

# NEED HELP Raising Godly Girls?

Presented By: Like Minded Musings

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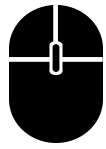


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## Event Introduction

Girl Moms today are in a very real battle.

Not only are we helping our girls navigate the normal yo yo emotions, bad attitudes, and disrespect - but there is **so much more!** They live in a culture that encourages boy craziness, one where social media pressure, bullying, over-sexualization and comparison (online and in real life) reign.

**Their hearts are so easily drawn away from the one who created them.** Our girls are facing an identity crisis and we're left with so many questions, unsure where to find help.

*Who does God say that they are? How do I help them to know Him? Do I talk to them about that (fill-in-the-blank) tough issue or just keep them away and pray that it doesn't affect them? How do I give them the right foundation?*

*What does Raising Godly Girls actually look like in today's world?*

Proverbs 24:6 tells us "for by wise guidance you can wage your war, and in abundance of counselors there is victory."

We ARE in a battle for our children's hearts. As Moms, we are to seek the whole counsel of God for wisdom *in that battle*. We're also to ask wisdom from other Moms who are fighting and seek God together.

**This is exactly why we came together for a huge collaborative Biblical Parenting event!**

64 + contributors who are passionate about Raising Godly Girls and Raising Godly Boys shared daily encouragement, tips, resources and help in Raising Godly Children and we've compiled it all into an eBook for you!

You will find the complete daily articles on Raising Godly Girls topics followed by the title and the link to the corresponding Raising Godly Boys article.

**You also have the option to purchase the Raising Godly Girls Companion Prayer Journal for \$1.97.** This journal includes pages with prompts to help work through each chapter, a 31 Days of Prayers for Your Girl calendar page, a floral coloring page, and our popular Lie vs Truth Scripture cards to help her (and you!) combat the lies that creep into our life. **[You can find out more about it and purchase the journal here!](#)**

*Time to suit up warrior Mamas! Let's fight this battle for our children's hearts together!*

So grab your favorite beverage and comfy chair and let us help you navigate parenting your girl Biblically today!

**Let's Raise Godly Girls To Be In The World But Not Of It!**



# How to do the "Hard Parts" of Godly Girl Parenting

by Ashley of Navigating the Years

I can't help but wonder if David avoided creating boundaries with his sons because of David's own guilt?

According to 1 Kings 1:6, King David "never interfered with [Adonijah] by asking, 'Why do you behave as you do?'" This statement occurs when Adonijah claims the throne.

Other indications that King David was possibly a negligent/lenient disciplinarian include:

1 Samuel 13 when Amnon rapes Tamar and there is no record of consequence  
2 Samuel 13-14 when Absalom kills Amnon and King David offers reconciliation and forgiveness without repentance

*Maybe he was busy and exhausted from running the kingdom?*

*Did he ache with pain from old battle wounds?*

*Perhaps he just did not know what to do?*

Whenever I feel exhausted, overwhelmed, and distracted by pain, my first response is to go to God in prayer. Since I am broken myself, I pray for guidance in raising Godly girls.

A couple of years ago, God led me to a secular book for teens called *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens* by Sean Covey. One sentence stood out to me:

**"Hard moments are conflicts between doing the right thing and doing the easier thing."**

Covey goes on to explain that success in the "small hard moments" prepares one for the "large hard moments."

## Examples of “Small Hard Moments” for teens/ tweens:

Waking up Regulating emotions Being self-disciplined to complete homework

## Examples of “Large Hard Moments” for teens/ tweens:

Standing firm against negative peer pressure Picking oneself up after a failure  
Finishing an unpleasant task because it will be beneficial in the future Using self-discipline to live a healthy life.

## How Does this Relate to Raising Godly girls?

Mamas, we work through the hard moments of parenting so that our girls can learn how to handle the hard moments of life. And, conquering the small hard things during the tween years will produce fruit during the teen years!

How does this work?

We teach skills for prosocial behavior and self-regulation. Opportunities to practice these techniques are provided. Thus, confidence and competence grow. We give our tweens more control over small hard moments.

## Small Hard Moments in Raising Godly Girls

### 1. Conflict Resolution

Raising Godly girls requires that our daughters learn to advocate for themselves. Then, later they can advocate for others.

### Tips for Raising Godly Girls Who Can Resolve Conflict:

#### Be the example.

Parents, we must model how to handle conflict in a healthy manner with our spouse, children, friends, coworkers, etc.

#### Teach the Matthew 18 (NLT) principle.

In the tween years, we found that conflict was less physical and more verbal. It was time to teach our daughters the Matthew 18 Principle. Parents, please talk through what this looks like in a variety of scenarios!

“Go privately and talk out the offense.” Skills required: Use I-messages to talk to the person. Apologize and take responsibility for her actions. Indicate that she is ready to change. Learn to “disagree without being disagreeable.” “Take one or two others with you and go back again.” “If the person still refuses to listen, take your case to the church [or authority].”

As Mamas, we want to fix the problem. But, if we take the time to coach our girls through the Matthew 18 process, they build competence and confidence in their ability to handle conflict. Think about how powerful this confidence will be when they are teenagers!

Since we are “in the world,” we also help our girls understand that non-Christians may not hold the same standards of morality. Yet, as Christ-followers who are “not of the world,” we must show them love even if they don’t respond well.

## 2. Self-Discipline

God designed the brains of our daughters to follow a typical path of development. As they mature, the emotional part of their brain develops faster than the logical, decision-making part. Raising Godly girls requires that we take advantage of our time of influence and prepare them for the emotions to come. (These talks can also coincide with [puberty discussions](#).)

### Tips for Raising Godly Girls with Self-Discipline

#### Be the example.

Model the self-discipline skills you wish to see in your teen.

#### Be responsible.

Mamas, it may be easier to do things ourselves, but is it beneficial? And, will it be easier for our daughters when they head off to college without knowing certain skills? Please be encouraged to take the time to teach life skills, and then hand over responsibility slowly over time. Consider teaching strategies to

Wake up on time Organize, plan, and complete school work Practice for sports or music Cook, clean, wash laundry, etc.

Develop systems and routines that work for your unique daughter. Parents, you may need to experiment. Please don’t give up! Go through the process. It will serve your daughter well in the long run.

## Regulate emotions.

Mamas, this is a huge challenge! Yet, it is so important to move our daughters from the emotional part of the brain to the executive function part!

Be proactive. Research and teach tools to help your daughter handle various emotions – anger, fear, sadness, disappointment, etc. The Bible has a lot to say on these topics.

Three books by Dan Siegel and Tina Payne Bryson are also helpful in this area: *The Whole-Brain Child*, *No Drama Discipline*, and *The Yes Brain*. Discern when to speak to your daughter about her emotions. Don't fuel the emotions! We must stay calm and regulated in order to support our daughters when they fall apart. Be empathetic and stay connected. Ideally, discuss strategies before an emotional moment. Then, after the outburst and a period to calm down, review the use of strategies and how they were applied.

Be strong and courageous! Raising Godly girls in the midst of fluctuating hormones and emotions necessitates patience, discernment, wisdom, and unconditional love.

## Create boundaries.

Since the prefrontal lobe is not fully developed in tween girls, it is our job to be their prefrontal cortex right now. The challenge is creating a balance of external structure while maintaining a relationship with our daughters. Through this connection, we gradually give our girls control over creating their own boundaries.

## Mamas, we can do it if we:

Define the problem. Calmly state the boundaries and positive/negative consequences related to the boundaries.

Teach. Explain the reasons why those boundaries are in place. Always include how much you love your daughter and that you want the best for her. Boundaries will allow her to live an abundant life! Discuss. Guide her thinking by asking her what she thinks are appropriate boundaries for a certain situation and why. Practice. Depending on her maturity, allow your tween to practice creating and following her own boundaries on simple concepts.

Start small such as determining healthy/unhealthy food and water intake, creating a sleep schedule, etc. **The goal is to help her experience competence in order to give her the confidence to be counter-cultural in her teen years!**

## 3. Work

The concept of work is important to raising Godly girls to be independent, contributing members of society.

It takes effort to teach your daughter to serve the family, freely serve those in need, and serve others with a business. But, look at the long-term benefit. You are developing a servant-hearted, Christ-follower. Isn't this worth the challenges and push back from your daughter?

## Tips for Raising Godly Girls Who Serve Others Through Their Work

### Complete Chores

Yes, it is inconvenient for our busy tweens to help out the family. Yet, chores teach our daughters life skills and develop character traits such as grit, empathy, and cooperation.

### Volunteer

Granted, it is inconvenient. But, get in the habit of volunteering as a family before your daughter can drive. As Christ followers, we are called to serve others.

By volunteering together, your tween can learn that she has the POWER to make a difference in someone's life.

The volunteer experience is more meaningful and can touch your Godly girl's heart when you or another caring adult is close by.

Our goal is to move our daughters from being normal, self-centered tweens/teens to being counter-cultural and others-centered. It is worth the inconvenience.

### Create a Business

Younger tweens might earn money through extra "earning opportunities." But, older tweens may wish to earn money outside of the home.

Consider starting a business. For more benefits of a business, check out the post, [Why Should Teens/Tweens Have Jobs When They Could Own Businesses.](#)

Remember, the ultimate benefit is that your daughter can learn to serve others through her business.

## 4. Finances

When we follow Biblical financial principles, it is easy to see God's hand in leading us to an abundant life of peace and the freedom to make choices for our daughters!

Mamas, please make the effort to get your own finances in order and teach your preteens Biblical financial principles that can change their futures! It takes small, consistent deposits of time to teach your daughter to work, give, save, and responsibly spend money. In fact, giving, saving, and spending are foundational budgeting skills! For more information on Financial Literacy, please check out [my review of \*Smart Money, Smart Kids\* by Dave Ramsey and Rachel Cruze.](#)

### Tips for Raising Godly Girls to Practice Biblical Financial Principles

Be the example: tithe, sponsor a child, get out of debt, save cash for vacations, etc. Provide "earning opportunities" so she can practice budgeting money. Use piggy banks or clear jars to Give, Save, and Spend Use percentages to deposit earned money in these piggy banks (For example, Give 10-15%, Save 30-40%, and Spend 45-60%) In middle school, create "sinking funds." Your daughter creates one or more savings goals.

Then, she deposits a little money in it each month, week, etc. Practice saving for once a year purchases (Christmas) or monthly bills (cell phone line). Help your daughter build her savings muscles now so that later it is easier to save for a car, college, or emergency fund! The real reward will come at retirement when she is prepared with enough savings.

## 5. Relationships

We are commanded to love God and love others! So, let's explore tips for both areas.

### Relationship with God

Developing a relationship with God is actually a "big hard moment." Yet, you make find that this becomes a "colossal hard moment" in the teenage years.

Please be encouraged to never give up praying for your daughter and her relationship with God. Ultimately, we want to raise Godly girls who are sensitive to the Holy Spirit in order to bring them into a relationship with Christ as their Savior.

## Tips for Raising Godly Girls Who Love God

Be the example: Model, model, model. As life gets busier, we need to demonstrate how to create boundaries that enable us to put God first. Be encouraged to continue to build the habits you have established: spend quiet time with God through prayer and the study of God's Word, attend worship, participate in fellowship, etc. Work together to overcome obstacles to putting God first.

## Relationship with others.

The challenge here is the time and effort required to teach prosocial behaviors, reteach the skills, and solve new issues. Our daughters must practice these skills in order to build competence and confidence! Then, we begin to coach our daughters on how to apply the strategies.

## Tips for Raising Godly Girls With Healthy Relationships

Be the example: Demonstrate how to be a good friend and love people who are difficult to love while still maintaining boundaries.

Connect with your tween to engage her heart. Teach conflict resolution skills. Practice. Coach. Practice some more. Surround your family with healthy, Godly people of a variety of ages. These mentors can be examples and pour Godly wisdom into our daughters' ears.

Sometimes, our girls truly "get" what we teach them when they hear it from someone else. Think about the characteristics of these mentors and ask your child, "What kind of person do you want to be?" Walk through the hard moments with your tween. For example, go to the funeral. Practice praying, comforting, and being present to care for others rather than protect your tween from discomfort.

## 6. Be Counter-Cultural

As our tweens begin to care more about what others think, they discover the negative attitudes towards Christianity exhibited by parts of our culture.

Again, this is not exactly a “small hard moment.” But, by taking the time to fight against the spiritual forces of darkness in the tween years, it will pay big dividends in avoiding the “colossal hard moments” of the teen years. Be brave, Mamas, even when it seems like “everyone else does.”

## Tips for Raising Godly Girls to be Counter-Cultural

### Be the example.

Don't parent or live your life from a place of fear, especially the fear of what others think. Instead, parent from a place of strength and knowledge of whose you are.

### Ask, “Whose approval matters?” Remember, we have an audience of One.

### Create a village of counter-cultural people.

Even if your daughter is in the public-school system, create a village with your church family through living life, traveling, and volunteering together.

Those who are closer to your tween become the people she can go to for help.

Their support can help your tween avoid the “easy” way. And, it is good for your tween to observe and hear another person doing and saying the same things as your family.

### Talk about the influence of the friends with whom they choose to hang out.

### Be the salt in a decaying world.

Consider how your family can take part in the culture in some way, but use it to spread God's love. We must share God's love with those who need it most! We can use our experience with God in the fight to redeem the world.

For example, use technology to be the light of the world as a way to love and encourage others. And, raise your daughters to have the skills, strength, and courage to bring darkness to light!

## Limit the negative messages, but don't avoid the "spicy" content.

Watch movies/ TV shows together. Choose those which show the consequences of sin and unwise choices. Explain how sometimes shows glamorize or gloss over the potential consequences.

For instance, discuss when a character goes to a bar to drink away problems. And, let's teach our girls to filter the characters' actions through the lens of the Bible. This way, when peers claim they are "naive" or say something to try to "shock" them, our daughters are prepared.

## Final Thoughts on Raising Godly Girls

I can't help but wonder how King David raised his sons when they were younger. Did he choose to take the easy route? Or, was he so overwhelmed with life that this was the best he could do?

Despite the rebellion and choices his sons made, David made one singular wise decision over his whole life – he pursued God with every fiber of his being.

**And Mamas, this is our most important parenting strategy of all – seek God's heart in all that we do!**

Please share with us some of the small, hard parenting moments you have experienced! Let us pray for you and praise God with you!

## ARE YOU A BOY MOM?

As parents, we understand that it is no easy feat to raise Godly sons. There is so much pressure on them everywhere they go to be something other than what God created them to be. As parents, we can take action to by embracing 4 steps that will help us to raise Godly sons.

Join Angel of [Experience His Freedom](#) as she offers encouragement on [4 Ways To Raise Godly Sons To Become Leaders](#) !

## ∞ ABOUT THE AUTHOR ∞



Ashley is an imperfect mother. Flawed wife. Servant-hearted Christ follower. Encouraging teacher. Lifelong Learner. Recovering introvert. Chocolate lover. And scaredy-cat “adventurer.” Parenting is by far her greatest adventure of all!

Ashley helps thoughtful parents find research and experienced-based tips for raising teens and tweens with character and practical life skills. Ashley holds degrees in Primary and Elementary Education. She coordinates Financial Peace University and blogs at [Navigating the Years](#). Follow Ashley on [Facebook](#), [Pinterest](#), and [Twitter](#)!

# How to Teach Character When Raising Your Godly Girl

by Erin Persinger of Homeschool Balance

Once, years ago, I heard a man tell his son, “the only thing you can leave behind is your name, so make sure it is a good one.”

This struck me as a profound piece of wisdom, one that I often impart to my young daughters.

The simple truth is that nothing can leave this world with us, but there are some things we can leave behind. Our name or legacy is one. So when I set my goals for raising Godly girls their character is always at the top of the list.

## Why is teaching character an important part of raising Godly girls?

Because every issue of value in life essentially boils down to character. Have you loved enough? Served enough? Are you meek enough? The things that are important and truly matter in this life always come down to character. A good job is fantastic, but I’m more concerned with what kind of person they will become. The money will be irrelevant if they miss the mark on the rest.

## So what character traits are important for Godly girls?

### 1). Contentment

I feel like this is one we see less and less of in today’s society. It seems like we are always chasing the next new shiny thing, or reaching for a higher goal. Don’t get me wrong, there’s nothing wrong with things or goals. Sometimes though, they can cloud our vision. Suddenly we are focused so much on what we WANT that we forget what we HAVE.

I pray that my girls always find contentment. That they will count their blessings before they list their wants. How can one teach contentment?

One way is to model it. Are you always searching for the next best thing? Take time to be present and thankful in the now. Another idea would be to volunteer at a homeless shelter or soup kitchen, anywhere that will make your daughters realize how blessed they are.

