



Broadcast Transcript

Broadcast: Moms in Prayer – Part 2

Guest(s): Fern Nichols, Sally Burke, and Panel

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Dr. James Dobson: Hello everyone. You're listening to Family Talk, the radio broadcasting ministry of the James Dobson Family Institute. I'm Dr. James Dobson, and thank you for joining us for this program.

Roger Marsh: Well, welcome to Family Talk, the broadcast division of the Dr. James Dobson Family Institute. I'm Roger Marsh, and on our last broadcast, we began a conversation with Fern Nichols and Sally Burke from Moms in Prayer International, a ministry that's been rallying moms to pray for their children and their children's schools for decades. Fern Nichols founded this ministry after being burdened for her own kids' spiritual wellbeing. And Sally, a former space shuttle engineer, turned ministry president, has been leading that charge since 2015. In part one of this conversation, we heard how the movement took root. Today, Sally Burke will walk us through the four powerful steps of prayer that Moms in Prayer groups follow each week. You'll also hear from several moms who joined Dr. Dobson in the studio, women whose children who've been transformed by faithful, persistent prayer. Let's rejoin Dr. Dobson now for this special edition of Family Talk.

Dr. James Dobson: Okay, Sally, welcome.

Sally Burke: Thank you.

Dr. James Dobson: And the question that begs to be asked is what are those four steps?

Sally Burke: Oh my goodness. Well, we begin with praise...

Dr. James Dobson: Is that the right question?

Sally Burke: Yes, that is the right question because these four steps are powerful. We begin with praising. We take our eyes off of our situation, off of ourselves, onto the mighty God. And God enters the praises of His people. And pretty soon you watch these women with all this fear and all this worry and all courage is fear, bathe them prayer. So pretty soon they're saying who their God is. There's nothing too hard, nothing impossible for Him. And it's His Word. It's who He is. And so they begin to just praise Him left and right. And so they begin to be transformed. They think they're going in for their child, but God is doing a work within them. They never leave the same. It's amazing.

Dr. James Dobson: Okay, that's one.

Sally Burke: Then there's silent confession. And I like that it's silent because I'm not going to tell everybody my sins. It's between me and God. So I want to make sure my heart is just cleansed. And I want you to think about that as a hose. You can turn on the major source of it, but if there's a kink, the fullness can't come out. And the Holy Spirit wants to pray through us. We know not how we ought to pray. And I want to make sure everything within me is emptied out so Christ can fill me to overflowing. So we silently confess our sins. And He tells us, if you confess your sins, He is faithful and just to forgive you of all your sins and cleanse you of all unrighteousness. So we're ready to thank Him. We're ready to come in. We're entering His gates with praise and thanksgiving.

And thanksgiving is an amazing time. To me, it's a Holy Spirit party. Because my sister over here will thank God for an answer to prayer. Well, I got to pray with her last week. I'm so excited. Or this one over here shares an answer to prayer and I'm thinking, "Well, if God answered that prayer, He's going to answer this prayer." And we just celebrate for one another. We fall in love with each other's kids. We're for each other's kids. It's an amazing, amazing sisterhood. Some of the women I've been praying with, I've been praying with for over 20 years together. Every week we meet every week. We pray for one another.

Dr. James Dobson: Do you sometimes pray for spouses?

Sally Burke: No. No. Our focus is clear. The children in the schools. It's very, very clear. And then there's the intercession. How do you know God's going to answer your prayer? If you pray according to His will and His will is the mighty Word of God, and it never comes back void. It always fulfills His purpose and His plan. So every time we put our child's name and Scripture and another mommy agrees, we know somehow, some way God's going to answer that prayer. And so far greater than anything we could imagine. Our imaginations are so small and compared to God's greatness and what He wants to do in our children's lives.

Dr. James Dobson: Is that the fourth?

Sally Burke: That's the fourth. But in the fourth, we get to pray not only for our children and then my sister's child who we pray, we break off, but we get to pray for the teachers. And I've gotten to see, in this one elementary school, 12 or 13 teachers received Jesus Christ as their Lord and said in a public school campus. It was so amazing. One of the teachers we were praying for, one of the moms came in and she was like, "Oh, this teacher." And I said, "We get to pray for her. We get to pray. May her eyes be opened. May she turn from darkness to light, and the power of saint to the power of God so she could be forgiven of her sins and have a place among those who are sanctified by faith." So every week we would pray for her. We would love on her.

