

Week 11

3/8/12

James: You all are so nice! Thank you. And you are too! We welcome you to *LIFE Today*. I'm James Robison.

My wife Betty and I are thrilled to have Lisa Harper back with us. She is really gifted, she is a great communicator, and she is a great writer. And here, *Stumbling into Grace*.

And by the way, the last time she was coming here she stumbled all over herself. She was out running and she fell and nearly lost her nose. So she is over here laughing, there wasn't anything funny about it. We prayed for her and prayed with her and lifted her up, and it was not a good thing.

We're thrilled to have Lisa back. She's says by the way she always has something unusual happen when she comes here so I'm anxious to hear about it.

I do want to mention that in the bookstores right now you can get *Indivisible*. I pray you will because I think what we've written in *Indivisible* is an answer to your prayers. How can we get out of this pit? How can we get our nation out of this ditch of debt? How can we bring an out-of-control government under control? How can we get back under God and get back into blessing? Well, this is really the way to get back into the blessing of the Lord, individually, as families, and for our nation.

Well, Lisa Harper is here. I'm anxious to find out about *Stumbling into Grace*. I've got to wonder, did you write this after you stumbled and fell?

Lisa: I think it would be a great illustration point but I'd already turned it in.

What I was going to tell you, I love to come to your show but every single time I get to come to *LIFE Today*, I gain like ten pounds! So I found this out this past week. I tried on a skirt, I thought, well, I'll wear a skirt and look really feminine. It cut off my circulation. I was like good night! I'm going to see James and Betty and have to wear spanx again! So that's the only thing I don't like about this show is coming always means spanx for me!

James: How do we do that? We tell people we want to feed you, we have feeding programs all over the world. Are we inspiring you?

Lisa: I need to read your book. I need to be...

James: If you'll listen better to what we say on the show, we say help us in the feeding program, we don't say increase your feeding program.

Lisa: I think I got it confused. I'm kind of A.D.D. so was not paying attention.

James: We didn't say eat more, we said feed more people.

Lisa: I was thinking you need to write one that says "invisible" -- and if I would read that I might lose these ten pounds.

James: Do you know that we were on Glenn Beck and he was one of the first ones to hold it up and say, "I want everybody to get this book. It's like a must read." And so we get this text from a guy, literally, like within the next day that said, "I went online, and went to Amazon and went to Barnes and Noble, went to the bookstores and I cannot find your book Invisible." I told my son, I said, "Text him back and say it's because it's invisible, you can't find it."

[Laughter]

All right, I want you to tell us about because I don't think *Stumbling into Grace*, you've already cleared the air, it wasn't written when you took that fall right before you were coming here. By the way, you're all right? Is everything okay? It looks good.

Lisa: Yes, sir! Well, you have a great makeup artist. She put a little prosthesis on it.

James: Is everything okay?

Lisa: It is okay. I almost lost my nose. I tried not to be vain but I realized how attached I was to my nose when I almost lost it. I'm glad it came back. But no really, the premise of that book is I took journal entries with encounters Jesus had in the gospels, because I think all too often we don't realize that he loves us on our worst day. We think we have to put on our best performance. And when I'm in my spanx --

James: Have you ever found that putting on a show doesn't impress him?

Lisa: It doesn't impress him at all and I don't think it impresses anybody else either, and it makes us sad. It breaks our heart when we aren't as honest as God gives us the ability to be. But what I was really delving into is in one month my father died, I had a cancer

diagnosis that actually ended up being fine but at first it looked like it was going to be brain cancer, and then I lost a best friend. That loss really took me to a depth with Jesus that I've never been before.

I've been a Christian since I was five years old but I was always afraid of not having somebody with skin on who loved me. And I honestly think it was the hurt of that season, of losing so many things and so many people who were precious to me that helped me to cling to Jesus in a way that I never had before.

I tell people, I think I was partly an emotional agnostic. For years I knew the verse says -- I went to seminary, I knew some \$50 theological terms but there's this core in my heart that thought if I don't have somebody who really loves me as their number one, somebody with skin on, I don't know if I can make it. And when God allowed some things to happen that took me to the basement, if you will -- I feel like Jesus took me by the hand and took me to the basement and there was this boogie man of fear in the basement. And he said, "We're going to sit here until fear doesn't own you anymore." And it's changed everything. I feel like I'm so much freer to love.

James: What happened down there in that basement?

Lisa: He taught me that he is enough. I would quote "he is enough," I would say, "God is all we need," but emotionally, I was afraid I needed more than God.

James: So what made that teaching process take effect?

Lisa: Pain -- I really think there is a sanctity in scars. I've run from pain my whole life. Now I'll do hard, I'll work hard, I dug ditches when I was in college so I'm not afraid of hard work but I'm afraid of being hurt.