## 2). Persistence

Persistence is a good trait to have no matter your age. Unfortunately even the most successful life will encounter a few failures along the way. Being persistent means your daughter will keep on trying when life sets her back. Motherhood itself requires a great deal of persistence to produce quality results.

Can persistence be taught? Of course it can! One way to teach persistence is to encourage your daughter to learn a skill that is new to her. Learning a new skill takes quite a bit of persistence, especially if the skill is challenging. You can also model persistence yourself. Do you challenge yourself to do great things? Persistence can also be taught in school work. For years my oldest daughter struggled with multiplication facts, but this year her persistence has finally paid off. Point out these moments in your daughter's life.

## 3). Faithfulness

The most obvious area of faithfulness in a woman's life is to her husband. Of course this is important, but there are other ways we need to be faithful as well. We need to be faithful to the Lord, in our service to Him. Also, to our commitments and obligations. A woman of character will always be found to be faithful.

How can we teach faithfulness? Chores are an excellent way to teach faithfulness. However, this will only work if we as moms are diligent ([moms need character traits too right?](#)) in enforcing the chores, as well as checking to make sure they are completed properly.

Our daughters can also learn to be faithful through friendships. A good friendship is hard to find, especially among young girls.

We must teach them to be faithful to their friends and avoid the gossip and ugliness that often comes with a group of girls. This is especially important in those pre-teen years when meanness seems to come out full force.

## 4). Courage

Courage is so important for young women of today.

Eventually, they will probably need to possess the courage to stand against a crowd that holds different beliefs than their own. They may even be alienated for those beliefs. I hope my daughters learn to have the courage to say no when they need to, but also to say yes to things that are good, even if they do scare them.

Courage is another trait that can be nurtured by trying new things. The fear of failure is real, and oftentimes new things push us outside our comfort zone. Maybe there's even something new that we can try WITH our daughters. After all, it is always best to lead by example.

## 5). Kindness

Sometimes it seems like as a society we have forgotten about kindness. However, I tend to think that it's still out there, just not as publicized as everything else. A kind spirit can go a long way in many aspects of life – for a mother, a wife, a daughter, or even a friend. Kindness can never be valued enough.

How can we teach kindness? One way is to complete [random acts of kindness](#) together as a family. We also need to demonstrate kindness in our homes. Are we kind to our daughters? How about to our spouse?

Have you caught the common theme on all the character traits?

They must be demonstrated. Our daughters will learn these character traits best if they see them in us first. We live in a world where character is often devalued, so I challenge you today to implement some character training in your own home. Our daughters will thank us later.

## ARE YOU A BOY MOM?

Rebekah of [Hargraves Home and Hearth](#) shares: I have to admit that when we found out our second baby was a boy, I was both really excited and incredibly nervous. How was I going to raise a son? Raising up godly boys seemed foreign to me. I'm not a man and don't think as men think! Our first child was a girl, and I understand all things, girl! But a boy? ...

Be encouraged in [Raising up Godly Boys Through the Example of Christ](#) Get the details [here!](#)

## ∞ ABOUT THE AUTHOR ∞



Erin Persinger is a born-again Christian, one who hopes to always be found fulfilling God's will for her life. She has been married for 15 years and has been blessed with two beautiful daughters, one 11 & one 7. She started her homeschooling journey 6 years ago, and it's always been an adventure.

Do you need to know how to be more efficient with your time? How about learning to create a plan the works for YOUR home?

Then you are in the right place! Does she know it all? No way! She's learning all the time, but she would love to share the part she does know with you!

Follow Erin on [Facebook](#), [Pinterest](#), and [Instagram](#)!

# Raising Godly Girls: How to Help Her With Body Image

by Heather Creekmore of Compared to Who

Girls today are faced with scary, heartbreaking statistics when it comes to body image.

*Over 80% of 10-year-olds are afraid of being fat. 53% of 13-year-old American girls are unhappy with their bodies. This number grows to 78% by the time girls reach 17. By middle school, 40-70% of girls are dissatisfied with 2 or more parts of their body*

(statistics quoted from [Teens, Social Media And Body Image](#) survey 2014)

## How can we as girl moms help our daughters with this tough issue of body image?

Let's find out what we as girl Moms can do to help them in this battle! Join Heather Creekmore from [Compared to Who](#) as she talks about the best strategy you can use to help your daughter avoid body image issues.

↓ [Click to view the video](#) or **read the transcript below** ↓

## Raising Godly Girls: Heather Creekmore on Helping Daughters With Body Image

Hey, you guys it's Heather Creekmore from Compared to Who? and I am super excited to be part of this initiative to help girl moms! I am happy to be here and to give you my advice on raising godly girls who are in this world but not of it!

So today, I am going to talk to you about body image... Yikes! That's a topic I never thought in a million years I would be qualified to talk to you about because it's something that I struggled with from probably eight, until my mid-thirties.

Body image was a big deal for me. I had an eating disorder that was undiagnosed. Boy, I did not like the way I looked, and I did everything I could possibly do to try to change my physical appearance thinking that that would help me feel better about my body.

**And it didn't work.**

*So, I'm grateful that God in His grace showed me a pathway to freedom that didn't require me to completely adjust what I look like!*

My encouragement to you today is let's help our daughters through this! And the best way, girl mom, that I think you can help your daughter to have a positive body image is for you to get this issue straight in your own head.

When we girl moms know where our value is derived, when we girl moms are set in our hearts with the truth that our value does not come from our physical appearance - our value doesn't have anything to do with what the scale says about us or what the mirror says about us - *that* is when we find freedom. **And then, the next step is when our daughters start to learn what it really means to be a confident woman.**

You see, I meet so many women who are like “well, I'm helping my daughter and here's how I'm doing it - I never say the ‘D’ word around her (diet) and I never complain about my body around her and oh, my daughter has no idea that I have body image issues. She has no idea. I mean I never say anything about it when I'm around her”.

**But we underestimate the intelligence of our children when we do that because here's the truth - our kids they watch what we do so much more than they listen to what we say.**

It's modeling that's most effective even - on this issue. So, mom, if you are confident that your worth is driven from Jesus alone and not stressed and panicked about trying to be affirmed for what you look like physically, then there's a good chance that your daughter is going to see that and model that and inherit that from you.

But even if you're watching your words but you're still kind of stressed and you always try and lose weight and are always on the next diet (even if your daughter doesn't know – although she probably does know).

You're always at the gym, posting your calorie counts and how much you burned on Facebook - if that's you girl mom, can I just encourage you and hear this with lots of love (*because I've got nothing but compassion – we've got a hard job here!*)

But can I just encourage you to take a pause and figure out where your worth really comes from?

**Stop believing the lie of beauty.**

And you know that's another way we can help our daughters. **We can show our daughters the lie of beauty.** Right? Because beauty tells us through culture, through what we see on Instagram or television or magazines, beauty tells us that if we have more of it, our lives will be better. We'll be happier and more fulfilled, more content.

We will have anything we want!

We'll have the man of our dreams. Or keep the man of our dreams - because why would a man ever cheat on a beautiful woman? And down the road it goes....

*These are all lies of beauty.*

You see those same magazines that we hate when we're checking out of Target, you know - you see the magazine with the woman in the bikini - and you're like oh that's not helpful! I don't need to see that, right?

**But we fail to read those headlines around those women.** You know most of the time those headlines will say something like “*why she struggled with depression*”, “*why she almost ended it all*”, “*why he left*”, or “*why he cheated on her*”.

See, the truth is that beauty (and more beauty – and even our cultures standard of beauty) does not guarantee anyone a struggle free life.

*Beauty lies.*

**And so, girl moms, we have a responsibility to encourage our daughters to believe the truth of God.** Believe where value and really let me just clarify this even further - where salvation comes from, right?

Because salvation doesn't come from being pretty. Salvation doesn't come from meeting the cultures standard of beauty.

Salvation comes from Christ alone, but beauty wants to tell us something different. So, by helping our girls figure out, to kind of deduce or decode beauty's lie, we can help them in a great way too!

Anyway mom, I've written a book called ‘Compared to Who’ and it's on Amazon. I would love for you to read it. I think if you're a girl mom, you really need to! And you can also check me out on [comparedtowho.me](http://comparedtowho.me). If you've got questions, I love to interact there!

## Key Video Takeaways

Evaluate:

Where do we get our value?

Stop believing the lie of beauty.

Teach our daughters to recognize the lie of beauty.

Encourage them to believe the truths of God.

Download Your FREE Lesson on How to Handle Changing Emotions [Here!](#)



## Are You a Boy Mom?

Jessica Anderson of Intentional in Life offers encouragement on [Raising Godly Boys](#) in an Ungodly World! Get the details and encouragement [here!](#)

## ∞ ABOUT THE AUTHOR ∞



Several years ago, God showed Heather Creekmore a path out of [body image](#) and [comparison](#) struggles. Now, through her [writing](#) and [speaking](#), she's passionate about helping other Christian women to find freedom too. Her heart is to help people grow in their walk with Jesus Christ and to know there is REAL hope for their struggle in different areas like: [body](#), [image](#), [weight](#), [contentment](#), [marriage](#), [motherhood](#),

[friendships](#) . . . You name it.

You can [follow the blog](#) for a weekly message of encouragement. Make sure reach out on social media! Follow Heather on [Facebook](#), [Pinterest](#), and [Instagram](#).

# Raise Godly Girls, Not Stereotypes of the World or Church

by Rebekah of Hargraves Home & Hearth

Anyone who has ever [read my blog](#) or listened to [my podcast](#) knows that I went through a long phase of legalism during my teen years.

The primary way this legalism played out in my own personal life was in my practice of **taking man's teachings regarding what Biblical womanhood was and superimposing them onto the Scriptures.**

The result (though I didn't see it at the time) was that I was making the Word of God say something it actually didn't say.

I had my own box, my own system, my own viewpoint about what comprised a godly woman's calling, life, and purpose, while the plain teachings of the whole canon of Scripture were largely ignored so that I might hold firm to that self-made box.

**I fear that, sadly, my story is nothing out of the ordinary.**

In fact, I see this happening quite a lot in Christendom today. We have our churchy stereotypes right and left as to what godly women are like – what precisely they wear, how they look, how they spend their time, and what they do, all the while we are pulling one or two proof texts out here and there in order to “support” said stereotypes.

**In an age in which the culture is also vying for our girls' attention with their own faulty stereotypes and images of womanhood, this is exceptionally sad.**

We live in an age when so many lies from the media, the culture, the stores at the mall, and the internet are bombarding our girls, giving them dangerous ideas of what they should do and how they should be.

Unfortunately, though, rather than being faithful to our job of providing the truth and freedom found in God's Word, oftentimes what is happening is that we are unknowingly showering our girls with even more lies ourselves (just on an opposite side of the spectrum).

This is one of the many reasons why I am so passionate about teaching and writing on topics pertaining to Biblical womanhood, true femininity, motherhood, and a woman's calling. Now more than ever we need to hold fast to the truth found within the 66 books of Scripture. And our daughters do, too. If we are ever going to be successful in our goal of raising godly girls, this is where we have to start. We have to be diligent and faithful students of the Word of God.

### **My Two Goals for Raising my Daughter to be a Godly Girl**

In a time when we think we have to follow a long laundry list of methods and systems in order to raise godly girls, I just have two simple overarching goals for my journey of parenting my daughter, Anna. They are as follows:

- **Look beyond church and culture to the Word of God alone.**

First, let me preface this one by saying that I am not disparaging the church. I am the church. You are the church. The church is the body of Christ, His precious bride, and we are to not forsake the assembling of ourselves together in our local church (see Ephesians 5:25-32 and Hebrews 10:25). **The church is a gift and blessing in our lives, to be sure.** We learn much from our churches and glean much wisdom from the older women in our churches who can pour into our lives Titus 2 style. We mustn't ever forget that.

What I'm referring to in this goal, though, is the fact that, because the church is comprised of redeemed saints who are still fallible, we need to be as the Bereans were in Acts 17:11 who eagerly compared everything they were taught to the infallible Word of God to see whether or not those things were true.

When we are daily bombarded by lies about motherhood, parenting, womanhood, and more (lies which will affect our girls, too!), we have to be able to take every thought captive (2 Corinthians 10:5) and renew our minds in truth (Romans 12:2). The only way we can do that is if we know the Scriptures.

As Jen Wilkin eloquently pointed out in a talk she gave at the 2014 Gospel Coalition's Women's Conference entitled [Raising Daughters Beyond Stereotypes](#), **we are making the mistake of ignoring the plain teaching of God's Word and His design for women that He had from the beginning.**

We are espousing [the lie that marriage and motherhood are what comprise a woman's highest calling](#) rather than those overarching roles which actually do – those roles of being image bearers of God (Genesis 1:26-28) and ambassadors of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:20).

While I would love for my daughter to follow in my footsteps and be a wife and mama herself one day, I ultimately want her to portray [Biblical womanhood](#) in whatever way God calls her to, as she remains faithful to His Word and His design for her own life. That's ultimately what raising godly girls is all about!

- **[Look beyond my own personal wishes to God's will alone.](#)**

While my dream would be for Anna to grow up, marry a wonderful godly man, have adorable little babies, and always live within the same town as me, I realize that that may very well not end up being God's will for her life. **This is where motherhood can be both heartbreaking and wonderful all at once!**

God's will for Anna's life may end up being for her to live her days as a single missionary on foreign soil. You never know! And while I would be heartbroken to only see her once in a while and would undoubtedly experience some feelings of mama worry, ultimately, I want Anna to follow hard after God's will for her life – not mine.

Raising godly girls is not about grooming them to be helpmeets and keepers at home as I saw a man on Facebook say once. If my daughter becomes a help, solace, and partner to a husband and spends her days as a keeper at home, great! That would be awesome!

*But that is not the sole purpose and role I am raising her to take on.*

I am raising my daughter to be a diligent student of God's Word. I am raising her to give her life to the cultivation of a deep prayer life. I am raising her to seek God's face and His will for her every decision all throughout life. And I am raising her to be able to discern and heed His calling, whatever that may be and whenever that may become clear for her. No other goal for raising godly girls could ever equate to that one.

### **Fix Your Eyes on Christ, Mama!**

What we have talked about today may feel very lofty, challenging, and just downright hard. As moms, we feel like we know what is best for our children and that if they would only remain in close proximity to us, then all would be well, right? Wrong. **All will be well (Romans 8:28) when our daughters are in the center of God's will all the days of their life.** Not necessarily ours.

So, keep your eyes fixed on Christ, mama. **Remember His goodness, His faithfulness, and His love for your girl.** Remember that He wants what is best for both of you, sees the big picture, and has a good, pleasing, and perfect will beyond anything we could ask or think (Romans 12:2, Ephesians 3:20). Rest in this truth today, mama. And allow it to equip you in your journey of raising godly girls. God bless you!

### **ARE YOU A BOY MOM?**

Courtney of [Grace Grow Edify](#) shares [What is the Responsibility of Raising Godly Boys Really?](#) Get the details and encouragement [here!](#)

## ∞ ABOUT THE AUTHOR ∞



Rebekah Hargraves is a wife, mama of two littles, blogger, podcaster, and author whose passion is to edify, equip, and encourage women in their journey of Biblical womanhood, particularly with an emphasis on the gospel and its implications for everyday life. Rebekah’s first book, “Lies Moms Believe (And How the Gospel Refutes Them)” released last fall, and the “Lies Moms Believe” Companion Bible Study came out March 30, 2018. You can find Rebekah on her website, Hargraves Home and Hearth, on Instagram, or on iTunes via The Home and Hearth podcast.

Blog: [Hargraves Home and Hearth](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) |

# How to Show Your Godly Girl Respect

by Phyllis of Phyllis Sather.com

**Raising Godly Girls requires respect.**

Do you Respect your daughters? *Of course!*

**For most of us that would be our first response to this question.** It was mine, but as I've looked more closely at my relationship with my daughters I've found that I'm not very good at showing them respect—at least not as good as I thought I was.

The 1828 edition of Webster's American Dictionary of the English Language describes respect as:

*“That estimation or honor in which men hold the distinguished worth or substantial good qualities of others. It expresses less than reverence and veneration, which regard elders and superiors; whereas respect may regard juniors and inferiors. Respect regards the qualities of the mind or the actions which characterize those qualities.”*

And one of my favorite Scripture verses puts it this way:

*“Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than themselves.” Philippians 2:3 (KJV)*

**Raising Godly Girls requires that you show them respect, probably before they deserve it.**

Think about some of the things you do when you are with a friend. You make eye contact when they talk, listen respectfully, and wait for your turn to speak. You show interest in what they are interested in or talking about. You make comments or speak encouraging words as they share with you.

