

Newborn Promise Podcast

"Testimonies of a First-Time Mom with Kari Jobe"

Audra Haney: Thanks for tuning into the Newborn Promise Podcast, a production of Graham Blanchard Incorporated. You're listening to an interview with Kari Jobe, called Testimonies of a First Time Mom. For today's show notes, transcript and more information about your Newborn Promise Project, please visit GrahamBlanchard.com

Well, welcome back to the Newborn Promise Podcast. I'm Audra Haney and today we have such a special guest talking about such a special little guy. For over ten years, worship leader, song-writer and recording artist, Kari Jobe has gifted the church with some of the most meaningful and memorable songs of a generation. Kari's the recipient of three Dove Awards and a Grammy nomination, but this year, Kari and fellow worship band member and husband, Cody Carnes also received a precious gift, their first child, Canyon. Kari shared with us how marriage, motherhood and even deep loss helped shape her latest album, *The Garden*.

Kari, not only did you bring a beautiful new album into the world this year called, *The Garden*, but you also brought a new little life into the world too, right?

Kari Jobe: Yeah, I have an 11 month old. His name is Canyon Morrison Caine Carnes, kind of a big name for a little man, but he's the sweetest, cutest thing and I think becoming a mom has been my favorite role that I've ever been able to do. I just always tell him, even though he might not understand me, I'm just like, "You're such a gift to me and I'm so thankful to be your mama." Just the sweetest thing.

Audra Haney: Yeah, and having a baby can bring so many changes, physically, mentally, emotionally, but also spiritually. What are some of the biggest spiritual lessons that God has taught you in this first year of parenting?

Kari Jobe: Wow, yeah. I think spiritually, I feel like it's made me slow down and just take time, even with my relationship with the Lord. Just take time to just sit and hang out because although Canyon can't tell me anything, just playing with him for hours at a time and the way he looks at me and the way that he just enjoys me being there or how he lights up when I came into a room, there's just nothing like that and it just has made me realize, God is that way with us. He created us. He loves us so much and he wants to spend time with us and just spiritually it's just really made

me slow down and just enjoy the moments and enjoy everything's that happening.

Audra Haney: Kari, you're such a busy worship leader, song-writer and recording artist, how are you able to find that mom, wife and work balance?

Kari Jobe: I don't know. It's very ... It's fun. I wouldn't say that we've found a balance, but we're working on strategies more than anything. Just having days like today that I have interviews and stuff, I just have to have someone come and help, just so that I'm not feeling pulled, so I can be fully present. My husband's amazing. He's such a good dad, so days that he just does the dad thing and doesn't work at all or write, it's been really helpful.

Audra Haney: You've touched on marriage, but tell me, what are some ways that you and your husband, Cody, have been intentional during this time? What are some things that have helped you grow together instead of apart during this new season?

Kari Jobe: It definitely takes more communication. It takes a lot more, just getting on the same page and just serving each other, really, like, "Hey, I got up last time, would you get up this time," in the middle of the night and stuff like that and my husband's so sweet. When I first had Canyon, Cody would get up in the mornings and let me sleep for the last little bit because I would be up all night feeding and nursing, so I would just always try to let him sleep, so that I could have that extra little nap the next morning, so we just made that work. We just had to communicate a little bit more, but it's been so sweet. We were surprised, we got pregnant five months into getting married, so that was kind of an, okay, well, we're going to enjoy these last nine months of just the two of us, but we've just loved it. We've loved adding Canyon to our lives and our little family of three is just so sweet.

Audra Haney: Kari, can you share some of your, maybe, sweetest moments or greatest victories during this first year of being a mom?

Kari Jobe: So many. There are a few things that we had to overcome right when I first had Canyon because, if anyone knows my story and knows the heart behind what the album that I just wrote, my sister and I were pregnant at the same time and we just loved it. We were so excited and right at the end of her pregnancy, she had to give birth to a sleeping angel that was already back in Jesus' arms before we ever got to meet her, so the latter part of my pregnancy was spent really having to navigate uncharted waters with being pregnant, but grieving the loss for my sister and just being so sad and so disappointed that we weren't going to have these newborns together. It just was really, really hard, so when I first had Canyon, I just would have some pretty big moments between me and the Lord while I was holding Canyon and I just would

cry and cry and just ask the Lord to heal my sister and to really be near to her because she was grieving the loss of not having that baby.

