

7/23/18
Week 30: WFL
James and Betty Robison

James: That's great! Welcome to *LIFE Today*. I'm James Robison; my wife Betty and I are just thrilled to have you as our guest. And our guest, Jodie Berndt is here *Praying the Scriptures For Your Adult Children*: Trusting God with the ones you love. This is an interesting thought. How do you pray for adult children when you've prayed for them all the way through? But there is a little difference. We not only have adult children, we have adult grandchildren. We basically have 11 adult grandchildren and thank God we have some little ones too, some great grandchildren and they're far from being adult.

But would you welcome Jodie to *LIFE Today*? And let's hear what God has put on her heart.

Jodie: Thank you! Thank you.

James: Jodie, we're glad to have you. To me, this is a very important matter and I think you have written about praying for others. You've taught in seminars and so forth about how you lead your children, not only in prayer but in life. But why were you drawn to write about this? Obviously, some interest going on there personally.

Jodie: Well, clearly because I have adult children. I have four adult children, two married daughters and two children still single. But this is the third book in a series. I started with *Praying the Scriptures for Your Children*; and then as my children hit the teen years came out with *Praying the Scriptures for Your Teens*. And then I realized, wow, we have a whole lot more ground to cover so we did *Praying the Scriptures for Your Adult Children*.

You said it is different. You've heard the saying, "Little people, little problems; big people, big problems." When I wrote the first book I interviewed a mom who was concerned because she had heard that her son was stealing; a second grade boy was stealing crayons out of the supply closet in the Sunday school classroom. That's a concern -- that's a legitimate concern for a mom.

James: That sounds pretty big to me.

[Laughter]

Jodie: At age six or whatever, you kind of hope it is a whoopsie and not a sign of crime sprees

to come. And yet, fast forward and now I interview parents and their children are struggling with addictions or infertility or finding a job, finding a place to live and the issues seem to have a little more import and consequence. So that's kind of why I did the book.

And also not only are our kids needs different but I think we as parents are different. We are kind of alone sometimes, we're not on the side lines of the soccer game and having other parents we can say, "Is this normal? Is this what you're dealing with? What should I do?" We're a little bit more on our own. And I wanted parents to know you're not alone. We're all in this together. I came up with a study guide that people could do. They could download it from the website and it is free just as a way to say, "Let's build each other up. Let's hold each other up in this parenting adventure because we're not alone."

Betty: Well, and just because your children are grown, married possibly, have their own families, that doesn't mean they don't still need your encouragement, your prayers especially.

Jodie: Absolutely!

Betty: And they are going to do things different than we did.

Jodie: They definitely are. And I think for a lot of parents that can be tricky. Kids come to adulthood differently than we did. It used to be grow up, go to school, get a job, find a place to live, get married, have some kids. Now they're doing these things out of order. They're skipping some steps entirely.

My mother and I were talking recently and she said, "Jodie, I don't think people get married anymore." And in some ways there is a lot of that.

So our kids come to adulthood sometimes differently. Sometimes it is something we maybe just don't agree with. Sometimes it is something we believe may be wrong or sinful about what they're doing and yet we still love them and we still want the freedom to love them. I write in the book, I say, "We need to be blessing our children because a blessing is not the same thing as an endorsement." You can still forecast God's favor over your kid's lives. You can say, "The Lord has made you creative. He has made you smart. He's using these gifts in you." And you can bless them and speak favor over them even if you don't agree with everything they're doing. Heck, we're making mistakes ourselves and so are our kids but that doesn't truncate the love.

James: Well, you say you have four children and I talked to you earlier and two of them are married, some are not married. But when they're adults, I would think that one of the areas you have to pray about is if you're not married or in love or you hadn't found the person or you haven't been found that becomes a pretty serious matter too for you to pray about.

Jodie: It really does. I have friends whose adult children are single like you say and some married, and I think that what I would say to a parent in that situation and what I would pray for my own children is that their identity would be found in Christ in his love for them and not in a marital status, whether you're married, single, divorced, any of that because all of those things extraneous and you know that. It is who you are in Christ and your value and your worth to him is what really matters. I think if we can model that for our children and pray that for them, then those other things don't become so life defining.

