

## ***We Are Family* Season 2 Episode 24: Gayle King**

**Gayle King:** I'm Gayle King and to me, family is everything. Nothing more important, nothing.

**Julia Dennison:** Hello and welcome to *We Are Family*. I'm your host, Julia Dennison. I'm here with the author, journalist, and host of *CBS Mornings*, which I've been lucky enough to be on, the one and only Gayle King. Gayle, thank you so much for coming on the show.

**Gayle King:** Hi, Julia. I'm so glad to be here. You're talking about one of my favorite topics in the world. So, I'm so glad that I get to sit down with you.

**Julia:** We were just talking about the fact that you were saying every age is your favorite age.

**Gayle King:** Yes.

**Julia:** Which I love to hear because I feel like especially these days, parents are so burned out, but we get kind of caught up, sometimes in the negativity of parenthood. I feel like, the more we could talk about the joy, the better. And honestly having a five year and a half year old, I love it. I mean, she has opinions and those opinions can be challenging, but it's really fun.

**Gayle King:** We like them to have opinions. You do not want a little mouse burger girl.

**Julia:** Correct.

**Gayle King:** You want somebody that speaks up and speaks out. Before I had a baby, people would say, "Oh God, get ready for the terrible twos," or, "Wait till they're teenagers."

I realized, you don't have to have any of those phases. You really don't. Listen, there can be rocky times, I'm sure, but it doesn't have to be. It's not a forgone conclusion.

**Julia:** That's great. And of course, speaking of girls, you grew up with three sisters. Right? What was your upbringing?

**Gayle King:** Yes. I'm the oldest.

**Julia:** Were you close, growing up?

**Gayle King:** Yes. We were close. Listen, I'm the oldest, and my sisters tell me that I was bossy. I don't think it was bossy. I think it was just managerial skills.

**Julia:** Yep.

**Gayle King:** That's what I think.

**Julia:** Yep.

**Gayle King:** So I grew up in a house with four girls. I spent my whole life saying, God, I wish I had a brother. I wish I had an older brother because all of my friends who had older brothers, they seemed to take care of them. They had friends that they could introduce them to. Having an older brother was very cool.

So, the whole time I was growing up, I said, when I have children, I sure hope I have a boy first, because I knew I wanted more than one. I wanted my children to have an older brother. So, I spent my whole life wanting that, at a very early age.

**Julia:** So you always wanted to be a mom?

**Gayle King:** Oh my God. I wanted to be a mom since I was in seventh grade. I had very specific ideas, Julia. I wanted to have the boy first, as I said, because I thought you should have an older brother. Then I was going to have twins, two years later, girl twins.

Their placeholder names were Rusty and Dusty. Rusty and Dusty would have very long hair that I would brush every night, a hundred strokes. They would have the cutest clothes, and they would get along so well, and they'd have this older brother. I had it all worked out. That was my plan.

**Julia:** Oh my goodness.

**Gayle King:** I can remember in seventh grade, writing down very specifically about being a mother. I wanted to be a mom for a very long time.

**Julia:** How was your idea of being a mom different from actually being a mom? Was there anything that surprised you about motherhood, when you did become a mom?

**Gayle King:** I'm not going to say it surprised me, but I just know it's a lot of work. Your whole world revolves around this little creature that comes into your lives.

I used to marvel at, how do people go all day and they don't bathe? I so got it after I had a baby. Number one, you're sleep deprived. That's something that's very, very difficult.

I used to think whenever Kirby would fall asleep, I'd go, well, let me jump down and try to get a nap, too. So, that's how it happens. You think, oh, well, while the baby's sleeping, I'll work out or I'll clean the house or blah. None of that happened. When she slept, I would sleep.

Now, I hear parents have this thing called sleep training, where they're sleep training the baby... because Kirby, my favorite daughter, has now had a baby and she has very specific ideas about sleep training.

I said, "Listen, when you were little, when you fell asleep, that was when you fell asleep." The schedule that they have the babies on is fascinating to me.

**Julia:** Right. Yes. I mean, there's a lot of thought processes.

**Gayle King:** Have you heard of sleep training, Julia?

**Julia:** Yes, absolutely.

**Gayle King:** I had never heard of it.

**Julia:** I feel like it's one of those things that make you feel like you're failing as a parent over and over again because it's so dang hard.

Sleep training never seems to work for me. I always end up just letting my daughter in bed with me. But you know what? I've come to terms with that. I have a big bed. I'm a single mom. If she wants to get in bed with me, and we can cuddle, how bad could that be? That sounds wonderful. I enjoy it.