**Now think about the last time one of your daughters came to talk with you about something.** Did you stop what you were doing and give her your undivided attention? Did you make eye contact? Did you listen respectfully? How about those encouraging comments?

This is the thinking that opened my eyes to how really disrespectful I often am when my daughters need something.

There are times when I don't even stop what I'm doing, but just continue on and try to catch enough of what they are saying to give a response. There are times when I tell them to come back later because I'm busy. There are times when I actually interrupt them or shush them because they are interrupting whatever I'm working on. **So, in light of the results of my self-examination I've purposed to make a few changes.**

**First, I want to stop what I'm doing when one of them comes to me for something.**

There are times when we just can't be interrupted, but admittedly they are probably the exception rather than the rule. I want to look at them, and listen respectfully. I want to provide whatever it is that they've come to me for—help, encouragement, or permission.

**Second, I want to stop interrupting them, because respect works both ways.**

I've discovered that I have a habit of interrupting them, not only when they are talking with me, but when they are talking with each other. I do this because my memory is going from bad to worse, and if I don't say what I want to when I want to I usually forget it. That really isn't a good enough excuse. I can usually write it down and wait.

**Do you remember the interrupt rule?**

We taught our children this early on when they were 2 or 3. If they needed a parent and that parent was speaking to someone else, we taught them to come and put their hand on our arm. We would then put our hand on theirs to let them know we were aware of their presence. Then, as soon as possible we would excuse ourselves from our conversation to see what they needed.

I'm thinking I will start using the interrupt rule myself—perhaps after I jot myself a note about what I want to say.

**Third, I want to focus on their positive character qualities more often than I comment on what needs changing.**

I've listened to some of the things I say to them and realized I would never consider stating some of what I say to them that way if I were talking to a friend. There is a difference in that I am their mother and responsible for their training. *However, I can take time to ask the Lord to help me phrase my correction or encouragement in a way that will be helpful rather than hurtful.*

#### **Fourth, I want to pay more attention to their schedules.**

Yes, the days of Mom running the day is over. Now as they become young adults they each have things on their schedule that I didn't put there. I want to be sensitive to their individual needs as well as those of the family as a whole.

To help implement this we've started a common Gmail calendar. We all enter things on it so we can see what the others are up to and avoid conflicts. You can color code events so you can tell at a glance what is happening during a given day, week, or month. You can also look at an agenda view so you can see what is happening each day. The key is to encourage everyone to add their items to the calendar so we can avoid conflicts.

#### **And last, I want to remember that they belong to the Lord, and treat them as daughters of the King.**

*“For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.” 1 Corinthians 6:20*

The book [Thoughts on Mothers and Daughters contains a lot of relevant information on raising daughters.](#)

#### **ARE YOU A BOY MOM?**

Raising godly boys isn't an easy task, but we mothers can rest assured that we do not face it alone! Jesus wants our boys to be godly even more than we do. More than that, He also knows what their hearts truly need. Michelle of [Balanced Home and Life](#) shares [3 Tips for Raising Godly Boys: Baby Steps to Christ.](#)

### ∞ ABOUT THE AUTHOR ∞



Phyllis is an ordinary woman who serves an extraordinary God. She homeschooled three of their children from preschool through high school. (1992-2009) Her passions are her Lord, her family, and her writing. She has written a column on mothers and daughters for a magazine for five years, and various articles and book chapters for The Old Schoolhouse. Phyllis has also written several books, including her favorite, *Purposeful Planning*. You can reach her at [Phyllis@Phyllis-Sather.com](mailto:Phyllis@Phyllis-Sather.com) or on her website [www.Phyllis-Sather.com](http://www.Phyllis-Sather.com).

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# How to Teach Hard Bible Lessons to Your Godly Girl

by Angela of The Diligent Woman

## Are You Raising a Godly Girl?

She is the sweet baby girl you held in your arms.

She is the darling of your heart.

You wish to protect her innocence and keep her safe.

**But Mama, a time comes when to do both, you need to have hard conversations with her. Discuss topics that make you uncomfortable or open her eyes to evil she cannot imagine.**

Raising godly girls can be overwhelming.

**Fortunately, God has given you LOTS of help!**

The Bible has stories of rape, sexual immorality, lying, bad family relationships, unplanned pregnancy, bad friends, and bad choices. **God covers them all carefully and modestly. He doesn't shy away from the difficult things – instead He uses plain, matter of fact language to clearly convey what is good and what is not.** You can follow His example in how you go about teaching your daughter.

There are stories in scripture that I did not share with our girls when they were five. A five-year-old does not need to know about David and Bathsheba. There are other, age-appropriate stories that teach about theft and lying. But, by age 10 or 11, each of my girls was ready to learn about that story. *I just did so in a modest way, focusing on the lessons to be learned rather than the intimate details.* Later in the teen years, we visited again with a more adult perspective. Song of Solomon can be handled the same way.

**Today, I want to encourage you to give your daughter the knowledge she needs to be a strong woman when hard times come.**

The women in scripture didn't arrive at "the woman to be imitated" stage in a moment. They did so in degrees, through years of study and living. **Raising godly girls is no different.**

The woman in Proverbs 31 BECAME that woman – she wasn't born that way. Your daughter will be served well if she is given the knowledge she needs in bits and pieces as she grows.

**There are three women in Scripture I'd like you to consider – to think about teaching your 11-year-old daughter about.**

These women are Tamar, the daughter of David, Jehosheba, and Mary, the mother of Jesus.

Tamar survived being raped by her half-brother.

Jehosheba was raised in an evil household yet changed the course of the nation for the better.

Mary was put into an embarrassing and difficult situation at a young age.

The one thing these three women had in common was a good knowledge of God's word and His promises.

Reading their stories might cause a bit of embarrassment or discomfort in the moment. But focusing on the women and what can be learned from how they responded to the situation will dispel any discomfort.

### **Tamar, the daughter of David**

Tamar's story can be found in 2 Samuel 13.

#### **Her story can teach your daughter**

- to be careful of friends who do not act in friendly ways (2 Sam. 13:3-5).
- to compare the words someone says to their actions (2 Sam. 13:4, 11, 14-15)
- that knowing God's will can be a protection even in the face of someone determined to do evil (2 Sam. 13:12-13, 16).

Tamar was not weak. Amnon had a great struggle to accomplish his evil. Prepare your daughter with the knowledge to avoid such situations when she can, the confidence in God's will to use it wisely, and the strength to know the difference between her actions and those that were done to her.

## **Jehosheba**

Jehosheba's brave act is told in 2 Kings 11:2-3 and 2 Chronicles 22:11-12.

Jehosheba was the daughter of King Jehoram of Judah, the wife of Jehoiada the priest, and the sister of King Ahaziah who was killed by Jehu.

Her father Jehoram was married to Athaliah, who was the daughter of evil King Ahab and Queen Jezebel. Athaliah brought all of Jezebel's evil ways over to Judah when she married Jehoram. This is the family Jehosheba was raised in.

**However, she married Jehoiada the priest. Her choice in spouse indicates she is different than her family.**

Saving the baby Joash from death by the hands of his grandmother, Athaliah, showed that Jehosheba was committed to living according to God's laws. She and Jehoiada raised Joash in the safety of the Temple for six years. As long as Jehoiada was guiding Joash, Joash "did what was right in the sight of the Lord" (2 Chron. 24:2).

The next 178 years of Judah's history is peopled with kings who were trying to serve the Lord to one degree or another, with only one exception, Ahaz.

**Jehosheba defied the influences of evil people around her – even her family.** Teach your daughter to know God's will well enough to make the right decision when those who might sway her are living for the devil. Teach her to be confident in the young woman God would have her to be, so she can face whatever trouble comes her way. Age is not the only factor – knowledge and confidence play a much greater part.

## **Mary, the mother of Jesus**

Of these three women, her story is the easiest to read. If you will take the time to read through it slowly with your daughter – especially the first part, you will both find that Mary has much to teach women of any age.

Mary was a young woman, not yet married. When the angel Gabriel addresses her, he calls her "favored one". We can see in Luke 1:38 why she gained this favor. Her response to what Gabriel said was, "behold the handmaid of the Lord" may it be done as has been said.

While she didn't fully understand everything that was going on, she did understand the promised Savior and God's hand in these things.

Her thoughts in Luke 1:46-55 show her knowledge of the scriptures and her trust in God Who keeps His promises.

**Mary's knowledge and faith are what set her apart.**

Mama, you have it in you to develop in your daughter the knowledge and faith that will set her apart like Tamar, Jehosheba, and Mary!

- Take the time (Eph. 5:15-16).
- Study together (Eph. 5:17; 2 Tim. 2:15); Acts 17:11)
- Show her the light God shines on so many women in scripture (Ruth, Heb. 11:11, 31, 35; 1 Samuel 25; Esther; Judges 4-5).
- Build her faith by showing all the times He kept His promises (Gen. 12:1-3, 7; Gen. 46:26/Num.1:45-46; Josh.21:43-45; Acts 2:29-36).
- Show her that God is waiting to hear from her (Acts 17:24-28).
- Show her that God has done all these things for her (Eccl. 12:13-14; Lk.12:32; Rom. 13:3-4; Titus 2:11-14).
- Your young, sweet daughter will be protected by God's teachings – not harmed. She will be built up to a confidence that is not arrogant (Heb. 4:14-16).

**Do not be afraid to take God's word, even the difficult stories, as things to train her.**

Study them yourself first. Find the words that are appropriate for where she is now in her development.

All you need is your faith that God's word always works for our good (Eph. 2:10; Rom. 8:28, 31) and a diligent desire to share it with her any way that you can (Deut. 6:4-9).

“Teach the young women...” (Titus 2:3-5) begins at an early age and continues all her life. **Teach the hard lessons now.**

Enjoy!

If you'd like help in teaching some of these stories in ways that are appropriate for your tween girl, check out these resources for further study:

[To Be a Handmaid of the Lord](#) – a workbook written to encourage young women ages 11 – 16 to grow to be women of the Lord. Perfect for mom and daughter study time. The topics are appropriate for all ages, but this version has the tween/early teen particularly in mind. Add the Reproducible packet for a full year curriculum.

The following two series will take you through more than 80 different women in scripture. If you are looking to know the women in scripture better, these are an excellent place to begin. Companion study journals are also available.

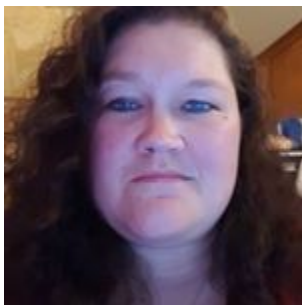
[31 Days of Women from Scripture Volume 1](#)

[31 Days of Women from Scripture Volume 2](#)

## ARE YOU A BOY MOM?

As a boy mom, it's not enough to teach our boys to work hard, be kind and responsible, productive members of society. Teaching them to respect women is our job too. Tatiana of [The Musings of Mum](#) shares about a topic that is dear to her heart, which is [Raising Godly Boys Who Respect Women](#). Don't miss this! Get the details and encouragement [here!](#)

## ∞ About the Author ∞



Angela Legg has been married 23 years and is the mother of five daughters, ages 20, 19, 14, 9, and 7.

Her blog, [The Diligent Woman](#), is a work of love to encourage other women to find the confidence they need for all that they do through knowledge of God's word. She shares bible studies on different topics for different ages as well as resources and encouragement for getting through every day as a Christian woman.

Angela loves homeschooling her daughters, teaching Bible classes, and spending time with family.

Blog: [The Diligent Woman](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Pinterest](#) | [YouTube](#) | [Instagram](#) |

# Don't Take Score at Halftime When Raising Godly Girls

Teri Lynn Underwood of Prayers for Girls

## Don't Take Score at Halftime!

I watch college football for HOURS every weekend. It begins with the Thursday night game and doesn't end until I've checked the new rankings on Sunday mornings. We are Auburn fans here at Underwood Estates—huge Auburn fans. And while my daughter doesn't love the game like I do, she does keep up with the scores. Sometimes, she comes in during a game and asks if it's over yet. I say, "Nope, it's only halftime." And her response is, "It's ONLY halftime?"

Sometimes, as moms, we get weary from the emotional battles of toddlerhood, tweendom, and teenagers, and we can find ourselves thinking, "It's ONLY halftime?"

**We are often guilty of looking at our girls and seeing only where we have failed.** We begin to allow the enemy to heap guilt onto our spirits about what we should have done and could have done. We forget, "It's ONLY halftime!"

Over the years, I've often told Casiday, "Who you are when you're fifteen doesn't have to be who you are when you are twenty-five." It's a reminder to her to give grace to her friends and to herself. **To keep the long-range in sight.**

As a mom, it's an important truth for me to remember as well: **Who our children are when they are eight or even eighteen isn't necessarily who they will be when they are twenty-eight or fifty-eight.** We need to keep this simple truth in mind:

**Parenting isn't a short-term event, it's a life-long mission.**

Measuring our success and failure as mothers when our children are young is a dangerous habit. If anyone was judging my parents' parenting skills based on my behavior at sixteen or even at twenty-two, they'd surely assume my parents had failed. But today people consistently make the statement, "Your parents raised you well."

Based on my life at forty-six, at who I have become as an adult, suddenly my parents' inexperience and uncertainties, their mistakes, and missteps, seem of far less consequence than their steadfast love, their ongoing encouragement, and their faithful prayers.

***Fathers (mothers), do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord. Ephesians 6:4 NIV (emphasis added)***

For those who, like me, long ago memorized this verse in the King James, you will recall the words “nurture and admonition” of the Lord. I love this verse! What freedom it brings. It doesn't say, “Bring them up in the parenting style taught in your church” nor does it say, “Don't bring them up in public school” nor does it say, “Bring them up well or you have failed.” Nope ... it simply says (my paraphrase), “Raise them to know the Lord and teach them to love Him and His Word.”

### **Quick Greek lesson, okay?**

**Training:** *Paideia*, the instruction of children, also carries the implication of chastening or discipline, because effective instruction also includes discipline and correction.

**Instruction:** *Nouthesia*, an admonition, warning, exhortation; any word of encouragement or reproof that leads to correct behavior, appeal to the conscience, will, and reason.

So, in practical terms, we need to remember that **our parenting should be two things:**

1. Grounded in the Word of God
2. Balanced between discipline/correction and encouragement.

And let's face it, rarely is there a day when that all happens smoothly. But over the course of our children's lives, we have the privilege of guiding, chastening (I love that word!), instructing, warning (sometimes from our own mistakes and fallings), exhorting, and encouraging.

Mommas, don't take score at halftime! **Allow God's power to work through your efforts as you daily, moment-by-moment, entrust your child to the Lord's hands.** How you do find yourself taking score at halftime?

## ARE YOU A BOY MOM?

Amy of [More Like Grace](#) gives us lots of wisdom in [Raising Godly Boys With Anxious Little Hearts](#). She shares 7 strategies to help you move past the anxiety and [raise godly boys](#), Don't miss this!

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### ∞ ABOUT THE AUTHOR ∞



[Teri Lynne Underwood](#) is a Lopsided Living encourager and girl mom cheerleader. Author of *Praying for Girls: Asking God for the Things They Need Most* and a Bible teacher, her greatest desire is to encourage women to dig deep into the Word and trust God's faithfulness. She provides [monthly Scripture-based prayer calendars](#) for girl moms and invites you to join her [#girlsMOMS group](#) for even more encouragement and support. Married to her worship pastor husband Scott since 1996, she is the proud mom of Casiday, a 2018 high school graduate.

Blog: [Teri Lynne Underwood](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Pinterest](#) | [Instagram](#) |

# How to Parent a Child Who Pushes Away the Things of God

by Christine of Digging Deeper With God

The nighttime routine with one sister had been sweet: We had shared highs and lows from the day, said our nightly rote prayers—one of which we wrote together—and then talked and prayed about friends, school, and teachers. I kissed her on her forehead and wished her a good night's sleep.

**Now to the second sister.**

I stood outside her bedroom door, wondering what tonight would hold. I entered too timidly, I suppose and asked if she had anything she wanted to pray about. She pushed her palm toward me in mid-air, and I heard the words, “Go away.” There was probably an eye roll, too, but it was too dark to see.

I sat on the very edge of her bed and said a short prayer, all the while her body turned emphatically away from me. “I love you,” I said. “I hope you sleep well.”

**Another night in the books. Another night of my heart hurting over what this child is missing.**

How had this come to be? My prayers for both children were the same, their environment was the same, **but while one child belts out praise songs, the other one seems to deliberately keep her distance from God.**

I know some of you relate. We all want to excel at [raising godly girls](#). You hear other moms talk about their meaningful devotion time with their children or see what looks like perfect mother-daughter relationships on Facebook or Instagram, and you wonder, **Where did I go wrong?**

Let me say some things we all know but hate to admit: **Each child must come to know Jesus for herself, and, try as we may, we cannot force her into a relationship with her Savior.** We know this, right? Yet we long for our sons and daughters to know the abundance of life with Jesus and know it now!

