



Broadcast Transcript

Broadcast: Montell and Kristin Jordan: Their Journey of Faith, Music, and Cancer – Part 2

Guest(s): Montell and Kristin Jordan

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Dr. James Dobson: You're listening to Family Talk, the radio broadcasting division of the James Dobson Family Institute. I am that James Dobson, and I'm so pleased that you've joined us today.

Roger Marsh: Well, welcome back to Dr. James Dobson's Family Talk. I'm Roger Marsh, and you've joined us for part two of our conversation with Kristen and Montell Jordan, talking about their brand new children's book, *Shiloh and the Not-So-Scary Girl Above His Bed*, and ministry and life and just a number of other topics that I'm sure we'll get into during the next half hour. Kristen and Montell, welcome back to Dr. James Dobson's Family Talk.

Montell Jordan: Thank you so much. No better place we'd rather be.

Kristin Jordan: Thank you so much, Roger. We appreciate you.

Roger Marsh: One of the things that you mentioned, Montell, about being a dad who, even though your children are older now and you've got grandchildren as well, both of you do, it's interesting to see how when you look at the eyes of a child, you know, who's a young, maybe one of your grands, our grandkids go anywhere from two and a half all the way up to 16. So we've kind of got a wide age range. But when they're in that two, three, four, five-year age range, they are growing up in a world right now where there's a lot of anxiety. You know, and kids are having fears that maybe we didn't have that much when we were kids. But, you know, one of the things that we like to say to children of that age is, "Well, OK, it's OK. Don't be afraid. You know, I'm here. You know, don't worry about, you know, the monsters or the lights on the wall or whatever. It's fine. It's all going to be okay." But this generation of children is a different breed. I mean, in terms of the anxieties they're dealing with. And I know you've written a new children's book that kind of addresses that. What was the impetus for writing *Shiloh and the Not-So-Scary Girl Above His Bed*, which is kind of a slightly deceptive title because of who Shiloh actually is?

Kristin Jordan: Yes. Well, this actually came about, my little Shiloh guy, it came about when my son was three and he was afraid of the monster under his bed. He would come to our bedroom every night and I was like, oh God, please show me what we need to do. And I really, I had this epiphany and I said, honey, what if the monster that lives under your bed is more afraid of you than you are of him? And maybe one day he could be your friend. Maybe he's just afraid of you being

different. And it just, his whole mind was like, wait, what? And it just turned his heart. I said, yeah. Listen, you don't have to be afraid. You don't have to, but maybe you'll have a friend. And he was like, what? But that is, it really turned it upside down, but it turned its fear upside down because now he's no longer afraid of the thing that he doesn't know.

Montell Jordan: Yeah, I think that three-year-old was a lot smarter than me because I'm like, so you are confirming that there is actually a monster. So this is a real thing. No, but I think what you were able to show him is that the things that we fear the most are actually things that may be afraid of us. They're afraid of us conquering a fear of doing this or afraid of us conquering it. And we believe that unattended fear as a child, it becomes trauma as an adult.

Kristin Jordan: Yeah, and it comes to anxiety and depression, oppression. And what we've seen is that on our couches when we do marriage ministry, We have a plague of people who is afraid of everything, afraid to go, afraid to leave, afraid to commit, afraid to make a decision.

Montell Jordan: Afraid of uncertainty, all those different things.

Kristin Jordan: And I think those source from us being a kid of not learning how to deal with fear properly. And so our goal and our desire out of this book and with Shiloh is to invite God into childhood fears and teach them how to invite faith into a fear so that they can learn how to be brave and courageous. It's not that it's not scary because it is.

Montell Jordan: That's right.

Kristin Jordan: But with God, we can take one brave step at a time. And if we learn this at a three to five-year-old age, that now when we're adults, or even when we're in middle school dealing with a bully or high school and we're learning how to go, we want to go to college, the things that we're naturally afraid of, and really what it is, is it's a fear of the unknown. But when we invite God and teach them how to invite God into that scenario, it changes everything in their life and how they process.

Montell Jordan: Yeah, Shiloh teaches us all how to do it afraid. He shows us how to do it afraid, how to take just one brave step at a time and to find out that the thing that you are probably the most afraid of is more afraid of you.

