn't tell 'em like, Hey, I can't afford it. I was kinda like, I think I'm just, just hang here and stay. And they're like, yeah, no problem. Um, so they get off the bus that morning and they forgot to, they forgot that I was on the bus, so they turn the bus off. I dunno how to turn the bus back on. So I wake up sweating, um, and I, and I, it was like nine o'clock, I looked at my phone on my, on my, looked at my phone and I had all these messages and it was on Monday where the radio charts come out and I start getting all these messages from my manager and from, from the label going, oh my gosh, never been a moment. It's top 20 right now.

Micah Tyler ([15:00](#)):

This is a big deal. Congrat, you made it. Congratulations. All these texts are coming in. I'm going like, oh my gosh, this is incredible. This is amazing. And then I get a call from, I get a pics, oh, I get a call from my wife and I'm going, oh my gosh, how does she know? I haven't told her yet. How does she know this? And I said, hello. And she said, what are you doing? And I was like, well, I'm just laying here sweating on a bus right now, but I'm guessing you heard the news. She said, what news? She said, what are you doing today? And I was like, I'm just chilling. She goes, don't spend any money. And I said, why? She said, we have 87 cents. And I said, where <laugh>? She said, you are named. Like, I was like, have you checked the couch cushion?

Micah Tyler ([15:38](#)):

Like surely we can put up together a couple of nickels there, but it, we had 87 cents the day that my records top 20. So I had two \$20 bills in my wallet that I had from merch the night before I walked. I couldn't afford an Uber. I walked down the street to a food line, I bought ham, cheese and bread in a case of waters. And I walked them all the way back to my bus. I got back on there, I remember making a sandwich and I was sitting there sweating, eating a sandwich, drinking a, a room temperature, bottle of water. And I remember just saying out loud, I was like, I made it.

Speaker 3 ([16:12](#)):

Let's

Micah Tyler ([16:12](#)):

Go. But then at the end of the day, it's, the thing is, that's the difference between being, trying to be successful and trying to be faithful. Mm-hmm. <affirmative> is that, is that success has wins and losses. Like if you're trying to be successful at something, um, there's, there's room to fail. Like there really is. But at the end of the day, I've, I, the Bible never tells us that one day we'll stand before God and him say, well done that good and successful musician or successful, um, mission, you know, center runner or podcast host or teacher or you know, whatever, fill in the blank. Whatever successful thing is, it's, is to be a faithful servant. So my job is not to try and win at life. My job is to say, God, whatever you put in front of me, that's all I can be faithful to.

Micah Tyler ([16:53](#)):

I can't be faithful to anything in the future. I can't be like, God, if you give me 5,000 fans in an arena tour and a fus and a hit song, I'll be so faithful to that. Cause the thing is, I'm not promised that I may not

make it to tomorrow, but if he puts 10 kids in a youth group for me to play guitar while they're eating pizza and not really paying attention to what I'm doing, but that's what he gives me, then that's what I'm supposed to be faithful to. And so for me, like today, I, I'm doing the same thing today as I was whenever I was driving a truck, when I was a youth pastor, when I was an 18 year old kid trying to figure out what to do at my first job at a church, whenever I was learning to play the guitar in front of kids when I was 20. Whenever I'm sitting on a tour bus sweating, I'm trying to be faithful to whatever God's putting in front of me. And that works out a lot better than trying to be successful. And here's the, there's nothing wrong with success. Like work. I, I'm a hard worker too. I wanna work hard. And when things do come up successful, praise God. But I also know on the days where I fall short, which heads up is every single day I can still be faithful and God is still faithful and good on those days.