*Have you, like me, known people who came to know the Lord in their 30s and 40s? As much as it hurts my heart, could it be that the child who pushes away the things of God will come to the Lord much later in life?*

**In the meantime, how in the world are we to raise these children who exhibit no evidence that we are raising godly girls?**

### **Notice the Good**

As we are raising these children who snub their noses at quiet time and could care less about pretty printables and devotionals, it will help our heart to notice the good.

#### **For me, the good looks like this:**

The same child who pushes away prayer at night takes off her seatbelt at the stoplight and leaps across seats to grab the bag from the trunk for the homeless man.

The child who rolls her eyes at me for just about everything bravely told a school counselor about the abuse a friend faced at home. A child advocate in the making?

She might not say prayers for herself yet, but when she was accused of something at school, she listened intently as I prayed for the truth to come to light.

Make your own list. **What good do you notice in your child who pushes away the things of God?** I will admit it: It took me a long time to come up with that list of three. So if you only spot one good spiritual thing, well, there it is. Grab onto that one thing!

### **What's the Right Balance?**

I fear that by now you have already judged some of what I have written. How awful that I allow occasional eye rolls or that a child will even dare to put a palm up at me. I haven't taken the space to write about the times when I do impose discipline or the tremendous conversations that occur during windshield time or while bumping a volleyball in the driveway.

If you are raising a child who is closed off to spiritual things, you know the daily challenge of finding balance:

**You walk a precarious tightrope between executing godly discipline and pushing the child further away from God's love.**

I cling to the true meaning of Proverbs 22:6, which is deciphered so well in the Amplified Bible, Classic Edition:

*Train up a child in the way he should go [and in keeping with his individual gift or bent], and when he is old he will not depart from it. (Proverbs 22:6 AMPC)*

I am convinced that lording my faith with an iron hand over this child will only serve to push her away. Instead, it is as if she is sitting, agitated, in my loosely cupped hand, pecking at my fingers, which hurts beyond belief. Even so, there she sits, still under my roof, with every opportunity to leap from my hand and blaze a destructive path.

**Let me share with you a few decisions I have made in finding that balance, in helping her experience the truth while she still lives within the safety of my cupped hand.**

Even as I type these, I cringe at most of them, and yet, above all, my goal is to surround her with a godly environment—one in which she has every opportunity to become a godly girl.

**Here goes:**

We have stopped doing nightly devotions together, but she still hears them in the other room and sees other adults spending time in the Word. **One of the biggest impressions on my faith growing up was hearing my parents do their nightly devotions together.**

It took several months before she joined her middle school Sunday school class. She hung out in the church office or on the couches in the lobby. **So, yeah, not ideal, but it was a process, and now she attends her Sunday school class without argument.**

She absolutely loves being productive and working with children. So on some Sundays, she works in the nursery and does not come into the church service. Does it just about kill me when she's not in church? Yes.

**But she's in a healthy environment, interacting with godly moms and dads, and I'll take it.**

This child is a chatterbox, so when she does sit in church with me, I will occasionally let her chat with me during the service. Sometimes we

interact about parts of the sermon. Sometimes she makes lists of chores she can do to earn money. Are you dying that I allow this? **I am so glad she's actually in church that my perspective on this is different than I would ever expect!** If it makes you feel any better, I don't allow chit-chat while we are singing, praying, or confessing.

I don't allow her to be on her phone during church, and she must stand and sit when the rest of us do. **Every once in a while, I'll look out of the corner of my eye and notice her singing.** And every once in a while, she sees me tearing up at the movement of the Holy Spirit in my worship. She cocks her head and notices.

### **Pray, Pray, and Pray Some More**

I have seen God work in our household in ways I would never have expected. He has answered prayers I wondered if I could even pray. **From early on, He purposed a plan for these girls. So there is no reason to think He is not listening and already responding, already making paths for these girls to walk with Him.**

This school year, I adopted John 10:27 as the verse I prayed for both children:

*My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. (John 10:28 ESV)*

*Dear Lord, help our children to hear your voice and follow you! Help us to understand the bent of our children and to figure out how to guide them toward relationship with you. Give us wisdom beyond our human capabilities, and lead us and our children in the way everlasting. In your strong and faithful name, we pray, Amen.*

### **Would you like some prayer cards to support you in raising godly girls or boys?**

You can [download them here!](#) They are yours to cut apart, laminate, and post around the house or carry with you.

**What are your struggles in raising godly girls?** I would love to hear from you, either in the comments to this post or over on [Facebook](#). You can also find me on [Pinterest](#).

**You are not alone. Let's walk this journey together!**

## ARE YOU A BOY MOM?

Do you ever struggle with how you are going to raise godly boys in a world where sexual purity is not a priority? Cathy Walters of [Simple Life Happy Living](#) shares 4 steps to take to instill sexual purity while raising your son because [Purity Matters in Raising Godly Boys](#)

### ∞ ABOUT THE AUTHOR ∞



By day, Christine Drews edits exercise science manuscripts. By night, she blogs over at [Digging Deeper with God](#), where she offers a platform where you can *Meet with God and Grow in Faith*. She loves bicycling, gardening, leading adult Bible classes, and mentoring the children in her life.

She is convinced that the middle school years might do her in: If the science projects don't turn her hair gray, the raging preteen hormones will. More than anything, Christine loves noticing God at work. She readily admits that she is an imperfect person redeemed by a holy God and invites you to join her in drawing closer to Jesus. You can find her on [Facebook](#) and on [Pinterest!](#)

# A Mom's Fight for Her Girl Who is Cutting: Raising Godly Girls

by Emily of Oh Lord Help Us

**I'm a mom of a teen who is under attack and struggling for her life.**

**This is what I shared with her recently:**

When you were eleven, major changes occurred. We moved from Pioneer Village (a somewhat rural area of town) to downtown Louisville, Kentucky. You changed schools. The disposition of the educators in the city was vastly different from that of your sweet, country school teachers.

Expectations were higher. I was working thirty hours a week at the salon and within five months of transitioning to our new home, dad went on deployment for almost a year.

**I don't know what all you had to deal with during that shift, but I am aware of some of the harsh lies spoken to you in school.** There was a change in your demeanor, but being my oldest child, I assumed it came with the territory.

When you started middle school and shared snippets of what you were encountering, **I didn't understand. It made no sense to me that you wouldn't be a well-liked girl among your peers. You were kind, smart, beautiful and respectful.**

One day you came home with a long, ugly scratch down the inside of your arm. You told me it was from a game everybody was playing which involved using a pencil eraser on your skin until you cried mercy.

Dad and I were upset with you for harming your body that way. We scolded you and preached about how our bodies are the temple of the Lord. **I couldn't possibly have anticipated the crushing force all these adjustments were waging against your soul.** Or that within that year and a half your emotional development would freeze.

The summer before eighth-grade your braces came off. You had established a couple of solid friendships and made some dreams for the future. But then dad got a job in Northern Virginia and we had to move in the middle of that school year.

You cried for the first time since I could remember. **I didn't know the dreams you'd made would vanish when we left.**

Transitioning from a school of 1,000 to 5,000 was brutal. NOVA schools were at least a semester ahead in academics and the demands were stifling. Learning had always come easily to you in Louisville and you made excellent grades with little studying. Before you could catch your breath, you were behind.

To add insult to injury, you'd received a parting gift from the younger sister of a friend a few days before we moved out of state: lice. It took seven months to get rid of those abominations and you lost ten inches of your hair in the process. It was like cutting off a chunk of your soul. **You told me your hair was the only thing you liked about yourself and now that was gone. I thought that was nonsense. It was still to your shoulders and you were staggeringly beautiful. I didn't understand, my love.**

As months passed and our family settled into our new culture, the rest of us began to thrive. We found our places in community and with our new church. **Yet I saw you becoming more anxious and less sure of yourself.** My girl, the one who fearlessly climbed to the top of a tree at seven years old. The brave girl who loved rock climbing and singing for us. It didn't make sense. **Maybe it was the fact that you'd become a make-shift therapist for the innumerable teens at school that flocked to you for advice and a listening ear.** You attract them like magnets. Because you have been blessed with a compassionate spirit and you're loyal to a fault.

Then we found your note. The one you left us the morning after your fifteenth birthday. **The one where you told us you'd been cutting. For relief, for a distraction from the pain in your soul.** The one that said you didn't want to live like this anymore. It's been a year and a half since we read that and sprung into the only action we knew to take. A year of counseling didn't result in healing. Six months ago, we embarked on the medical route.

Blood work and behavioral health consultants and social workers and psychiatrists. But your torment wouldn't abate. You dug deeper for more strength to give out to the masses that sucked you dry every day, but it wasn't enough. It's never enough.

**Last week we hit crisis mode. The life seeped from your eyes.**

You stopped playing music, singing, drawing, engaging. So we took things to the next level of care to save your life. We removed hindrances for your protection; not for your punishment.

Removing you from school and taking away your phone isn't a personal attack on you, but it feels deeply personal.

You thrive on feeling connected, yet your generation is the least relationally connected and most lonely one in decades.

At this juncture, you are not healthy enough to create boundaries for yourself. We do not take pleasure in stripping you of comforts. But we will do what is necessary to make you whole and initiate healing.

**We are not fighting against you; we are fighting the prince of this world. And he wants to annihilate you.** He has his claws in deep, **but we fight from the victory that is already ours in Christ Jesus.** We are struck down, but not destroyed.

You told me, "I'm like Will from Stranger Things. They had to burn the thing from the upside down out of him...and it hurt him. But that's the only way it would work. And that really sucks." Yes, it does. A lot. And that's a great analogy, baby. **We will continue to fight for you every day. Because it is our honor and our joy. And we adore you.**

*Mom if you're in this fight while raising your godly girl, let us know to pray for you. You are not alone.*

### **ARE YOU A BOY MOM?**

Want your sons to grow into a mighty man of valor? Amanda Brandon of [A Work of God](#) shares six principles and action steps from the story of Gideon to help us raise Godly boys in the way of valor in [Growing Up a Man of Valor: 6 Action Steps and Principles!](#)

## ∞ ABOUT THE AUTHOR ∞



Emily is a self-proclaimed recovering princess. Embracing the value of change is a constant theme in her life. She is a contributing writer for [Oh Lord Help Us](#), a ministry encouraging women to be who they were created to be. You can connect with Oh Lord Help Us on... [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), [Pinterest](#)

Grab the Bible Study “*[but God...Where the Story Changes](#)*” by *Rachael Smith*. We have all listened the lies being whispered in our hearts and minds. But if we expose those lies, we have power over them and can then replace them with truth.

# Teach Your Godly Girl to Pray for Natural Opportunity

by Claire and Emily of [ClaireMusters.com](http://ClaireMusters.com)

\*Today we have the privilege of reading a “faith lived out” Mother & Daughter post from my overseas friend [Claire Musters](http://ClaireMusters.com) and her lovely daughter Emily!\*

## Emily shares:

**I have a friend at school who recently revealed to a selected group of peers that her mum has cancer.**

*I will call her Sophie, not her real name, to protect her identity.*

I was honored to be one of the ones she told, as we never really spoke much to one another. However, I was concerned for her as she was a slightly stubborn girl who never confessed her feelings or shared with us how she really felt.

**As time went on, I was told nothing more about her mum and began gently asking for more information.** I had to make sure Sophie was okay. Also, I felt I needed to pray for her mum, and I couldn't do that without knowing what was going on.

She stayed silent, though, unwilling to give a further hint to less-close friends about the misfortune that had come upon her family.

I asked no more, and she said no more. But I knew she couldn't handle this alone. **I prayed for an opportunity to speak to her, and one came.**

I and a relatively small collection of my form members were walking to the front field and discussing the ages of our grandparents – a random topic I know. Gradually one person told of her aunt's illness, that had caused her to pass away. They had obviously gone a long way through processing this, because happily, they went off without another thought about the tragedy, running with everyone but me and Sophie to the middle of the field.

**I could tell this passing comment about the aunt had affected Sophie's mood, so I asked, “How is your mum?”**

She reminded me bluntly that she didn't speak to anyone except her mum about her feelings.

But after a few minutes of silent walking, she gave away that she had found the whole experience horrifying, and that her mum (though still very ill) had just become cancer-free!

I was overjoyed and my enthusiasm encouraged her to speak up about other things that were on her mind. **I learned more about her in the span of twenty minutes than I had the whole of the previous year.**

Now Sophie greets me not with a half-smile but with a hug and a flurry of explanations about how life's been going for her.

**I've learned that God always wants to provide opportunities when we pray for them and that His timing is best.**

If we had spoken any earlier, her mum wouldn't have had the final operation and wouldn't have been cancer-free. It would still be too emotional for Sophie to open up.

**I have gained a better friend and better understanding of God through this hard time.**

– Emily x

**I am Emily's mum and just wanted to share things from my perspective.**

Emily, now 12, started a new school last September, moving on from primary school to secondary without any of her primary peers. **So she was starting friendships from scratch.** And, while she knew she was ready to do so, she found it harder than she had expected to make friends initially.

The secondary school is a grammar one, which means they had to sit entrance exams to gain entry. A lot of the girls are Asian and Hindu, which means Emily is now in a minority as white British – which has not fazed her one bit. But she did discover that their backgrounds are incredibly different to hers and it took time for them to find common ground on which to build relationships. **She has made some great friends now, and I am super proud of her.**

She told me about what was going with Sophie's family. I immediately suggested she speak to her regularly and offer to pray etc. But I soon learned that I needed to back off.

**While I may have felt a hint of frustration, as I knew there was a great lesson to be learned. It wasn't right for me to be the one to teach it to her.**

There was a time when Emily spoke about it again. I suggested we pray for an opportunity for her to speak to Sophie directly and she was happy for us to do so. She was super excited when she came back from school that day, having had the experience that she shared above. She was full of it, so excited to share with me.

What that whole chapter taught me was that our children *do* have an active faith, do think about how to engage with their peers about that faith – and **we can trust God to move in their everyday moments just as much as ours!**

He reaches into situations and creates opportunities – and sometimes I'm just a meddling mum (with a caring heart of course!). **There are times when I need to step back and let go: I can trust Him to show my daughter what it means to rely on Him...**

– Claire x

**What is something that you are being called to step back and let go of? Let us know so we can pray for you!**

## **FOR THE BOY MOM**

One of the huge challenges on the “boy side” of my life, has been to teach my son how to be both tough and tender – and not by the world's definition. I don't care one bit if my boy is considered a manly man or tough guy. Nor do I care if he is viewed as weak.

**What I do care about is if he is growing into the man that God has created him to be. *That man includes being both tough and tender.***

Join Lee Felix of [Like Minded Musings](#) as she offers encouragement in key areas of focus and prayer in [Raising Godly Boys to be Tough and Tender](#).

## ∞ ABOUT THE AUTHOR ∞



Claire Musters is an author, speaker, and editor, mum to two gorgeous children, pastor's wife, worship leader and school governor. Claire's passion is to help others draw closer to God and be all that they can be in Him. Her latest books include: *Cover to Cover: Ezekiel* and *Taking off the mask*. Find out more about her at [www.clairemusters.com](http://www.clairemusters.com)

Blog: [ClaireMusters.com](http://ClaireMusters.com) | [Twitter](#) |

# 5 Ways to Teach Your Daughter Modesty From the Heart

by Marisa of Called to Mothering

If you've been a girl mom for any length of time, you've probably struggled to find acceptable wardrobe options for her. Skinny jeans, plunging necklines, and pants plastered with saying across the rear abound on the clothing store racks. Costumes for dance recitals seem to get shorter and skimpier every year.

**The fashion trend in our culture is not to cover up, but to show it off!**

Even though my daughter is only six, the battle over appropriate outfits has already begun. She practically lives in leggings, and it's a fight to get her into a pair of jeans once in a while.

I don't want it to become an even bigger battle later on when the stakes are higher. For her right now, it's all about comfort.

But I know in the not too distant future, she won't understand why she can't wear the comfy, see-through shirt or the daisy duke shorts that may be a stumbling visual block.

We have to be careful that as our daughters are growing and maturing, though, we don't force a bunch of man-made rules on them. **Modesty is so much more than just making sure your top doesn't reveal too much cleavage; it's an attitude of the heart!**

A woman who is covered up can still have a thoroughly immodest attitude. Each of us must be less concerned with rules of dress and more concerned with the heart of the matter before the Lord.

**Here are 5 practical ways to teach your girl about true modesty:**

**Teach her humility.**

Your daughter must understand the importance of a modest heart before you even begin discussing the issue of dress with her. True modesty means not purposely drawing attention to one's self. Your daughter may not wear immodest clothing, but she may still obsess over matching the colors of her outfits or spend hours in front of the mirror on her hair.