Roger Marsh: Yeah, it's interesting when you think about that kind of Peter walking on water moment that we all have from time to time where there's something we have to do that our mind says this can't be happening. This is scary. If I take a step on the water, I'm going to drown because, I mean, I'm a human being. But when our eyes are on the Lord and we're processing it the right way. And young kids, I mean, this is a reality I think a lot of us grandparents especially have to face is they're processing a lot different set of emotions than we ever had to. And they're in a world that's a little crazier. If we're not careful, like you said, you

guys are seeing the fruits of that labor where adults are having marital conflict, maybe because of some unresolved childhood fears and traumas that their three-year-old brain said, this is how I'm going to cope with this. And then they bring that into marriage. It's got to be a big revelation for a couple to realize it's not that I'm fighting with him or fighting with her. It's three-year-old me is having a hard time with five-year-old them.

Kristin Jordan: That's correct. And you know, the interesting part of that is, is that I don't think we mean to, but just to exactly what you said, Roger, we tell kids, don't be afraid. It's okay. It's not okay. It's okay to us as an adult because we've already conquered that fear. But truthfully, as an adult, there are fears we haven't conquered that we're afraid of on a regular. And we would be so upset if somebody said to us, don't be afraid. It's like, do you have any idea what this is? But the truth is, is that as we teach kids, and it's interesting, one of the things that he says repeatedly in the Bible is be bold and courageous. Because it's scary. The only reason you would say that over and over is because it's a fearful thing. But it's not that we don't do it. We just learn how to do it with faith leading.

Roger Marsh: How do you take a book like *Shiloh and the Not-So-Scary Girl Above His Bed* and actually apply it. I mean, a lot of times when you're reading with kids, you're reading to them and thinking, okay, well, it's the phonics or they're following the words and looking at the pictures or whatever it is. There's a lot of different emotions going on, but there's such a strong message, I want to say heavy, but a strong message in this book. How do you recommend a parent or a grandparent who's reading this with their youngster really kind of dig into it and utilize it for everything that you're hoping it would accomplish?

Montell Jordan: I think first of all, we want I wanted to make sure that we redefined what monsters look like. So we live in a world where every horror film, you know, that comes out, there's these new characters that are meant it becomes more demonic. Everything in the world is meant to, like, I remember when I was a kid, like, there were things that I were afraid of that today, it's like, I don't even want to watch commercials anymore because it's so outward. Like, the enemy is so pronounced with it. So we needed to redefine monster for children. And so Shiloh, this little guy, he is not intimidating. He is not menacing and to give the picture of that to a child that if there is something that you're fearful of, this is really what he's like a squish ball. It's like something that you could squish between your fingers. So redefining monster I think, and let's just be real, man. We live in a world where there are not only supernatural type of monsters, like there are human monsters today. People are really scary, you know. And as we're filming this, you know, we're watching floods over in Nepal and we're watching things and we have a 14-year-old and it's just like, oh my God, like it just her soul, her little soul her 14 year old soul the other day was just so hurt because it wasn't that the type of scary monster but still it was that a flood can be a monster. Or Gary, Indiana, without power for two weeks, can become a monster. Like there are regular world event things that can become monstrous, fearful things. And so our goal as parents, I think, in reading this book to our

children and to our grandchildren, it's literally showing, one, we're connected to you. We're here. We're trying to show you how to bring God into that fear space to be able to be more comforted.

Kristin Jordan: And I think one of the key things is that as we're reading this, the goal of it is, what is it that you're afraid of? And listen, because they'll tell you. That's the thing about kids. They don't hold anything to the chest. They'll unobliteratedly tell you and say, so tell me why you think you're afraid of that? Why is that scary to you? And they'll tell you that too. And then you'll start to see what's in their brain, in their mind, what they've seen, what they've heard. And then you can introduce God in a way that is so kind and so gentle, is perfect. It's just like the Holy Spirit is. And say, what if you invited God in to say, can you show me what this really is? Can you show me how I'm really supposed to look at this? And when they have that framework, a brain that is so simple and so in the context of I'm not deluded with all the yucky things yet, right? My innocence is actually one of my protective things of that it is really so simple. You can invite God in. He'll come. He'll make you brave and allow you to take one brave step. But we're empowering them as opposed to placating them or dismissing them. And so I think it's the lean in and listen.