So to have to sit and hurt and really allow him to heal me, I really believe now he is my healer in ways that I didn't believe before. And I'm not as afraid of laying my heart out there. I think I was in the past. I think there was a part of me that kept a little bit of my heart back because I was afraid it would be filleted if I really love somebody hard or let them love me. It's like, now that I've been to the basement, I'm not afraid anymore because he is enough. His love did sustain me when I didn't feel like I could...

Betty: I know! I've dealt with fear and it can paralyze you literally. And you can miss out on so many things that God wants to do through you for you to be a blessing to other people because that fear just grabs you, it almost takes the breath out of you.

Lisa: It does. I used to tease -- as a matter of fact, I think I told you this one time. I used to tease and say, because I'm older and single, I'd say, "My husband is lost and won't stop to ask for directions."

[Laughter]

But the truth of the matter is I was drawn to abusers. So God protected me from the abusive men I dated but I dated some good guys and God protected them from me because my heart was a colander, it did not hang on to good love. So it's really been in the last couple of years I feel like he's plugged up the biggest holes in my heart.

James: I was kind of -- kind of stopped on a moment of something you said a moment ago about, "I couldn't trust somebody with my heart, it was like they were going to give me back a broken heart. I couldn't trust them with my heart, they were going to hurt it."

I think as I was trying to analyze what's happening, I'm a curious sort of guy, I like to try to understand but I like to understand because not only do I always want to find help, but I want to find ways to help people. I was thinking about down there in that basement, evidently, you felt like in that moment you really found someone you could totally trust with your heart, completely trust him with your heart and they wouldn't hand you back that filleted heart, or that broken heart, and you found that in the Lord.

If somebody needs that and God wants to give that, sometimes what Lisa just expressed is not only something people want and something people need, it should be something we live to be and that's that expression of encouragement that God would want them to have only this encouragement coming from God is encouragement with skin on. Does that make sense to you? See, that is what we need. I feel like that's what you're seeking to be. Even while you long for it, you're saying, "Let me go and encourage people that I can identify with."

Lisa: Well, he wired us for relationship with a garden. It says we're made in his image. He existed in perfect community, God the Father, God the son, God the Holy Spirit so I was made for relationship but I was afraid of deep relationship because I was afraid just like my daddy, they'll leave, they'll walk away and so I can't invest too much of my heart.

James: Tell people what you mean by that, just like "my daddy," because some of them may not know. A lot of people know your story.

Lisa: Yes, my parents divorced when I was little and I loved my dad so much. And when

he walked away, I think like most kids with divorced families, I thought, it must be at least partly my fault; if I only I'd been prettier, sweeter, used my inside voice more.

James: That makes me so sad that people think that. Precious -- we have so much divorce, think how many brokenhearted kids there are who really maybe nobody points them to the Jesus Lisa found that she and all the people who work with her at "Women of Faith," and everything she does, they point them to Jesus.

I think of all these brokenhearted kids and I just want to say to people who are splitting, and commitment means so little, hey, it's time to say something of value to the nation, commitment matters, assuming responsibility matters -- critically important. By the way, there is someone who really likes your book. I've got to be honest with you, they're crashing your party. We've got an empty chair over here by you.

Lisa: Is she Scottish and does she do hip hop?

James: Well, it's just let people try to figure this out. Would you welcome Sheila Walsh to come in here and say hi?

Sheila: I just can't stay away!

James: I just think you're looking for another television hosting job.

Sheila: Oh, yeah! By the way, so far you've been brilliant! Brilliant!

Lisa: And doesn't my nose look amazing.

Sheila: No one would ever know it had fallen off four weeks ago! No!

James: Did you ever see her while she was battered up or not?

Lisa: We set this course the whole time.

Sheila: She texted me from the emergency room with "Look what this looks like." Yes. And once I picked myself up off the floor... it was totally peeled back.

Lisa: We're kind of proverbial sisters, I think we were split apart at birth.

Sheila: This is the little sister I always wanted and never had.

Lisa: We're pathologically biased when it comes to each other.

James: We have limited time because this is not Oprah. Even though she's given up her time, we've not been able to afford the time because we're drilling water wells and we're feeding the hungry and doing all that so we're about out of time.

But I think everybody needs to know that at this particular time when she walked in, she drove through storms, she drove through rain, she came all the way across the metroplex and I've got to ask you, why would you drive through all this turbulent weather to come over here to sit by the lady that can't seem to run straight?

Sheila: Because I love this woman. One of the greatest things to happen at "Women of Faith" recently is that Lisa has been made -- I don't know what your exact title is --

Lisa: Queen of the world.

Sheila: Queen of the world -- well, that's... she's our ministry development director. She is the one that all the speakers, that we can all go to. She gets on her face before God. She leads the staff in Bible studies. It's one of the most exciting things. And apart from that I'm just crazy about her. I just -- I would give her two of my kidneys.