**Gayle King:** No, no, no. That's okay. Now if she were 14 or 15, that might be some issues with you, Julia. I'd be thinking, Julia, 'Are you okay?' But at four or five...

Listen, I think we have to give ourselves some grace because we juggle a lot of balls. We're going to drop some balls. And I say, you pick them up and you just keep on going.

**Julia:** Yeah.

**Gayle King:** When my kids were coming up, I did not have one of these households where I want to be your friend. I had a very clear, I am the boss here. This is not a democracy. I do want to hear your opinion. Your opinion matters to me. But at the end of the day, I get to be the one that makes a call.

Sometimes, I would make what I call mommy decisions. I'd say, "What do you think?" If it wasn't what I thought was really healthy or the right decision for them, I would say, "Well, I think that's good, but I'm going to have to call it here. I'm going to make a mommy decision."

**Julia:** Yeah.

**Gayle King:** I didn't want to be one of those parents where she and I... and I have a son too, we're best friends. No, no, no.

**Julia:** Right.

**Gayle King:** I did not want that kind of dynamic when they were little. Now it's different. Now it's different.

**Julia:** No, it's an important distinction. I think you can't always be your kid's friend, but that's helping them. Ultimately, you have to do what's best for them. And sometimes, being their friend is not what's best for them.

**Gayle King:** Believe it or not, I believe kids like boundaries.

**Julia:** Yes, absolutely.

**Gayle King:** They like boundaries. They like rules. Listen, the kids don't want to disappoint you anymore than you want to disappoint them.

I think they have great appreciation. They may balk at it and say they don't like it. But deep down, they know that the reason why you have the rules that you have or the boundaries that you have, is because you love and care about them, and that you really want to make sure that they're okay.

**Julia:** Right. Did I read it right? You moved around a lot as a kid. You lived in Turkey at one point? Do you remember that?

**Gayle King:** Oh yeah, of course. I lived in Turkey from first grade to sixth grade.

**Julia:** Wow.

**Gayle King:** Then we were in Washington, we were in California. Yeah, I did. I never think of it as moving around a lot. That's so interesting. I just think, this is just the life we were living.

**Julia:** Right.

**Gayle King:** So from first grade to sixth grade, I was in Turkey. From seventh grade to high school, I was in California. And then I moved to the east coast. I was at University of Maryland. So, I don't think it's moved around a lot. It's just that I didn't live in the States.

**Julia:** Right.

**Gayle King:** I think that may be fascinating, but I didn't really move around a lot.

**Julia:** Mm-hmm (affirmative). Did you travel a lot with your kids as they were growing up?

**Gayle King:** Yes. Yes. Yes. I think travel and exposure, if you can do it, is very important for children.

**Julia:** Yes, I agree.

**Gayle King:** I think the younger you can do it, the better off it is. They should be exposed to worlds that are not like their own.

**Julia:** Mm-hmm (affirmative). Absolutely.

**Gayle King:** So, yeah, they've been travelers. They had their passports at a very young age.

**Julia:** That's wonderful.

**Gayle King:** They didn't know where they were, but they had their passports at a young age.

**Julia:** That's important, though. Of course, so you already had a hugely successful career in TV when you became a mom. Did you take your kids to work a lot? Did you feel like it was important for them to see you at work and working?

**Gayle King:** Well, when I got pregnant the first time, with Kirby, I was 31. I was a local anchor in Hartford, Connecticut. They don't like you to take a whole lot of time off, but it was my first baby, so I did.

I took three months off, which was unheard of. Kirby was born in May. That's also a very high ratings period. She came early, so it's right in the middle of the May book. But the station was like, "Oh, this is great," when I know inside, they were going, "Ahhhhhh."

**Julia:** How inconvenient of her to come in at a high ratings moment?

**Gayle King:** Oh, what are you thinking? But it all worked out. So yeah, I took a big chunk of time off and then Will came. They're 11 months apart. It's one of those things where you say to the doctor...I was breastfeeding. There's that old stereotype or that old fable, that if you're breastfeeding, it's hard to get pregnant. Not true, but I was also on birth control and still got pregnant.

**Julia:** Oh my gosh.

**Gayle King:** So it says to me that Will was meant to be. I can remember just being mortified like, oh my God, I've just taken all this time off. How in the world do I go and tell these people, "Guess what? I'm pregnant again."