Doug Smith ([17:52](#)):

Micah, that is so good. I mean, you're speaking like my life message. It's exact same thing I tell people all the time, just be faithful with what God puts in your hand. So man, I just love that about your story. Uh, there all I also believe though, to get to where you need to go, oftentimes there's a price to pay and, and you felt, can you just talk about obeying God really? And and even when it's tough. So again, you walked away from something that you were passionate about, youth pastoring. Yeah. If, if someone is listening to this and they're saying like, I feel a prompt, but I feel like I'd have to give up everything or sell everything, or I'd have to go, you know, drive a sausage truck. Like what would your encouragement to them be if they feel like they're supposed to do something?

Micah Tyler ([18:26](#)):

Yeah. So the Sunday before my last Sunday as a youth pastor, we had a traveling, uh, uh, revival team. It was, it was a husband and wife and they had three daughters. They came to our church and they'd visited a couple times before and they're awesome. They've been into the Northerns, they have an amazing ministry. And, uh, and so they've been to our church a couple times. So I've met them over the years and we have become friends and stuff. And they had no idea that I was about to step out and do music. And again, we didn't have a record deal. It wasn't a tour bus picking us up. It was just like, I feel like I'm supposed to be faithful to this other thing and I don't, I don't know how to, I don't even know how to do that. So I remember just telling the Lord like, you're just gonna have to put things right in front of me and, and, and I'm just gonna have to just do whatever I feel like I can do with whatever you give me.

Micah Tyler ([19:08](#)):

Like that's all I can do. And so they came in and uh, and they said, Hey, how's it going? You know, how's the youth group? And I was like, well, my, my last Sunday is next Sunday what? I said, yeah, I'm, I'm stepping out to do this music thing. And I kinda told 'em, they said, we didn't know you sang. I was like, I don't either <laugh> figure it out. Cause it wasn't a thing that I did all the time. You know, it was just a weird thing. But, um, but I remember just saying, I said, you have any advice? And Connie, who's one of the sweetest people I've ever met, so they had been doing this, this ministry for 20 years. They, they raised their daughters on a bus, like it was the, the family of five. They, they were born, brought home from the hospital, put on the bus, and they were traveling around going out and spreading the word of God.

Micah Tyler ([19:46](#)):

And Connie said, here's all I can tell you. She said, um, if God were to take me back 20 years ago, and we start at the very beginning and he said, Connie, here's how the next 20 years are going to go for you. Here's all the times this bus is gonna break down. Here's all the things and the family moments your daughters are going to miss because you guys aren't back home with grandparents cuz you're on the road the whole time. Here's how they're gonna miss their proms. Here's how hard it's gonna be on your marriage. Here's how all the, all the pitfalls all the time that you guys are gonna be treated poorly. Here's all the times it's not gonna work out. Here's all the times where ends are not gonna get mad. Like all these things are gonna happen. She said, I would've never said yes.

Micah Tyler ([20:25](#)):

I would've never, ever looked at all the sacrifice in front of me and go, yes, sign me up for that. She said, but I'm telling you right now, when I look back at the last 20 years, I would not change a single thing because God has shown us so much kindness and so much nearness and so much love. And we've been able to see the victories only that Jesus could bring because of what all we've gone through right now. She said. And so what I've learned is that looking forward, when you see sacrifice, you will always look back and see his faithfulness, not ours, see his faithfulness. So what I tell people all the time is like, Hey, every time that you look forward and see that sacrifice it, it's, it's going to feel like something. But I've never sacrificed a single thing that God has not met a need in the middle of mm-hmm. <affirmative>

Micah Tyler ([21:09](#)):

That he has not been able to show himself. I mean, goodness gracious. Second Corinthians says, his strength is made perfect in our weakness. Heads up, we gotta be weak so that his strength can be like displayed in that kind of way. And that's not a fun feeling. Discomfort is not fun, but it's not bad all the time. Sometimes he's just carving something out in us so we can fill it up later. Sometimes he's, he's building something in us so that he could display something else later. And so what feels uncomfortable, what feels hard is uncomfortable and hard, but that doesn't mean it's not doing something and it's not wasted by any means.

