

## **218 transcript-Praying for the Prodigals with Pam Fields**

(Please pardon the slight imperfections in the transcription process)

James Early [00:00:00]:

Hey there, and welcome again to the Bible Speaks to You podcast. I am so grateful you're here listening today. This week, I'm talking with my friend and fellow podcaster, Pam Fields. Pam, welcome to the Bible Speaks to You.

Pam Fields [00:00:15]:

I'm so happy to be here. Thanks.

James Early [00:00:19]:

Now if you've been listening to the podcast for a while, you may remember that Pam was On a previous episode when we were talking about mothers in the bible, it was a year and a half ago on mother's day. So this is the 2nd time Pam has been on the show. That episode was episode 134. It was called [Moms in the Bible](#), and I'll have that Link in the show notes in case you missed it or would like to listen again. We had a wonderful conversation about various moms in the Bible. Let me tell you a little bit about Pam. She and her husband, Andrew, have 9 children and 4 grandchildren, and she's always had a heart for encouraging moms in their walk with the Lord and in their mothering journey. She's had quite a bit of experience with that obviously, and still doing that full time.

James Early [00:01:11]:

She enjoys sharing testimonies on her podcast, which is called The Mom Next Door Stories of Faith. And when Pam has some free time, which I don't know that that's very often with all those kids and grandkids. You'll probably find her having a cup of coffee with friends, or she's planning her next family gathering at her home in Cookeville, Tennessee. So, Pam, again, welcome to the show. Glad to have you here.

Pam Fields [00:01:42]:

Alright. Let's get going.

James Early [00:01:44]:

The reason I wanted to have you back on the show is because a while back you and I were talking about How there are a lot of kids who have left their families kind of like the Parable of the prodigal son in the bible that's in Luke 15, starting verse 11, and I'm sure most My listeners are very familiar with that parable where the younger son leaves his home and spends all his money recklessly Lee and then comes back to the father, but sometimes there are kids who have left families and they haven't made that full circle yet. In our previous conversation, I did not realize how many people this is affecting, and so You've had a little personal experience in this,

so I would love for you to kinda share your story a little bit, but I'm coming at this from we're coming up to the Christmas season. I mean, it's just a week or two away. You know, it's hard enough when a child has left your home in general, but coming up to Christmas, you want the family to be there, and there's this empty place either literally or figuratively at the table, and that must be hard as a parent. So I'd love to Talk about this. How do we pray for the prodigals in our lives? Maybe we're the prodigal sometimes, but I'd love to kinda have this conversation around helping us open our hearts at especially at Christmas time and include them in our love and not give up hope. That's kind of where I'm going with our conversation today.

James Early [00:03:22]:

So you've got a child who you have referred to as a prodigal. Could you kinda share That story with us a little bit.

Pam Fields [00:03:29]:

Yeah. And I do think that there are a lot of us in this situation. It's something we don't talk about a lot, and probably because our story and what we're going through directly is related to our Child's own story. And so we wanna protect that relationship as much as possible, maybe insulate it so that, we don't burn bridges. And so I I do think that that is probably why it's such a part of why it's such a quiet topic is we we just wanna protect that. So in our situation, we Had no notice. We were talking earlier. I think some families have a slow fade where they see their child kind of stepping away and stepping out of The faith that they were raised in, for us, we had no clue.

Pam Fields [00:04:23]:

Our child was Active in Christian service and in, a university, Christian university. And, You know, it was for timing for our story, it it was right about 2020. So right when the schools shut down, churches shut down, all those things, We found out very abruptly that our child had decided that they were an atheist And some other things. And so, you know, the details of the story are different with every family, but, Obviously, there's been a breach there of what they were raised in and what they've always known to be true to what they're choosing to live in now. And I think that story, the prodigal son, when we get to that situation, either slow fade or quickly, we open up to that book, and we're, like, reading that story. But there's a lot missing. It's like he leaves. We know he does some things, and then he comes back and there's a celebration.

Pam Fields [00:05:22]:

But How are we supposed to live in that in between time in those middle years when our heart's aching and and then the side of it. You know? How how do we manage life? And so that starts into our story at least.

James Early [00:05:39]:

I think that you're right. The parable in the Bible, all we know is he lavishly and recklessly spent all his money, And then there was a famine. He didn't have any money left, and he went to feed pigs, which was against the Jewish law.

Pam Fields [00:05:56]:

Mhmm.

