

Doug Smith ([00:08](#)):

What's up, leader, and welcome to episode number 361 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 live from the new return.com studio. If you're new to the podcast, welcome. I'm so glad that you're here and I hope that you'll 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 L three Leadership. And as always, if you've been listening to the podcast for a while and it's made a difference in your life, it would mean the world to me if you would leave us a rating in 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 ([00:54](#)):

So thank you in advance for that. Well Leader In today's episode, you'll hear my conversation with Lisa Bevere. If you're unfamiliar with Lisa, let me just tell you a little bit about her. She is a wife, and more specifically, she is a wife to John Bevere, who we interviewed a few episodes ago. And they have a world changing ministry called Messenger International, and they have an incredible app that I'd encourage you to download. You'll hear Lisa talk about that in the episode, but literally, their ministry has gone all over the earth. And if you're not familiar with John and Lisa, you need to be, she's also a mother, a godmother, a speaker, and a New York Times bestselling author. And in our conversation you'll hear Lisa talk about ministry and calling so much insight into this raising kids leadership and her message to women in today's world.

Doug Smith ([01:36](#)):

And I absolutely think you're gonna love Lisa and love our conversation. But before we dive 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 Beratungadvisors.com. That's B E R A T U N G advisors.com. Securities and investment products and services offered through L P L Financial member of FINRA and S I P C, Beratung Advisors, LPL Financial and L3 leadership are separate entities. I also wanna thank our sponsor Henne jewelers. They're a jeweler by my friend and mentor John Henne and my wife Laura and I got our engagement and wedding rings through Henne jewelers and had an incredible experience.

Doug Smith ([02:24](#)):

And not only do they have a great jewelry, but they also invest in people. 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 want to 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 r e i t u r n.com. Investing involves risk. Please consult a return offering circular if you're interested in investing. And with, with all that being said, let's dive right in. My listen to the podcast. So excited to be here. Uh, I've been following you in John's ministry for, for many, many years now, and you've both impacted my life deeply and I had the honor of interviewing John last week. And so, uh, getting you both within uh, a two week period is pretty special. Um, but I would love to to

just start talking to you about the subject of calling in obedience. Uh, it's really, really special to see how God is using, uh, you and John throughout your lives and where in the season of life you're in now. But I'm, I'm curious when it comes to calling in obedience and the journey that got you to where you are today, uh, what would you say about that?

Lissa Bevere ([03:34](#)):

Well, I guess first I'd have to ask you, where do you see me at today? Like when you say where you are today, like what is, what are you referring to?

Doug Smith ([03:45](#)):

Uh, <laugh>. I was gonna say in Franklin, Tennessee. Um, but yes, no, I I just think that, you know, uh, you both started for me, it's always interesting to learn people's journey cuz I think if people just saw you from afar, they see what you're doing with me. Messenger International, they see bestselling authors, they see, you know, God using you to impact literally hundreds of thousands of lives in many, many countries. And it's just like, wow. But I think a lot of times people miss the journey of the small, little obedience, uh, decisions that we make in our lives early on, um, that ultimately get us to, to where we're going. And so, yeah, I guess I'm just curious. Take us through your journey when it comes to Yes.

Lissa Bevere ([04:23](#)):

Well, I don't know what John told you, but he's the one who led me to the Lord on Purdue campus. I was a completely then completely dissatisfied with my life thinking there has to be something more. And John invited Mero Bible, a study picnic. I, it was incredibly uncomfortable. This was a time period where people were singing songs live. I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart. And as an angry he and I just wanted to start punch pe punching people and run out and get drunk. But I remember I looked down at the songs because again, people are like raising their hands and I'm like, do you have a question? I'll be, I'm in college. You put your hand up, that means you have a question. So I was very confused and I, I saw this line, Doug, in the next song, it was called The Righteousness that said, when God looked at me, he would no longer see me.

Lissa Bevere ([05:16](#)):

He would see G And I had such a revelation of my sin, of shame and, and I just knew that I needed to cover. I knew that I had no righteousness that I've had, well, I didn't even know the concept of holiness, but I remember I just began to say, I don't know how to come to a place of a right relationship with God. And so that night John took me walking on the campus at Purdue. He shared best fearful laws with me through Campus Crusade. I got born again. He said, now you're saved. I, what does that even mean? And he said, it means you're whole again, spirit, soul, and body. And I'm pretty sure at the time I said, well, don't you say I can have cheese now. He was like, <laugh>. I said, you said whole spirit, soul and body. I'm Italian. I can't eat cheese if this, I mean this Christian thing's even better than I knew.

Lissa Bevere ([06:17](#)):

But then he was like, oh my gosh, God, if you can save the teeth and you can heal her. And so I got born again, healed and called into the ministry basically on our very first date. The next morning I was making my bed and done, um, well, I, I'll back up a little bit. I spent quite a bit of time looking for the book of Paul that night. Uh, there was a wav New Testament in my Purdue Fellow's dorm room. And I kept thinking, okay, he kept saying, all said this, Paul said that there must be a book of Paul. So I psycho looking like this. Please, you don't open it up to the book of Paul. And um, I fell on the own book of Paul

Perk about much later. There was lots a fall testament. But the next morning I was making my dad in the dorm and I heard the man you were with last night is your husband.