Doug Smith ([21:45](#)):

You, you talked about how you got to the point where you made it, your song was, you know, top 20. Yeah. You know, and now you're on the other side. And, and man, it's amazing to see how God's really grown your platform and how he's using you today. You know, you just wrote a book, your music's all over the world. I'm curious, you know, a lot of people when they have the dream, when they're young, you know, see that they still feel welcome. They see you on stage and be like, man, if I only had that life house, it would be, and you already kind of alluded to, there's challenges that come with that. But I'm, I'm curious now that you're there, people say grass is greener on the other side. What, what have you enjoyed about quote unquote, I don't wanna say being famous, but just, you know, your platform growing and God giving you more influence and, and what's been more challenging than you may have thought?

Micah Tyler ([22:24](#)):

I I I think staying focused on the right things, the more things that are thrown at you is hard to do. Here's the deal. I, one of the greatest gifts that God can give you is need. And, and, and that is not a fun one. It's not fun to just constantly need something from somebody. It's not easy either. But man, when you need the Lord and then he provides those needs, it's, it's, it's really like, there's just kind of this feeling of like, it just, it feels so close and near, but all of a sudden, whenever, you know, I'm not holding

hoping that the \$40 in my pocket lasts me for the three days that the guys come back to the bus and that I'm, I'm just saying like, Casey, I don't know what to do. Um, cuz cuz we accidentally paid a light bill early is why we went only had 87 cents left.

Micah Tyler ([23:11](#)):

I was like, okay, well at least the lights are not gonna get turned off. So let's just hunker down. Like we, I asked a friend if we could borrow \$20 and I said, have you've gotten grocery shopping? Yes, we're okay right now. So like, in that moment we're just going, God, just hold all things together. So when he does, you're celebrating. Well, here's the deal. It's been a while since, since we had 87 cents in our account. Um, I don't sleep on the bus anymore. I, I fly home in between shows and stuff and I can get so all like, when things get easier, I can, I can forget how much I just literally need Jesus. Mm. And so there are those humbling moments where Jesus brings us back to, to reality. And all of a sudden it's like, oh my gosh Lord, I need you.

Micah Tyler ([23:48](#)):

And so it's, it's what I find the days where I choose to need Jesus. And I, and I, and I realize my need for Jesus are so much sweeter than those moments where God has to remind me of how much I need the Lord. And, and he does it lovingly and does it with compassion and kindness. Um, but yeah, I mean the j So when I talk to a young musician and, and, and here's the deal, I don't think that everybody who asks this question has horrible intentions. But I, I'll walk off a stage in front of 5,000 people in Pittsburgh with Mercy. Me and Ben Roethlisberger comes up there on stage and like this whole thing's happened. They're like, how do I get to be where you are? And all they're seeing is this snapshot of me, you know, 12 years into a ministry after having, you know, all the hardships that we've gone through and stuff.

Micah Tyler ([24:33](#)):

And I was like, what are you being faithful to today? Because why would God trust you with something that maybe you have not been able to show yourself ready for? Why, why shove yourself into like, I I, I love, I love guys who wanna hustle. I love guys who wanna get out there and really work hard. But if you're the guy who is constantly trying to beat down every single door that you could possibly get to because you just wanna get in the room with somebody, you're gonna end up in rooms that you're not supposed to be in. And what I've found is that the times where I allow the Lord to be a gentleman and open up doors for me, they're always the safest thing. They're always, they always mean more and heads up. So here's what we moved outta that trailer, uh, three years ago.

Micah Tyler ([25:12](#)):

This is not like a Yeah, I was in a trailer for six months, then we got out, we lived in a mobile home for nine years. Wow. Hurricane Harvey in 2017 put 40 inches around on that little mobile home. And I'm just telling you when you're walking around and the floors are, are, are giving way underneath your feet that you need the Lord right then. And it really does feel like something. But here's what something really sweet too. So we built a house, um, right before the pandemic. We moved in a week before the pandemic. 2020 moved into our new home. It was our dream home. We've worked and saved and waited and, and my wife and I been married for 17 years before we moved in. And so when we walked, Doug, I'm not lying. For the first six months we lived in that house, there'd be any moment in the day where you could find me or her just in a room weeping.