**Pride and vanity can be so very subtle.** And honestly, pride and vanity can almost seem pretty cute when they come packaged in a sweet little person whom you love and adore. But pride is still a sin and must be dealt with.

Teach her from a young age that she shouldn't dress in a certain way because her friends will think she's pretty or compliment her. When she says "so-and-so will love my outfit", respond with "I bet she'll be really happy to see you, too!" Steer her heart towards the underlying problem- pride points others to one's self; humility points people toward Jesus.

### **Share with her what it means to honor the Lord.**

An attitude of modesty begins with a desire to honor God. Talk with your daughter about what this looks like in her day to day life. When we seek to bring honor and glory to Him, we will be more concerned with what's acceptable to God instead of what's acceptable to the world. We will seek to represent the characteristics of our Creator, which include orderliness and natural beauty.

Some questions you can help her think through are:

- Does this more closely resemble love for the world or love for God? (1 John 2:15-17)
- Does this show that I'm set apart for holiness? (I Thessalonians 5:23, 2 Timothy 2:21)
- Does this encourage others to pay attention my external attributes or my inner beauty? (1 Peter 3:3-4)

These questions apply to *all* matters she will face in life, not just dress.

### **Don't judge others.**

Personal convictions shouldn't be a measure by which we condemn other people. Pointing out how other girls are dressed at her school or out at the mall can inspire a lack of humility in your daughter's heart. When you draw a sharp comparison between her clothing choices and another person's, it sets her up to judge or look down on someone else.

It's helpful instead to say things like, "This is what the Bible teaches, and this is how God has led our family to apply it. Other families are accountable to God for their choices, just like we are." We will all have varying opinions of what is attention-grabbing, and what is simple, acceptable adornment.

### **Avoid overemphasizing the “stumbling block” principle.**

The stumbling block principle says that out of love for fellow believers and a desire to prefer them over ourselves, we should be careful not to cause them to stumble, or be tempted. However, it should not be *the sole reason* for modesty, nor should it be used to incite fear of punishment because we somehow “make” another person sin.

The last thing you want to do is make your daughter ashamed of her body! This is the same body reserved for intimacy with her husband, and the same one that will give life to your grandchildren someday. **The Bible doesn’t forbid women to be beautiful.** It says beauty is fleeting (Proverbs 31:30), so it’s not wise to invest so much time in personal appearance, but we don’t have to hide or downplay our natural beauty.

While it’s probably not a good idea for your daughter to wear that string bikini to the pool party, she doesn’t have to settle for an unseemly frock either. Again, as we honor our Creator we should aim to reflect Him, and being disorderly and disheveled are not traits of His. A preoccupation with modesty is still a preoccupation with self.

### **Set a good example.**

While you’re still in control of what she wears because you have the pocketbook, keep in mind that what looks super cute and innocent on her now might make an altogether different statement ten years from now! A good rule of thumb to follow is: if you wouldn’t buy the same outfit for her at 13 that you would at 3, *don’t get it.*

While modesty does mean the attitude of your heart, it should also be reflected in your external appearance. **Modesty is fleshed out through lifestyle.**

So help your daughter establish a habit early of selecting flattering, but tasteful clothing. And pay attention to what *you* wear and how you may be calling attention to yourself. The Bible is clear that what’s in our hearts comes out in our way of life (Proverbs 27:19, Mark 7:21-23). Modesty starts in the heart, but it doesn’t end there.

**Ultimately, help your daughter see that we’re allowed, within the confines of modesty and humility, to live within our cultural norms where they do not compromise our obedience to Christ.**

There are plenty of fashionable, modest, and feminine clothing choices that do not purposely draw attention to ourselves. We are freed from unnecessary burdens when we just want to please our Savior!

## FOR THE BOY MOM

Are you ready to raise Godly boys? Have you ever felt being a mother is like experiencing the heart of God? Sarah Benny of [Precious Womb](#) shares 3 points she believes are important to focus on while they are growing up in [Raising Godly Boys – Are You Ready?](#)

## ∞ ABOUT THE AUTHOR ∞



Marisa is a homeschooling mom of two and author of *Bucking The System: Reclaiming Our Children's Minds For Christ*, published in January 2016. She writes to encourage women to find purpose and joy in their God-given calling as mothers, helping them raise children with a biblical worldview. She relies on Jesus and coffee to get her through the day and loves marveling at the cultural differences between New Jersey where she grew up and Oklahoma where her family has been transplanted! **You can find her here:**

[Called to Mothering](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Pinterest](#) | [Instagram](#) |

# Raising Godly Girls: No, Baby, You Do Not Want to Be Famous

by Becky Kopitzke of Becky Kopitzke

**My ten-year-old is starstruck. Not by Justin Bieber or Taylor Swift or any of the usual suspects, praise the Lord, but by a couple of teenage YouTubers.**

These sweet, smiley twins started out as hairstyle models for their parents' YouTube show and then spun off on their own, somehow gaining a humongous following among kids like, well, my daughter.

Let me explain that she found this favorite show on the YouTube Kids app, not the actual YouTube site; I'm not in the habit of letting my children surf the depths of the interwebs, heaven help us. So there's no issue with the content she's watching, really. I watch it with her. It's pretty G-rated.

**But what I am caution of is her adoration.**

My daughter thinks these YouTubing sisters are awesome with a capital A. She dances to their music videos, mimics their phrases, even attempts to replicate their vlogs on her iPod. **So what is it about these girls exactly that have captivated my daughter's attention?**

She says they're funny, they're entertaining, they're creative. Lots of people love them.

I say yes, but they're still human. They're no different from you or me. Minus those millions of YouTube followers, maybe.

**So in a moment of clarity from the Holy Spirit (thank you, Jesus), here's what I told my daughter.**

*"Sweetheart, you know there's a difference between being famous and being set apart."*

**Fame is of the world. It's temporary. It will one day soon shrivel and die—worthless.**

But people who follow God above all else? Ah. They are set apart. Special, holy, cherished, eternal. And that's soooooo way better than famous.

*“You can be sure of this: The Lord set apart the godly for himself. The Lord will answer when I call to him” (Psalm 4:3, NLT).*

**Our kids today are growing up in an era when anybody can rise to homemade fame.**

YouTube, reality shows, podcasts, blogs—yes, I am part of the wave! Me, the mother! We don’t even necessarily need any special talents or ideas in order to make ourselves known in the public arena these days. I mean, I recently heard about a guy who made a boatload of money by drawing cats for people. And he wasn’t even an artist! All he needed was a website and a marketing schtick

**Do you get caught up in it, too?**

We have this inherent desire to know and be known. We follow famous people, even in the Christian arena. Pastors, authors, speaker, bloggers—many of them excellent teachers and encouragers, yes. They have wisdom to share for God’s glory. **But are we more interested in the wisdom, or the messenger?**

There is only one person who is truly awesome with a capital A. We call him Almighty Father.

**Are we following Him above all the other voices?** Are we raising godly girls to do the same? I sure want to. And I am one of the other voices, for crying out loud.

Can we do this for one another? Don’t get sucked into the fame vortex. And I won’t, either. I don’t want to write blogs for the sake of building followers or hitting a big viral post. I don’t want to write books just to sell a million copies (unless that’s God will, which, well, twist my arm). I want to do it because it’s the right thing, regardless of numbers. Because it’s who I am. It’s who you are.

Not famous.

**But set apart.**

**And one day I hope my children—my beautiful, godly girls—will see that an obscure little set-apart life matters.** Maybe not to the masses, but to us. To our family, our friends, our church, whomever God places in our path—for the sake of His fame, not ours.

*“When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory” (Colossians 3:4).*

Much love,

Becky

## FOR THE BOY MOM

Are you [raising a Godly Boy as a Newbie](#)? If you are a new Christian then you may be wondering where to start. Jessica Kangai shares some excellent starter tips and what she has been finding helpful as a newbie Christian.

## ∞ ABOUT THE AUTHOR ∞



Becky Kopitzke is the author of [Generous Love: Discover the Joy of Living “Others First”](#) and [The SuperMom Myth: Conquering the Dirty Villains of Motherhood](#). As a writer, speaker, dreamer, believer, lunch packer and recovering perfectionist, Becky believes family life is one of God’s greatest tools for building our faith, character, and strength—and it’s not always pretty. On her devotional website, [beckykopitzke.com](http://beckykopitzke.com), she offers weekly encouragement for fellow imperfect women in need of God’s outrageous grace.

Becky lives in northeast Wisconsin with her husband of 16 years, their two school-age daughters, and a puppy named Prophet. Her home office is constantly overrun with tween craft supplies.

Beyond writing and family, Becky ministers at her regional evangelical church, where she leads women’s Bible studies, sings on the worship team, and is a frequent featured speaker.

# How to Raise Godly Women Who Have No Regrets

by Brandi of Chicken Scratch Diaries

I have a confession to make: I'm **in love** with the tween years.

Call me crazy, but this little space in time between approximately age 9 and 12, it's simply unique and I find something new to adore about my daughters almost every day.

But oh, the hormones! The emotions! The girl drama! You say.

Yes, there's that to contend with whether they're ten or three!

But there's also the logic, the wit, the contagious optimism and their ability to express themselves in so many creative ways. And as they explore who they are, I see a glimpse of the women my daughters will someday become.

Truly, how we approach this stage matters. If we choose to focus on the negative, our relationship with them will likely reflect our anxious heart.

**There is a great opportunity we have during this stage to build into the self-concept of our girls. Think about it: they still (mostly) value our opinions; they WANT to spend time with us and love sharing their hearts. And for the time being: they're all ours!**

I believe we have every reason to seize this season and communicate to our daughters their true identity in Christ before someone else convinces them otherwise.

This is the foundation I pray their self-concept and future-shaping choices will rest upon – the knowledge of their inherent worth to their Creator.

**Becoming Godly Women, without Regrets: 4 Truths to Guide My Tweens**

**#1. Your body is not your own.**

While the world shouts, “my body, my choice”, we have a much higher standard to live by as daughters of the King. Our bodies and our souls – everything we're made of, was bought and paid for with the blood of Jesus. **We belong to Him and our choices should reflect His holy nature.**

In light of this knowledge, how we treat our bodies matters greatly. Strive to honor God in all areas of your life, your health and in the physical boundaries, you keep in your relationships.

One day, marriage may be a part of God's plan for you, and your body will then also belong to your husband. This is meant to be a beautiful reflection of your relationship with Christ.

But until then, no one else has any rights to your body. **Make the decision to honor your future husband and protect that relationship, by the way, you live your life today.**

### **#2. Your decisions ARE your own.**

We have the choice to make to follow God each day, or not to. From the music we listen to, the clothes we wear, the social media we absorb and the friends we choose – these seemingly small decisions will affect us and others around us in some way.

And these decisions come with consequences, some greater than others.

As you study the Bible, always think about how you can apply this knowledge and turn it into wisdom. **Wisdom is what gives us the ability to decide between difficult choices and to face temptation with confidence.**

God wants to be a part of your everyday life. When you make it a habit to involve Him in the small choices today, the bigger, tougher choices will be much easier to make later on.

### **#3. Forgiveness is for all.**

We all fail at some point in following God and his perfect plan for our life. The Old Testament shows us how no one was able to follow God's commands exactly, each and every time, because of their sin nature.

**This is why Jesus chose to die for us. His perfect sacrifice was the only way we could have a relationship with a holy, perfect God.**

Aren't you thankful for forgiveness? We all should be, and this gratefulness should bubble over into everything we do in our lives, especially in how we treat others. If we can learn to be forgiving it will save us so much heartache because people will eventually fail us just as we fail God over and over.

And in this same way, He continues to forgive us when we ask with a repentant heart. That's the beauty of grace – not that we should ever take it for granted, but to accept that HE accepts us just as we are.

**Knowing God's perfect love covers our sins allows us to see our mistakes as opportunities for growth. Realizing our failures teaches us humility and helps us to better understand our need for God.**

#### **#4. Your words matter.**

Can you think of a time a friend said something that was really hurtful? Maybe you overheard a group of friends talking about you when they thought you weren't listening. It's so disappointing when you trust someone with your friendship and they use their words to wound you.

There are many people suffering from the memory of someone else's careless words. It can affect their ability to make good choices and see their own worth, even years after the offense.

**Proverbs 18:21 tells us that “Death and life are in the power of the tongue”, so weigh your words carefully!**

Even a comment made sarcastically and meant to be funny might not be received that way by another person at all. When in doubt, choose encouraging words or no words at all.

Desire to be a person who builds up, supports and inspires others. **In a culture that feeds on negativity and gossip, your life-giving words can make a powerful impact on those around you.**

#### **#5. Love transforms**

Understanding God's pure, unselfish, unconditional love changes the way we view the world and our relationships. We can love others in a better way when we see them through God's eyes.

This type of love is an action, and it often involves putting other people's needs before our own. Keep this in mind whenever the world defines love as everything else BUT this.

The love of Jesus and the promise we have of eternity puts our day to day struggles into perspective.

**The hard things we face in this life will someday be a distant memory, but God’s love is the constant, unchanging promise we can hold on to as Believers.**

If you’re a mom parenting girls “in between”, know that you’re not alone if you feel overwhelmed in communicating these truths to your daughters. Raising godly girls is no easy task, but God will equip us for every stage of parenting if we trust Him in this!

I pray that you too can embrace the tween years as you guide your girls to become women who strive to live for Christ, boldly and without regrets.

## FOR THE BOY MOM

Peer pressure is one of the hardest things for our boys to deal with – image and friendships mean so much at this age since these are markers they use to help define their own identity. Going against the grain is social suicide in some cases and yet, this willingness to be different is exactly what God calls us to as believers.

Join Sara Payne of [Uncommon Grace](#) as she unpacks important truths about [Raising Godly Boys Who Aren’t Afraid to Be DIFFERENT from the Crowd!](#)

## ∞ ABOUT THE AUTHOR ∞



Brandi is mom to 3 girls and 1 boy (ages 2-12) and blogs at [Chicken Scratch Diaries](#) where she provides Practical Tools and Inspiration for the Modern Weary Mom. She also serves as Executive Director of a Pregnancy Resource Center which mentors women and empowers them to choose life for their unborn babies. She would love for you to become part of the Chicken Scratch community and connect with her on [Facebook!](#)

# Avoid These 4 Problems You Experience When You Have Sex Before Marriage

by Julie of Unmasking the Mess

**Parents:** I've put together this post to help get the conversation going with your tweens and teens as part of the [Raising Godly Girls series](#). Have your tween/teen read this and then talk about it together.

## Raising Godly Girls: Avoid These 4 Problems You Experience When You have Sex before Marriage

Imagine your wedding day... I'm sure you have a few times. Will it be in a church, outside, or maybe on the beach? What type of dress will you wear?

We all have thought about it or maybe even pretend played our wedding day.

**It's an important goal for many of us, and somehow on a deeper level, we're always on the search for our prince.**

Even in school, we might not want to admit it, but deep down in our hearts, we want the boy to choose us. Maybe we get frustrated by the pretty girl (you know who she is). She's the one the boys always flock to, and she makes us feel bad about ourselves.

**We think maybe if we do something, the boys will notice us.**

### How Do We Try to Get the Boys to Notice Us?

**Did you know that you're right in the prime years when boys start to notice girls?** The years when we start to do things that we normally might not do, all because we want the attention of boys?

We might:

- Pad our bras
- Wear tight shirts
- Put on short shorts
- Even start to wear makeup

We might tell our parents that our friends are doing it too, but the bottom line is **we want to be noticed.**

Sometimes, I might even say things I wouldn't normally say just to get the attention of others (mainly the boys).

### **Why Are We Acting Like This?**

I think if we'd look into the deepest area of our hearts, it's because of fear. We don't want to be the only girl without a boy liking us. We don't want to be alone. **Most times, we feel more worthy when we have a boy liking us.**

It's a fierce competition, perhaps you never looked at it before like this.

The bottom line is: we all want to be loved.

The problem is this is a slippery slope. Over time, as we reveal more and more of ourselves, the more we lose ourselves. **Over a short period of time, the short shorts and a tight shirt isn't enough, so we need to go much further.**

Let me give you a real-life scenario.

### **What Happens When We Put Our Worth in Boys?**

Katie likes James, but James has his eye on another girl in class. So Katie starts wearing more revealing clothes to try to woo James. She definitely gets his attention when her shorts get shorter.

Overtime and a few years later, Katie needs to ups her attention-grabbing techniques and moves towards offering parts of herself to the boys around her.