James Early [00:05:57]:

I think there's some verse that says, cursed is he that feeds pigs. That was something in a Jewish teaching, and so it was like the lowest Of the lowest of the lowest things he could be doing, it was funny hit rock bottom that he kinda came to himself. Yeah. But the father didn't know what he was going through at all. We know as the reader because Jesus is telling the story, but the father, We don't know how he was praying. We don't know if he felt guilty. We don't know if he felt like, oh, man, I shouldn't have given him all that money. Mhmm.

James Early [00:06:31]:

But I can imagine that If you're in that situation, you kinda go through all that process. And so you're right. There's a lot. I hadn't thought about that before, but there's a lot Mhmm. That's not in that parable. Mhmm. And so we sort of fill in the blanks from our own experiences maybe. We can't really put words in them or prayers in the mouth of the father in that Terrible, but how have you prayed? What has been helpful to you in the Bible or maybe something else that's been helpful? Because you don't wanna burn bridges.

James Early [00:07:01]:

You don't wanna write off a child that you love with all your heart even though that love is not being reciprocated. How do you pray? How do you deal with the there must be so many different emotions that you're dealing with. Mhmm.

Pam Fields [00:07:13]:

Well, I almost feel like Before we go to how do we pray, we have to understand more those different emotions and all the processing. Because I think sometimes When our children are walking through something, there is a purpose in it that the Lord is trying to teach us something in it. I can very quickly go and I I need to pray for his prodigality, his situation. Right? But if I just jump to that and not recognize what the lord is doing in me, then I don't think I'm gonna have the complete knowledge and understanding of what's going on here because I think the Lord is trying to refine me as well.

James Early [00:07:56]:

Oh, let me let me just stop there for a minute. Pam, that is really beautiful because we usually think the problem is Someone else out there somewhere and yet God needs to work on our hearts

as well. So I I just really wanna emphasize that's a Really wonderful perspective to have and, so anyway, go ahead. I just I just think that's important to to underline that.

Pam Fields [00:08:21]:

Yeah. Well, as far as that goes, like, when we kind of come to this knowledge that our our child is a prodigal, Then there's a lot of guilt and questioning through. You know? Is this a response to something I did or didn't do? Is this fixable? Can I go in and fix the situation for them? What we know is that, ultimately, this is a rebellion from our child in their response to God. So we we take it personally as an affront. Like, oh, it's something I did, and it's all a response to me, which it might be, like, part of that. Right? But, ultimately, we all have decisions to make according to our relationship with God. And so, you know, I have 9 kids. And in this situation, my older children, you know, that had all been Raised in this cluster.

Pam Fields [00:09:21]:

Obviously, we don't have prodigals at 8 or 9 or 10 years old. Right? Because they're just not to that age yet Where they're making their own decisions and going their own way. And so my children range from 10 years old to 27, and so I rely on the conversations that I'm having with my older children to say, what did I miss? Was I wrong here? Was you know, did we do something that damaged you in your growing up? So when we have those numbers to sit here and say, no, mom. Like, we didn't get that from what you did or that didn't affect us that way. We see that each person really has that individual decision making process and how they respond to the way they were parented. So if that gives you some idea but we feel like we want to Jump in and fix it and control it because we start believing that we were part of the problem or we were the problem. So just as much as we think, oh, they're having a problem. We need to pray for them to fix it.

Pam Fields [00:10:29]:

The Lord kinda brings it back and says, let's evaluate What you've been going through, let's see. And that's a good pivotal thing for us to all have at certain times of our life to go back and evaluate. Right? And so like I said, I have younger children in the home still, so this has been a process where we've learned to be better listeners to our younger Children, we've learned to recognize things that maybe we didn't see in our older ones. You know, we're older, so hopefully, we're wiser and we do better.

James Early [00:11:01]:

You kinda answered my next question a little bit, and that is you said that God was refining you. What are some of the other lessons that you have learned? What are some of the other spiritual insights you've Gaine, then how have you grown spiritually in this process that how God is working in your life?

Pam Fields [00:11:22]:

Well, I think we see the spiritual warfare in a better way. At first, we think the child is the problem. The child is, you know, my enemy now because they've just totally everything we've taught them. And and, you know, we feel like that's the position of an enemy, but we have to recognize that they are not our enemy, but they've been taken captive by the enemy. And so in that, it gives me a tenderness for not just my own, but any prodigal I hear about, people that I might see in circumstances in my circle of friends or in the community that are struggling with a lifestyle. I think instead of jumping to the conclusion that they themselves are terrible and bad and against all these things that they are the enemy, I'm recognizing that this is spiritual warfare. They've been taken captive. And because of that, we need to go, like, in Ephesians 6 and recognize we're not wrestling against flesh and blood, against the principalities, which will lead us into prayer because that's how we fight our battles best.

Pam Fields [00:12:39]:

Right?