Micah Tyler ([25:54](#)):

Cause the thing is, yeah, we were so much more grateful for this house right now because we didn't have this house for 17 years. So when we do have it, it's like, oh my gosh, I'm not worried about the kids falling through the floor of this house right now. I didn't have a record deal until I was 33. I was so much more grateful to have a record deal at 33 than I would've been at 23. And here's the deal. God could equip certain 23 year olds, so maybe have the full appreciation. I was not one of them. I would've been, it would've been a really cool thing that I would've thought I was so cool for being able to have. But when I'm 33 and someone says, Hey, we're gonna help you foot the bill for your dreams and we're gonna stand behind you and we're gonna, we're gonna take what your ministry is and we believe in you.

Micah Tyler ([26:33](#)):

When I was 33 years old, it meant way more. So right now, if somebody's sitting there in this moment of like, man, it's just hard right now. When things finally do, you're on the path that God's called you to be on, on you. You're taking the steps. It takes one step at a time to get where you're supposed to be. At a certain point, whenever he does allow you to have the things he's calling you to, they're gonna be so much sweeter. They're gonna feel so much bigger. They're gonna be feel so much more important. You're gonna be so much more grateful because of the waiting. So the waiting and need become this like really, really beautiful thing and all that uncomfortableness, when it does get comfortable, you're able to go, oh my gosh, I'm breathing right now and I'm not like, and you, you, you appreciate those things.

Micah Tyler ([27:13](#)):

You know what I'm saying? Like, when people, when people get sick, you know, you stub your toe, you've never been more grateful for your toe then right before you stub it. Right? Yeah. Because you hit your toe, you go like, I just remember the day so I didn't have to limp when it didn't hurt so much. And then when your toe gets better, you're grateful that your toes feeling better. Right? When are you grateful for a toe? Oh, whenever the pain, the pain is gone. Right? So sometimes God gives us certain things that, that shakes us so that whenever it stops shaking, you can be so grateful for the peace on the other side of it.

Doug Smith ([27:39](#)):

Such a good word. Micah. Uh, well hey, one exciting thing. You just came out with a brand new book Walking Free. You were an author, my friend, and, uh, talk to us about the book. Why'd you write this book and what do you want, uh, readers to get out of it?

Micah Tyler ([27:51](#)):

So what's crazy is that this was not the plan <laugh>. So, so I wrote the song Walking Free about three years ago and love the song so much. And I realized that three and a half minutes is just not long enough to talk about the grace of God and talk about the, the freedom that he gives us, right? And so the more that I shared this song, the more stories that came up. We, we filmed a music video for walking free a couple years ago that that partnered up with a ministry called Ground 40 over in North Carolina. It's one of my my favorite ministries. Um, I really, I actually wanna get you and, and Wesley, the guy from there together, cuz y'all both have such incredible hearts for people and like seeing redemption and reconciliation. And so yeah, I even did some events with Wesley and, and, and I just said, Hey, can we make a music video literally about your stories?

Micah Tyler ([28:32](#)):

He goes, isn't it your music video? I was like, it's Jesus' Music video, but we're gonna tell your stories and I'll sing a little bit. And that, all these stories about it was, I was just conversating so much about it. So we, Wesley reached out to me, he goes, Hey, I got an idea for a kid's book. And I was like, really? And told me the idea for it. And I was like, that's amazing. We should totally do that. So I went to my management team and I just said, Hey, I have no idea how to write a book, but I got this idea for a kid's book. And they, I told 'em what it was and they were like, oh, that's really cool. We'll check in with the publisher. And so couple weeks pass and then walking free on the radio. And I was like, man, I wish there was some more information I could give people about walking free.