**Julia:** Oh my gosh.

**Gayle King:** How do I go and tell them that, and what are they going to think of me? Oprah said, "They're going to think that you have sex with your husband. That's what they're going to think. And you know what? That's okay."

But I was mortified. I was so, how do I tell them this after being off all this time.

After Will was born... he was born in April, also right before the May book, I came back very quickly. And then I took more time off because I felt, geez, I can't do this again to them. I can't do it.

**Julia:** Oh my goodness. Do you have any tips for working parents? Because I feel like, now more than ever, parents are feeling that burnout. Sometimes you feel like you are not good enough as a mom and you're not good enough at your job. And it's like, you can't kind of win at either.

**Gayle King:** I know. You feel pulled apart, in every direction and then you don't feel that you're doing anything correctly.

**Julia:** Right.

**Gayle King:** You feel, okay, I'm not doing the mom job the best I can. I'm not doing the work job the best I can. I think you just have to figure out...

This is the thing, Julia. It's not a one size fits all. Everybody's got to figure out the plan that works for them.

I decided very early on, I am not going to beat myself up because I'm not at every single play or every single event or I don't make my cupcakes and cookies from scratch, which is what a lot of mothers did.

I was fine going to the grocery store and buying it and bringing it in for the class. I just wasn't going to feel bad about that.

Kirby started walking before she was two. I was anchoring the noon and the five o'clock newscast. I remember my ex calling me because he was in law school. So, he got to see it and said, "Oh, Kirby just walked. I videotaped it."

I said, "Oh, that's great," and I hung up the phone. Someone came and pet me like a puppy, like, "Oh, I'm so sorry you had to miss that." I go, "Well, I'm going see it in what? Oh, five hours. She's still not going to be running a marathon. So, when I see it, it'll still be my first time."

I just thought, I'm not going to beat myself up because I didn't... Listen, and first steps is really being generous because it's a step, step fall.

**Julia:** Right, the toddle.

**Gayle King:** Yeah, it is. It's a wobble.

**Julia:** Yep.

**Gayle King:** I thought, gosh, I don't know if she was trying to comfort me, or if she was trying to throw shade, but I just decided I wasn't going to take all that in.

**Julia:** Right.

**Gayle King:** Now, I wanted to be there for the important things. In Little League, they have 50 million fricking games.

**Julia:** Right.

**Gayle King:** There were times I don't want to go to all the games, but I wanted to be there for all the important stuff.

**Julia:** Yeah.

**Gayle King:** I also thought when they were little, I wanted to be the first thing they saw when they woke up, and I wanted to be the last thing they saw when they went to bed.

**Julia:** Yeah, I love that.

**Gayle King:** That was very important to me.

**Julia:** I love that. This is making me feel better because my daughter is having a kindergarten poetry slam as we speak, but she's not even reading a poem or anything. So, I was like, I'll watch the recording. It's okay.

**Gayle King:** Oh and she's not reading a poem?

**Julia:** No, exactly. I'm like, I'm good.

**Gayle King:** Julia, we're having so much fun.

**Julia:** Yep.

**Gayle King:** You would go and you would just sit there and watch her watch other kids.

**Julia:** I think so.

**Gayle King:** What is the point of that? And while we're at it, let's talk about these school events.

**Julia:** Yes.

**Gayle King:** They have the Christmas program. I remember being there one year where the kids sang six songs. Is that necessary? I think if you sing a couple of songs, you call it a day and you move on.

**Julia:** Yep. Yep. I agree.

**Gayle King:** This is the other thing. I didn't want them to think, at any time, that me working was a burden to them or to me. I didn't want them to think, "Oh God. I'm so sorry. I have to go to work. I can't do..." I didn't want them to think that's what work was.

**Julia:** Right.

**Gayle King:** I wanted them to know, I really love work. I'm happy doing work. And I think if you're happier yourself, you're also a better parent.

**Julia:** Yeah. I agree.

**Gayle King:** So, I never wanted them to think, "Oh my God, I'm so sorry. Dah, dah, dah, dah, dah, dah."

There were times, if I had to miss it, because there was something important at work, I could explain it in a way, but I was never, "Oh my God, this is so awful."

**Julia:** Right.

**Gayle King:** Nor did I want them to think it's either a choice of work and you, and I'm choosing work. That's not what is happening here.

**Julia:** Yeah.

**Gayle King:** But anybody who works, that there are certain things at work that you cannot miss.

**Julia:** Mm-hmm (affirmative). That's the way it goes.

**Gayle King:** That's just the reality of it.

**Julia:** Were there any non-negotiables when it came to traditions with your kids, when they were growing up, or things that you loved to do?