James Early [00:12:40]:

Right. Well, I'm glad you brought up that Ephesians, the the weapons of our warfare are not carnal are not fleshly, but they're they're mighty through the power of

Pam Fields [00:12:49]:

God. Mhmm.

James Early [00:12:50]:

Some people use that word spiritual warfare at which you just did and some of my listeners might not use that phrase, but I think that Bible verse sort of brings it back like, we are fighting for for the light. We're struggling. We're striving to yield to God ourselves and know that, you know, God is victorious in all these situations, and it does feel like warfare sometimes in our prayers.

Pam Fields [00:13:17]:

Mhmm.

James Early [00:13:19]:

It's interesting that you said with this increased wisdom and all these things, you may be treating your younger kids a little differently. I think sometimes the younger kids and families get the better deal because, hopefully, the parents have learned some lessons. I wanna touch on something here that I hadn't really realized until recently. I looked up the word prodigal. Do you know what the word prodigal means?

Pam Fields [00:13:45]:

Definition, I don't recall.

James Early [00:13:48]:

Yeah. See, this what I mean. We know by the context what we think it means, and it's not actually a word that's in the Bible. Mhmm. And so I looked it up and it means Recklessly extravagant, lavish, wasteful to squander things, and that's really what he did. I thought it meant the going away part, but it meant he was recklessly extravagant. He could have taken that money and invested it, started a business, been successful, but He went and blew it all. It's like somebody winning the lottery of 1,000,000 of dollars and a year later they have less money than they did before.

James Early [00:14:28]:

That's kind of a prodigal moment

Pam Fields [00:14:30]:

Mhmm.

James Early [00:14:30]:

In a way. From that from that context. Right. My question is what do you think causes someone to be Recklessly extravagant. Maybe say, like, in the context of our conversation, someone who has left their family, They recklessly abandon the way they were brought up or their faith or something, and they're just doing anything, everything, whatever, and you don't even always know because you may not have contact, but what do you think are some of the causes? I'm trying to think of that Guy in the parable itself, he got all this money and he went out and he blew it. Mhmm. What was going on there? What caused him to blow it instead of Invested in be a responsible person. I'm just curious if you have any insights on that.

Pam Fields [00:15:20]:

Well and I think we can, especially with your definition, Reckless and extravagantly. That wouldn't have to just pertain to money. Right?

James Early [00:15:28]:

Oh, right.

Pam Fields [00:15:29]:

It could pertain to behaviors, Many different types of behaviors, but I think that at the deep down part of it, it is listening to it's how we process information. It's how we process the hurts and maybe the little traumas or the big traumas in our life, How we process those things and putting

that with pairing that with lies from the enemy because we know that Satan is the father of lies, and he seeks to kill, steal, and destroy. And so When we start to process information through that grid of of listening to the lies and we are not Reconciling that to the truth of God's word, then we're gonna react to that. And I think that spin off is a lot of times a prodigal, and sometimes it's a prodigal for 6 months. Sometimes it's a prodigal In mind, but not in action indeed. And then sometimes it's full blown walk away Living completely different life gives some ideas.

James Early [00:16:44]:

Yeah. There are degrees of this. I mean, what about You and me, have I ever had a prodigal moment where I was the recklessly I don't know, recklessly abandon everything I ever believed in about God, but There have been certainly times where I've turned away from the father and tried to do things on my own. Mhmm. Even if it was just for 5 minutes or a day or something, I realized, You know, you do have to have that coming back

Pam Fields [00:17:10]:

Mhmm.

James Early [00:17:11]:

And repenting.

Pam Fields [00:17:12]:

And he's always there and listening and available For us to return.

James Early [00:17:17]:

Yeah. I love the part in the parable where it says he sees him coming a long way off and he runs to meet him. Mhmm. I had a friend one time tell me, and he used to be a preacher. He said, According to Jewish custom or tradition or law or whatever, if somebody left the family, they were an outcast, a social outcast. So He said that the father was running to be the 1st one to meet him. He gave him a ring. He gave him a robe.

James Early [00:17:47]:

He gave him sandals. That meant that he was part of the family again, and so that then the people in town couldn't say, oh, well, he's outcast, you know. He accepted him so they had to. Mhmm. But he ran to meet him. It's like he'd been waiting. It's like he was expectant waiting, and I think that comes a a good model for us, but that readiness of the father to receive, Does that inspire you? How do you see that part of the parable in your own situation? Because you're in the role a little bit of the father there, You know, the parent that's Yeah. Ready to receive someone back.