Micah Tyler ([29:10](#)):

And I was like, oh, you know, you version, the Bible app has like a seven day study that you can do on certain topics. So what if I wrote a seven day you version, like app like thing? And so I reached out to management and I was like, Hey, what if we did seven steps to Walking Free on You version? They're like, huh, that's a really good idea. Let me see if I can check on that. So a month later I'm going to get on tour with Mercy Me and I am on my way to Nashville. And they said, Hey, just so you know, we got a meeting with a publisher today. Why don't you show up and we'll talk about the book? And I was like, wonderful. So I show up for this publishing meeting thinking that, that we're gonna write a kids' book.

Micah Tyler ([29:42](#)):

And they said, Hey, we love this idea. In fact, here's like a little pamphlet. And they gave me this, like, they printed out some sheets and said, here's kinda the construct we're thinking for the book. And like, what do you think about this? And, and I looked at it and said, walking free. I went, well this is not a kid's book. Oh no, no. Talking about your walking free book. And I was like, I did not know I was writing a walking free book. But in that conversation, Robert Nolan, who was the guy who I wrote the book with, was in the meeting and, and he just said, tell me what you think about freedom. And I just started talking to him about it and, and talk, like sharing some of these stories that I'm sharing with you right now. Roberts in tears. And he looks at me, he just goes, Hey man, I I'm gonna help you write a book if you want to do it, and you pray about it.

Micah Tyler ([30:19](#)):

And dude, it was the same thing. It was that thing of like, well, this isn't what I, I wanted to be doing right now, but I looked in front of me and I saw this opportunity to be faithful. And so what's crazy is, for the next six months, Robert and I wrote a book together and just sort of really jumping into this idea of the freedom of God and, and, and, and what it means to walk in the, in his freedom. And so the way the book is structured, um, cause I wanted to make it very much, this is not a self-help book. This is a Jesus help book. Like this is not me saying like, Hey, I figured out how to do it and here's how I helped myself do it. It's me going, I am still actively trying to figure this thing out.

Micah Tyler ([30:54](#)):

I am not down the road. I am next to you on the road, but here are the steps that I'm seeing in scripture. Here are the things that Jesus is teaching my heart. Here's the things that he's already proven to me. So the, the book kind of wraps in some of my stories scripture all throughout the whole thing. What with the Bible, the application, it could be on our lives right now and how we can take these steps together. So each week is six different steps. So every day you take a step, it's just one step at a time. Cause all you can focus on is one step at a time for six days. And on a seventh day every week we do something

called retracing your steps where we look back over the last six days and go, okay, which one of these was hard?

Micah Tyler ([31:28](#)):

Well, why do you think that was hard? Which one of these was easy? Why do you think that was easy? Which one of these challenge you the most? How can you challenge yourself with the same things next week? And we, we really like the Bible constantly is Jesus going back and being like, remember me when you do this. Remember the time when I did this? And God tells the Israelites, remember when I walked you through this? And I remember. And so it's really important to remember. So every week we just take that seventh day where God rested when he created everything. And we take our seventh day to be like, okay, let's look that over everything and see what's good, what's not, how we can make things good, what God is continuing to still reconcile in our hearts and just some reflection time. And so yeah, it's, it's been neat because, you know, we wrote this, it's been done for about three or four months.

Micah Tyler ([32:06](#)):

So the fact that now people are reading it and are reaching out to me going like, oh my gosh, step 11 was like something that just really, really impacted me. And then I had someone comment being like, really Step 11 was pretty easy for me, but step nine, that's the one that really got me. So it's been neat to see like different steps for different people are just taking 'em down, you know, different, they feel differently because we all have these different backgrounds coming into it. But at the end of the day, it's all about walking with the one who, who gives us the things to be faithful to and walk towards.