James: So you're glad about her role and you think "Women of Faith" is going to be blessed because of this really anointing that's on her and her sincere love not only for God but for all the women and the desire to see them come into the presence of the Lord to have the very best message communicated to them to where -- and this is what I sense coming from her and I think I see it all of the time from you, you really would like every woman to hear something that comes actually from God and they know this is from the one who is the lover of their soul, he is the one who really understands how they really feel because men can't. It's obvious, we're sunk.

Sheila: I know! Bless your heart!

James: We're totally depraved when it comes to that. But here's the deal, you also -- you wrote an incredible endorsement of the book.

Sheila: It's brilliant! Not my endorsement!

[Laughter]

I mean that was lovely too but --

James: Read the brilliant endorsement. You were excited about what she's written and what she's shared.

Sheila: I don't know if people know this because Lisa is very self-deprecating but she is a brilliant scholar. She studies -- she studies the Word of God and so what she teaches our staff, what she teaches through our Bible studies, it is stuff you can build your life on.

James: And when she writes, see, you can be real smart and you're so smart nobody understands what you're writing.

[Laughter]

But she is able to reduce it down to language that just -- why did the most brilliant person who ever lived, really a wiser than Solomon, Jesus made it the simplest and put profound truth in the clearest little packages that a little sheep could understand -- a little dumb sheep. You can talk about the birds, learn from the birds. Solomon said you can learn from the ants. Well, Lisa takes profound truth and puts it in the simplest form.

I would say that's exactly what you're going to find here. What bottom line, when you're *Stumbling into Grace*, there is a lot of people out here need to stumble in, fall in, go down the basement with Jesus but get into grace. When they read the book, what do you want them to walk away having experienced on the journey through the pages?

Lisa: Well, I could tell you a story that just happened recently. I work with -- my favorite thing is working with women who are recovering from drug and alcohol abuse. And I work with a lot of women in a center called The Next Door in Nashville and I get to take a lot of my girls to church with me. I was in church a couple weeks ago with one of my girls; I'll just say her name is Lisa. She doesn't look like a recovering meth addict into she pushes the sleeves up of her Abercrombie and -- what's it called?

Sheila: Fitch.

Lisa: I knew Christian had some, her son -- and you see the track marks and you realize, oh, wow, this is not a normal college kid. Well, she sat next to me in church. Our pastor was talking about the unlikeliness of the disciples; how they were such a motley crew, had made so many mistakes. I notice out of the corner of my eye she is leaning further and further forward as he preaches. Well, about 10 minutes into the sermon she just elbows

me in the ribs and says real loud in church, "Jesus had a thing for losers; didn't he?" I thought, "Yes! Yes, he did!" That's Theology 101, our God loves broken people. I think that's why we're such close friends. We know we don't have it all together, that Jesus is the hero of our story and that would be the bottom line of that book.

James: You know one of the most appreciated messages I've ever shared in the city-wide crusades was titled, "Jesus and the People Nobody Loved" and I pointed to all the people that were despised that he loved; I don't care whether it was Zacchaeus or the woman at the well or the thief on the cross, or Nicodemus, all the different people.

Lisa: And he delighted in them, he didn't just tolerate them. He delighted in them. He called them "beautiful."

James: Well, the book is for you and the message of grace is for you, and he really is reaching out. One of the most beautiful pictures and I think having the background you have and you would be able to say it in the Hebrew but the picture of Jesus or the Father, the shepherd, on the edge of the pit inclining his ear is really that picture of when he inclined his ear of the Lord, our shepherd down on the edge of the pit, we perhaps dug with fists clenched in the face of God while we were digging our own depravity and our own depression.

And yet he is inclining, he is just waiting for the faintest cry. God is so anxious to hear your heart cry. He really is.

I hope you get the book. I hope you go to all the "Women of Faith" events and listen to these truly gifted people.

Will you say thanks to Sheila for surprising us and to Lisa? Would you express that thanks and *Stumbling into Grace*? It is in the bookstores. And it won't inspire you to gain ten pounds before you watch *LIFE Today* the next time. It's really, really good.

You know both of you beautiful ladies know what joy we have sharing life. It's one thing to share and it's one thing to receive a river, it's another thing to release it. And we together, I really believe that the beauty of *LIFE Outreach* is that it is the life of God reaching out all over the world. I really did see this one time.

I felt like I saw the Lord -- sometimes I think I see him pretty clearly. I don't know if there were tears of joy or -- I don't know but I just saw him it was like, "James, together we're putting the Father's arms around the world." That's what he wants to do. That really is what we do every time we reach out and we give just a cup of water or we give food or

we rescue someone, visit them in prison, in their bondage, all the things we're doing together, it really is the ministry of Jesus through us for him to alleviate the suffering and to lift them up. I want you to watch closely. Listen -- listen to him -- this is the last week, Mission: Water for Life -- this season -- you're an answer to somebody's need. Watch closely.