Lissa Bevere ([07:12](#)):

Wow. I called you to be the wife of a minister. And I didn't even know, you know, what that looked like. I had been raised loosely Catholic. Uh, Catholic for us meant before you got an airplane, you went to confession. Before Easter, you went to confession. So it was very much just thin consciousness. Uh, Jesus was on the cross. You, you didn't bother him, you went to Mary. So it, I I had kind of never had a, a living vibrant relationship. I had had a lot of guilt, a lot of shame, a lot of thin. And, uh, yeah. So I got, uh, in 1981 that happened. And I did not know what that looked like. So that's kind of the beginning, get married. Uh, you find out, okay, we should have listened to the premarital counselor, uh, because dog put us together. We never have any problems for, we, for first four years nor married, looked like Wdo Fring, I'm Sicilian.

Lissa Bevere ([08:13](#)):

It was like the clash and the titan. And uh, we're like, you know, Emily, we need to do God's way. Maybe we need to step back a little bit and begin to, uh, pursue being one. And you know, one of the things for me that was the turning point, cuz you're asking about a journey. I was working a full-time and John was working part-time. During that time, I, I had to have my first baby, but I remember I was so stressed out that almost every night it would either take a bath or a shower just to relax down my shoulders. I was def like this. And I was in the shower and I having the sense of God asking me, he said, you don't think John's a very good head of the household, do you? But I, no, he's not. I'm gonna do it best.

Lissa Bevere ([09:05](#)):

And I thought, I am doing it better. He said, it's a yolk to you, but it's a mantle to John. Throw it off your shoulders, dad. I remember running out of the shower sp sping and telling my husband, I thought the mission meant that when I agreed with you, I did whatever you said. But as I get the greed, I argued with you and I reminded you how I did wanna do it after they're with a failure. And I said, I just, I just wanna be won again. And I think a lot of times people don't understand that the mission is two people committed to the same mission. Mm-hmm. <affirmative> and I didn't understand set mission means under assignment. So you submit to the people that you are under assignment with. So I was definitely under the assignment of my husband. He as the head of the household, and again, John, and I believe that authority is of protection direction and provision. We do not believe authority is for domination, uh, or manipulation or control or intimidation. Um, Jesus is the head of the church and he, he says, all right, I'm gonna leave. But we have to choose to follow. Hmm. So submission does not mean you don't have a choice.

Doug Smith ([10:32](#)):

That's so good. Yeah. I've been, I've been thinking a lot about that. Um, actually, I, I was just listening to a message by a man named Keith Moore and he was just saying, you know, when we're instructed to submit and husbands are sub are instructed to love their wives, like God is talking to the wives and to the husbands. He's not saying, husbands force your wives into submission or, you know, it's a choice. It's, it's a mutual choice for both of you to do that. I think that is so good. So you get to a place in your marriage where you finally are mutually submitting to one another, you're submitting to John's leadership. Uh, what, what took place after that as far as your journey from working full-time, you know, now you're a mom to you, uh, you guys actually entering into ministry.

Lissa Bevere ([11:09](#)):

Yeah. So it was about a month after that that John, uh, quit his job. I quit my job and he became a youth pastor. And I remember when John became a youth pastor, I watched my husband go from a boy to a man when I stopped being his mother. And I started to be his wife. And I think a lot of people don't understand that you can speak to the little boy or you can speak to the prince, you can speak to the man. He is becoming sure you can criticize the man. He is not yet. And you know, I I, I don't know about you Jen, but I grew up with crazy people. I broke earth with people that were divorced multiple times. My grandmother had, let me see, my grandmother's married four times. My parents were married, divorced, remarried, divorced against. I had never seen the power of actually building other people up with your words.

Lissa Bevere ([12:06](#)):

I only knew the power of intimidation, control, disrespect, manipulation. So John becomes a youth pastor. I'm staying home, I'm raising our one child. I get pregnant with our second son. And John starts to, to put a little bit of pressure on me, he starts saying, Lisa, these young girls need you. And I say, oh no, no, listen, I'm not some packaged deal. Just because you are the youth pastor doesn't mean I have anything to say to these young girls. Truth is, I was scared of the youth girls. I'm like, I am scared of this 15 year old girls. I was probably 20, 80, 29 at the time. I was terrified of them. I said, uh, John just kept saying, you know, you need to be prepared. I'm gonna have you share tonight. I'm be like, uh, no, you need to be prepared. I'm gonna round the bathroom, <laugh>.

Lissa Bevere ([12:56](#)):

And, you know, and it was so funny, dad, cuz I, the, the, the scriptures that a lot of people use to hold women down and keep them silent in the church I was using, I was like, I to be silent in the church. I am ratcheting upstairs. And, um, my husband would just say, you know what, Lisa, you're not your all, you are wrong with the price and you don't have the right to be comfortable when so many people are hurting. And I would get so mad, I would say, don't you talk to me like I'm a congregation. I am your wife. Feel sorry for me. Uh, and you know, is the reasons I thought, well, this is too hard. I had lost an eye to cancer when I was five, did not have a great, uh, moral life before I became a Christian. I, uh, was like, I'm trying to hide my past, not redeem it.

Lissa Bevere ([13:52](#)):

And, um, so anyway, you know, John was always one that would say, I no, I I believe that you have something to say and you need to say it. And then, um, you know, so I had Craig posted bible Lisa in my house for our youth girls. I would talk for maybe three minutes under protest. Uh, John's forced me to do one of the college of prayer nights. And he, he's like, didn't tell because it was gonna be a surprise guest speaker. And, um, when I was sitting in the back and he did a video and he said, this is my favorite person in the world that's gonna minister tonight. And maybe half to three foursome are blocked out because I was a female. Wow. So I remember I was pregnant with Austin when that happened. So Austin is 31, 32. So that's kind of, that's kind of, uh, yeah. The first, first time people were like, I'm not sitting under a woman. And I was like, okay, I wanna leave too. And then that night some men jumped the fence at my house, pounded on our bedroom window. My husband was out of the country just in case I did not understand how important it was that women do not, uh, get the pulp.