She has a three year old, so he's been such a grace and such a strong gift to her during this season, but you would imagine your first couple months of having a newborn baby are all joy and all excitement, but I had to try to navigate through some grief as well. I just would talk out loud to Canyon, even if I was crying, I just would tell him, "Mommy loves you. We are so glad you're here." Just speaking life over him and speaking celebration and speaking joy, even though my emotions were trying to catch up with that in some ways just because of my sorrow for my sister. My sister and I are really, really close, so it just was difficult, but beautiful and honestly, God meant both of us in that place. He's healed my sister in such sweet ways and just really ministered to her.

Audra Haney: Yes, in your new album, it's called The Garden and it was released earlier this year and it's just absolutely gorgeous. Can you tell me how God really birthed this collection of songs in you during this hard time?

Kari Jobe: Yeah, just navigating something you've never walked through and being a song writer and being worship leader, I still was needing to write for my album, I was still needing to stay on track with what commitments I had with leading worship and being in front of people and so you find yourself being very transparent and vulnerable, at least I do. I try to minister to how I am, just in the natural and just with my friends. I'm very transparent. It's very hard for me to hide what I'm walking through, so I just was like, well, I'm going to write out of this and everything I'm feeling with the Lord and everything I'm experiencing, I'm just going to write through this and put it to melody, so I did and I just kept writing what I was feeling. I probably wrote about 30 to 50 songs for this project, just trying to get all of my thoughts out and all of my emotions. Thankfully, I have that outlet to do that.

Audra Haney: Kari, do you have a favorite song on the album that you're really drawn to because of this last year that you've had?

Kari Jobe: Yeah, a couple of them were really, really from this season. The Garden Speak to Me, Closer to Your Heart. The one that I wrote that was fresh from right after my sister lost her baby, the very first song I wrote from that was called ... It is called I Will Sing, so I really connected that one a lot as well because I just remember that raw place that I was in while writing that one and just those moments that you're saying to God, "I don't understand this. I don't understand how this could have happened. Why do you allow this to happen? What are you doing? Are you in this? Are you here? Do you hear me?"

This things that we pray sometimes knowing in our heart, yes of course he's here. Yes of course he's in the middle of this with us, but we're still

human and we ask these questions, so that song really captures that raw emotion that I was in, but yeah, I was so grateful that deep down, I do know that in his presence is a place of breakthrough and it is a place of healing, so it wasn't like I sat down thinking, I want to make sure I praise him at the end of this song. It really did come from my heart to sing, "Hallelujah, you are God, you won't be shaken," it came out that way, it wasn't like I mustered that up and I guess I should say this. It really came out in that moment, so I was grateful that even in the midst of those questions, my soul still wanted to worship and praise God and I'm glad that we captured that in that song.

Audra Haney: What were some scriptures that were really pillars for you as you wrote this album and also navigated some of these new and special circumstances?

Kari Jobe: Sure. I really, really held on to 2 Timothy 1:7 where it says, "I have not given you spirit of fear, but of love, power and a sound mind." When you're still pregnant and you're experiencing, like my sister lost a baby and we didn't even know really why, so I had to just speak peace and life and the word over myself to not walk in fear. I still did go to the ER a couple times. I just wanted to hear his heartbeat. I was like, I just want to hear my baby's heartbeat. I just need you to hook me up to a machine and every time they'd be like, "Okay, is something wrong? Do you know something?" I'm like, "No, I just need you to let me hear my baby's heartbeat," and lots of tears.

I cried a lot, but they were tears of trust, just having to declare, "I will trust you Lord. Thank you for the destiny you have on my son's life." Something else that's really significant is, the Lord gave us his name Canyon before we started walking through this season my sister and canyons are formed by weathering storms and that really gave me peace to know, okay, God you knew we were about to walk into this season and this is his name, so he's going to be okay. This is his first weather ... First storm that he is going to weather that is going to be a part of his story and be a part of how you're creating him and what he is going to wired to do, so that gave me peace as well.

Audra Haney: I'm Audra Haney and you're listening to the Newborn Promise Podcast. We are talking to Kari Jobe about her first year as a mom and her new album, The Garden. This was Kari's first project to work on as a mom and we had her share how the experience was different from writing and producing on her pervious albums.

Kari Jobe: The good thing is, because Cody and I do it together, we get to have Canyon with us a lot, so depending on where we do writing or what would be happening, I just had him with me most of the time, so just having to say, "Hey, excuse me, I need to go feed Canyon for a few minutes." Everyone's always so kind. When you're nursing or when

you're a new mom and trying to figure things out, everyone is just so patient, at least that's been what I've experienced, so just embrace that and there would be times that I would have to step away for 20 or 30 minutes and Cody and the guys would keep writing and I'd come back and there wouldn't have been anything missed, it was to be like, "Oh, I love that."