Pam Fields [00:18:28]:

And and that is where we are. We're in the waiting right now. And so I can't say that our story is completely done. Right? Yeah. So since we are still in this waiting, I just have to trust that God will bring that point of reconciliation and not Get waylaid from the tasks that he has for us now, and I look forward to that hopeful Time, right, when we're all together again. I try to find ways to pursue this child though it's never reciprocated. I keep trying, you know, and so I feel like the Lord told us, you know, I've got him, but it's gonna be a while. I think of that scripture in Exodus.

Pam Fields [00:19:20]:

I believe it's 14/14 that says, be still. My god will fight for you. You need only to be still. And so I just trust that the Lord is working out this story as we're waiting. We're gonna trust that the Lord is fighting for him, for us, for his truth to prevail. I don't know that we can imagine that exact moment when our child comes home because we've already been proven to us that our Dreams and imaginations for the future of our children isn't always turning out like we think. Right? And so, maybe it's kind of hard to envision that moment Because we know that it may look very different than what our expectations are, but we can wait well, And we can trust God while he's writing our child's story, while he's writing our story, And we can continue to walk forward in faith that he is fighting for us and he is working In all of our lives.

James Early [00:20:28]:

You know, I love what you're saying about you said this earlier too, Your child, every child has his or her own relationship with God. You don't want a child just to regurgitate what you've taught them without thinking about it and making it their own.

Pam Fields [00:20:47]:

Right.

James Early [00:20:48]:

To me, what I hear you saying is you're showing a lot of respect for your child and trusting God to work all this out, but I think that sense of respect Well, back to the father in the parable. He said, okay, son, here's your share of the money. I respect you. I'm gonna let you do whatever you do with it. He never ran after him to check up on him to see how he who was spending That money, so foolishly.

Pam Fields [00:21:19]:

Give him a list of instructions on his way out the door, like this is what you're allowed to spend it on, this is what you're not allowed to spend it on

James Early [00:21:26]:



No. There's like, okay, here you go. I asked earlier about what causes someone to become recklessly extravagant and sometimes You hear stories of kids going off to college, and they've had this very strict, bringing, and they get to college and all of a sudden, They can do anything they want to in their minds and they do, and it sort of all falls apart sometimes. Yeah. Because they've never had the self discipline. The discipline has always been imposed from a parent and so Kids need to learn. They need to find themselves literally. They need to find their own sense of boundaries and all those things.

James Early [00:22:05]:

And anyway, what I hear you saying is There's needs to be a level of respect that you have for a child even if he's doing something, you know, living a lifestyle, whatever that you don't Agree with or wouldn't choose for them. You've gotta give them the space to find out those things for themselves. What do you think it is that in the story of the prodigal son, you know, he's at rock bottom, and The bible says he came to himself or he came to his senses. What do you think it is that causes Anyone to kinda come to himself and realize, oh my gosh, you know, I've made a mess of things. I need to go back to the father. Now, obviously, the metaphor is to come back to God. What do you think that moment is it causes someone to come to themselves.

Pam Fields [00:22:58]:

I don't know that I could pinpoint that Exact moment, and I think for every person, it's gonna be very different. But I can tell you that leading up to that moment, there are probably a lot of touch points or influences upon their life. So I literally do not discount signs on the wall. Like, If my child was to go into somebody's home and there's a scripture on their wall, like, that's gonna speak to them because We know that the word does not return void. Right? If they're somewhere and they hear some Christian lyrics or What if they encountered, like, an accident on the side of the road and they saw somebody in peril And they had to go through and reconcile that in their own life, like, what if that was me or how would I respond? There's opportunities that we each have when we are just living our life. We have no idea As we interact, if we're interacting with prodigals, I always think to myself, I pray that In this process, the Lord will be putting people within my child's sphere That would be making deposits, and I also you know, you hear of of the Lord speaking to people In dreams. And I just pray that the Lord will use whatever means and whatever steps he needs to take To finally bring my child to that point of decision, but I do think that point It's gonna be different for each one, and and I do think it probably takes hitting the bottom of the barrel. But, again, that's gonna look different for each person as well.

Pam Fields [00:24:47]:

So

James Early [00:24:48]:

You're getting into something that I I think is really important here. Some of my listeners may be thinking, you know, this doesn't really apply to me. All my kids are happy members of the family, and we've never had that Sort of thing happened, and maybe they even passed by that

terrible in the bible, but I love what you said about How God can use you maybe to help someone that you don't even know has been the prodigal. So how does this parable apply to someone who doesn't feel like it does? One of those things is you said maybe you're the way God is gonna help reach that person. Right?

Pam Fields [00:25:30]:

Yeah. Right.