She came to know the Lord Jesus Christ and my two youngest got to be in her kindergarten class. So I got to place their hands into her hands and she was a brand-new believer and we got to talk about prayer. We got to talk about the Lord. It's just been amazing to watch and see.

Dr. James Dobson: Oh my goodness. Fern, it's obvious why you make the selection that you did.

Fern Nichols: Hey, you got to get those shuttle women. No, it was God's choice. That's what was so sweet to me that God would be that good to me. When I would pass that baton, I said, "Oh Lord, that it would be like Elijah and Elisha, that there would be a double portion, a blessing on the next one, that doors would be opened like never before because of the one that You've called." And the board saw this as well and the board made the decision and then I shared with them that was my choice.

Dr. James Dobson: You have any idea how many children are being prayed for?

Fern Nichols: I don't know that, but I asked Siri. Do you know who Siri is?

Dr. James Dobson: I can't imagine Siri trying to answer that.

Fern Nichols: Well, I asked Siri and I just click her on and said, "Siri, how many students are there in the United States of America?" And she said, 49.7 million. That's a lot of kids that need to be prayed for. A lot of lies that need to be changed, a lot of loss that needs to be found. And I think it was 1.3 million teachers that need to be prayed for as Sally was just sharing with us. Dr. Dobson, we are exploding all over the world and we are struggling here in the United States. Moms, I don't know if it's months are so busy or what our prayer is at this program with you, with Family Talk will be the next launch of the 20,000 responses we will get from the women, the moms, the grandmas of this generation to say, yes, I will gather together and pray because there's a lot of praying that needs to go on.

Dr. James Dobson: My heart aches for what's happening to kids. When I was young, when I was a little boy, the whole neighborhood looked out for the welfare of children. If I did anything wrong, my daddy would know about it very quickly. And now it seems like there's a tug of war for the hearts and minds of kids and a lot of it's going on in school.

Sally Burke: Prayer can transform a school. Not only does it transform the mommies who are praying and their children, it transforms that classroom. It transforms the whole school. My youngest daughter, when in her high school, we began to pray that our children would be revived, that they would love Jesus so much that they would impact their campus. Well, my daughter and her few friends and their moms happened to be Moms in Prayer moms came together and they did a Bible study. They started inviting 25 of their fellow students and they got so revived that they started praying on Friday morning and they had a week away at this mountain and the gospel was shared there. 91 children received Jesus.

My daughter says they were falling on their faces. They were weeping. And this is a high school, crying. And so the power of prayer, we're touching Heaven on behalf here. We're unleashing God's power to transform lives. And so that's why we're calling mommies to pray. That's why our hearts desire is two or more moms for every school so every child can be prayed for. We know it, we've seen it, how a school can be transformed. And so that's why we're calling out. That's why we appreciate you.

Dr. James Dobson: God is spirit and the Holy Spirit is spirit. So it's hard to visualize what He looks like. There's never been a depiction of Him, but I can imagine the face of Jesus showing His joy at you guys coming forth. I can see Him smiling when you pray. Do you also sometimes feel like you've put a smile on His face?

Sally Burke: Oh, that is very nice. I pray we do. It brings us so much joy. So I can just imagine that He's joy filled. So it does. When we leave there, a lot of the moms come with very heavy burdens. And sometimes I think God allows them to be so heavy burden so they'll take it to Him. They leave there so filled with joy, so filled with expectations and a hope, a hope in God, not a hope in the circumstances, not a hope in themselves, not a hope in their children, but a hope in God that He will answer their prayer.

Dr. James Dobson: Well, we have a microphone here. There's no way that we can put a microphone in front of all these ladies, but let's pass this around. Daniel, one of our producers, would you find the ladies that like to talk and whoever would like to share your experience in this regard and tell us why you're involved in it. And let our listeners know what's on your heart.