Doug Smith ([32:32](#)):

So good. And we'll include a link to the book in the show notes, encourage everyone listen in and go buy a copy share with people. Buy it for five or 10 leaders that you know. And, uh, let's just get that out there. Uh, I want, we have a few minutes left. Uh, I I wanna talk to you about can you just talk about trusting God through difficult circumstances? Uh, you know, I know that your brother and you could show a story got diagnosed with cancer, your, your grandmother I believe as well, the hurricane. Uh, and I think sometimes in Christianity, people think if you follow God, it's supposed to be up until the right all the time, right? Uh, which is not reality. But can you just talk about walking with God when things are tough?

Micah Tyler ([33:06](#)):

You know, scripture has such a sweet way of reminding us, you know, the name of the Lord is a strong tower. The righteous can run in and be safe. We hear that and we're like, oh good. So we'll just be safe. Like, that's great. But Jesus literally says things like, in this world, you, there will be troubles. Like he promises us. Like you're gonna have a hard time, but take heart because I have overcome the world. Right? The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God's eternal life to Christ Jesus. We have this, it's this constant pull from both sides, but there's, there's a winning side. There's a side that always has the victory in these things. And in 2017 we got hit with a hurricane. My grandmother was diagnosed with blood cancer. My brother had stage four colon cancer. Um, and as we walked through all that hurt, I I just kept realizing and remembering that the promises of God, the truth inside of the promises of God never changed because of the difficulty in our situations.

Micah Tyler ([34:00](#)):

Mm-hmm. God, God is not a promised maker. He's a promised keeper. What he says, he's, he's going to be able, he's the only person that you can count on to actually like ke like he's gonna keep up with what he's doing. And so I've just been so grateful to be able to see in my life as, as my grandmother beat cancer, as we put that little mobile home back together, then built a new house as my brother got to ring the bell for the first time they thought he wasn't gonna make it. Two years, he rang the bell. Mm-hmm. <affirmative> Cancer came back at the beginning of Covid, rang the bell again cause they removed it. And now he's literally in his third battle with cancer right now. Mm-hmm. <affirmative>, I wrote this book and there were some, some, uh, Tuesdays where I was sitting with him. We're at cancer treatments. He's hooked up getting chemo. And while he's getting chemo, he's writing sermons that he's preaching to his youth group on Wednesday nights. Cause he's a youth pastor. Wow. And I'm writing a book about God's faithfulness.

Doug Smith ([34:48](#)):

Amen.

Micah Tyler ([34:49](#)):

And, and, and you don't do that if God has not shown himself faithful. So when you're going through something hard, it's an opportunity for you to trust Jesus more. It's an opportunity for him to build and carve out something that he's gonna fill with his peace and comfort and trust. And so we've just celebrated the idea that like, you know, when these hard things come along, goodness, Chris, I don't wanna go through cancer anymore. I don't wanna go through storms anymore. I don't, I don't wanna see people that I love sick or hurting or having a hard time, but God promises to draw near the broken hearted. And I can say that that's the truth because my heart's been broken and he came right next to me,

Doug Smith ([35:21](#)):

Man. Well, thank you for sharing that, Mike. I know that's really personal as well. Yeah. But I think it'll encourage a lot of people. Um, I'm gonna transition. I wanna end on a fun note. Yeah. I'm just curious, you know, uh, you've been touring now for two or three years. Do you have a, a favorite moment, a funny story or just a God moment that you're like, I can't believe God did that. Uh, that would be fun to share with our listeners.

Micah Tyler ([35:40](#)):

This is, this is the weirdest one I got just <laugh>. So, so I, uh, so I signed that record deal. Um, and it was, I mean this was like, this was 2016, I guess I signed the record deal. And so right after that, so I had the same manager as Mercy Meek. And so Mercy's manager called me and my manager and just says, Hey, how would you like to open up for Mercy me at the Texas State Fair? And I said, are you kidding me? I'd love that. He goes, great. October 17th, put it on your calendar. Well, I was an independent artist for five years. I did all my own booking, I did all my own scheduling. So I looked at my schedule and I saw that I had booked a retreat with a junior high group in the woods of southeast Texas, the opposite of a Mercy Me show at the Texas State is in the woods with these kids.