James Early [00:25:31]:

How else can this parable apply to someone who on the surface may feel okay, this doesn't really apply to me?

Pam Fields [00:25:38]:

Well, I think I'd encourage Everyone listening to be sensitive to your friends and the people around you in this circle because It probably applies to you in some way a little more than you realize. We were talking earlier about the secretiveness of Prodigals. And there's a lot of shame involved, especially in Christian circles when you have a child that is a prodigal. And so it's this quiet secret thing, and that goes back to what I was saying earlier as we're processing this. Is it something I did wrong? Is it something I could have done different? We know if we're having those thoughts, the people in our circles, the people in a pew next to us if they use pews anymore. I don't know if many people do, but, anyway, the people next to us in our circles are probably going, oh, you know, I understand they have a child that's left the church, left the faith. I wonder what their house really looked like. I wonder what they did.

Pam Fields [00:26:41]:

And so there is this Mental processing, I think that we can be sensitive as listeners to our friends if they're struggling To not discount them, to not make assumptions of them, but to recognize that, okay, There's there's a story going on here. I wonder how the Lord is gonna work it out for his glory and for for the good Of others? So I think that if we listen, we'll find out it affects us more than we know. And for those who are struggling with having a prodigal, I think we need to be more vulnerable To share that and in safe places with safe friends. Right? I'm always very surprised. You know, you mentioned I have a podcast, and I Talk to women about all sorts of subjects. Well, often, after we turn off the recording And I might mention, I have a prodigal. You would not believe how many people respond with, I do too, Or I did, and I don't anymore because they've come home, or I also was once a prodigal, But I have returned, and so let me give you some encouragement that your child may come home too. You know? So I think it affects a lot of people in one way or another, and we need to be willing to have that Conversation and to be good listeners and to not sit in judgment over that.

James Early [00:28:18]:

Yeah. That is so so wonderful. The word that comes to me after you say no that is just the word compassion. Yeah. It's so easy. Sometimes it's worse with the folks at church. It shouldn't be, but, you know, we get so self righteous and judgmental of somebody else's having a problem because we don't know all the story. We don't we haven't listened to their heart.

James Early [00:28:42]:

But when Jesus saw the people, He was moved with compassion, they had problems, he knew that, but he had compassion on that and so, Let's say, a mom or dad who has a prodigal child and they're embarrassed to talk about it, they feel like it's their fault, they feel this sense of guilt and shame. How could someone who isn't in that situation be compassionate in a way that doesn't Sound like they're being judgmental or self righteous about it. Well, do you know what I'm saying? How can they be supportive? What's the best way to be supportive?

Pam Fields [00:29:17]:

Well, I think they could actually just ask, how's it going with that child? Have you heard anything recently? You know, is there any change? And I'm praying for you. I'm praying for the child, but I'm also praying for you as you process through and as you grow through this. Because Like we said, there's guilt, there's shame, there's all these attacks from the enemy upon us. And so I think a very compassionate route is to simply be praying for those who are your friends that are walking through this.

James Early [00:29:50]:

Yeah. And as you said, you may not even know it sitting next to you in church. You may not even know it, so It's about well, I think part of it too is just letting God direct you to be in the right place at the right time to Mhmm. Maybe ask the right Questions, how are you really doing? Mhmm. Because we can hide our feelings pretty well sometimes, especially at church. We don't want anybody to know our problems because we think they're gonna think less of us somehow, but actually when you are a little vulnerable and open up and share someone, like you said, in a safe Place in a safe time. You can have that support. Mhmm.

James Early [00:30:27]:

We need that support.

Pam Fields [00:30:29]:

I also think that It's very easy as a response to shell up and to just take a protective a self protective mode, And I think that is part of another enemy tactic. Like, if Satan was being real Systematic about this. Right? He'd be like, you know, if I could shut down these parents and make them feel like their Story isn't worth something. Their results, you know, they say the proof is in the pudding. And so if we look at this, parent, and we can cast so much doubt and shame on their situation, then We'll clam up. We'll stop speaking the truth because now we're a little unsure

if if we did things right. We're a little unsure of the truth. And it's a really good way to shut us down as believers.

Pam Fields [00:31:22]:

Again, that shame and that not being willing to be vulnerable. But I think if we take this head on as, you know, those those praying warriors, those spiritual warriors and say, you know what? I'm not gonna have it. Like, lord, if you called me to do something, this side situation isn't gonna derail me from what you've called me into, and so I think that's another way is that we can support the parents to say, you know what? This has not disabled your life. This has not made everything else in your life moot. Step up and step into the calling that God has on your life. Don't let the enemy throw you off track.