Roger Marsh: I love that description, Kristen, especially as you're talking about the innocence of children, because I think that's one of the things in the modern culture. And I'd love to get your take on this because you have five children, five grandchildren, so you get the generational perspective. But it seems like there was a time in our culture where we really did work to protect the innocence of kids. And now it seems like we're in such a big hurry to get them mature, you know, with all these different challenges. I know even Dr. Dobson's writing, we look back on some of the books that he wrote in the 80s and the 90s and think, boy, this was kind of a precursor to where we are right now, but I don't even think he could have imagined it would be so bizarre. But what are some of the things that you noticed, especially in publishing this book, saying, boy, if I was writing this for our kids when they were little, of course, the impetus being one of your children, but now if I was writing this for my grandkids, how are things a little bit different? I mean, that's kind of a convoluted question, but did you get enough out of that to where you can make a cogent response?

Montell Jordan: Yeah. Yeah. I think that this just happens to be one story that Shiloh shines the light on this fear of what's underneath the bed.

But when you start to look at, like you said, if somebody have a fear of shadows, fear of sleeping in the dark, fear of what's in the closet, fear of swimming, will I make friends? Will they accept me? First day of school, going to the dentist, like kids have things that are legitimately places they could be afraid of, specifically because we live in a world right now where fear is now not something that's tucked away somewhere that you have to find.

Kristin Jordan: It's touted.

Montell Jordan: It's searching.

Kristin Jordan: Celebrated.

Montell Jordan: And celebrated. And ooh, did that scare you? Did that commercial scare you? Did that scare you? Because the kingdom is violent and it taketh by force, we can't allow the fear stuff in the world to be trying to take more ground. The God stuff than what we're taking. And so this has to be at the forefront. It has to be in people's faces. It has to be able to see that God people are not shying back from the Word of God or from the name of Jesus and just kind of shine back and tucking in it and making it something that means nothing while stuff is literally crawling out of your TV screen and your kid's iPad and your phone to make sure that they feel a fear and have anxiety and things.

Kristin Jordan: So I have to give them the tools. I can't take you completely out of the world. Now I can remove some of those things. I can make sure our kids didn't have phones until they were in the eighth grade. Our youngest daughter, she didn't have a phone until we went away to do prostate cancer. Only so that she could communicate with us. And we don't allow it in her room and we don't allow her to have those devices in a room or by herself so that, and listen, we have questions. I have questions. What are you watching? What is in there? What did you see today? She has to explain what those things are. And then I have to give her and equip her. Now, mind you, all along, we have to equip them with the Word of God. We have to give them the antidote before it's a problem. Otherwise, when the problem arrives, they have no idea what to do with this.

Montell Jordan: Fear requires access.

Kristin Jordan: Correct.

Montell Jordan: Right? There has to be a point of where something is seen. It has to have an entry point. It has to have a pinky toe. It has to have an entry place to be able to even start to make a child feel a certain way. And so from that standpoint, as parents...

Kristin Jordan: They don't come like that.

Montell Jordan: We must equip our kids to be able to have what they need to be able to fend off the fear because the fear is coming.

Kristin Jordan: That's correct.

Montell Jordan: It's not like it won't come. It's going to come, but what have we placed in there, inside of them, that God can pull out of them when it's required and when it's needed for them to be able to say, hey, be strong and be courageous?

Kristin Jordan: It's building a tool belt that they're like; I don't even know what these things are for. Don't worry about it. You're going to need it later. And as you're building

this tool belt, and then they get to the battle, they're like, oh, I have this. Oh, I have this ninja star. Yeah. And really, it's the Word of God, right? It's the Word of God that equips them. It's the knowing who they are as an identity because then when something comes to question their identity, they already know because they're rooted and grounded in the truth and the Word of God. And so it's irrefutable. And so even when they're faced with something that seems, they go, you know what? I know that not to be true because I've been taught all the way along that this is not so.