I'm really big about connecting to songs. I never just let people write songs for me. I'm very, very much in the process of it and doing the writing and so if anybody would add anything while I was out of the room, I still felt connected because I realized I have to give myself grace that my first priority is my son and that's my greatest joy, so I didn't put all that pressure on myself and it actually made it so much easier.

Audra Haney: Kari, both you and your husband, Cody, have this amazing gift to lead worship, but tell me how you weave that into every day life now that you have a child in the home?

Kari Jobe: I love worship music and I know that worship is beyond just music, it's an atmosphere. It's a lifestyle. It's a thing of saying, God, you're welcome to be in my every day and be ... I want his presence to infiltrate everything that we do in our home. I'm careful of things I let come on the TV. I'm very sensitive to spiritual stuff, so if I sense a spirit of fear, I just command it to go, just always speaking things over my home, protection over my baby, I pray for him every night. I feel like that in and of itself is worship too, just the atmosphere we can set in our home, so I do that a lot with worship.

I have Bethel music and Amanda Cook playing in my house all the time and also we have to rehearse for a lot of things, so Cody will have his guitar out a lot. We don't get a lot done because Canyon now wants to play the guitar too, but it's sweet. We just practice and practice our vocal stuff with him just right there and I think he's going to grow up with such a sense of cultivating worship in his heart because of it.

Audra Haney: I know when I had a baby and I think for a lot of our listeners too, it really changes the way your quiet time or your study time looks with the Lord. It's just a lot busier and there's more needs to meet, so tell me what that looks like now for you and how are you intentional about refilling spiritually when the day is a lot busier?

Kari Jobe: I think just ... I mentioned it maybe a little bit, but giving myself grace to ... If it's a day that I only got to read my Bible for a few minutes before he wakes up from a nap or like the other day, I got my coffee, I got my Bible, he's still asleep, I got cozied up in one of my favorite chairs and I was like, "Oh, I'm so excited." I got three verses in to my Bible reading and he was crying and I was like, "No," so just being gracious on myself of like, okay. I just meditated on those scriptures that day and it was

what I needed. It wasn't like I needed to read five chapters and be hard on myself, it was okay God, thank you that you gave me what I need for today and I love that he speaks to us no matter where we are. I hear him talking to me when I'm at Target. We serve such a mighty God and I love that we can hear his voice no matter what, just cultivating that too.

Audra Haney: I love that. Do you have any other words of wisdom for new or expecting moms out there?

Kari Jobe: Darlene Zschech, right before I had Canyon said something to me that I just was like, wow, I'm so grateful for that. She just said, "Enjoy this baby bubble that you're in." She was like, "It really is such a God time for him to show you things and speak to you about things. It's a very special time, just soak it up," and I did. It's almost like everything else around you pauses and you have this new life and just soak it in. It's a really precious, precious time that I'm thankful I can look back and I don't regret anything, even being tired was special. It was just these sweet, sweet moments, so I don't even know if I have anything scriptural to say except to just ... It's such a beautiful thing that God's given us to birth life and it's just precious, so just soak it in.

Audra Haney: That's really powerful. Would you mind just closing out our time, saying a prayer for new or expecting parents just to bless them and encourage them in this new season of life?

Kari Jobe: Lord, thank you so much for the gift of life and for the promises that you give us. Lord, that you go before us, you're with us and you go behind us and I know every child birth is different, every story is different and I just thank you, Lord, that you're going before every one of these moms that are about to have babies. You have all the details planned out. You know their nurses and the doctors and if they're going to be at home, Lord, you know every moment of what's going to take place and I just pray for peace that any spirit of fear would have to go.

Lord, I thank you for the gift of life and I just pray for your protection and for miracles where they're needed and that you would just peace and for marriages, Lord, those that are about to have babies or those that have newborns or in this new season, I know personally, Lord, sometimes that can be difficult just learning to communicate different or even wanting our spouses to do something that maybe they're not doing. God, I just pray for a gift of more communication, just more grace on each other. Lord, that you just would minister to these families and these marriages and speak life and blessing over them in Jesus name. Lord, that there be more than enough, that they wouldn't be living in lack, but they would be living in more than enough because of your

goodness. God, thank you for your gift of life, again. In Jesus' name, amen.

Audra Haney:

Thank you so much for joining us and thank you to Kari for sharing about her new role as mom. Please join us next week and remember, you can get today's show notes, transcript and Kari's bio and a precious peek of a photo with her and Canyon at grahamblanchard.com.