[Applause]

James: I think that we've watched as our grandchildren have grown up and grown older, some of them it was a while before that perfect love came along. I think prayer was a critical part of that, and the way you encourage and help them to stay at peace. You're talking about praying scriptures; do you have some suggestions of some of them that come to mind in particular instances that would help our viewers understand and if they get the book?

Jodie: Absolutely. Well, you know there is an awful lot of good ones.

[Laughter]

There aren't any bad ones. Just as you talk about your grandchildren, I have to say I interviewed a gal for this book and I wished I'd interviewed you because she has 21 grandchildren and boy, she brought some wisdom to me for what matters, what doesn't matter, how we can pray. So there is a chapter on praying for your grandchildren and I'm just so grateful. Her name is Susan Yates; your viewers may know her because she also writes books.

But yeah, I do think prayer is such a huge part of it. I think sometimes when we find out that our children are doing something, whether it is a six year old in the supply cabinet crayons or whether it is big deal we find out they have a D.U.I. or they have just lost their job or we just find out they're struggling with an addiction of some kind, I think as parents our default response can so easily be fear and worry, anger sometimes, disappointment. And all those things are legitimate human emotions but I think God would say, "You know, this is why I invented prayer because those things aren't up to you, they're up to me. But prayer is how you partner with me in accomplishing my good purposes in your children's lives."

So I'm trying to live so that my default position when I get some bad news is not to have immediate panic but to say, "Lord, I don't know what you're doing here but I'm going to slip my hand into yours" and have that heavenly Father praying and working in my children's lives on

their behalf.

You asked me different scriptures. I like to pray scripturally, and what I mean by that and your audience probably knows is to take the words of the Bible and turn them into actual personalized prayers. One of my favorite ones to share because it was the one that got us through about a million car trips, endless hours, I just wanted my kids when they were little to be nice to each other.

[Laughter]

Big prayer! And Ephesians 4:29, I know you know it, says, "Let no unwholesome talk come out of Hillary's mouth," that's our eldest, "but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it would benefit those who listen." So when we'd get in the car and they're squabbling over who gets to sit where -- I prayed it for myself too because we moms sometimes have to watch our words just that no unwholesome talk would come out of our mouth but only what is helpful for building others up.

There is so many of them. I'm just coming out with these 31-day Prayer Calendars on the website as well and they're free downloads and I love doing them but I got a little frustrated because just picking 31 for your children or 31 for your teens or 31 for your adult children, I was like I need more. [Laughing] You know that.

James: So you loaded them in the book though.

Jodie: I love it! You said you're a hunter, you said, "I loaded them in the book." I know you're a hunter and I loaded them in that book. Every chapter is interviews, some are my stories, some are just stories other parents have told me, but each chapter wraps up with about a dozen verses just like that that speak to that topic, speak to the need to find a job, speak to the need to overcome temptation or an addiction, speak to the heartache of infertility. So those verses come at the end of the chapter that we as parents can pray for our children.

I also, in this book did something different I didn't do in the first one. I included prayers we can pray for ourselves so that we would have wisdom, so that we can rely on God's grace, so that we can know that his strength is made perfect in our weakness when we don't know what to do. Because I don't think it is just our kids that need prayer, we do too. So I put those in.

Betty: What about dealing with your adult children? Because it is different; when they're younger you can kind of organize or structure their schedule or whatever it is, but when they're adults free will, they've got their own ideas about things and then when they run into a challenge, you can't force them to talk about it and you can't force them to listen to you read the Bible to

them.

Jodie: You can't! You're right. I know what you're saying.

Betty: You also have got to ask, prepare my heart that I might be a good listener. And that they would just know from my heart that I am praying for them. Not to always, "I'm praying for you." You know? It is our attitude of the heart.

Jodie: See, that's why you're such a good mother. I'm telling you. You know that. The love just comes out.

Betty: They will not be afraid to come to you if they are struggling.