James Early [00:32:06]:

That is so powerful because I I think sometimes we do if we've if we feel like we've messed up somehow, it sort of Deters us from trying to be what God has called us to, but maybe it it is the call to okay. Like you said, step up. Let's let's go forward with What God is calling us to do right now. Mhmm. If you know someone, if you're listening and you know someone who may have a child that You might think of as a prodigal. Ask God how you can be supportive. Ask God how to reach out to this person. Just be there for them because they might need somebody to talk to, some shoulder to cry on, or you might have some words of wisdom that will be helpful.

James Early [00:32:47]:

I'm thinking of some of those people you mentioned to well, that you've had on your podcast that after you clicked off the record button, they said, well, I was a prodigal.

Pam Fields [00:32:57]:

Mhmm.

James Early [00:32:57]:

I'm interested from their perspective, was there ever anything that they shared that helped them Have that turning around. Did they ever mention what that was? Or

Pam Fields [00:33:09]:

I think that in a lot of cases, the parents always We're willing to have conversations. They were always willing to have the door open. And, you know, there's boundaries within that depending on the situation, how physically open the door is or not. But parents had hearts that were wanting and waiting to reconcile and willing to recognize That they weren't perfect. Right? And then also, that's 1 is a willingness. And number 2, Pretty much everybody said my parents prayed for me. I know that I put my parents through something, but they prayed for me. I think that's huge.

Pam Fields [00:33:55]:

Throughout this journey, I remember this quote that I pulled out of a book called Legacy of Prayer by Jennifer Kennedy Dean, And I read it years years ago before this prodigal situation occurred in our family, but I've gone back to it so many times because it really ministers to my heart. And it says, prayer has no limits, no time limits, no geographical limits, Just as surely as we can provide for our children's present and daily needs through prayer, we can also reach into their futures, Laying a foundation of blessings for our children, our grandchildren, and all of our descendants. Now this next part is what really gets me. Prayer is so effective that when our children are away from us, we can continue to parent them through our prayers because Our prayers are more powerful even than our presence. And for me, We have this separation and it goes back to that control idea, like, there's a separation. I can't fix this. But you know what? You know who can? God can.

James Early [00:35:01]:

Right.

Pam Fields [00:35:02]:

And he's connecting them with people encountering and, Circumstances, my prayers are actually more powerful than my presence. You know? And in our case, What had happened is instead of our child leaving and going to college, we actually moved 2,000 miles away From our hometown right about the whole time this happened. And in some respect, I I went, oh, bad timing, god. You know, we should have stayed on the West Coast because we could have been part of the solution. And then it's like I hear God going, no. I needed you out of the way. I needed you 2,000 miles away because I had a work that I was gonna do, and you need to trust me. The most powerful position that you can have right now as a parent is not your presence.

Pam Fields [00:36:00]:

The most powerful position that you have is prayer. So get to business.

James Early [00:36:06]:

One of the things I have learned as a parent through all the ups and downs of parenting, the mistakes, and the and the good things I've done is letting go of that sense of Personal responsibility, personal control over my kids. You do have to turn them over to God Mhmm. Under whatever circumstances even if everything's

Pam Fields [00:36:26]:

Mhmm.

James Early [00:36:27]:

Supposedly perfect. You still have to let go of that desire to be in control because

Pam Fields [00:36:33]:

Mhmm.

James Early [00:36:33]:

We're kind of stepping into God's role almost. I mean, certainly as adult children. I cannot tell my adult children what to do. Mhmm. Yeah. That's powerful. Prayers are more powerful than your presence.

Pam Fields [00:36:48]:

Yes.

James Early [00:36:49]:

Yeah. That is amazing. Well, I will get the information on that book, and if you could give me the page number 2, I'll put that in the show notes. Mhmm. That's a wonderful powerful perspective on what prayer is. Seems like there's some other things we ought to talk about here. You had another quote or something you were gonna share.

Pam Fields [00:37:09]:

Romans 8:26-27, the spirit helps us in our weakness for we don't know how to pray, But the spirit intercedes for us with groaning too deep fret words, so that might fit in very well with just saying that our Prayers are more powerful and that even the Holy Spirit helps us pray.

James Early [00:37:30]:

I love that verse from Romans because Paul's right. We don't always know how to pray. We don't know what to pray for. We don't know what to understand what the real issues are, but that can't stop us from praying and it doesn't stop the Holy Spirit from working with us in in the process. I wanna come back to this idea of how to be supportive. I've seen in church situations where, You know, it's so easy to just quote a bible verse and think that's gonna solve the problem when when it's not your problem. You think, oh, Dear, you know, you're coming down from this wonderful place of where you're just such a good Christian, and you're gonna help this poor little person who's struggling, and you Quote a bible verse or 2 and think that's gonna solve the problem. Have people ever sort of done that to you where They think they're gonna zoom in and say something perfect, and that will make you feel better.