Speaker 5: Hi, my name's Kathy Kramer. And I know this story will please Dr. Dobson's heart because we adopted two boys from foster care. And so we got them at three and four and they come with a lot of baggage, one with a lot of mental health abuse issues, the other one out of a drug addicted kind of situation. And I tell you, when you adopt kids that are the throwaway kids that nobody else wants, the first thing you do is you find people around you to start praying for you and for those kids because you start kind of three steps back of where regular parents start. But we moved from California to Colorado nine years ago and I had never heard of Moms in Prayer. I said, "Where did that ministry come from? California. Oh, like me. I've never heard of it." And I heard about it at a church and it was an introduction to the community, like everything from where the grocery store is to this to ... By the way, we also have this ministry called Moms in Prayer.

So I started praying seven years ago and started leading a group, became an area coordinator. And now I'm going to help with what's called sweet peas, which are our moms praying alone because some moms put in a request to national online and they may want to join a group, but there's not one near them. So we put a pea after their name and now, we're calling them sweet peas. So I have a whole bunch of flower seeds at my house and I'm going to be spreading sweet pea flower seeds all over this state. And we are going to

mentor those moms and bring them in fellowship with other moms and just grow this ministry.

Dr. James Dobson: Bless you. Come on, that requires a response. Okay.

Speaker 6: I just wanted to say, I live out in Kiowa, Colorado, and it's a very small town. So I just want to say to moms out there, you don't need a big group of moms. There's one, myself and one other mom that prays for our schools, and we see the Lord do amazing things. I have more moms in my adult group, but you only need one other mom. So don't think that you need to get your whole neighborhood. Just find that one other person.

Roger Marsh: While we've reached the midpoint of today's edition of Dr. James Dobson's Family Talk, I'm Roger Marsh. We'll take a quick time out when we return the conclusion of today's program.

Dr. James Dobson: Two days from now, we're gonna be celebrating Mother's Day here in the United States, and that gives me an occasion to tip my hat to those special women whom we honor every year at this time.

Roger Marsh: With today's Dr. Dobson Minute, here's Dr. James Dobson.

Dr. James Dobson: Join her on her mid-morning visit to the pediatrician's office. After sitting for 45 minutes with a cranky, feverish toddler on her lap, mom and baby are finally ushered into the examining room. The doctor checks out the sick child and then tells the woman with a straight face, "Be sure you keep him quiet for four or five days. Don't let him scratch the rash, and you'll want to watch his stool." Yeah, sure Doc, any other suggestions? The amazing thing is that most mothers would get this job done and they'd do it with love and tenderness. They would quite literally lay down their lives to protect the kids entrusted to their care. And that's why they're deserving of our admiration on this Mother's Day.

Roger Marsh: For more information on this topic, visit drdobsonminute.org.

And now here is the conclusion of today's edition of Dr. James Dobson's Family Talk.

Dr. James Dobson: Fern, this must absolutely throw your heart to hear these stories. You've heard them for all these years now.

Fern Nichols: But each one is so touched by God and so beautiful and so thank you, Jesus. And I want every Christian mom to be a part of this ministry.

Dr. James Dobson: And if they're not a Christian mom, there's an answer to that too.

Fern Nichols: There's an answer to that. We pray that they become one.

Dr. James Dobson: Yeah. Okay.

Speaker 8: My name is Carol Burch and I think it's the best thing that I've ever done for my kids is pray for them and they're grown. So I've been in the ministry since 1996. And when moms come to me and say, "I don't have time to pray for my kids." I say, "You don't have time not to pray for your kids." Because in this generation coming up, it's tough. And so I've loved the ministry.

Speaker 9: My name is Mary Inger and I just want to share that there was a mom in my Mom's in Prayer group whose son died. And when she came back to our group, she says it's the character of God that helped her walk through her grief and praying a different character trait of God every week is what gave her strength. And the first time that she came back to our group, the character of God that was on our sheet was that He is our protector. And this young man was killed in a bicycle accident and she prayed in her heart and she said, "Lord, You didn't protect my son. How can I be in this prayer group? You didn't protect my son." And the Holy Spirit came to her in that moment and said, "You do not know what I protected him from." And so the presence of the power of the Holy Spirit speaking to that mom is what brought her through her grief and the comfort of the Holy Spirit and every week being reminded who is God even in the midst of very difficult situations.

Dr. James Dobson: Oh, so glad you shared that with us. Who else?