Jodie: You're right. You and I were talking earlier about the difference. All those years we're on the front lines -- we're on the front lines with our kids and then we move to the side lines. And the game is still going on but we're not on those front lines anymore, we're on the side lines. And sometimes, I know with my kids, they're in different parts of the country, I have a daughter living in New York City, sometimes I can't see the playing field. I don't know what she needs, where she is, who she is with, how to pray. But that's the beauty of the Lord is that they're never out of his reach. They might not want to listen to us but we can talk to him about them and he can work in their hearts. So isn't that a beautiful comfort to parents to know that they're never out of his reach?

James: You've divided this into five parts and the last part is praying for your adult child's victory over temptation. I think it is interesting the way you broke this out. You might want to address a couple of them. Let me just point at them: Praying for strength to resist a party culture. Frankly, that would be just anything the culture might throw at you. It might not just be the party life but whatever today's culture, which is so let's say anti-biblical almost. We have not had the biblical impact on our culture that the church should have had for years, frankly and that's where the church needs to wake up to that reality.

But then praying for protection from sexual sin. And boy, the exposure there and the temptation is so powerful. So when you're talking about temptation that's huge.

Praying for recovery from an addiction and praying for your prodigal. So just touch on a couple of those. We'll come back as we kind of begin to wrap. Let's talk about how we really address that prodigal situation. But when you're talking about these others, the sexual sin, the party culture, the addiction...

Jodie: Well, the party culture, I put that in there because I feel like for our kids, however you

feel about drinking, whether you think wine is okay if you're legal or not, either way, what they're looking for in alcohol, drugs, sex, anything that gives them pleasure or joy, it is actually creating a counterfeit joy. So while the thing in itself may or may not be wrong, when they're looking at that to provide fulfillment, satisfaction, happiness and meaning for their lives, to me, that's every bit as dangerous as a full on addiction. I don't want my kids to be running after counterfeit joy. I want them to run after the joy that Jesus gives. So that's why I address it in that chapter. Then what did you mention?

James: The sexual sin and addiction.

Jodie: That was one when I started working on the book my adult children said, "Mom, didn't you write *Praying the Scriptures for Your Teenagers*? Why are you talking about sex in these adult kids?"

So I thought, huh! I am going to write about this but I polled a lot of my peers and a lot of them weren't praying about sexual purity the way they were when their kids were 15, 16, and 17. A lot of them felt sort of like the cake is baked and they're adults and they're doing what they're doing. Their bodies are their bodies. But really, I want to call parents back to that praying whether your child is single and needing to keep their body pure or married. We have the struggles with pornography. We want to honor one another in our marriages.

I think parents need to be taking up that banner again to pray for protection from temptation and sin over our children. I think it should be every bit as much as finding a job which was the number one chapter that resonated with people. I'll tell you what. Everybody is like, "You're writing a book about praying for adult children? Do you have anything in there about a job?"

[Laughter]

"Not living with me." -- All of that.

James: And that's so good. Thank you for the way you're addressing it right here. Then the prodigal, the child that's away from God.

Jodie: That one makes me kind of cry because I feel like what God has shown me and I know he's shown you and your viewers know this, is first of all, there is not a need we will face in parenting that he has not already provided for in his word and there is not an experience that we will have that he hasn't already gone before. He as a father knows what it is like to be rejected, to not be listened to, to have children go their own way. We've done all of that to him.

I think as I wrote this book my favorite chapter of the Bible, that switches every day, but as I

wrote that book, Hosea, I think it is Chapter 11, really came alive to me because you see the father heart of God so dearly. You see him, he says, "When you were little, Israel, I..." And he is talking to Israel but he is talking to us too. "I taught you to walk. I bent down to feed you. I carried you." And you just see this love that we have for our little children when they're learning to walk, and then they grow up and they walk away and they run after other things. And you see God so real in his word because he says, "My anger was aroused." And we get that as parents because our kids can push our buttons. But then he says, "My compassion overcame that and my love." So you see him in that chapter just saying "I love you and I will pursue you" and it ends up saying, "He will roar and he will call them home."