Pam Fields [00:38:25]:

Well and the verse is to The Deuteronomy [it's actually Proverbs 22:6] passage to train up a child where they will go, and when they're old, they won't depart. And I'm like, well, is that a promise?

Is that, principle, you know, and that was was something that I've had to stop and think about. You know? That's the one that always comes up. But for the most part, my friends have been in that compassion mode, and they are like, How are things? Are there changes? Can I pray? How are you doing? And so, yes, I do think that it's very easy to Just give a verse and walk away, or it's just like somebody saying if you're you're really bearing your heart and you have a struggle and somebody just says, Well, I'll pray for you, and then they just go on their merry way. And you're like, are they really gonna pray for me? Was that just a word?

James Early [00:39:17]:

Yeah.

Pam Fields [00:39:18]:

You know, it's kind of one of those, are we just saying that as Christianese to fill the air And just have a response. How are you doing? I'm fine. You know, that's the that's the regular secular, like, how are you? I'm fine. Well, Christians fill those words and fill the airspace in different ways, so I think it's, you know, good to actually put some substance.

James Early [00:39:41]:

Right. Well, what I hear you saying obviously is if you know someone who's struggling with this, give them your heart, not just clever little bible verses. Let them feel your heart. Pam, I wanna honor you for all that you're doing to help moms. I know you've been doing your podcast. How long has your podcast been going now?

Pam Fields [00:40:03]:

June of 2020, so over 3 years.

James Early [00:40:06]:

Yeah. That's exciting. Three and a half years.

Pam Fields [00:40:09]:

Mhmm.

James Early [00:40:09]:

Yeah. And you've contributed to a couple of books recently. You've done some talks to moms groups. You're letting your light shine. You're sharing your words of wisdom, your struggles, the lessons you've learned. I'm sure for some of the mistakes you've made, and that's really helping a lot of moms out there. And it I just wanna honor you for that because You're just going about what God has called you to do. And on top of having all these kids and grandkids, I mean, I can imagine.

James Early [00:40:40]:

I had 3 kids. That was plenty. But I just really wanna honor you for all you're doing to, shine your light in the world and help other people.

Pam Fields [00:40:50]:

Thank you.

James Early [00:40:51]:

Is there anything that I didn't ask you or that you'd like to clarify or just Kinda sum up of what we've talked about. What would you like to leave my listeners with to think about in this whole idea of prodigal children, How they fit into the mix because there's a wide range of listeners. Mhmm. What would you say is kind of a to sum all this up?

Pam Fields [00:41:15]:

Well, I would say find community because you're not alone. You may feel like you're alone, but there are a lot more of us out there Then you realize, you know. And so find community, keep praying, and, you know, There's times when I get busy and I forget to pray. I need to leave myself some reminders. I actually have even a little list I have Written on paper, then run through a laminator and stuck it to the wall of my shower. That is very specific Regarding my prodigal, you know, lord, I pray that the lord, you would reveal yourself to them, that you'll destroy any spirit of rebellion. I pray for restoration and and all that, but we get busy in life and sometimes we forget to specifically pray for that Child, so I would say leave yourself reminders. And so my reminder is in the shower.

Pam Fields [00:42:09]:

So every day when I'm there, I see that on my wall. Just keep active in that.

James Early [00:42:15]:

Yeah. Yeah. That's great. How can people connect with you, Pam? How can they find out about your podcast and your website?

Pam Fields [00:42:22]:

Well, my website is tendingfields.net. And my podcast, different name, The Mom Next Door Stories of Faith. You can find it on wherever you listen to your podcasts. And then I actually have a mommy's group on Facebook that's pretty active. It's simply called Tending Fields moms group, And we talk about the practical things of life and things that are on our heart, and so they can definitely connect with me over there. I'm on Instagram too. That's also Tending Fields. Yeah.



Pam Fields [00:42:50]:

That's where I am.

James Early [00:42:51]:

Okay. Cool. Well, I'll have all those links in the show notes so people can check that out. I've got 3 final questions that I ask all my guests. You may remember this from last time. The first one is, If you could talk to any Bible character other than Jesus, who would it be and what would you ask them?

Pam Fields [00:43:10]:

I should have done my homework and remembered that you asked these questions.

James Early [00:43:14]:

Oh, but see, that's good that you didn't.