Speaker 10: My son died at Columbine High School in 1999 and I was a part of Moms in Touch at that time. And it got me through. It got me through the pain and the suffering. And God just brought so much good out of John's death. And as for Fern Nichols know, I just hung onto all those characteristics of God that we prayed for week after week after week. And I clung on to those characteristics of God. And I'm thankful to Fern for ... She stood by me with it. I had Moms in Touch people praying all across the United States and just God gave us the strength and God did amazing things. His best friend accepted Christ, the girl under the table that he was with at Columbine, became a Christian. And I really have lots of stories that I could share about that, but God is good.

Dr. James Dobson: It ought to be obvious to everyone why I believe in this ministry and have for all these years. Thank you for sharing that.

Speaker 11: I have told many moms that Moms in Prayer was always the favorite hour of my week. And as I look back, it's been a golden thread in the tapestry of my life. And I thought I was done with Moms in Prayer after our children graduated from high school and moved on to college. I didn't realize that now there are college aged college groups and military groups and prodigal groups, grandmother groups, and the ministry has grown and changed. And so years later, our children are now in their 20s. God called me back as an area coordinator and I wasn't even expecting that. And the words, Moms in Prayer came back into my mind and I was a little stunned. I said, "I thought I was done with that ministry." That's for when my children were in school and I've learned

otherwise. There's never a time to stop and there's so many prayers. And now I too have grandbabies and we got to get a grandma's group going, but I'm just so grateful.

Dr. James Dobson: So, you do have grandmother's groups?

Speaker 11: Grandmother groups, yes.

Dr. James Dobson: Do you have prodigal groups?

Speaker 11: Yes.

Speaker 12: Military. Special needs.

Speaker 11: There's a wonderful list. On the website, you can find out so much information and there's a list of all the types of groups. It looked to me like there are about 15 different types of groups. And so moms of all sorts, be encouraged.

Sally Burke: Yes. Yes. Please do contact us. Go to our website. You'll either hear from a state coordinator, an area coordinator or us from headquarters. Somebody will make a personal contact with you. We will help you get started and we'll help you continue on.

Dr. James Dobson: It sounds like you care.

Sally Burke: Oh my goodness. Each mom is so precious to us. We love them dearly. As you can see around this room, we're an incredible sisterhood. We're bound together by Christ and bound together by prayer.

Dr. James Dobson: Do you know, and of course you do more than anybody else. How many women out there are lonely?

Sally Burke: Oh, my goodness.

Dr. James Dobson: How many women feel overwhelmed by the children they're trying to raise?

Sally Burke: Yes.

Dr. James Dobson: And there are just so many obstacles before them. And praying alone is a wonderful thing, but praying with others is a different experience.

Sally Burke: And in that face-to-face, that touching the other mommy, that when you can just barely make it to that group, all you have is tears. The other mommy prays over your child. It's a gift from God and you don't ever want to miss that gift. So in this day and age where people text or they do a quick phone message, it's so much different. You get to sit and the hour does go by fast, but it's impactful

and it's life changing and it's eternal. Yet everything that's prayed there stays there. You can trust that other mommy. It's not going to go anywhere else.

- Fern Nichols: Dr. Dobson, I was going to give you this, this new little book, *Mom's Little Book of Powerful Prayers*. It's a gift book. So if there's a mom whose son is being bullied, we have a prayer for that and a Scripture to go with it. If there's a mom whose child is having special needs issues, we have a prayer for that. There are over 170 prayers, kind of starter prayers for them, but using the Word of God. And then at the end, this was my heart because it's just so important that we bless our children. So I put 31 blessings using the Word of God at the end of the book so that like if they leave for school, you can just place your little hand on their head and take that first blessing or whatever blessing you want to take and then you can just repeat them or find your own blessings, but every day to bless your child at dinner, before school or at bedtime. And that is also in this little book. It's now being translated or has been translated into French and Portuguese.
- Sally Burke: We've updated our igniting a passion to pray that will be taught in the different churches. It can be taught in your home. And it's incredible. It teaches them and walks them through six weeks of our four steps of prayer.
- Dr. James Dobson: Give us all the information needed to make this work.
- Fern Nichols: Come to our website.
- Dr. James Dobson: Your website and mine.
- Sally Burke: Yes, they come to momsoprayer.org. They can come there. We will help them. We'll do whatever it takes to get them going in a group.
- Dr. James Dobson: Yeah. Well, we'll put it on our website and that will direct them to yours.
- Sally Burke: Thank you.
- Fern Nichols: Thank you.
- Dr. James Dobson: Oh, I'm so excited about what you're doing, Fern. It's great to get this update.
- Fern Nichols: Oh, thank you so much.
- Dr. James Dobson: I followed your work for a long, long time. And every time you come, it's uplifting to me. It is exciting to me to see the good things that are happening out there. There's just so much bad.
- Fern Nichols: I know.