I just think if you're dealing with a child who is not walking with the Lord, who is walking away from you, even the family they love, just know that God is not going to stop pursuing that child. He will roar, he will call them home and we just have to partner with him and say, "I'm trusting you Jesus." It might take a while. I don't know why he takes so long sometimes. I don't know what all he is doing. There is some stuff in there about that. But he does. He loves our kids even more than we do. And like I said earlier, they're never out of his reach. So I just love as parents we're not going to face anything he hasn't walked through before.

[Applause]

James: Well, you've done a great job not only communicating here but in the book. Would you just say thank you so much to Jodie and her heart, out of her own experiences? What a blessing!

Our viewers, listen to me, I tell all our guests, I told you this and another guest privately, there is just no greater viewers in the world than *LIFE Today*. I believe that you not only love God but I believe you as truly and purely love your neighbor, especially the least of these and the ones so often overlooked.

I can promise you, your heart is about to be touched. You know what is really wonderful about our viewers' hearts being touched? You're moved by the heart of God and you do the very thing that's on God's heart in behalf of those who need a touch of love. I want you to watch this because you're going to have the opportunity to be as I said the greatest viewers in the world because you don't just watch a television program, you look through the eyes of Jesus and when you see something that needs his love, you become that channel through which his love, God's love freely flows. Watch.

On the mission field

Announcer: Here at *LIFE Outreach*, we constantly encounter heartbreaking need around the

world. But there are times when we meet someone experiencing a depth of pain which stops us in our tracks. That's exactly what happened when we entered the home of Ington, a mother who couldn't hold back her grief as she showed us the photo of her daughter who was recently taken by contaminated water.

Open Captions:

>> My baby, my baby, I miss you so much. I want you back. I hurt so much. I wish you could come back to me.

Announcer: The heart-wrenching cries of this mother overwhelmed us. Eventually, she explained their tragic situation.

Open Captions:

>> I had to give my baby water from the river. It's all we have. When it made her sick, she got a high fever and cried so much. I'd do anything to have her back. I get so scared every time my son now gets sick. I'm afraid our water will kill him too, and then I will have no children. Clean water would change everything and bring so much joy.

Announcer: Clean water, that's all it would take for this community to not only survive but begin to thrive. Thanks to you, we were able to provide exactly that.

[Cheers and laughing]

Open Captions:

>> Thank you so much. I can hardly express what this means to us. I'm so overwhelmed.

End of clip

In the studio

James: What a difference right now on her face than when you saw her talk about not only having lost a child but praying she'll not lose another one, all because of disease-ridden, contaminated water. When you look at that precious mother and then of course, you look at the water coming in, now think about this, 400 wells this year, that's our goal. We've already raised the funds, thank God, because people like you for 200 of the 400 but now we're saying God give us the miracle, give us the rest of everything we need. It would be wonderful if we could go even beyond what the goal is and even reach beyond that.

But, Betty, we would have drilled 6,000 water wells where people would have rejoiced like that, and now then, where everything has been changed. And the children that were dying have grown up and now many of them are having children and they have healthy families because of clean water. We give that Water for LIFE because of the water of life, the love of God that's in us and that's what our viewers do.

I believe the smile that was on that woman's face there at the end, so different in the two expressions, I believe that's going to be multiplied thousands of times because of our viewers.

Betty: I do too. I feel like I'm expressing the smile that that mother would have because I have a mother's heart and I know how much we love our children. My heart was breaking when she would say, "I want my baby back! I want my baby back."

But then she feared that she might lose her son. And now see the great joy of what your heart and your hope and your reaching out can make, the difference it can make -- from heartache to true joy, and big smiles on their face because she has her son and he is going to be okay. Thank you!

James: And you know when she is expressing that joy the missionaries are seeing that and she sees the missionaries. You know what those missionaries tell those precious people? "You know who gave you this water? People that love God and love Jesus." And they get to tell the story of Jesus and his love because they have demonstrated it in a way that is undeniable, you can't miss it. So you really are doing something that speaks even louder than words, your actions do. And love in action changes everything.