James: When I saw that graphic go up, "no hope," and then "no life," I found myself saying, "Hope lives here. Life lives here" -- the way, the truth, and the life. Don't tell me there is no hope.

I listened to that mother in Madagascar off of the east coast of Southern Africa; all these children are sick, all they need is clean water. We're not looking for a cure for cancer or some undiagnosed disease and we got the cure. If just a cup of water you would give my name, hope said that, life said that -- Jesus said that. "You won't lose your reward." My mind never does race -- I guess I can understand some racing to think what might that reward be?

Betty, there is so much hope and life that God's put in my heart for others that it's reward enough to see that same mother see her children get clean water, to see her friends and their families come to a clean water source and no longer say "no life," "no hope" but have life.

We make that possible. God's love through us, through our viewers, make that possible. Betty and I give to the water well drilling program. We give to every mission outreach we're involved in, our lives, our time, but our resources. Any time -- it's amazing how we give and it's like God blesses where we're able to have more than enough. We keep asking God, "Let us give!"

And during this last week, Betty, I'm praying that some who have given will give again and I already know what we've done, we just give again and we're glad because that's reward enough to know we're giving in life.

So I'm asking you, would you do this? We need everybody all over the world, in Australia, you're so wonderful. Thank you! Sometimes I think you're helping us here in North America when we felt some of the weight you haven't felt and yet you've felt tremendous weight through the flooding and the problems you've had. God bless you! Thanks for your help... in the U.K., in Canada, all over the U.S. We need to hear from all of you, our goals of hundreds of wells -- its one well at a time, one gift at a time. Could you give a well?

I pray, Father, today several will give a well. I pray there would be someone today who would give several wells. Say, "I could do it. I've been blessed. I'll do it! Help everyone."

Do you realize \$48, 10 people water the rest of their life? \$144, 30 people water the rest of their life?

If you write a check, make it to *LIFE*; that's what you're giving. Use your bankcard like a check and call us and say, "Here's my gift." Or go online: *LifeToday.org*. It's always wonderful.

If you've made gifts today we got it. We can pass it on to the missionaries and those that are drilling water wells. Thank you for making that call.

We have some gifts to bless you in your spiritual journey and to say thank you for your love. Please make that special gift today. If you should ever get a busy, you just keep calling. Be persistent! Lives do depend on it and during this last week, we need to hear from every one of you making the best gift you possibly can.

Begin video clip:

Announcer: Every day millions of children are forced to make a dreadful choice, drink filthy, polluted water filled with deadly disease or die from thirst. No child should ever be faced with this decision.

The good news is that there is a solution -- Mission: Water for Life is one of the most exciting and viable demonstrations of God's love in the world today. The suffering can end because clean water changes everything!

With your gift today we will begin drilling 350 new water wells for remote villages in 12 different nations. Your gift of \$24 will help provide clean water for five people! A gift of \$48 will help provide for 10 people! \$72 will reach 15 people. And \$144 will help provide fresh clean disease-free water for 30 people for a lifetime!

With your gift be sure to request, *Believe This Not That* a brand-new topical Bible promise book that will encourage you in every area of life.

With your gift of \$100 or more you may request our newly released *Water for Life* mug set, a daily reminder of the clean water you make possible to those who thirst.

Also please prayerfully consider a gift of \$1200 to help provide water for 250 people or a gift of \$4800 to help sponsor a complete well. And be sure to request the 2012 commemorative bronze sculpture, "The Lamb and the Lion."

This is the last week. Call, write, or make your gift online today!

End of clip

In the studio:

James: Betty and I do say thank you so much this last week. You always reach that point it's the last day and it's critically important that we hear from every one of you.

Father, I pray everyone who can help will help and do it gladly.

Remember if you get a busy, be persistent, be determined, lives depend on it and help us.

I want to remind you of Lisa Harper's book, *Stumbling into Grace*. It will be a real blessing to you.

And remember, *Indivisible*. You can get it, absorb it, focus on the points of prayer and let's correct our course for the glory of God. And only changed people can help change our nation's direction -- transformed people.

Would you join us in saying thanks to Lisa?

Thanks to our surprise guest Sheila Walsh.

Lisa Harper, thank you!

Thank all of you for being such wonderful friends, for helping us share *LIFE Today*.

Thanks for caring... literally for helping us share life.

Announcer: Faith, family, and freedom are under attack. As America faces battles within, many wonder where to turn. In their new book, James Robison and Jay Richards call us to stand together before it's too late as one nation truly under God. *Indivisible* -- available now at online and retail bookstores.

Announcer: Next week on *LIFE Today*, best-selling author, Andy Andrews and successful business executive, Buddy Pilgrim reveal the missing link to prosperity.