Micah Tyler ([36:18](#)):

And I was like, oh. And, but you know, somebody told me a long time ago to be a man of integrity. So if you book something, a better offer comes along. Don't, don't just try to chase the better offer. You be faithful to the thing that God gave you. First you dance with the dance with a girl you brought to the, to

the dance, right? So I said, Hey, I can't, I actually have a, an event. He goes, are you sure? And I was like, yeah. He goes, okay man. And so he gets up the phone, uh, a week later I get a phone call and Sanctus Real, the first version of Sanctus Real, were about to, there's their farewell tour and they're doing a show going through Huntsville, Texas, a couple hours away from me and the church from Huntsville. I'd done an event for them before and they reached out and they said, Hey, how would you like to open for Sanctus Real on this, this tour?

Micah Tyler ([36:55](#)):

And I, and I was like, oh my gosh, what an honor. Yeah, I'd love to. I opened up for them, uh, earlier and they said it was okay if I did at this time. And so they said, great, it's October 17th. If you'll be there, that'd be great. And I was like, Hmm, why does that sound familiar? I look at my calendar, I was like, same day as that retreat, I can't do it. <laugh>. They're like, oh, okay. So got phone a couple weeks later, first for October, I got a call from a buddy of mine named Michael Fi and who's a songwriter here in town, written some of the biggest song of Christian music. He calls me up and he's been real nice to me and he says, Hey, I'm doing an event where I wanna have a new artist and a seasoned artist on stage together talking about what the differences are in the music industry.

Micah Tyler ([37:28](#)):

So Michael W. Smith is in, and I wanna see if you wanna be the other person. And I go, Michael, are you hitting me? Of course. I want to tell me when I'll put on my calendar right now. He said, it's October 17th. And I said, I know for a fact that I'm not, I'm not gonna be there. I said, I, I actually have somewhere to be. I said, I cannot believe him saying no to this, but I have to say no. He goes, ok. So October 17th rolls around and I'm expecting for this to be just the most incredible thing of my entire life, right? It's October 16th and 17th is the, is the, the, the, uh, the night, I mean the retreat. So I show up, they forgot to bring a sound system. So now I'm playing through a speaker on the floor that they found in a closet, right?

Micah Tyler ([38:01](#)):

The band's there with me. We get up there late and it's just bad. They forgot to, they, they have no in-ears for us. So we're having to learn these songs on the fly and figure out how to do 'em differently. Cause we don't have the instrumentation, we don't have the speakers, all kinda stuff. It's a junior high retreat. So there's no bathing going on. They, they forgot about to turn our water on in our room and our cabin that we were staying in. So when they turned it all back on, it smelled like rotten eggs. Cause they'd been building up sulfur in there. So you smelled worse getting outta the shower than getting in the shower. But I'm just going like, okay, I'm here. I'm being faithful. It's all these things. The next day, October 17th comes around, we play the service that morning, it's bad.

Micah Tyler ([38:34](#)):

We play the service in the, the afternoon. It's bad. The night service is here. This is the night where I'm supposed to be with, gonna be Smith or Mercy me or we had a time in my life somewhere else. And I went in there and we led worship and it went fine. Okay? It was fine, the best service so far. But it was like, whatever. So we go back there, the guy's gonna preach. I went and found a closet and I got inside and I remember sat, God, you owe me one. Do you see how faithful I've been so far? I better get out there and I want to, I want to experience something I'll never forget. So all of a sudden I hear the pastor go, we're gonna ask the band to come back up and play one more song. So I, I go and I, I um, we get on stage and we're gonna sing a song called Great I Am. And and all of a sudden he goes, uh, and as the

band plays you, you come and talk to me. If you need prayer band, go ahead. And I said, I wanna be close, close to your side. And I look down there, this little sweet seventh grade girl, she's in the front row and she looks right up at me and we make complete eye contact and she just goes, Ugh. And starts vomiting, <laugh>