Doug Smith ([15:10](#)):

That's crazy. So, whoa, <laugh>. So I, I wanna talk about women in leadership, but, but take us through that journey. Uh, clearly you, you kept going. Um, but yeah,

Lissa Bevere ([15:22](#)):

John came home and I, him, I said, do you understand you put me at risk. Do you understand what happened? Do you understand this is why I should never do this? Do you understand? And he just said to me, Lisa, I'm sorry. I'm sorry that happened. I'm sorry I wasn't here when that happened. I'm sorry that you felt so vulner and afraid, but I'm not gonna let you quit because sh young girls need your voice. So, you know, it's kind of this crazy thing, Doug, and I don't, I don't really know how to deal with some of what I see. I, I didn't ever think, oh, I wanna preach, oh, I wanna write a book. Oh, I wanna have influence. Oh, I wanted these popular, oh, I wanna have a platform. It was kind of thrust on me. And I think that it was out of default that I obeyed. It was a really long time before I did a mixed proud though again, I, I think I kind of shared a tea bit at youth retreats or something with my husband, but it wasn't until probably 2007 before I ever did a service where men were present.

Doug Smith ([16:31](#)):

Wow. Well, I'm glad for John's voice in your life, one, just to get your voice out there cuz clearly you have something to say and God's used you significantly, and I'm glad you didn't quit. I'm glad you kept going. Um, oh, there's so much I wanna unpack there. I I guess just what I really wanna get to is interesting. What I asked John a similar question of, you know, how did you guys get to where you are? And he actually responded very similarly. Hey, I wasn't seeking the platform. I wasn't seeking being a bestselling author. I wa really the, it's, it seems like it's obviously the same in your life. He basically just kept going to his, his new book, right. Being in awe of God and basically you'll just follow the plan of God for your life. Let him take care of that. Um, and so can you just take that context and just encourage the next generation. We have a lot of next generation leaders listening to this. And I think, again, we live in a world and even the generation ahead of us I think had this a little bit of they are seeking the platform, they are seeking the influence. They want 10,000 TikTok followers. What would your advice when it comes to, you know, just obeying and being faithful, what God puts in your hand now, what would you say to that, that generation?

Lissa Bevere ([17:36](#)):

Well, you know, I'm gonna pose a question for them that God posed me. Hmm. He said to me, Lisa, what do you want? Do you wanna be popular or do you wanna be influential? And I knew the correct answer, and this is before the term influencer with you. I, I knew correct's answer was influential, but I wouldn't know why that was the correct answer. And so I looked up the meaning of the two words. And it's interesting, popular me comment, popular means trendy. Wow. Which means they can love you one day and hate you the next. That influential means powerful. And if so, at the end of the day, it's, I think all of us have to choose, do we want to be influential and great in the side of God or popular and great in the side of man? Because you know, I, I love that you talk to John about the fear of the Lord.

Lissa Bevere ([18:36](#)):

There's two opposing fears right now. There's the fear of man and there's the fear of God and, and the fear of God. It's how we deal with the fear of man. And right now, if you wanna be popular, you're going to find yourself engineered with the fear of man. And, and I, you know, I was actually watching a something, uh, something on the news last night and, and I thought, wow, 2020, yes, it's when the pandemic started, but the real pandemic in my opinion started in 2020, was the fear of man, people

afraid if I don't say this, if I don't virtue signal, if I don't stand on this side, if I don't make my opinions, no. If I'm not constantly out there saying, saying, saying, you know, I still can remember even my, my, uh, social media was run by some young people and they're like, oh my gosh, everybody's doing this and God put this up night now.

Lissa Bevere ([19:36](#)):

And I, and I'm like, what you let us do and then what is going on? And constantly inundating everybody with a, uh, a shaking, uh, everybody's opinion. You could lose popularity, you could lose control. And yet John and I started, and this is something that, you know, I'm, I'm actually really excited about what I'm hearing about some of the revivals that are happening. Yes. Because they opened up with repentance. Mm. You know, it opened our, the revival, I I it started with the young man saying, this is what's going on in my life, and this is what I don't want. And yet we've got the religious Pharisees over here saying, well, are they preaching the whole gospel while tell you this? It took Jesus three years to preach the whole gospel. Yes. Y he had to die on the cross. So I mean, like, I just, I wanna be really careful because the Pharisees were attacking what God was doing while they were defending what he had done.

Lissa Bevere ([20:44](#)):

And sometimes we get so confused that God wants to do a new thing. And if we are pandering to people, which I me to stay in 2020, I feel like I, I actually did some of that because I thought, oh, this is, I got caught up in this whirlwind. And then I step, I thought, now you know what? I am not going to live by the dictates of people. I am, I am not going to play to an audience. But I don't even know, you know, John and I are old enough, but he gets mad. We profane that. But he's 64 this year, and I'm 63 this year. And in our early twenties before we ever had kids, we had the privilege of posting a man. I was actually terrified of. He was in his eighties. He was gr he was, he was really like angry high guy.