Roger Marsh: I love that. And I love your tool belt analogy too, Kristin. I hope that shows up in another one of the books and maybe as the *Shiloh and the Not So Scary Girl* book really starts to take root with people, we'll see more of this type of thing. But it's interesting. How many times do we as parents and grandparents, 2 Timothy 1:7, God hasn't given us fear to fear. So we understand that and we'll claim that, but we realize that our kids don't necessarily have that connection yet. And I can see that as one of the tools. you would put in the tool belt for a child that says, trust me, just wear the belt. Just wear the belt. You're going to need these tools at some point. Trust me on that. Talk about why that intentionality is way more important now than it's ever been for other generations.

Kristin Jordan: It's important because they have to be equipped. The things that they're battling and the things that they're seeing, we're seeing with our grandkids. They're battling things and seeing things way previously to what their parents had dealt with, right? Of the things that they see on TV, the things that are in every common culture thing that you can think of, whether they're ads on the street, whether it's commercials, whether it's the pop-ups on their devices. If we don't equip them, they will not be equipped and we will have no one to look at but ourselves. And so I think that we're being held accountable. I think for us, we are very intentional. It's really interesting. I was having a morning the other morning and I was a little frustrated. And my daughter, she says, "Mommy. The wind and the waves may come." I was just like, wow. But guess what? It's in there. And she gave me all of James 1 from top to bottom. And I was like, that's right, baby. You're right. Wind and the waves, they come. But my eyes are on him. You're right, baby. She said, so it's going to be good. It's going to be a good day. You're right. It is. Because we choose. We get to. And she goes, that's right.

Montell Jordan: Yeah. And I remember, you know, there was a point in time where I had to come into my own understanding of who God was. Like you can only live off mom and daddy's faith for so long.

Roger Marsh: Right. Right.

Montell Jordan: So right now it is our job as parents and as Mimi and Big Papa to give them our faith until it becomes their own and they can choose it and be able to say, hey, when I'm afraid, but Big Papa ain't afraid of nothing or Mimi is not afraid of anything. Mimi and Big Papa faced cancer or this or that. And we weren't afraid and we prayed at that time. So maybe that's what I need to lean on even for

myself right now. So this is just equipping. We are just doing a good thing. We're not just doing a good thing. We're doing a God thing, right?

Kristin Jordan: It's even better than a good thing.

Montell Jordan: By equipping our kids to be able to do this. And I think with Shiloh. We also are just creating a character and a series of stories that are so good that whether you know God or not, you would just want to read the story just based on, you know, just based on it being good content. And then from there, maybe you're not looking for God, but God might be looking for you, you know, through this little guy, you know, Shiloh, who introduces, you know, who introduces people to something bigger than himself, bigger than his mom and dad. It's bigger.

Kristin Jordan: Because it is bigger. It's bigger than all of it. And it's funny that that Scripture is what our entire book is predicated on, is that love, power, and a sound mind will absolutely change the world. And if they could get that one simple thought of that love, power, and a sound mind overcome fear every time then we're equipping them. And that's just one more tool.

Roger Marsh: Yeah. And this is a great tool to have in your home. Kristen and Montel Jordan have written a book called *Shiloh and the Not-So-Scary Girl Above His Bed*. And we've got a link for it up at drjamesdobson.org as well as for their website. There's someone listening to our conversation right now who is feeling, okay, I'm completely surrounded by fear. I mean, you talked about cancer. We've got a doctor's report. You talked about child struggling with fears and anxieties. We've got three of them. We've got financial loss. Boy, the phone just keeps ringing all day long, reminding us of how far behind we are. And so it's one thing to say, I want to operate in this spirit that's not fear, but it's power, love, and a sound mind. But I'm just having a hard time with it myself. What word of encouragement would you give to them and Kristen, Montell, either one of you, if you want to start in, I'd love to get your thoughts on that.

Montell Jordan: Yeah, I would say for somebody that's watching or listening to this right now, how we can encourage you is simply to say that the promises of God are always on the other side of process. I'll say that again because it's worth saying again. Promises of God are always on the other side of process. Every journey that we have been through to get to a journey of being healed. We had to go through a sickness to get through a journey of infidelity to be able to have marriage ministry. Like there's always something that we've had to navigate to be able to get to the promise of God. And so I would say if you are going through something right now, I think that if you recognize that what you are in is the pathway. that is a part of the process that is leading to the promise of what God says, then you got to focus less on the process and focus more on the promise because that's what's going to get you through to the other side. Well, God, even in the midst of cancer, I already knew, well, God said, all means all. And if He says, I'll recover all, even though I'm on this table or even though I got this diagnosis or even though I, you know. I'm focused on His promises. And I think you will learn to find that a lot of times what we are navigating through, we are

thinking we're learning how to trust God. You know, I've got to trust God. I've got to trust God. I've got to trust God. But sometimes you will find that you're in a process where God is saying, I trust you. You're in the midst of this process because I trust You to complete it, to come through to my promise on the other side.