Pam Fields [00:43:17]:

Yes. Probably. So let's see. You know, I I think I could be in on the conversation with Mary and Martha and chat with them a little bit And just learn from their lives.

James Early [00:43:31]:

What would you ask them?

Pam Fields [00:43:33]:

If they understood more about the Lord Through their personality. If they understood more of the Lord's plan for their life by recognizing their personality type. Does that make sense? As we understand the way God created us and the personality that he gave us, we see a little more clearly What the role he has for us to be?

James Early [00:43:59]:

Oh, interesting. Yeah. Okay.

Pam Fields [00:44:01]:

Does that make sense?

James Early [00:44:02]:

That makes sense.

Pam Fields [00:44:03]:

Like, we could get frustrated with ourself, like, why am I like this? Or, oh, this is an annoying trait of me. Or we could go, Oh, Lord. Okay. You know, like, I didn't realize that that there was a purpose for that, and You had a plan for that. So let me actually receive that and step into it. Now there are things that can be annoying and do need reformed, and and I will say that we always need to be teachable and learning. But sometimes we look at ourselves, and we're super critical, and we don't recognize that there's a reason for it. It's not our plan, but it was God's plan.

James Early [00:44:44]:

Well, that's really interesting because Mary and Martha, we kind of stereotype them of, you know, certain actions or attitudes, but each one of them loved Jesus. Each one of them believed in Jesus and followed him, and They brought their own calling Mhmm. To the way they followed him. So Mhmm. I think that's kinda what you're saying. Yeah. That's a that's beautiful.

Pam Fields [00:45:05]:

Mhmm.

James Early [00:45:05]:

So here's the second question. Is there any bible character that you especially identify with?

Pam Fields [00:45:13]:

Would probably also be Martha. Just because I I do get quite wrapped up and busy in doing and doing and doing, and I just need to remember to take the time to sit down.

James Early [00:45:26]:

Yeah. I hear that. You know, I wanna say about Martha though, she also when their brother Lazarus had died, She was the 1st one to run out and talk to him, and Jesus basically had her reaffirm her faith. She proclaimed her faith that he was the Messiah. It didn't shatter her faith. I mean, she had a very strong faith. We kinda dump on Martha a little too much, I think, but

Pam Fields [00:45:53]:

Mhmm.

James Early [00:45:54]:

She had a strong faith, so I would I would say that that's true about you too, Pam.

Pam Fields [00:45:59]:

She was she was out there because she was gonna move on to the next step and get to take care of what needed to happen. So yep.

James Early [00:46:08]:

Okay. Here's the 3rd question. The Bible Speaks to You podcast is really all about getting back to the original Message of Jesus and imbibing his mindset to think and act and love and pray like he did. How would you describe Jesus's mindset?

Pam Fields [00:46:30]:

To do the will of the father, And that looked different in many different situations.

James Early [00:46:37]:

Yeah. Moe, you nailed it. That is so beautiful. Pam, I wanna thank you so much for being with me and chatting about this. It's not the easiest thing to talk about. There's so many ideas that you shared that have been helpful, especially that one about prayer. The 1 bible verse I wanted to bring up and I didn't, so I'll bring it up now. So, hopefully, everybody's listening to the very end.

James Early [00:46:59]:

Is that verse in I think it's Isaiah. Let's see. It's Isaiah 54:13. All your children will be taught by the lord, and great will be their peace. I know that's something my mom prayed about when we were kids, and we all came to faith in our own. You know, it wasn't just because we were brought up that way. We all made a conscious choice, and so If you're listening here and you're know anyone with a or you have a child who has, from your perspective, gone astray, Remember that prayer, that promise. This is really a promise as well as a precept as Isaiah 54:13, all your children will be taught by the Lord, and great will be their peace.

James Early [00:47:45]:

So I guess we'll leave it there. Pam, thank you so much for being here and sharing your heart, and Some of the struggles and lessons you've learned has been really helpful.

Pam Fields [00:47:55]:

Thanks for having me.

James Early [00:47:56]:

Alright. Take care.

**Pam Field's contact info:**

Website: [TendingFields.net](http://TendingFields.net)

Facebook: [Tending Fields page](#)

Facebook [Tending Fields Moms Group](#)

Instagram: [Tending Fields](#)

**Bible References**

**[Luke 15:11-32 NIV](#)**

**Ephesians 6:11-13 NKJV**

11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.

13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

**Exodus 14:14 NIV**

14 The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still.

**Proverbs 22:6 NKJV**

6 Train up a child in the way he should go,  
And when he is old he will not depart from it.

**Isaiah 54:13 NKJV**

13 All your children *shall be* taught by the LORD,  
And great *shall be* the peace of your children.