Lissa Bevere ([21:41](#)):

I thought he loved John and I, and he took us off to breakfast and he said, I'm gonna tell you some things I've seen coming on the earth. And we're like, okay. He said, I see a day coming where people's lives will be controlled by a box they hold in their hands. Wow. This is probably 1983 or 1984. And we thought, bless him, female. What the people that's being told by a box they hold in their hands, but that's exactly what's going on with the phones. Yeah. People want like, oh, acknowledgement or, you know, they're allowing people, strangers to whoop them and strangers. So, you know, and, and my personality is, I'm just gonna say this, Doug, if I put something up there that I prayed about and I feel like the Lord is, is saying, you need to say this. And somebody comes and says, kick it down, it just makes me wanna post it again. <laugh> <laugh>, I'm not, I'm just not, I'm not going to cave. And again, we're just gonna have to decide that we are going to love God and, and I just don't want to be the old guard that attacks the new thing.

Doug Smith ([23:03](#)):

Yeah. That's so good. You mentioned you're in your early sixties, um, yeah. I wanna ask you about stewarding what God gives you. Obviously God has increased the influence that he's given you in John over the years. Uh, you're certainly not the end of your journey, but you're, you're much further ahead than probably most of the listeners on this. I'm always interested in leaders making it to their finish line and actually, you know, fulfilling and finishing the ministry that God gave to them. And I'm sure in your times of ministry you've seen a lot of leaders start, but I'm sure you saw a lot fizzle out in fall. What

advice would you give to leaders when it comes to stewarding, what God gives them in protecting themselves so that they can make it to their finish lines of ministry?

Lissa Bevere ([23:42](#)):

Yeah, that's probably a question we get more than any other question. And I, I think it is so important, first and foremost, you know, John and I did have the privilege of watching a lot of people start out smart and end up stupid. And I think we, we watched our path here who we had the utmost respect for. Um, at the time we watched him crash and burn and there were a couple elements that were involved. Number one tribe. Um, when people think that they play by different rules, when people begin to think that the anointing of God on their life to minister is the approval of their private life, they always are gonna get in trouble. And so character is a really big deal to God. And and we don't, we don't, uh, we don't always celebrate character. You know, who I am in private is actually more important to God than who I am in the pulp.

Lissa Bevere ([24:45](#)):

Hmm. Because most of the failures don't happen in the pulpit. They happen in private. And so when John and I saw three ministers that we loved and respected, one after another, just go down a path of foolishness. I remember we called some older people and we said, what do tell you, listen, never saw that coming for that person and what do we do? And they said, you're gonna have to surround yourself with people who will ask you the questions you don't want to answer. Mm-hmm. And tell you the things you don't wanna hear. He said, you're going to have to get people who are not afraid to confront you. And for Jan and I, we invited up that a couple people, three people on our board right away, and every member that you sent to us, listen, we don't care how many books you sell, we don't care about how many BP engagements you have. They said, we're gonna actually ask your children how you're doing. Wow. And so when we would have a board machine, these board members would take out another oldest son, these wife and say, okay, your parents are saying they're doing great. What do you think?

Lissa Bevere ([26:12](#)):

And I mean, some people might say, that sounded like an invasion. Oh, lies. But the truth is, I don't want, I would wanna de that minister that somebody that, that, oh yeah, she wrote over to book, but then she ran off with somebody or, or, you know, I don't want that to be the end of my story. I don't want that. And, um, uh, we, we have children that are better humans than us. You're still trying, uh, all four of our sons, they're doing, uh, marriage better than we did it. They're doing parenting better than we did it. And I'm happy about that. Hmm. And at the end of the day, I'm happier about my children than I am about book fails. And you know, it's so funny. I, you know, I, I talk to, I talk, you know, I, when I get to thought, I say, you know, Hey guys, I have a New York kindest bestselling book. And of course that's kind of that ultimate if you have a, at a New York Times, and I say, do you know what happens when you have a New York Times? And everybody's like I said, absolutely nothing <laugh> <laugh>.

Lissa Bevere ([27:28](#)):

Like, your publisher might me like I am something if ever there from my publisher where they're like, congratulations, there's as absolutely nothing. And I said, when I stand before Jesus, he's not going to say, well done, Lisa, I'm so proud of the books she sold. Mm-hmm. He's gonna say, I'm excited about the books she sew. And you know, to that end, we give away more books every year than we sell. And um, so I just think that heaven has a very different economic structure than we have. And so we just gotta listen set up to figure out and align ourselves with, with heaven a proton thing.

Doug Smith ([28:08](#)):

Yeah. Well I love that you gave your your board permission to do that. And I've never heard of anyone saying, let's ask their kids how they're doing. Um, I think that's, that's so, so brilliant. That's amazing. Oh yeah. I'm like, we,

Lissa Bevere ([28:20](#)):

We worked with all four of our sons, so thank you. They knew and they could say things by Lisa, you gotta stop disagreeing with John in front of your team or John, you've gotta stop like railroading things over Lisa and the boys, you're being respect. I mean, they would call us out on things.

Doug Smith ([28:44](#)):

Yeah.

Lissa Bevere ([28:45](#)):

So told we had to have a counselor. Uh, yeah. We were like the, we're not Heidi and or no, you need tools. Mm-hmm. They said every season of life, and again, we talked about seasons, every season of life requires different tools. And so if you are trying to build, um, empty nest season with, without tools, cuz I mean the truth is it can be children, children, children, survival mode. And then all of a sudden if you haven't built your marriage when the kids leave, that's why somebody, people end up getting divorced because they never built their marriage relationship.

Doug Smith ([29:27](#)):

Well yeah. So much. I wanna unpack there. I do wanna dive in. I wanted to ask you about family. I believe you guys just celebrated or celebrating 40 years of marriage, which is incredible. Is that correct?