Would you right now please go get a bankcard? Would you dial the number there on the screen that is always a prayer line for people with a broken heart or a prayer need? And that's paid for by love -- you know that. It is a toll-free number paid for by love. But would you get your card and dial that number and say, "I want to make a gift of life"? Or would you go on the website you see there?

And then would you please help us drill those 400 water wells, 200 more needed now. The wells cost an average of \$4800 a piece. Thank God there are people every day say, "I can give a well." Many people say, "It becomes a joy of our year to give a well." Would you right now? Or give a part of a well, \$1200 or \$2400 and pray three people or another person joins you; we'd have a well.

But do you know how most of the support comes? It comes from individuals who can't give a well but realize that \$48 will give ten people water the rest of their life because the well will last that village for the rest of those people's lives. It is amazing what love does. \$144 will give 30

people water the rest of their life. Would you right now, asking God to direct you, would you get that card, that bankcard and use it like a check? Please do. If you make a check, make it to *LIFE* but call us and tell us you're putting it in the mail.

Thank you so much for doing it. Let's see a lot of mother's faces light up with joy as she has a secure future for her precious children -- no more heartache. Thank you! Thank you for what you do. Thanks for making the call, for making the gift.

Begin video clip

Announcer: Today a mother living in extreme poverty will do the unthinkable: give her children dirty, diseased-filled water that she knows could kill them. With no other choice, what's a mother to do?

With your help, clean water is on the way. *Mission: Water for Life* provides a new beginning for thousands of children and their families; a bright future with better health.

With your gift today you can help drill 400 water wells in remote villages in 15 nations. Your gift of \$24 will help provide clean water for five people. A gift of \$48 will help provide for ten. \$72 will provide for 15 people. And \$144 will help provide life-giving water for 30 people for a lifetime.

With your gift we'll send you *The Miracles of Christ; What Living Beyond Impossible Looks Like*. Filled with scriptures, prayers, and stories of Jesus' miraculous power, James Robison adds insight about how to walk in faith and live beyond the impossible.

With your gift of \$100 or more, request the Morning and Evening coffee mug set. Each mug features beautiful artwork and scripture from Psalm 92:2, a wonderful reminder of God's faithfulness each day.

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1200 to help provide water for 250 people, or a gift of \$4800 to help sponsor a complete well. And you may request the beautiful "Bridge of Faith" framed canvas print by Thomas Kinkade.

Please call, write or make your gift online!

End of clip

In the studio

James: We're sending *The Miracles of Christ*: What living beyond the impossible looks like. Things that I've shared about the miracles of God and then our guests have shared. It is a fabulous gift book. You'll just love the way it's laid out and the pictures. We want to say thank you. The beautiful cups for the evening and the morning, I'm telling you they're beautiful! The "Bridge of Faith," the Thomas Kinkade canvas painting that's framed. If you can give a gift toward that well of \$1200 or more, we'll send you that along with the other gifts, the beautiful painting.

If you'd like to have Jody's book, *Praying the Scriptures for Your Adult Children*, and I have an idea if you have small ones, she is probably going to have some pretty good suggestions in here just what she says about praying for children. But if you'd say, "James, would you send me that book? I'm going to help give water to those kids and their families, those parents and I'd like to have the book," you just ask for it. And yes, we will send it to say thank you.

Would all of you join Betty and me in saying thanks to Jodie for being a blessing to us? Jodie, thank you so much! Thank you. Thank you for sharing. Love to your family. Thank you. Thank all of you.

Begin video clip

Announcer: Are you concerned about your family being ill-equipped to manage resources when you pass away? Do you want to leave a legacy gift that impacts the lives of others? As a free service to our friends and partners, *LIFE Planning Services*, a ministry of *LIFE Outreach International*, is here to help with your estate planning needs and chart your financial future. Do not put off this important step to protect your loved ones and leave a lasting legacy! Contact *LIFE Planning Services* today!

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