Kristin Jordan: And the truth is when we say that we trust God, He says, great, let's see. And the truth is, is that only through the process do we see that on the other side, exactly what He said was going to come to pass came to pass. Our words have power. There's life and death and the power of our tongue. And so we have the power to speak the promises in the midst of the process until we get to the promise.

Roger Marsh: Amen. Amen. What a great word of encouragement and a great word of hope, especially for people who are going through struggling times, whether you'd be a three-year-old who's afraid about a monster who might be sleeping under their bed or for someone who is in more advanced seasons of life where you've got bigger problems, but still a God who can handle whatever you're going through because He is the promise on the other side of the process. *Shiloh and the Not-So-Scary Girl Above His Bed* is the first book in this series written by Kristin and Montell Jordan, and we've got a link for it up at Dr. James Dobson.org. Kristin and Montel, it has been a joy to spend some time with you today. Thank you so much for your heart for ministry and the example that you set for so many other people. And we appreciate you being with us today here on Dr. James Dobson's Family Talk.

Kristin Jordan: It's our honor. Thank you, Roger.

Roger Marsh: Promises of God are always found on the other side of the process. Boy, that's great wisdom from our guests today here on Family Talk, Montel and Kristen Jordan. We've just heard the conclusion of my conversation with the Jordans discussing their journey of faith, music, and cancer, among other things. Now, if you missed part one of this conversation, or if you'd like to share today's program with a friend, visit jdfi.org, and when you're there, you'll find a link for... parts one and two of this conversation, as well as their new children's book. It's called *Shiloh and the Not-So-Scary Girl Above His Bed*. And remember, Shiloh's the monster this time. It's a very interesting twist on the traditional children's story about scary things in the dark. Again, you'll find information about the book as well as the audio when you go to drjamesdobson.org.

Well, Montell Jordan shared his heart today for dads, urging fathers to take care of their health, to stay present with their families, and to equip their children with courage and the truth of God's Word. If you'd like to learn more about how to be a more godly father, I want to share with you about a resource called Strong Dads. It's an email series built to empower you in your role as a father, because the impact you have on your sons and your daughters in the culture is immeasurable, especially right now. This resource is packed with valuable, biblically grounded encouragement from Dr. James Dobson himself to help you

lead your family well. To sign up for this free email series, simply go to drjamesdobson.com. If it's easier click in jdfi.org, they're one and the same, and search for that title "Strong Dads." Again go to drjamesdobson.org or jdfi.org.

Strong families are built on strong men and women who equip their children with the truth of God's Word. That's the heart of the mission here at the Dr. James Dobson Family Institute, standing for the family, for religious freedom, and for righteousness in the culture. This is a mission we share with you and we can only carry forward together. Every broadcast, every resource, every family reached depends upon the generosity of listeners who believe in this work. So join the team today. Your support of any amount helps us keep this ministry going strong. You can give a gift online when you go to jdfi.org. You can also call a member of our constituent care team. That number is 877-732-6825. That's 877-732-6825. Or if you prefer, you can send your tax-deductible donation through the U.S. Postal Service. Our ministry mailing address is Dr. James Dobson Family Institute P.O. Box 39000 Colorado Springs, Colorado the zip code, 80949. Once again, our ministry mailing address is The Dr. James Dobson Family Institute. Or if it's easier, just use those initials JDFI for short. P.O. Box 39000 Colorado Springs, Colorado, 80949.

Well, I'm Roger Marsh, and on behalf of all of us here at Family Talk and the Dr. James Dobson Family Institute, thanks so much for joining us today. Be sure to tune in again next time right here for another edition of Dr. James Dobson's Family Talk, the voice you trust for the family you love.

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