Lissa Bevere ([29:37](#)):

We're on our 41st year last year. 41st 40?

Doug Smith ([29:40](#)):

Yes. Mm-hmm. <affirmative> <affirmative>. Okay. That's amazing. You've raised incredible kids who, like you said, are all, you know, walking with God and, and men

Lissa Bevere ([29:46](#)):

Now. Yes.

Doug Smith ([29:46](#)):

Yeah. So let's, uh, you know, I'm a parent of four. I have two girls, two boys, six and under. So it's a little wild in the Smith house right now. Yes, we did. But, but talk to us, you know, if you had to sit down and have coffee with my wife and I and, and you could tell us three things that would set us up for, you know, raising kids who will stand in awe of God and walk with him, what would you tell us?

Lissa Bevere ([30:06](#)):

Um, well, first of all, I would say your children are going to follow what you model, not what you say. Mm-hmm. <affirmative> and, um, my, my, my mother, uh, I'm not laughing cuz of this next thing. My

mother-in-law, my, our last living parent just died and the sons were all here in town together and making fun of me about, about catching me worshiping. And they were saying that er they were playing old school worship music. Evan, they were Duffy about, I still was better Sure this happened <laugh> a lot. But they, they said they thought I had a prayer shot. I said, I have never owned a prayer shot in my entire life, <laugh>. But they were like, she was dancing and she was worshiping and we kill us at pool early. And we caught her mom worshiping, well, there's a lot of things thanks for they got me doing.

Lissa Bevere ([31:00](#)):

I'm black litter worship case. So my kids saw me ing God with complete abandon. They thought John, at a every single day reading the word and praying first thing you know, John is your con disciplined person. I was the kind of, uh, free spirit and gypsy word that free so often kind like if one child was John, they could be me. And that the other thing did, um, we brought them into everything and if we, and you know, like, so the modeling and bringing them into everything. But I, I guess the biggest thing is, and I'm sure I I'm sure John would've said this to you, was when we made mistakes, we owned it. Hmm. Um, you know, there, I wanna say it was about six years ago, but it, it could have been a little bit longer or a little shorter. My husband sat down with my voice and, and uh, Addison was married at the time and, uh, the other ones weren't yet.

Lissa Bevere ([32:08](#)):

And he said, you guys, I, I needed to pioneer and travel for a while, but I did it longer than I should have. Mm. And he said it was easier to be on the road than at home and I need to ask you to forgive me. And you know, I I I just feel like, you know, the poor, my boys weren't like, what? No. They knew that there was this <inaudible> where he needed to do it. And then there was this th and where it was easier to do it. And I feel that God has granted us length of dazed with our sons because of John's futility and vulnerability in some of that. And, um, you know, there are awful, some people that say you never should fight in front of your kids. Well we, we did, we did <laugh> in front of our kids. It's sad, but we also resolved it in front of the kids.

Lissa Bevere ([33:03](#)):

So if, if they were part of the conflict, they were also part of the solution. And that could be really embarrassing. Tough times, you know, as the only female in the house with just talk about what that might look like. You know, if they would all look at each other like, is she appeared? I'm like, yo, not, not all <laugh>. So I thought that really was it. And so there were times that, alright, probably kinda leave the room, come back in and then I would say something like, you know, I was just so disrespectful with your dad. And he'd be like, yes. And they say that was wrong. They'd say, well, we knew that. And then j always say, you know how I was really harsh with your mom? And they'd say Yes and he'd said that was wrong. They said, well we do that too. Word. Glad you guys know that. And um, we did play with our kids a lot. Mm. I thought we gave you five things, but

Doug Smith ([33:54](#)):

Yeah, I love it.

Lissa Bevere ([33:55](#)):

We were very organic with it. We played games with them a lot. We did family movie night. Uh, we, you know, would talk if something came up in the movie that we're like, eh, we, you know, we would talk to our kids about it, you know, like, Hey guys, I'm not talking about sexual things. I'm just like, yeah, that,

like, what, what might, what gotta get you wrong on that? You know? And, and and Z looked a lot, um, with our children. We did dinner every single night as a family. And I, I don't think it's an Italian thing.

Doug Smith ([34:26](#)):

<laugh>. I think it's a beautiful practice. Um, same question only when it relates to marriage. I love how you talked about, you know, you had to prepare for empty nester cuz a lot of people don't. Um, my wife and I, as I said, you know, four kids under six we're in that season where, you know, we're doing our best to have day nights and, and stay focused. But man, so much of our time and energy is on the kids. And, and probably rightfully so, but you know, what advice would you give to parents in the, in the thick of parenting to to really invest in their marriage to when they are empty nesters? Uh, they're thriving instead of on empty.

Lissa Bevere ([34:57](#)):

Yes. Well, um, I know for John and I, we would do things like, okay, let's try to get all the kids to bed by a such and such time so that we could just have some vanity time before we went to bed. And um, you know, date night, I know Dayton, it's, were really important for us. Sometimes date nights just met, we walked around the block while our kids were running us because <laugh> we just, we're just walking like mom and dad, we need to go for a watch. Uh, we found things that were commonalities. John and I are very different live. Very favorite thing to do in the, the entire world is Reed. And John does. He has, he had a learning disability. Reading is very difficult for him. Mm-hmm. <affirmative>, you know, so we had to find things that were commonalities to talk about stats.