I know you talked about travel. Was there anything that you loved to do as a family, like holidays or anything like that?

**Gayle King:** Oh, holidays are very important.

**Julia:** Yeah.

**Gayle King:** I got divorced when they were four and five. So, that's always an interesting dynamic because the first weekend without them was very difficult. When they go to their dad's for the weekend, that was very difficult. I just got in the bed, and I was in the fetal position all weekend. I didn't want them to know that, because I didn't want them to know, 'this is very hard. You're leaving'. I didn't want that.

We would pack their daddy bags, I called them, and put fun things in, because you're going to your dad's this weekend, but that was very difficult. But then you get into a routine. You get into a groove and everybody adjusts.

But when it came to holidays, the thought of not being able to spend any part of the holiday with them was very difficult.

**Julia:** Yeah.

**Gayle King:** So, I negotiated, okay, you can have Thanksgiving. I'll take Christmas, and then he would come and pick them up for New Year's.

**Julia:** Okay.

**Gayle King:** Or sometimes we would do half the day and half the day, depending on where we were living at the time. But the first holiday without them, where you don't have them, is tough.

**Julia:** It's really hard.

**Gayle King:** It's very difficult.

**Julia:** Yeah.

**Gayle King:** You can also get into a routine and not make it be the most horrible thing in the world.

**Julia:** Yes, I feel you.

**Gayle King:** The truth of the matter is, the kids love their dad. The dads love their kids. Now, he might have been a crappy husband, I'm only speaking for myself, but he loves his children and his children love him.

I never wanted them to feel they had to choose, or that they were slighting me because they had a good time at his house. I never wanted them to feel that.

**Julia:** I could not agree more. That is entirely my philosophy, also. I feel like that skill of being a husband and that skill of being a dad is very, very different.

**Gayle King:** Yeah. You know what we would do? We would spend their birthdays together.

**Julia:** Yes.

**Gayle King:** We made a deal, that we would spend their birthdays together. They got to pick a restaurant, and the four of us would spend that time together.

**Julia:** Yeah.

**Gayle King:** So, they would know that, we are here together to celebrate you.

**Julia:** That's good. That's so important to just show that united front together. Yeah.

**Gayle King:** You know I see so many women who are so angry at him and vice versa, that they use the child as a way to get back at the parent.

**Julia:** Yeah.

**Gayle King:** A, never works. It only hurts a child. It's not hurting the other parent the way you want it to. And you have to get to the place that you love your children more than you dislike whatever your spouse did.

**Julia:** Yes. I think that's true.

**Gayle King:** You have to stay laser focused on them. He or she may drive me nuts, and I can't stand them for whatever reason, but my main concern is that we have this happy, healthy child.

**Julia:** Yeah, absolutely. I agree. I wanted to ask you a little bit of a serious question. You've talked openly about the fears you've had for your son, as a Black man living in America today. This is such an important topic, that we talk about a lot at Parents.

**Gayle King:** I still have those fears, and he's 34.

**Julia:** Yeah. Right. Right. Understandable. How did you have those conversations with your kids growing up, around race? What tips would you have for other parents who are trying to have those similar conversations?

**Gayle King:** Well, listen, we lived in Greenwich, Connecticut, which is one of the most whitest, whitest of communities in the country. My children, obviously looking at me and their dad, are children of color.

So, at a very early age, with Will in particular, I would say... Might have been 11, 10, 11, 12.

All Black parents, I don't care what your income level is, we've all had what we call the talk or the conversation, with our sons in particular, that if there ever is a police encounter, you do exactly what they tell you to do. And even if you think it's unfair, do not resist. Do not talk back. Just do exactly what they say, and we will work it out later.

I would say, "Your friends, Kyle and Patrick, do not have to have this conversation because they [00:20:00] are given the benefit of the doubt."

In most places, young Black boys, young Black men are not given the benefit of the doubt. They're automatically labeled. They are automatically thought of as suspects.

It's interesting. I just did a story recently with someone. They were talking about Dylan Roof. He's the young, white guy who shot up the church in Charleston.

This guy shot nine people. Police knew what they were dealing [00:20:30] with, and he is alive today.

You see the stories of unarmed Black men who haven't, in some cases, done anything, have no weapon. They are dead.

Dylan Roof is looked at as, oh, he's troubled. Trayvon Martin, who was a young Black man who was killed in Florida... 10 year anniversary's coming up, actually, he is dead and was labeled a thug.

