



TEN MINUTE TALK

A Series of Rapid-Fire Questions With Dawson Staff Members

Cole Griffith, Dawson's Minister to College Students, always has a friendly smile and kind word to share with others. While his biblical teaching has proven to be meaningful and thought provoking for all ages, he definitely has a heart for sharing the Gospel with young people, particularly those who are just beginning to know Jesus. Cole and his wife, Jada, love being new parents to 9-month-old Jude. Beatles fans? Read on to learn more!

How did you meet your wife, Jada?

We met at The University of Alabama. We went to the same church and did a lot of the same service opportunities. One summer we worked with our church's mercy ministry in the city and ended up leading a VBS all summer.

Favorite thing about being a dad?

Watching him learn things and seeing his personality emerge the older he gets and him being really curious about the world.

Cutest thing baby Jude has done?

Any time he laughs, like a real deep, sustained laugh—it melts my heart.

Is Jude named after the Beatles song?

No, we wanted a one-syllable J name from the Bible.

Your soda of choice?

I'm a glass bottle Coke person. You can't beat it.

Biggest time waster on your phone?

Fantasy football or Zillow or Facebook Marketplace.

Do you golf?

What I'm doing on a golf course cannot be considered golfing. It's more like donating balls to the woods.

What music makes you happy?

I have a playlist called my vibe check playlist. It's 60s, soul, Muscle Shoals sound.

What did you study in college?

I have a degree in civil engineering.

How did you transition to ministry?

I thought I was going to do engineering stuff as a missions opportunity. But through college, I got involved with my local church and discovered that God was calling me to pastoral ministry.

How do you like your coffee?

I typically take my coffee black.

Best local coffee shop?

Seeds.

I hear you're a chef. Any specialties?

I do a "kitchen sink" chicken taco. Everything in the spice drawer goes on it. But I also make a pasta that I hand roll if I have time.

What's the best noodle shape?

I like bow ties.

Favorite movie franchises?

I love the *Ocean's* movies. I also grew up on *Star Wars*, and I love *Indiana Jones*.

Best movie you've seen recently?

Over the summer, Jada and I watched some classic series of movies, like all the *Jaws*, all the *Jurassic Park* movies. The first *Jaws* is so good!

What's something you learned while you were teaching?

I learned how to share information that individuals could hear and care about. Making things relatable for the kids in a way that they would really hear it and be challenged to grow.

Who are some of your favorite sports teams or athletes?

I grew up a Falcons fan. I root for the Los Angeles Chargers. My wife's dad played for them. We also root for Notre Dame and Alabama. Kobe Bryant was my icon growing up.

Best memory from a sporting event?

I went to the Rose Bowl a couple years ago. In high school I played football, and my senior year we went to the state championship game at Bryant-Denny.

Furthest you've been from home?

Mumbai, India.

Favorite place you've lived?

I think Birmingham. I moved around a lot growing up, but Birmingham fits my vibe and my personality. It's where I've come into my own as an adult.

What would you do with \$1 million?

Invest in a Roth IRA.

Tell us about your dog.

Cooper is brown, he has never met a stranger. He's so annoyingly friendly. I think he would make the worst guard dog ever.

What are you looking forward to?

Seeing Jude grow up and watching how he gets more of his own personality and just doing fun things with him.

What superpower would you want?

I would like to be able to move things with my mind, like grab the TV remote or turn the light off.

Favorite holiday?

Definitely Thanksgiving. It's all the sentimentality of Christmas and none of the stress.

Any Thanksgiving traditions?

I try to help cook for the family. I test out new recipes. Other times we'll go see Jada's family in Michigan for Thanksgiving, and Michigan in the fall is so beautiful.

Do you have any siblings?

I have two younger brothers.

What's your pet peeve?

When little things that should work don't. Minor inconveniences, especially in technology.

What advice would you give high schoolers before college?

Work a job you never thought you would. Just collect random experiences and try new things.

Any hidden talents?

I can whistle really well.

Level with us. How tall are you?

With good posture, 6'3".

Have you ever accurately predicted the NCAA March Madness winner?

No, but I did accurately predict the NCAA football champion in 2010.