*See why this is a slippery slope?*

Katie could end up:

- Having sex before marriage.
- An unplanned pregnancy and having to raise a baby while she's trying to grow up too.
- She could get a disease and be plagued with that for the rest of her life.
- Not being able to say no to sex.
- She may attract the wrong guys and never end up with her "prince."

As you can see our actions can cause many problems further into the future.

## Finding our Worth in God

What if Katie decided to act herself (the way God designed her)?

**Katie still likes James but decided that she wasn't going to follow the trend that the other girls were doing.** She wore stylish clothes, but being modest was important to her (she had an older mentor who helped teach her about being a godly girl).

Overtime in high school, Katie caught Paul's eye, and she stood out to him because she was "different" from the other girls. **Katie had a great faith and was filled with God, so she didn't have to find her worth in boys.**

Isn't this what we're really asking ourselves: how much am I worth? When we look at the world, we will constantly need to fill ourselves. Jesus is the only one to fill us up completely.

The best part of the story: Paul fell in love with Katie, and a few years later they got married. They had a happy marriage because they decided to refrain from sex before marriage.

*So, which scenario do you prefer?*

Here's why it's important to talk about these issues with your parents or another Christian mentor before this happens to you.

## How to Get the Conversation Going with Your Parents

I know it's intimidating to talk about these issues with our parents. Can I share something with you? God thinks sex is beautiful. He gave it to us to enjoy in marriage. It's a gift for marriage.

Your parents want to give you good gifts too. Raising godly girls is important to them, so swallow the lump in your throat, let the nerves go, and just talk to them. We can't succeed if we don't have a goal or plan.

**Start with this passage together:**

*(Hebrews 13:4, NLT).*

*4 Give honor to marriage, and remain faithful to one another in marriage. God will surely judge people who are immoral and those who commit adultery.*

**Discuss the cause and effects:**

**Why we should wait for marriage and what happens when we don't.**

Here's why it's important to wait till you say I do with your prince:

1. God tells us sex belongs in marriage.
2. He blesses sex in a marriage.
3. Sex can't fulfill us outside of marriage.
4. It's a realistic promise to wait and God will bless it.
5. Less heartbreak, and we will be more mature in our emotions.

What happens when we have sex before marriage?

1. Unplanned pregnancies.
2. Diseases and Illnesses.
3. It doesn't honor God, ourselves, or our future spouses.
4. God will hold us accountable and judge us.

**My wedding day was years of planning since I started when I was a little girl. I remember dreaming about my prince and the way he would look at me when I walked down the aisle in my sparkly white gown.**

He would have eyes only for me and me for him. I am the only girl he has had sex with. **Waiting till marriage grants us the biggest blessings.**

## **FOR THE BOY MOM**

Have you considered how Autism will affect your child's faith? If you haven't, you really ought to! Jill Camacho of [Autism Homeschool Mama](#) Shares [three ways to encourage and reinforce your child's faith in God.](#)

## ∞ ABOUT THE AUTHOR ∞



Julie Loos is the mom of 5 kids and has been happily married to Greg for 17 years. She loves to read, eat chocolate, drink iced tea and spend time writing in the midst of messes.

Blog: [Unmasking the Mess](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Pinterest](#) | [Instagram](#) |

# Raising Godly Moms: Your Home is a Training Ground

by Forest Rose of Kingdom First Homeschool

I know what you are probably thinking “my daughters aren’t moms”. But they will be someday. The time to train and impart knowledge of a biblical worldview and unshakable faith to our daughters is fleeting. **A majority of us were not raised to be godly moms and are now trudging along wondering what exactly it looks like to bring up godly mothers.** Being young daughters in Christ, we are learning right alongside our girls, which usually results in a lot of mom fails. *And that is okay.*

We often miss the mark, while still pruning ourselves and this can get messy, but that, sweet mama is motherhood. Real moms aren’t perfect. You may be discouraged and not know where to start. It’s par for the course though. So don’t let it hold you back. You will look back one day, realizing that God had you all along.

## Raising Godly Mothers

*What do you want to be when you grow up? a mom.*

*What??? Well, what about college??? What about a job??? My career choice is to be a mom.*

*Well, that’s not a real career, that is just what you do when you get home. UGH!*

Being a mom is a calling and a career that is not highly respected or even considered a REAL job at all, and it should be. I’m definitely not saying your girls or my girls cannot pursue a career outside the home, that is completely their choice, but they will most likely be moms one day anyway, so if we train them to be godly moms they will be a bit more prepared when the time comes.

When or if they decide to stay at home and be a mom they won’t feel the shame that the enemy throws at them. The world says that raising your kids is not enough. That you need to work outside the home and raise your kids too. This is the norm. This is what is expected.

*Disclaimer: Before I go any further, I just want those of you hard-working moms that work away from home to know that I am not bashing you at all. This is intended to lift up those that are not working outside the home because we need it.*

Being a mom is like having four full-time jobs without the paycheck and that is not stretching it. We rarely get breaks and are on call 24-7. We work late into the wee hours of the morning and get up before the sun. Hmmmm. when do we actually sleep again?

### **So why do we do it?**

- Yes, we don't get paid in cash, but the rewards are priceless.
- Okay, so we are tired all the time. but have more memories from all the extra hours we are spending with our kids.
- We never get to pee privately, but we are needed by someone all the time.
- And yes we hear a constant chorus of bickering, but we also get to witness our kids respond with compassion and empathy.
- We may not have a lot of time to relax, but I wouldn't miss a moment of my daughter's life for anything.
- They aren't perfect, but they are mine, gifted and entrusted to me by God. Training them up the WAY they should go is my calling and my career and I love it!
- I will never go back! Now that I have a relationship with God and my calling is to homeschool and be with them all day, I don't want any less for my girls. It is such a blessing to share everything with them on a daily basis that I pray I pass this legacy on to them.

### **Make Your Home a Training Ground for Raising Godly Moms**

*Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. – Lamentations 3:22-23*

### **God is Not Looking for Perfection!**

It's time for moms to be freed from the weight and lie of perfectionism. God knows that we are flawed and doesn't expect us to be perfect.

He uses our failures and weaknesses to drive us straight back into His arms and His GRACE. God can turn our failures and obstacles into something amazing. After all we are not raising supermoms, we are raising godly moms.

*Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: – Proverbs 31:28*

### Let Them Rise Up and Call You BLESSED!

They are watching you – mom. What do they see? Kids will pick up and echo our behavior. Show them what living godly looks like. Read and pray right in front of them. I know this may be difficult because we want quiet time with the Lord, but if they don't witness it, they won't echo it. Speak kindly about and to others. In your prayer time with them pray for a family member that is going through something. Pray with strangers that are hurting and give to those in need. Teaching your daughters to care for others is so important.

*She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come. – Proverbs 31:25*

### For Every Problem, There is a Scripture.

If your child has a headache, teach them to pray and stand on the promises of healing. When your kids get into an argument teach them to pray together and forgive each other. If they are feeling empty, nourish them with the Word. Your kids will learn to run to Scripture/Jesus for every circumstance.

*But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. – Matthew 6:33*

### Priorities are Everything.

Many mom struggles come through simply prioritizing wrong. As a parent, you would think that your kids would come before your husband, but that's not true. God first, marriage second and then comes the kiddos. If I'm being honest I've struggled with this too. But what I've learned is that if our relationship with God hurts, then or marriage hurts, if our relationship with our husband hurts our children hurt. This is why it's important to have our priorities in check. Teach them by example to prioritize their relationships with Jesus as the cornerstone. The earlier they learn how to live a Christ-centered life the less junk they will have to root out in their future.

*Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. – 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*

### **Thankful, Grateful and Blessed!**

Wake up shouting Praise God, this is the day that the Lord has made, we will rejoice and be glad in it. Okay, I know this may sound a little over the top, especially when you aren't feeling very rejoice-y in the morning! But humor me and try it. You will start to feel it. The power is in saying it even when you don't feel it. And your girls will echo this too.

*God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day. – Psalm 46:5*

### **Show Them You are Happy.**

This can be a toughy at certain seasons of life. I know I struggle. But let them see that you enjoy them and life. That you take pride in your housework and motherly duties. If you are grumbling that the house is a mess and you really don't feel like making dinner they are going to never want to be a mom. I know this from experience lol. Fake it till you make it. Well, you know what I mean. Do everything, as if doing it unto the Lord and this will help you start to truly enjoy your job. Pray and sow good words through those hard tasks and you will reap joy!

*May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us; establish the work of our hands for us— yes, establish the work of our hands – Psalm 90:17*

### **Let Them Get Their Hands Dirty.**

This can be a challenge through the training process, but it's important to teach them the ins and outs of running a household. Include them in the meal planning, cooking, cleaning and all the little details that go into the well-oiled machine. They will appreciate you more and learn so much in the process. If we raise our girls to know that they are strong and competent with everything that has to do with being a godly mom, it will be a natural transition for them when the time comes for them to carry on the torch. I created a [Bless Our Home Chore Chart](#) complete with a chore guide by age.

*Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. -Ephesians 6:10-12*

## Teach them to Stay Armored Up!

We are fighting a spiritual battle every day against a real enemy who wants nothing more than to steal, kill and destroy. We have to teach our daughters to armor up and how to discern the tricks and schemes of the devil. Our girls are going to go through many trials throughout their life. But if they know how to stay armored up before the attacks even come, they will be ready and stand on their faith through the battle instead of being blindsided and lose ground.

*For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. – Jeremiah 29:11*

## Ask God.

God has an amazing plan for you and your daughters. Talk to Him about it and ask Him to guide your steps. This is the ultimate way to raise our girls in a godly way. Because His way is ultimately the only godly one.

## Do You Want to Raise Godly Moms?

Be a godly mom. Seems like this goes without saying, but needs to be emphasized. You can't grow apples on a peach tree.

As godly moms, we go through seasons of trouble, hardship, unrest, hills, and valleys. How we respond is everything. If we can train ourselves to respond in a Christ-like manner to our children and to anyone else in our near vicinity we will grow and in response, our kids will echo that in their own walk with the Lord and in life.

I know what I'm saying may seem impossible to some, but if we put effort towards allowing God to change us, we will find that it gets easier every single time. Don't allow condemnation to get a stronghold though. When you slip, (and this will happen) dust yourself off, forgive and keep moving forward.

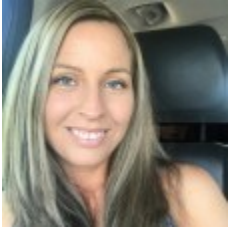
**Do you have any tips for raising godly moms?**

## FOR THE BOY MOM

Raising Godly boys is challenging enough, let alone in the awakening of a gender crisis. The media is filled with articles on how to accept and encourage children's choice of gender. What?

Join Maritza of [Homeschool Epiphany](#) today on the [Raising Godly Boys Event](#) as she shares: [Raising Godly Boys in a Gender Crisis World!](#)

## ∞ ABOUT THE AUTHOR ∞



Forest Rose is a God Loving, Blessed Wife, [Author](#), [Etsy Shop Owner](#), Keto Diet living, Relaxed, Eclectic Homeschooling Mama to a Trio of Girls – 8, 10, & 12 in Indiana. She’s passionate about lifting moms out of the homeschooling trenches that are discouraged or overwhelmed. She loves hanging and chatting it up with other homeschool moms in her free and exclusive Facebook group “[Homeschooling 101 Community](#)” started to help new homeschoolers thrive. [Read More...](#)

Blog: [Kingdom First Homeschool](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Pinterest](#) | [Instagram](#) |

# Raising Godly Girls: Teach Teens How to Handle a Crush

by Emily of EmilyVega.com

Moms and dads dread the “P” word: puberty. With it comes hormone flux, mood swings, back-talk (or sass), and lots of parents end up cowering in the corner not knowing what to do about it. **Especially when it comes to your tween and their crush.**

**You may call me a “generalizer,” but I think it’s safe to say that around the age of 10 or so, your little baby is thinking about their crush.** I admit that sometimes “liking” doesn’t hit until closer to their teen years. It all depends.

My parents sounded like crazy people the day they decided to tell their children (four teenagers) they’d heard a guy teach parents they should never (never) let their children date. Later on, in college, I attended a church where asking a girl to coffee was as good as a marriage proposal. Needless to say, I had a pretty mixed up idea of boys and dating.

**Even though I grew up a Christian, there were surprisingly few people who could help me grasp what was godly thinking and behavior when it came to boys.**

When I started working at an orphanage in Mexico, they put me in charge of twelve preteen and teenage girls. Yikes! A few weeks into this adventure it became clear that these girls were dealing with tons of emotional baggage – plus crushes! **Thank goodness God put people in my way and extra wisdom to help them manage their feelings.** If He hadn’t, we might have experienced emotional Chernobyl back then.

**In most scenarios, parents are probably going to be oblivious to the specific kid their child has a crush on, but it doesn’t mean you don’t have anything to say.** While I worked with girls, I think all of these strategies would work just as well with boys.

## Prayer is number one

First, pray for your child. Ask God to help them guard their heart, to help them not “awaken love” prematurely, and to give them profound wisdom to make the right decisions.

Then, speak to your child about doing the same. Start by praying with them, and guide them to continue praying for those same things on their own.

## Answer the question: Is having a crush a sin?

**We don't want to walk around feeling condemned and sinful for having natural feelings, yet we do it all the time.** Susie at church seriously rubs you the wrong way, it's a natural feeling and somehow we decide that we're ungracious and unloving and we're not worthy of the Christian name.

Dear friend, we are not sinning if someone doesn't make it on your “favorite people” list. We're called to love them despite our feelings (love is an action, not a feeling).

In the same way, explain to your teen that having feelings for someone isn't sinful. It's part of how God created us. He wants us to experience attraction and pleasure with our spouse. Sometimes our emotions get the jump on us and we have to work on the next step:

## Ask: are your thoughts pleasing to Christ?

**Emphasizing that the feelings of having a crush are not equal to a sin, there are certain things about the crushing process that can turn into sin.** Making sure that your conversations are age-appropriate, it's important to draw the line in the sand for your tween or teen.

Some kids just get it: They know Jesus hears our thoughts. If our thoughts were spoken out loud and they would make us blush in shame, we have a pretty good barometer for sin.

## For others, you might need a list. Here's a good list of sinful thoughts.

**Lust is a sin.** I've been taught that lust is a sin, even in marriage. That's because the nature of lust is wanting something just for your own immediate personal pleasure. That doesn't sound very loving, and certainly not very biblical.

**Adultery is a sin.** Some may differ on this opinion, after all, we're talking about kids here! In some Christian circles, adultery is sex or sexual thoughts about someone who is not your husband. Therefore if you don't have a husband yet, then sexual thoughts about anyone else are equal to committing adultery. You're just doing it before he arrives.

**Idol worship is a sin.** If your child decides that being with their crush is a priority above honoring parents, obeying Christ, and living in a godly way then they've crossed that line.

Sometimes it's not as obvious as all that. So many kids these days have access to anywhere from one to seven different social media apps with their crush's profile. **Some kids find it easy to obsess over their crush because social media makes it easy to stare at their picture for hours.**

**Help your teen have a life!**

Most of the time obsessions take hold of us for one main reason: we're bored. When we're bored it's easy to think constantly about the one thing that has been driving us nuts. We do it all the time: when my brain isn't being occupied I "obsess" over what color to paint the walls in my living room.

**When your teen is bored, they will find it easy to fall into obsessive (or at least excessive) thought patterns surrounding their crush.**

Make sure they're involved in church, sports and have a healthy social life that doesn't always include their crush. Having a busy life means they'll have a busy and more productive mind.

**Encourage them to talk to an older godly person about it**

Talking to mom or dad about the "cute guy" can be downright impossible for some teens. I pray that your teen is a complete angel and can share everything with you, but for many parents, that's just not happening.

**Make sure that they have good, trusting and godly relationships with at least one older person of the same sex that they can open up to and share their stuff with.**

## A note on flirting

Let's define flirting before we go any further. Flirting can be quickly and easily defined as "special treatment." Special looks, special touches, special smiles, special compliments... you get the idea.

Flirting seems innocent when it starts. Even cute! But there are consequences to flirting that we need to outline for our teens. If your teen is flirting, it raises expectations on both sides. A "special touch" from a girl can make her heart race, but it has a completely different mental and physical effect on a boy.

**The Bible encourages us to "show no partiality." You can be friends with your crush! But flirting is displeasing to God, not to mention a little tacky.**

**Finally, your teen should have a toolbox for deflecting flirtation from other people.**

- Openly ask the person to stop (flirting with you / complimenting you too often / touching you too much). This is clearly for the very brave.
- Ignore the comments altogether and change the subject.
- Pointedly move away from flirtatious attempts to touch your hand or hang on your arm.
- Pointedly include others in your conversations together.
- Don't respond to flirtatious texts or messages from this person. Normal mature conversations are okay.