Dr. James Dobson: You can really just get discouraged when you see the direction that the country is going, but you guys are making a difference. And does it excite you to think that there will be a lot of people in Heaven because of what you've done?

Fern Nichols: Boy, that does really excite me because it's like our schools. Jerusalem, when Jesus saw Jerusalem, He said, oh, He had such compassion for their people. And He said they're like sheep without a shepherd. They're harassed and helpless. And that's the way we see the kids in our school. And why would we not want to pray for them to come to know the God that loves them, that Jesus that died for them and gave them eternal life, to give them destiny and hope and eternal life? What a privilege for us to pray, not only for our children and our grandchildren and others. My own grandchildren, the 10-

Dr. James Dobson: You got 10 of them.

Fern Nichols: Eight out of 10 have asked Jesus and do their heart. Now the other two will, but they're only one year old. But we're praying now for them.

Sally Burke: And do you know her daughter had us over and her kids and my kids joined her children and the grandchildren prayed over us, prayed blessings over us as we went through the transition. I mean, that is a legacy.

Dr. James Dobson: Sally, you have got a hold of something here and it's sure going to be interesting to see how the years unfold. And this is a very big job. How can we pray for you?

Sally Burke: Wisdom, always leaning on Christ, always for His glory, always for His purpose, that I'm a blessing to the women that I serve. Most important, I'm obedient to Christ and what He calls me to do and just take one day at a time.

Dr. James Dobson: Well, blessings to every one of you. Thanks for coming to be with us today. I know that this has been a blessing to many, many of our listeners, and I hope that you get another hundred thousand people involved as a result of this information. And will you come back to see us?

Fern Nichols: Would we come back to ... We're just going to have to have a bigger studio because you're all going to bring a friend.

Dr. James Dobson: Well, it's amazing we've gotten this number in. I thank you and the Lord I know is going to continue to bless you and do stay in touch with us, Sally.

Sally Burke: I will. I will. It's been an honor.

Dr. James Dobson: Thank you everybody.

Fern Nichols: Thank you, Dr. Dobson.

Roger Marsh:

In Matthew 18, Jesus said, "Where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am with them." And that's exactly what Moms in Prayer is all about, choosing to fight for their kids on their knees. You're listening to Dr. James Dobson's Family Talk and a conversation featuring Dr. Dobson and Fern Nichols and Sally Burke from Moms in Prayer International. If you missed any part of this two-part program, or if you'd like to share it with a mom who needs some encouragement right now, go to jdfi.net. By the way, Mother's Day is this Sunday, and here at the Dr. James Dobson Family Institute, we believe that moms are among God's greatest gifts to a family. So whether your mom is right down the road or miles away, whether she's still with you or watching from heaven, do take a moment this weekend to honor the woman who helped to shape who you are, give her a call, write her a note, or simply just tell her you love her.

By the way, every day, families all across the country are searching for truth they can trust, wisdom rooted in Scripture, not shifting with the culture. That's what the Dr. James Dobson Family Institute exists to provide. And broadcasts like the one you heard today are made possible because of generous friends who believe in this mission. Your gift of any amount helps us continue reaching millions of families with biblical truth and real hope, and you can make a secure donation when you go to jdfi.net. That's jdfi.net.

Well, I'm Roger Marsh and from all of us here at Family Talk and the Dr. James Dobson Family Institute, thanks so much for listening today. I'd like to wish my mom, my wife Lisa, my daughter Emily, my daughter Kaylee, and my daughter Taylor, a happy Mother's Day. Hope it's a wonderful Mother's Day for you and your family as well. Be sure to join us again next time right here for another edition of Dr. James Dobson's Family Talk, the voice you trust for the family you love.

This has been a presentation of the Dr. James Dobson Family Institute.