Micah Tyler ([39:34](#)):

Some bad camp food and never breaks eye contact. And she's just throwing up and looking at my eyes. And I went like that. I look over at the youth pastor and he goes, keep going, keep going. <laugh>. So I say, heaven real and death is a lie. Play the whole song. Kids are trying to throw up. They whisper out the room, they cover what paper towels we sing, the whole song it's over with. And I'm, I get in my car and I just went, what in the world? And I remember in that moment being like, the outcome of your faithfulness is not something that you get to decide. Ooh, being faithful is something that the decision to be faithful is what you decide. Now here's where it gets crazy. So I signed up record deal. We put out a couple songs, Christian Radio, the next year I get nominated for a Dove award for new artists of the year, I get my tickets in the mail, you know what day it was?

Micah Tyler ([40:22](#)):

October 17th, 2018. Come on. I would've never remembered that date if I had not turned down three things and watched the little girl vomit right in front of me at this crazy retreat. But the Lord made me laugh so hard. It was like a long con, the whole thing was a complete setup. It's like a sitcom that he had been planning out up at the Galaxies, right? But I rem i, I remember laughing and being so grateful for it and just being like, I appreciate it so much more. Cause of everything we went through. So, like I said, you have no idea what the outcome of your faithfulness is gonna be. You don't, you don't get to decide how that goes. But I tell you, me being faithful in the moment, even though the night didn't feel awesome, a year later, I was like, God, look how far this has come. Like, this is such a wonderful gift that you gave me that I did not even ask for.

Doug Smith ([41:05](#)):

Amen. Well, that's a perfect place to end. Micah, thank you so much for your time. Thank you for your faithfulness and your journey. Thank you for your faithfulness and your ministry. Again, we'll include links to everything in the show notes where people can connect with you, and, uh, just really grateful. And again, thank you for everything you did for Light of Life here in Pittsburgh. Uh, on behalf of all the mission and all the men and women we serve, we're, uh, we're forever grateful.

Micah Tyler ([41:21](#)):

So thank you. Well, you guys are there the other 364 days last year. So I'm, I'm grateful for what you're doing for those citizens, for those men and women who just need that help right now, you are showing them a great love, um, that, that the world will never be able to offer them anything close to it. And so partner with you guys was an absolute highlight of last year and maybe want to figure out a way to do this again sometime.

Doug Smith ([41:40](#)):

Let's go. Looking forward to your next visit in Pittsburgh. Thanks, brother.

Micah Tyler ([41:42](#)):

Oh, Doug. Thanks bud. Yep.

Doug Smith ([41:44](#)):

Well, leader, thank you so much for listening to my conversation with Micah. I hope that you enjoyed it as much as I did. You can find ways to connect with him and links to everything that we discussed in the show notes@l3leadership.org/356. And leaders always, I want to challenge you that if you want to 10x your growth this year, then you need to either launch or join an L3 leadership mastermind group. Mastermind groups are just simply groups of six to 12 leaders that meet together for at least one year in order to help each other grow, hold each other accountable and to do life together. For me personally, mastermind groups have been the greatest source of my growth oath in the last seven years. So if you're interested in learning more about launching or joining a group, go to L3leadership.org/masterminds or email me at Doug Smith L3leadership.org.

Doug Smith ([42:27](#)):

And as always, leader, I liked end every episode with a quote and I'll quote Carl Jung today who said this. He said, life really does begin at 40. Up until then, you are just doing research. And I don't know how old you are, leader, but if you're under 40, keep doing some research. If you're over 40, you should start to get into your sweet spot. I hope that was encouraging to you and leader. I hope you enjoyed this conversation with Micah. I hope that you enjoyed the episode. Know that Laura and I love you. We believe in you and we say it every episode. But don't quit. Keep leading the world desperately needs your leadership. We'll talk to you next time.