We have to wrap our hands about the reality of what we're dealing with in this country, still.

My son is 34. He had a incident. He's working in California. Someone had clearly broken into his office. He had them on tape. He was calling the police, but it was at night.

He said, "I'm a little nervous because I'm trying to explain to them that this guy has been here. I don't want to be mistaken for whoever it is they think they're coming to see."

I mean, just stuff that you wouldn't even think, as a person who's white, ] that I even have to think about that.

**Julia:** Right.

**Gayle King:** I think if you're a young man of color, you do have to give that some thought.

**Julia:** Yeah, absolutely. It's such a burden. Yeah, a hundred percent.

We talk a lot also, on *Parents*, that white families have the privilege of wondering, what age do we talk to our kids about race? Often, Black families don't have that choice at all.

**Gayle King:** No, no, no. I mean, I remember I was telling a friend of mine in Greenwich, a white parent, I was telling Will I had the conversation, and he goes, "Well..."

She said, "Well, we have talked to Tommy about being responsible and obeying the law." I go, "Cathy, it's a different conversation. If God forbid, something happens with Tommy and there's a police encounter, he's going to be given the benefit of the doubt and Will is not."

**Julia:** Right. Right. Absolutely. All right. So the next topic of conversation I want to talk about is, we talk a lot here at *We Are Family* and *Parents*, about chosen family and found family and creating your family.

You are famed to have this wonderful, deep friendship with Oprah. She's clearly family to you. I would love to hear you talk a little bit about what your relationship Oprah means to you and how she's a part of your family.

**Gayle King:** Well, I mean, listen, we've been friends since we were 21 and 22. I've known Oprah, before I was married, before I had my children. She's been with me every step of the way, for any event in my life and I, her.

It's funny. When Kirby was born, you'll like this Julia, she came to visit us and she had a T-shirt on that said, husbands come and go and friends last forever. I went, "Huh? I go, Why are you wearing that shirt?"

I don't even think she did it on purpose. Someone had just sent it to her. So, she just came bebopping over in that shirt.

Now, that actually came to be true, but at the time... The point I'm making is, we've been friends for a very, very long time. I call and talk to her about everything and anything.

**Julia:** That's so wonderful. I love that.

**Gayle King:** She's definitely, definitely a big part of my family and a big part of my life. Now, she's godmother to Kirby and Will, so she's a big part of their lives, too.

**Julia:** Yeah. Also, it just highlights that importance of having strong friendships, I think, especially as a mom and having that support network. Because you can't kind of put everything on your partner, and you can't put everything on your kids either.

**Gayle King:** Yeah. Women understand what this is. Women understand what having a strong friendship is. I know a lot of people, but I don't have a lot of true blue friends. And I'm here to tell you, you only need one. You only need one. Somebody who you really know is in your corner, who will tell you the truth, who doesn't judge you, who supports you. I think people, if you have a really strong friendship circle, and I mean a really strong friendship circle, consider yourself blessed.

**Julia:** That's wonderful. So lastly, you became a grandmother last year. That's so exciting. Congratulations.

**Gayle King:** God, I could call up a picture right now and send it to you. I'm so nuts about this child.

**Julia:** That's so wonderful.

**Gayle King:** I'm certainly not the first person to have a grandchild. I realize that, but what I like is seeing Kirby become a mother herself. She's so good at it. She and her husband Virgil are such great partners.

It's so interesting. I don't offer advice unless she asks for it, although it's very difficult, especially during the sleep training. I did not understand that.

**Julia:** Right.

**Gayle King:** I was holding the baby and she said, "Could you lift up your arm?" I went, "Oh, okay. Am I not holding the baby correctly? Oh, okay. What do you want me to do?"

It's because they are such a tight little unit. This child, it's what you wish for all children, that they come into the world bombarded with love and that everybody is so glad that you're here.

**Julia:** That's wonderful. We ask everyone at the end of the podcast, what are your hopes and dreams for your family for the future?

**Gayle King:** Oh, is this the end of the podcast?

**Julia:** It is. I know. We zoomed right through.

**Gayle King:** Because Julia, I thought you were going to... I have to say this, because I wish people would help me with this. If I had to do a do-over in parenting... I don't cook. I'm not a cook. So, my kids were raised on fish sticks and tater tots and what are those called? SpaghettiOs. If I had to do it over, I wish I had done a better job with nutrition.