Lissa Bevere ([35:50](#)):

Um, one of the things we've been doing as empty nesters is we'll watch something ton of like a luncheon learn, but it's dinner and we'll discuss it. Hmm. Like, uh, we were uh, watching a series, uh, by Dr. Jordan Peterson. We watched some of his thing on Exodus, then we watched some of, you know, somebody else's on marriage and we'll talk, talk through, I think having a constant posture of learning. And then, you know, I remember the kid, the kid zone where you just go to bed and you're just so tired. I think affirming to the other person that I love you and I would love to be up for having sex with you, but could we just maybe find each other in the middle of the night cuz I'm just too tired and, and just constantly telling each other that we loved each other, that we were for each other and trying, trying to make moments happen. But, you know, John and I love to ride Thai together. We love, he's trying to cook now, which has been interesting. <laugh>. Cause I feel like he's kind of coming into my zone. But, uh, we do, we do cooking together and uh, yeah. It's been, it's been fun. Yeah.

Doug Smith ([37:03](#)):

Oh, I know one of your top passions is investing in women and, uh, with the time that we have, I'm just gonna leave this open ended and then we can see where it goes. But what's, what's your, what are you seeing with just women and the kingdom today? What's your message to women really open and what are you saying?

Lissa Bevere ([37:18](#)):

Yeah. So I have never seen the concept of womanhood more under attack than it is right now. Mm-hmm. <affirmative>, I, I watch how in, in my opinion, feminists have distorted what it means to be a woman. For a long time women have believed if they wanna be powerful women, they need to act like men. But do we think men who act like women is a position of power? I think that we need to

understand that the concept of femininity and womanhood is under attack because Jesus is coming back for a bride. And so if I was the enemy, I would distort marriage. I would distort femininity. We have cultures sexualizing what it means to be a woman. And the church silence, see its daughters. That is a combination, silence and sexualization. And so what we need to be able to do is be those women who understand the power of having a female voice.

Lissa Bevere ([38:25](#)):

I do believe that women were created to have a voice. Uh, there are the people that would say, oh, in the Garden of Eden Bottom should have shut down Eve. Well, no, that wasn't the problem. Adam and Eve both should have used their voice on the surface and said, it is written, you know, they should have done what Jesus did. It wasn't about Eve not having a voice cuz it was God who's dead. It's not good for man to be alone. So obviously God wanted Eve to, you know, or the woman to come out of the man that the two could be one, but one doesn't equal same. So there are things for women to speak to, and there are things for men to speak to, but the enemy has said no, yell at each other. And if so, I, I feel like we need to restore what God is doing.

Lissa Bevere ([39:14](#)):

We need mothers in the house of God. We need fathers in the house of God. We don't need mothers who act like fathers or fathers who act like mothers. And you know, I feel like there's a pattern that God bet up when he created man and woman in Genesis. He said, have dominion and dominion is the ability to exercise authority on behalf of others. Hmm. So a woman, I I, I still believe when as the heart of her husband is faithfully trust in her, God is saying, I'm going to entrust women with the heart of man, heart of issue, heart of her home, heart of her children, heart of other women, heart of community. But what we've done is we've shut down some of the most compelling and beautiful and strong gift that God has given women so that we could perform in a man's world.

Lissa Bevere ([40:09](#)):

And I, I get it, that women are leading as they've been led, but I think weed women to lead how God created women to lead. And when you feed that woman in Proverb 31 who everybody gets mad at, you know, it says she considers the field and buys it, it ist say she considers the field and then ask for her own permission. She considers the field and buy, and she plants a vineyard. Okay, well that's a long-term com commitment. It says that she uses her influence to lift other people. And I would say to women, I get it, that men have mistreated women, but you'll never look strong by making others look weak. And you'll never look godly by making other people look ungodly. And I think as women, we need to remember our very genesis is to take whatever we come in contact with and multiply it.

Lissa Bevere ([41:12](#)):

It's our, it's our chromosome X x Instead, we believe the lie of dividing and fracturing and, uh, denouncing. And yes, there's, there's toxic mess and, but there's toxic women, but masculinity and femininity is not toxic in and of itself. So I think we need to remember about what, what God absolutely entrusted women with. I wrote a book many years ago called Fight Like a Girl, the Power of Being a Woman. I wrote it in 2005. And it's crazy anstead in that book, if we do not celebrate women for being women and men for being men, our culture will respond by blending the gender. True. And, uh, we are, we're there right now. And that was in 2005. So, you know, I I believe that God has given strengths to women and we need to know what that strength is.

Doug Smith ([42:11](#)):

Yeah. I think that's so good, Lisa. I think the corporate world is, is doing a good job of this. I just had a whole conversation with Katie Cole, I don't know if you know her, a few episodes back. She, she wrote a book called *Developing Female Leaders* and she actually works with churches on how to, to do a better job of empowering female leaders. So giving them a voice. Uh, yeah, she's wonderful. I am curious though, what would your, your message be specifically in the church world, uh, where, like you said, so many of the church leaders silence the voice of women when they're missing out on a sheet, half of the body of Christ and the gifting that he gave them. What, what advice would you Yeah. Or more, what advice would you give to kingdom leaders when it comes to actually empowering and giving voice to women?