Be clear with your teen about what dating is for. I'm not a spokesperson for "kissing dating goodbye." And I definitely don't condone teens casually dating. **What I adore and admire in any person at any age is good old fashioned wisdom.**

**Explain to your teen that dating is simply reserved for people who are ready for marriage.** For boys that means they can support a wife and family and aren't easily distracted by legs or long pretty hair. For girls, that means they're ready to settle down and discuss serious things like how close she wants to live to her parents and how many kids she wants.

Everyone’s story is different, and **“dating”** can take on many forms. The rules above apply to dating couples too: honor your parents, honor God with your thoughts and actions, and love the other person by being brave and strong enough to help them do the same.

### **Seek the Kingdom first**

For both parents and teen: seek first God’s Kingdom, and the rest will fall neatly into place.

Parents who communicate, discipline and teach biblical principles to their children will enjoy watching their teen grow up.

**Teens who walk with the Lord and in obedience will enjoy a thousand times more blessing and satisfaction with life than those who don’t.**

### **ARE YOU A BOY MOM?**

If you are concerned about raising Godly boys, the first thing you need to remember is Relationship Before Rules. Those three words sum up wise, intentional parenting when raising Godly boys. Join Vicki Tillman of [7 Sisters Homeschool](#) for some awesome wisdom from a mom of 4 sons in [Concerned About Raising Godly Boys? Remember Relationship Before Rules.](#)

## ∞ ABOUT THE AUTHOR ∞



Emily Vega of [EmilyVega.com](#). I help Christian wives and mummies find practical solutions to everyday problems, Proverbs 31 style.

# How to Raise Your Bossy Girl to Be a Godly Girl

by Amy Michaels of Those Clever Moms

Have you ever known a bossy girl? If not... Hi, I'm Amy, and I'm a bossy girl.

**Maybe you are a bossy girl like me. Maybe you have a bossy daughter in your home, too.** If not, you likely have been on the receiving side of a bossy girl somewhere in your life.

Today I am going to let you in on the secret life of bossy girls.

**And... I want to start a conversation with moms of bossy girls who are also Raising Godly Girls.**

## The Secret Life of Bossy Girls

When I was growing up my report card always said, "Talks too much." (If you know me, that is no surprise, though).

You know why I talked a lot? I was **seeking validation**. I wanted **to be heard**.

I wanted to know that *someone* was willing to listen to what was important to me. Yet, I was seeking approval from the wrong place. God was always listening, but as a child, I didn't yet know how to hear His voice.

As I grew up, I quickly saw that taking charge of things would help certain things to be done well. It was less about seeking approval but protecting my efforts because I **didn't feel my work was respected**.

My family was happy to let me take the lead to make sure things got done. Sure, they teased me about being opinionated, but they didn't seem to want the leadership role.

The funny thing is that no one seemed to mind.

Most of my co-workers were thrilled that someone else was willing and able to serve on a committee or organize an event. I was just happy that things were not being neglected until the last minute.

Even my husband (who will tell you himself is equally as stubborn as I am) has zero interest in being the ringleader of our home. Those are my shoes to fill (and I can assure you they aren't dainty ones).

The thing about bossy girls is that they are strong leaders who care about what happens. God made our hearts to care deeply about things being done well (or the way we *think* they should be).

**Let's think about that for a minute:**

**Bossy Girls show:**

- Awareness
- Concern for things to be done correctly
- How to set and communicate clear goals
- Focus
- Follow-through
- Problem-Solving
- Communication Skills

And more!

What a powerhouse of skills to have, right? I know many adults who are striving to use all of these skills as well.

And why is that? These skills get things done.

**The reason that “bossy” girls get a negative label is that there is ONE key missing ingredient, and we will talk about that next.**

**What type of leadership do you want to cultivate when raising Godly girls?**

We have established that our bossy girls have some great leadership skills. **As the parents, we have the opportunity to guide her to be a Godly leader.**

When you have a daughter with strong leadership skills, prayerfully consider how you guide her to use her leadership skills.

Be warned, though: Tell a bossy girl that “She can't...” and watch the rebellion flourish.

My parents learned that the hard way when I was 16 years old. I was told in front of the new guy I was dating that I was not allowed to see him again and was grounded. I was SO embarrassed and felt disrespected. No, I didn't even tell my parents when I stopped seeing him because (SHOCKER)... they were right. My stubbornness and need to be respected kept me grounded for 2 weeks longer than it has to be.

**As ridiculous as that sounds, that is a key to working with bossy girls. They need to feel validated and respected to hear your loving guidance.**

**What do bossy girls have to do with raising Godly girls?**

Everything.

Just because a girl is bossy, it doesn't mean that she doesn't need her leadership skills to be nurtured.

**When we can show our bossy girls how to use the Fruits of the Spirit in how they use their leadership skills, our bossy girls become Godly Leaders.**

*What if instead of shaming girls for being bossy, we validate that something is important to them?*

*Could we talk to them about what makes a good Godly leader?*

**Maybe we teach them to choose to use the Fruits of the Spirit in their leadership behaviors.**

Imagine how powerful it would be when raising Godly girls to help them see they were created to use their leadership for good in their family, their home, and the world?

I have 3 daughters, and each of them is blessed with strong opinions.

I don't call them bossy.

**I tell them that God gave them great leadership skills that He will use for His purpose in their lives.**

God created some of us to be strong leaders. We know we can't accomplish much on our own, so we seek out a team to help us make the world a better place together.

We want to be valued, our efforts to be validated, and our opinions to be respected – even if you don't agree with us.

**Raising Godly girls means lovingly shifting your daughter's bossiness into strong leadership skills that God will use in her life.**

### **Raising Godly Girls as Godly Leaders**

If you happen be raising Godly girls with leadership skills, here some ideas to connecting to her heart using the Fruits of the Spirit as a teaching guide:

1) Validate how she feels with **love** and **gentleness**.

Even if you don't agree, let her know that you hear what she is saying. Just knowing that someone cares and hears you goes a long way when emotions run deep.

2) Communicate respect with your own **self-control**.

3) Have **patience** as she adjusts from her bossy behaviors into her new leadership.

4) Show her your **faithfulness** in God's use of her leadership skills as you find ways her leadership can serve as the good in your home and family.

5) Show her your **joyful** heart for her efforts, not her accomplishments.

6) Teach her how to lead in **peace** by using these exact steps in her own leadership roles.

**When bossy girls use the Fruits of the Spirit in their leadership, those bossy girls grow up to be strong women of God.**

**Now, I want to hear from you.**

Have you ever thought to teach leadership skills as part of raising Godly girls?

I would love to hear your thoughts.

## ARE YOU A BOY MOM?

There is no doubt we live in a society dominated by self. How challenging it has become for parents to raise their kids as God-fearing, healthy adults in light of the culture we face today. We have a remarkable calling as parents to raise our boys to see God's true identity for them.

Join Nina of [ninahundley.com](http://ninahundley.com) as she shares: [Raising Godly Boys: Cultivating Identity](#).

## ∞ ABOUT THE AUTHOR ∞



Amy Michaels is dedicated to helping busy moms find focus, joy, and balance in mom life – especially those moms running a business. She shares time-saving tips, clever ideas, and the BEST products for moms at [ThoseCleverMoms.com](http://ThoseCleverMoms.com).

Blog: [Those Clever Moms](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Pinterest](#) |

# What To Do When Pictures Speak A Thousand Words

by Jennifer Strickland of UR More

**In the world of Snapchat, Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter, how do we raise girls who know their worth?**

Thousands of pictures scroll before their eyes daily. How can we instill in them the barometer of what is a good picture to post and what is not?

First, we have our conscience. Deep down, moms know what is right and what is not. But it's easy for those lines to become fuzzy and blurred. **The stronger the personality of your teen, the easier it is to create guardrails that somehow have gaps.**

Our family used to live in Lake Arrowhead, California on a high mountain. In the wintertime, the road to the top become dangerously obscured by fog. In most areas, the guardrails protected drivers from being unable to see and plunging off the steep cliff. One night while following each other home, my husband and I got trapped in such thick fog we could not see the center line of the road. There were many places along the way where the guardrail gapped — offering no protection. One wrong turn on a slick of ice could send us plunging to our death.

**Terrified, I had only two guides: I followed the dimly lit white line on my right and followed my husband who traveled ahead of me.**

In the fog, we can't see but a few feet in front of us. We have to trust the tail lights; we have to trust the white line on the darkened road. **But one thing's for sure: it's not good for there to be gaps in the guardrails.** This was one of the reasons we moved off that mountain — knowing our kids would become teenagers and would need to drive up and down that dangerous road concerned us.

We live in Texas now and some nights fill with fog of a different kind. Sometimes there are gaps in the guardrails or fuzzy lines and as parents we realize, this is not good for us or our children.

I've been guilty of leaving gaps in the guardrails and allowing fuzzy lines.

**So what is the will of God when it comes to boundaries with our kids?**

The will of God is that we clearly mark the road out for them, putting protection on both sides.

*“Train your child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it” (Proverbs 22:6).*

Sometimes this means hard lines and clear boundaries. With the advent of social media, they often don’t know the impact of their pictures published on the internet.

**But we do. I do. It can be a tough pill to swallow — as they say, a picture speaks a thousand words.**

Pictures say a lot about us. They are not who we are— but they can tell others what we value. Since what we focus on gets bigger, when we post, we can teach our kids to ask themselves, “What’s the focus here?”

**A good way to help them see the focus is to have them ask their parents or grandparents, “What do you think about me posting this picture? What do you see?”**

The truth is, usually teens ask their friends. But in our experience, Dads are the best source. Dads look through the lens of guidance. Dads are the ones we follow when the road gets foggy. **Dad’s aren’t afraid to post guardrails and warn our children about the dangers in the gaps.**

My husband looks through the male lens of leadership. That’s what Dads do: their hearts are made to provide protection, security, and safety for their families.

On the week of Father’s Day — I say, when in doubt, ask Dad. Hopefully, he will lead you and guide you in the right way. Good dads will give you their honest opinion, reinforce the guardrails and guide you to safety.

This is the will of God: that a man covers his family. And there’s protection under cover.

## **ARE YOU A BOY MOM?**

Does your son’s confidence level proceed his ability to control his pride? You know, one of those headstrong, I-know-what-I-am-doing sons?

Here is some encouragement to help Tame His Pride Without Breaking His Confidence from Harmony Jackson of Clothed Woman.

## ∞ ABOUT THE AUTHOR ∞



Jennifer Strickland is a wife, mother, daughter, sister, and friend. She is a published author, speaker, and former international model who teaches beauty, value, identity, and purpose. Find out about her [books](#), [classes](#) and [video teaching](#) and follow along with Jennifer!

Blog: [UR More](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Pinterest](#)

# Where I Got Hung Up When My Girls Were Growing Up

by Lynn of Lynn Cowell

Raise a godly girl? Raising a girl is hard enough!

*What does raising a godly girl even mean?*

Does it mean raising a girl who is loving, joyful, peaceful?

Yes, these are all characteristics we hope to see developed in our girls; exactly what we teach our girls to become.

But what about words like ... strong, brave, confident. Those are all good words too; adjectives that we would like to define our daughters one day as well.

And then what about *other* words? Words like girl power. *Those* can't describe a godly girl ... can they?

And that is where raising a girl who honors God can get all kinds of confusing ... when "girl power" comes in.

Is it an either/or when we want to raise a girl to become a woman who is like Jesus, not only in the way that He was kind, compassionate and loving, but also bold and courageous?

A difference maker?

Last year, I studied God's word to find the answer to this conflict I felt; this wrestling in my heart.

*Strong or gentle?*

*Bold or meek?*

I found my answer in the women of Exodus – Shiphrah and Puah, Jochebed and Miriam (Exodus 1 & 2), the daughters of Zelophehad (Numbers 27), Deborah and Jael (Judges 4), Abigail (1 Samuel 25) and Sheerah (1 Chronicles 7). I could go on for so long!

The answer is not either/or; it is "and".

***A godly woman is both.***

Our calling is to raise a girl full of gentleness, faithfulness, self-control *and* she is a strong, bold, difference-making brave beauty.

My own daughters, both social work majors, have shown me where I got hung up when they were growing up. I didn't know the *true* definition of some words that can be used to describe strong women. I saw division and I **always** want to line up with Jesus and His word. I still do!

**In the past few years, my girls have taught me, as well as modeled before me, what it means to love Jesus and be strong. I was missing what God was all the while saying in His word.**

God was the one who said, "For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no bribes." Deu. 10:17 (NIV) as well as Acts 10:34-35 "Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right" (NIV). Then there is Galatians 3:28-29 "There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." (NIV)

**I am so thankful that my eyes are opening to the purpose Jesus has for us, as women, in the earth today.** I am so glad that I can encourage my girls to follow hard after what God requires of us as His representatives: "He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." Micah 6:8 (NIV)

**Friends, the body of Christ *needs* our daughters to be the next generation of women who will change culture; change the world.** You and I are raising the next Catherine Booths, Harriet Tubmans, and Esthers. Our job is to show them these strong role models in Scripture and in history, that they can emulate *today* ... and to be those models for them as well.

To help your girl begin the journey toward becoming brave, I'm offering a free 5 day, printable devotional for your her, *Grounded: Standing Firm in A Roller Coaster World*, just click [here](#).

[Brave Beauty: Finding the Fearless You](#), brings young girls 100 courage-building moments to reflect on Scripture and find confidence in God, rather than in someone, some place, or some thing, as culture will all-too-soon tell them to.

I also prepare girls to:

- Overcome confidence-defeating thoughts and stand on who Jesus says she is.
- Shape her self-worth on Christ and overcome the temptation base it on environmental factors.
- Build a strong foundation to face the fickle and flippant opinions of others.
- Find approval of herself even when she lacks the acceptance of others.
- Find security by turning to Christ as she steps through the exciting, yet scary world of growing up

Click [here](#) to purchase a copy for your girl!

## ARE YOU A BOY MOM?

If you were to write a letter to your future daughter-in-law's mom what would it say? What would you want her to know? Amy Michaels of [Those Clever Moms](#) for the Raising Godly Boys event shares her heart in [Dear Mom of My Future Son-in-law!](#) This sweet letter will bless your boymom heart!

## ∞ ABOUT THE AUTHOR ∞



Lynn Cowell is a Proverbs 31 speaker and the author of several books, written for women of all ages. Her newest for young girls is *Brave Beauty: Finding the Fearless You* and a Bible study for women *Make Your Move: Finding Unshakeable Confidence Despite Your Fears and Failures*. Lynn calls home North Carolina, where she and her husband, Greg and the occasional backyard deer are adjusting to life as empty nesters. Along with their three adult children, the Cowells love hiking, rafting and anything combining chocolate and peanut butter.

Blog: [Lynn Cowell](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Pinterest](#) | [Instagram](#)

# 3 Things You Need to Know About Pornography and Your Child

by Aimee of A Work of Grace

## **Pornography.**

Not a topic that is comfortable. We don't like to talk about it. It's kept on the 'down-low'. We don't know *how* to talk about it! If we don't talk about it, then it doesn't exist. Then it's not a threat.

*Until it is.*

If I could turn the hands of time back, I would've done things differently. I would've prepared myself in my response to pornography. My family would've been saved from great heartache.

But since I can't do that, I hope and pray that what I have learned will help you to prepare yourself and your children for this battle. Here are 3 Things You Need to Know About Pornography and Your Child.

**If our goal is to Raise Godly Girls, then we need to be educated about pornography. We can't afford to be naive or ignorant.**

Friends, we need to take the bull by the horns, so to speak, and take charge. Take charge of the hearts of our girls. We must pick up our sword and fight for their hearts! And when we look at the Proverbs 31 woman and read that "she rises while it is still night", we come to understand that this verse is not talking about getting out of bed. **It's talking about being valiant and fighting a spiritual battle for our children and our family!**

## **Our Children Have An Enemy**

**I always knew the Satan targets our kids – boys and girls.** I always knew that he loves to destroy children – because if he can destroy them now, then it will be that much easier to debilitate them as adults. And he will do what he can to annihilate them. I know this might sound 'over-the-top' for some of you. You might think I am over-reacting. I wish that I was. However, I know from my own story of childhood sexual abuse that the enemy is hell-bent on destruction – complete, and utter obliteration. And if our guards are down – like mine was – then we are easy pickings for him.

When I say my guard was down, I am meaning that **I did not even think that porn would be a problem in our home because our home was filled with the gospel and biblical teaching.** Almost every aspect of our homeschool incorporated theology or Bible-based lessons. Any time there was an issue, we'd stop and pray about it. Now, I wasn't prideful or boastful in this, I just knew we infused Jesus into our lives very well.