**Julia:** Interesting.

**Gayle King:** Yeah. I would like advice about that because I just think that you want to feed them healthy meals with all the vegetables and the fruit. What I learn is, kids can learn to like broccoli just as much as they can learn to like a honey bun.

**Julia:** They can. Yeah. My daughter weirdly likes broccoli, but I don't make a big deal about it. This is the difference. I try to not make food emotional with her.

**Gayle King:** Yes, yes, yes.

**Julia:** So, I try not to talk about bad food and good food.

**Gayle King:** Yeah. Or you could say, this is really good.

**Julia:** Exactly.

**Gayle King:** This is really good. Because you form that.

**Julia:** Right.

**Gayle King:** You form that. Kirby has course corrected. She's actually very good. Her eating habits are good. I see how she feels about nutrition.

The other day, Will was eating something. I go, "God, Will. Why are you eating that?" He goes, "Well, your fault. You started this." I just thought, "Oh, God."

I mean, he's starting to do a little better too, but I wish early on, either I had gotten somebody to help me with cooking or just made better choices.

**Julia:** It's hard. At the end of the day, sometimes I know what's best. But I'm working long hours, and I'm picking my daughter up, and I'm doing the juggling.

**Gayle King:** I know. And it's easy just to go through and grab something quickly at McDonald's, which we had done or Wendy's or Burger King. But I wish I would've done that better. I wish I would've done that better.

**Gayle King:** My advice is for parents, please make sure your kids are eating nutritious, healthy meals. You can do it, and it doesn't have to cost two arms, two legs and a spleen. I think that is really important, to lay that foundation early. If had a do-over, that's what I would do. I would do a much better job with their nutrition.

**Julia:** Interesting. Because it does feel like there are those lifelong habits, that you form early and your opinions about food.

**Gayle King:** Yes. Yes. Yes.

**Julia:** That's a really good one. Well, I guess as a grandmother, you do get a little... you don't exactly get a do-over, but you get to kind of reflect on the way you parented.

**Gayle King:** Oh no, listen. I'm very proud of the parent I was. I actually think I was a really good parent, to be honest with you, because I loved it so much.

Once there was an article, we did it in Oprah Magazine, my other job, years ago. We did a story on helicopter parenting.

**Julia:** Oh, yes.

**Gayle King:** I called Kirby, and I said, "Kirby, do you think I was a helicopter parent?" She said, "What did Will say?" I said, "I haven't called him yet. I'm calling you, and then I'm going to call Will." She goes, "Well, call him."

**Julia:** Oh my God. That's so funny.

**Gayle King:** I know. I thought that was funny too. And then I said, "Well, what do you think?" She said, "Well, all I can say is I hear choppers."

**Julia:** She's like, "What's that sound? It sounds like a helicopter."

**Gayle King:** But listen, listen, I will proudly own that.

**Julia:** Yeah.

**Gayle King:** I will proudly own that.

**Julia:** Yeah.

**Gayle King:** Julia, you'll be happy to know, I'm very good at giving unsolicited advice, even now.

**Julia:** Well, but you said you've been holding back as a grandmother, so that's very impressive.

**Gayle King:** Well, it's not grandmother advice, just life advice.

**Julia:** Okay. I love that. So yeah, hopes and dreams for you for your family for the future?

**Gayle King:** Oh listen, I just want my family... We are very tight. We have a big vacation every year. Oprah said to me, they were in their early twenties and she goes, "Adult kids don't like going on vacation with their mom." I go, "Mine do," because we used to call ourselves a tripod.

The three of us are so tight and get along so well. And now that Virgil is part of the family, Kirby's husband, we say we're a square. I mean, we really do genuinely like hanging out together.

**Julia:** That's wonderful.

**Gayle King:** So, my hopes and dreams are that, that doesn't change, that we can still maintain the connection.

Connection is very important. I say this all the time. We can have great lives, great careers, travel, do wonderful things. But at the end of the day, we are all going to be a trivia question.

Even [00:31:30] Barack Obama is going to be a trivia question. What was the name of the first black president? If you do it right with your family, you are never a trivia question.

So, I would like this bond that we have to continue to flourish. And that, knock on wood, we stay healthy, number one and happy. I want the same thing that everybody wants for their family.

**Julia:** Gayle, that is so beautiful. Thank you so much. It has been such a pleasure having you on the podcast. This has been so much fun.

**Gayle King:** Nice to talk to you, Julia!

**Julia:** Thanks so much for listening to my conversation with the wonderful Gayle King. That's all for this season of *We Are Family*. I'm Julia Dennison, see you soon!

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