Lissa Bevere ([42:48](#)):

Um, be patient. Uh, they, because you are gonna get some reactionary and, and they haven't had the decades and decades and decades of development that the men have had. You know, John, John shared something with me that has proven to be brilliant. He said, Lisa, um, when you speak to men, he said, I'm gonna, I'm gonna tell you a little bit of what I experienced when I said under women. He said, some women, they're, they're so kind and so gentle, they make me feel safe, but they don't grow me. Mm-hmm. <affirmative>. And he said, then there's other ones, they challenge me, but I don't feel safe. He said, as a woman leader, you need to be able to challenge people to grow without making them feel unsafe. And, and I think that, I think that goes with all genders, but as women in particular, I think that, um, we have this ability to call, call forth our sons and our daughters in the house into a place of greater strength.

Lissa Bevere ([43:56](#)):

Um, I do think that women are different than men, and they do think there's provision for that. Um, you know, you're talking about the, what, you know, leading women at the church. I was flying, I think from Houston to Boston one time, and I sat next to a guy who was, uh, one of the top big exs and r and d for Exxon. And he was talking, I'm just wise complaining about gas prices. And then he was, he was telling me about how hard it is for them to find, you know, these different pockets and how many times they searched for and they don't get it and stuff. And so I said, well, how many women are on your research and development team? You know what he said to me? He said, not in us. And I said, why not? And he said, they sabotage one another.

Lissa Bevere ([44:45](#)):

And he said, the women come in and I need them to think different. I need them to think like women because all I've had is thinking like men. And he said, and they act like the men. And he said, then when I get more than one, they sabotage each other. So I think we need to get rid of this scarcity mindset. Tell them there's room for them, room for them to grow. And growth always includes mistakes. You know, I told my husband, he said, if you get up and you preach a message, and even if you say something wrong, there's provision for you. If I get up and say something too strong to whatever, I'm a Jezebel or I'm a witch, or if I'm at a youth camp and I've got a sleeveless shirt on, I'm trying to be seductive. You know, I said, it's, it's a constant bism pressure on the women. And I think, I think we need to have constructive conversations without, um, without condemnation. I think we, I think I wish every woman had a man like my husband that would say, you know what, I'm, I'm gonna will let you speak and minister the way you do. And, um, be unique to that. I have, I have a sons who are very systematic like John and I have sons that are storytellers like me. And we need both of those in the body of Christ.

Doug Smith ([46:18](#)):

Yes. Oh, thank God for John in your life. I'm grateful for his voice and how he's empowered you. And thank you just for all that you've endured to be a voice for women and to invest in women's lives. I know that it's impacting women everywhere. Um, before we dive into the lightning round, uh, is there anything else you'd wanna say or talk about?

Lissa Bevere ([46:38](#)):

Um, yeah, just I guess to all the women, you know, don't be afraid. Don't be afraid to be tender. Don't, don't push aside your intuition. I remember Albert Einstein said, I, I trust a woman's intuition before I trust a man's knowledge. And there's sometimes that fencing, the, the intuition is that fencing that partners with the Holy Spirit, you know, and, and that tenderness has been lost. And I feel like we've lost a lot of protection as mothers. Um, when you carry a child and you carry their DNA and use for the rest of your life, and when mamas have a sense about something, there's a reason for it. And I feel like, you know, in, in the church we need, we need some mama sense.

Doug Smith ([47:26](#)):

So. Good. Well, thank you Lisa. I wanna dive into the lighting round. I try to ask a bunch of fun questions every interview, and because I have a New York Times bestselling author, <laugh> on the podcast. Hey, you're getting asked a question because of this. But I, I am curious, you know, anytime I interview an author who has had success, you know, author in books I have to ask, there's thousands of spying, authors listening, I'm sure. What advice do you have for people who, who want to write and publish?

Lissa Bevere ([47:53](#)):

Write what you know. You know, you, you need to, to write something that is so woven inside of you that if any criticism comes or hardship comes, that you will be able to do it. And then you're going to get criticized. You always will, but you let your critics refine you, not define you. You shall always say better. You can always have more clarity. Um, I invite other people into the process not, um, opinions, um, as much as like, Hey, what are you really struggling with right now? Um, the, I would think consistently with all of my books, there's been chapters that the editors wanted to take out. And if I felt really strongly about them and I said, no, this needs to stay with really funny, they ended up being the chapters that people resonated the most quiz. So trust that.

Doug Smith ([48:46](#)):

Hmm. Wow. Uh, what is the best advice you've ever received and who gave it to you?

Lissa Bevere ([48:52](#)):

It would help Old Pentecostal female minister. She said to me, let your past be your teacher and let your teacher be your friend. Hmm.

Doug Smith ([49:03](#)):

If you could put a quote on a billboard for everyone to read, what would it say?

Lissa Bevere ([49:09](#)):

God, that's a good one. I guess I would say as you pursue him, he'll reveal you. I feel like too many people are trying to pursue themselves and they need to pursue God. The more I know of him, the more

he reveals me. So pursue him and he'll reveal you. I just, I feel like we have a me generation right now that needs to deal with some of their idols.

Doug Smith ([49:43](#)):

Uh, you mentioned you loved reading. Uh, what's the best book you've read in the last year?

Lissa Bevere ([49:49](#)):

Mm. The last key year? Uh, oh, I know what I read. The, I loved, hang on. Uh, it's, it was the biography of Winston Shark, she's wife who was Miss Clementine.

Doug Smith ([49:59](#)):

Oh, wow. That sounds fascinating.

Lissa Bevere ([50:03](#)):

Fascinating. Was totally fascinating. See, I remember, I'm like know I read a really good book,

Doug Smith ([50:09](#)):

<laugh>. That's great. Uh, you get to spend time with, uh, there's some people that God's using significantly throughout the earth. And I'm just curious, when you get an opportunity to spend with someone that you made a admire or look up to or at least respect how God's using them do, do you have a go-to question or two that you always ask in that setting?

Lissa Bevere ([50:25](#)):

Yes. Um, what is your greatest concern and, you know, like, for the future of the body of Christ and what is your greatest regret?

Doug Smith ([50:37](#)):

Hmm. So I'll ask you, I'll ask you both of those. What's your greatest concern about the future for the body of Christ?

Lissa Bevere ([50:44](#)):

My greatest concern is that the body of Christ is gonna tear itself apart. Mm-hmm. And I am concerned that God wants to do a new thing, and so many people are going to end up despising the very answers to their prayers. Wow. Others don't want us to be like the Pharisees when, when, um, Jesus came, they didn't even recognize him because he didn't come how they wanted him to come. And that is the big concern for me. I don't like seeing how excited people are about being right about what is wrong. I don't like that. Yeah.

Doug Smith ([51:22](#)):

Um, I totally agree. And then, uh, other question is, what's your biggest regret?

Lissa Bevere ([51:26](#)):

My biggest regret is that I didn't spend more time playing with my kids. Mm-hmm. I, I think you'll understand this. I think when they were little, I survived them <laugh>, but, but I, I wish I would've just

gone down on the floor and played with them more. And, and to that end, I wish I would've played with my husband more too earlier on. You know, I wish we would've just not cared about, well, me not cared about five folding the underwear and to team the grout and just let certain things go so that I could enjoy other things more.

Doug Smith ([51:59](#)):

Yeah. That's so good. You're actually, I, I interviewed a woman named Liz Wiseman and she said the exact same thing, which it is just stuck with me, but it's hard to actually execute on it. It's just like, I wish I would've just sat down and seen things at their level more often. And so thank you again for challenging me when I get home tonight. It's like focus, focus. Um, <laugh>, uh, so I don't know if you have an actual bucket list or not, but what's something that you've done or crossed off your bucket list in your life that you think everyone should experience before they die?

Lissa Bevere ([52:30](#)):

Well, I got my Italian citizenship and I'm learning the language of my father. And I think that sometimes we lose too much of our connection to the past. And my hope is that I will be able to take all of my children and my grandchildren back Italy and they'll be able to see, uh, where my father came from. My father came from dire poverty to the United States of America with, uh, well, he was born here, but his parents came over. And I, I just, um, I feel like we lose too much of a connection to the history. Wow.

Doug Smith ([53:11](#)):

Uh, if you could go back and have coffee with yourself at any age and you would've actually listened to yourself, what age would you have coffee with yourself and what would you tell that version of Lisa?

Lissa Bevere ([53:19](#)):

Oh my gosh. I definitely would've caught the 35 year old Lisa, and I would've told her, listen, stop trying to be friends with people that don't even like you. Like really, it took me too easy to stop at. I wow. Would've told her to enjoy her husband. And same thing with the kids. Play with the kids, enjoy the kids. Uh, I would let her know that the people she's so worried about pleasing right now, they won't even be in her life in five years. That she will never be disappointed about being obedient to God and loving other people. Well, I would also tell her to be, um, nicer to herself. I was very hard on myself. I, I grew up with a very, um, hard to please father and mother. And so I was very hard on myself. And I just felt like every single night into bed as a young mother, I felt like I had this list of failures. Wow. Oh my gosh. I didn't put the laundry away. Oh my gosh. I yelled when I shouldn't have yelled. I didn't do this, I didn't do that. And then I would wake up way down every single morning of the mom list of failures. I would, I would tell myself that I needed to experience the mercy of God and, um, stop keeping a list against myself every single day.

Doug Smith ([54:42](#)):

It sounds like quite a coffee meeting. <laugh>. Um, I'm 37. I'll take all that too. Uh, the last question is just at the other end of your life, at the end, uh, what do you wanna be remembered for? What do you want your legacy to be?

Lissa Bevere ([54:57](#)):

I want, I want to be a woman who positioned the next generation to go further and farther. I'd want someone who passed on the lessons and not the pain. Hmm. I want somebody who is nose is speaking

the truth in love and living the truth and love, and I wanna see my children flourish in the areas where we failed. Wow.

Doug Smith ([55:25](#)):

Well, thank you for everything. I think you're well on your way to securing that legacy. Thank you for investing in me for the past hour. I've loved this conversation. Thank you for investing in everyone who will listen to this. And again, uh, I will include links to all of your ministries and, and books on the, the podcast show notes. Uh, but really encourage you if you haven't connected with Lisa and John, their wonderful ministry and doing incredible things. So thanks again, Lisa.

Lissa Bevere ([55:47](#)):

Doug, it was an incredible honor.

Doug Smith ([55:55](#)):

Well leader, thank you so much for listening to my conversation with Lisa. I hope that you enjoyed it as much as I did. You can find ways to connect with her in links to everything that we discussed in the show notes L3Leadership.org/361. And as always, leader, I want to challenge you that if you want to 10 x your growth this year, then you need to either launch or join an L3 Leadership mastermind group. Mastermind groups are 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 growth in my life over the last eight years. So if you're interested in learning more about launching or joining a group, go to L3Leadership.org/masterminds or email me at DougSmith@L3leadership.org. And as always, I like to end every episode with a quote, and I'll quote Jeremy Pryor who said this about family. He said, remember, your boss thinks you're replaceable. Your sons and daughters do not. And both are right. So good leaders make sure that you are leading well at home. Well, I hope that you enjoyed this episode. Know that my wife, 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 episode.