**I just missed something key to this porn problem. I missed the fact that Satan deliberately targets children with porn.**

**Fact #1: Satan targets our children in order to destroy them.**

\*Targets for porn are not just boys. **Girls are targeted as well and just as much.** To Raise Godly Girls means that we must be aware of this truth.

### **The Unsuspecting Attack**

Recently, our family watched the Kyle Idleman series "Gods At War" on RightNow Media. One god that was mentioned was the god of self. The guy Kyle had on to share his story talked about how he got caught up in the porn industry. He'd take the photos – and possibly videos – and he'd earn a ton of money. The thing that struck me was the fact that he would *deliberately target Christian men* with his links. He would find Christian men online and make sure they were a target for his pornography.

This confirmed my thoughts on this – that the porn industry targets groups of people. Including children. Especially children. Because they don't care. All they care about is money.

My oldest daughter is on [social media](#) and she has informed me that she's received links and 'shares' that lead to porn sites. **To Raise Godly Girls means that we must teach our girls to be discerning while on social media.**

Just a few weeks ago, I took a photo of my son playing guitar and posted it on Instagram. My hashtags were #rockon #bringbackguitarsolos and #handsomeguy. When I looked to see who 'liked' it, I noticed someone I didn't know interacted with it. I clicked the link and I was directed to an Instagram account that was full of scantily clad women in explicit positions. This is extremely dangerous and an obvious target of my son! Anyone can click on a person's IG account and if it is public, you can see everything there. And that is what happened in this case.

**Fact #2: The porn industry targets our children specifically.**

## **The Trap is Set**

I wish I'd known how easy it was for our children to get caught in that trap. They innocently click a link – even though I've taught them not to! And they are taken to a place online that they never intended to visit. They are sucked into that downward spiral.

**Most of the time, kids come across Internet porn by 'accident' – meaning they weren't searching for it.** Satan set a trap for them and they walked right into it, not knowing what they were walking into. And it is instant. Suddenly, these images and videos are before their precious eyes. And they don't know how to escape.

Shame is placed upon them. The addiction is set in motion. They are trapped.

*And all it took was one, little click.*

**Fact #3: Most of the time, our kids are not looking for porn. They stumble across it by mistake.**

## **How Can I Protect My Daughter?**

I wish I was more preventative in nature with this whole devious and evil porn scheme. Honestly, I thought I was already doing a good job. But because I missed that key point, our family fell into the trap of porn. Here is what I would've done differently:

### **Be Honest**

I wish I had done a better job in teaching my kids what porn is and how destructive it is. **Even as young as age 8 and 9. If they are on the Internet at all, our kids need to understand the dangers.** Of course, the details of what porn is ought to be tailored to the child's age. For a younger child, I would simply explain that there are bad people on the Internet who like to show pictures of naked people. With older children, I would be pretty frank in these discussions. Currently, and the threat of porn "everywhere", we don't have the luxury to dismiss or ignore this topic – or water it down.

### **Research**

**I wish I had done some research on the harmful effects of porn on the women who are involved.**

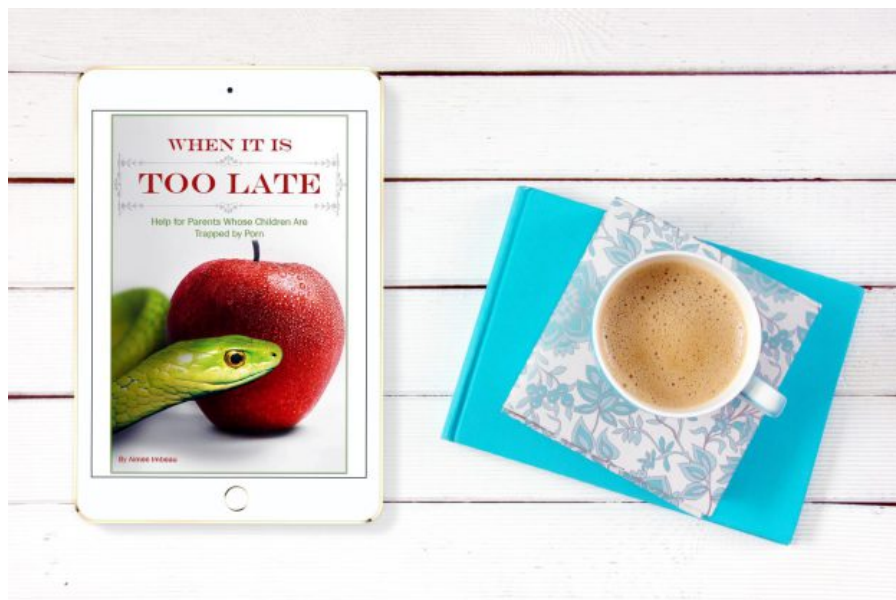
These girls who get caught in the porn industry end up becoming hollow shells of themselves. In Kyle Idleman's series I mentioned earlier, the guy taking the photos explained what happened to these young women. At first, they are excited to make a bunch of money. But sooner or later, the light in their eyes goes out. Their souls have died. Obviously, they are in bondage – and honestly, this is equivalent to sexual abuse!

Another point is that these girls often sign up for the more innocent stuff – or soft porn. But as they continue in the profession, they are forced to do more things that they never wanted to do in the first place. It is put in their contract – and if they refuse, they can be sued for everything they have. They are forced to commit sex acts that they do not want to do. And when we look at porn, we are supporting this form of abuse.

And, of course, there is information out there that explains the harmful effects on consumers of porn. I wish I had known these things before porn entered our family.

### Internet Restrictions

I wish I had been more knowledgeable with Internet restrictions. I thought we were doing well with it. But I should have educated myself better and kept up with it. **We had filters up on devices. Restrictions set. We had these things in place. But it wasn't enough.** Remember, our kids are targets and our enemy is stealthy. He will find a way to get to our kids if we do not keep up with the latest technologies, apps, loopholes, etc.



There are other precautions you can take if you do a little research of your own. But nothing can replace a trusting relationship between parent and child – a relationship where your broken, sin-tied child can come to you and know that you will lead them to the Cross of Jesus for healing, redemption, and restoration.

**To Raise Godly Girls means that we are prepared to fight for our daughters regardless of the cost.**

### **But What If It Is Too Late?**

My friend, it is never too late to rescue your child. If you have recently discovered that your child has stumbled upon porn, [please get this free pdf](#) on how to walk through this season with your child. I pray it encourages you and soothes your broken heart as you journey through this difficult season. And yes, you can still Raise Godly Girls even if they have fallen into the pit of porn.

### **ARE YOU A BOY MOM?**

When it comes to electronic devices in this socially driven world, what are the risks? Should we even let our kids have them at all? What about porn and other traps of the enemy? It is easy to think because we are raising Godly boys up right and teaching them right from wrong that they will be okay and make wise decisions.

Today Jennifer Bennett of [Write From My Heart](#) shares tips and encouragement in her post [Raising Godly Boys In A Socially Driven World!](#)

## ∞ ABOUT THE AUTHOR ∞



Aimee is a home educating support teacher who lives in the sunny Okanagan, BC. Aimee has been blissfully married since 1998 and she still swoons at the sight of her tall, dark and handsome husband, Marcus. When she isn't home educating her 3 kids, she enjoys sewing, quilting, scrapbooking, baking, writing and hanging out with her family. Aimee is a certified teacher who works from home, supporting and encouraging homeschool families. She blogs over at [A Work of Grace](#). You can find her on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Pinterest](#), and [Instagram](#).

# How to Raise Godly Girls to be Pure in Heart

by Stephanie of Training Keepers of the Home

## PURE IN HEART

To be pure is to be clean, wholesome, and abstain from evil or wrongdoing. In church culture or society, purity typically used in reference to a person's sexual behavior. It is very common in church culture to have teens take a purity oath, swear to be abstinent, and wear a ring as a pledge. This is a great concept, but Biblical purity refers to more than sexual behavior. **It is an issue and attitude of the heart. And as parents, we must be teaching children to be pure in heart.**

“**Pure in heart**” refers to the spiritual center of life. This is where thoughts, desires, a sense of purpose, will, understanding, and character reside in each person. Being pure in heart involves having a heart oriented toward God, where there is no hypocrisy or hidden motives. **A pure heart can be identified by a driven desire to please God in all things and above all things.** It is more than making sure we do things externally right, instead it is an internal purity of the soul.

The Christian remains pure by keeping our hearts, minds, and bodies holy. We must guard our emotions, visual and mental images, and thoughts as well as our bodies, to be used for God's will and for the future spouse God may bring to our lives.

## PURITY IN SOCIETY

**Let's be honest about something. Staying pure in our culture today almost feels impossible.** Simple things such as getting on Pinterest, Instagram, Snapchat or Facebook can feel like you are entering dangerous territory. Heading to school, heading to the mall, or hanging out with friends can put our daughters in tempting situations.

Immorality and impurity are two very real things that Christian girls need to be equipped to fight against. **So how do we teach our daughter's to stay pure?**

## 1. STOCK UP ON SPIRITUAL AMMO

The very first thing you should be doing is to turn to the written Word and see what it has to say about purity. The Bible is our guide for all things in life, including our daily lives and how we are to respond in different situations where we may be tempted.

Encourage your daughter to always turn to the Bible first. And allow her to stock up on **spiritual ammo** – verses that she can memorize to be used in spiritual warfare.

**As a parent, you can encourage her to:**

1. Write down the verses on a note card.
2. Stick the notecard somewhere that it is visible, like the bathroom mirror.
3. Have her practice memorizing the scriptures on purity.

By practicing the verses, your daughter will be tying them on her fingers as a reminder and writing them deep within her heart. (Proverbs 7:3)

**Below are six verses on purity for your daughter to memorize and meditate on.**

### PURITY VERSES

*“Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me”  
(Psalm 51:10)*

*“How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word” (Psalm 119:9)*

*“Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things”  
(Philippians 4:8)*

*“For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God” (1 Thessalonians 4:3-5)*

*“But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desire” (Romans 13:14)*

*“As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy” (1 Peter 1:14-16)*

**\*Encourage your daughter to keep these verses close to her heart. When she is in a situation that may jeopardize her purity, these Scriptures that are written on the tablet of her heart will become her strength.**

## **2. MODERATE MEDIA USAGE**

In today’s culture, our daughters are bombarded with sexual content from television shows, highway billboards, to mall advertising, to movies, to the Internet, and on their smartphones. Various forms of media such as television, tablets, smartphones, and computers can provide a window of opportunity for your daughter to become involved in situations or view unwholesome media, that ultimately may jeopardize her purity.

It is far too easy for an innocent conversation on social media to turn into something flirtatious or suggestive. An innocent looking movie may provide your child with a glimpse into another world that is just too tempting to ignore, thus helping instill a desire for lust. Uncontrolled desires or lusts that are not monitored can get out of control quickly.

## **HOW TO MODERATE MEDIA USAGE AND PROMOTE SAFETY**

\*Be aware of what your kids are watching on TV, what they are doing on the internet, and what they are reading. Set safeguards and boundaries, and give lots of instruction in this area.

\*Set time limits on all types of media for all ages of kids. Unlimited and unrestricted access to the various forms of media can lead to many problems.

\*Keep the phones/computers/tablets out of bedrooms every night.

\*Do random checks of text/video/search history.

\*Watch age-appropriate movies and television shows.

\*Check out Christian reviews on movies before watching them.

\*Install a filter on technology,( where you have control of the passwords), and you can choose what to filter such as language and nudity.

\*Do not allow a computer in a room with a door, if it is one that your child will have access to.

**Parents of teenagers need to be vigilant as you try to guard the hearts, minds, and souls of your daughter against the dangers that you did not face at their age.** It is important to have informal and open discussions with them regarding the possible temptations they face on the screens at their fingertips.

### **3. TEACH THEM THAT THEY DON'T NEED BOYFRIENDS**

Society tends to push girls to look good for boys or men, even in kindergarten girls try to look their best for a cute boy.

Middle school girls focus so much time on hair, clothing, and makeup in hopes of looking cute and appealing to a boy. This behavior is scary and unfortunately appears to be the norm. It seems to be expected that girls have boyfriends, even as young as seven years old. **Even if high school girls appear old enough for a boyfriend, they are often not emotionally mature enough to handle the consequences that go along with it.**

In a report, published by the CDC's National Center for Health Statistics, finds an estimated 55 percent of U.S. teens have had sex at least once by the time they turn 18. Whether a girl is too immature to handle the decision of having a boyfriend or not, the consequences of sex could result in a pregnancy or sexually transmitted diseases.

Teenage hormones are the chemicals that cause the physical growth and sexual development that will carry your daughter through her teens and into young adulthood. **As these substances take hold of her body, you'll notice that her emotions, moods and sexual feelings become much stronger.**

These hormones can also cause your daughter to make impulsive decisions, like experimenting with sex. Rather than trying to prevent your daughter from having sex, or sheltering her during her teen years, focus on the reasons why she does not need a boyfriend.

## REASONS WHY SHE DOES NOT NEED A BOYFRIEND

- Time to focus on her own unique gifts and talents
- Strengthen her faith walk with the Lord
- By abstaining from anything impure will promote purity of the heart
- This will prevent her from getting into a situation where hormones could take over
- It's okay to have fun without a boyfriend
- Grow into the wonderful daughters of God that she is supposed to be

Peer pressure, low self-esteem and low self-confidence, and hormonal surges could lead your daughter to take chances or engage in risky behaviors such as having a boyfriend or having sex. And as your daughter enters her teenage years, it's important for her to understand that she does not need to have a boyfriend. **Instead, teach her to be BOLD!**

## 4. TEACH HER TO BE BOLD

Encourage your daughter to be bold in her faith. By being bold in her faith she can speak up for herself if she is ever in an uncomfortable situation. **Teach your daughter to use her words and actions for good.**

## HOW TO TEACH HER TO BE BOLD

\*Encourage her to memorize the word of God.

\***Have your daughter declare the scriptures when she is feeling weak and the enemy is screaming at her, trying to intimidate her.** Jesus spoke the **word** to the devil when he was alone and tempted, and temptation can be very overwhelming for our daughters putting them in precarious situations. Each time Satan tempted Jesus, He answered, "*It is written*" (*Matthew 4:4, Matthew 4:7, and Matthew 4:10*). Jesus began the word and continued to use it. Many of us often start getting into the word (reading the Bible), but then forget about it or turn to the other ways of living. Encourage your daughter to keep studying and obeying the word of God.

\*Only God's word can save us (James 1:21).

\*Model fearing God and not people pleasing actions and character to your daughter through your actions and words

## 5. TEACH HER TO LOVE THE CREATOR ABOVE ALL

**A girl's value is not a guy whether she is 13 or thirty. Marriage is not the ultimate goal in life. But loving Christ is.** Help your daughter to love Christ first, then to protect that love at any cost. Teach her that her relationship with her Creator is to be first in her life at all times.

**Her identity (like ours) is to be found in Christ alone.** Knowing and believing this will help protect her from being hurt in relationships. Please understand that this is not a one-time conversation, but an intentional focus on raising your daughter. She must see you loving Christ first. She must know what her priorities are with loving Christ first, then her parents, her siblings, and so on. Of course, this would change if and when she would get married. However, she must understand that we love Him because He loved us first. (1 John 4:19)

## 6. PURSUE AN INTENTIONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH HER

- **Be intentional about your relationship with your daughter.** Every day make it a point to ask her about the things she is interested in. Do something special with her, such as going out to eat, things that are not part of your daily routine.
- **Be upfront and real with her.** Don't hide your emotions. Have a good laugh with her. Don't be afraid to cry in front of her.
- **Encourage her in her successes, whether big or little.** No matter what your daughter's age, it's never too late to begin building a relationship with her. The most important thing you can do is invest in your daughter because everything else will build upon this relationship.
- **Don't miss an opportunity to tell her about your mistakes.** It is important that our daughters think we are not perfect. If she thinks that as mom's we are perfect, then she will not feel comfortable sharing anything with you or me.
- **Share with your daughter examples of how you overcame your own struggles and failures.** No matter how difficult the topic of a conversation is or how busy your schedule is, it is important that you stay connected.
- **She needs you and your time,** that is the best investment you can make.

- **No matter how difficult a topic makes you feel, sex, dating, and other sensitive topics are best coming from a mother.** You can do this MOM! She will learn best from you, not the television, YouTube, or a book.

**Above all, we need to pray for our young daughters.** Pray that God will protect them from temptation (Matthew 6:13), that they will purpose in their own hearts not to defile themselves (Daniel 1:8), and that they will keep themselves pure (1 Timothy 5:22).

## **7. CONNECT HER WITH A MENTOR**

Find a wiser, older female mentor that mirrors your morals and values. Allow your daughter to be mentored in this relationship. **The power of a wiser and older relationship is extremely valuable.** It will help instill and reiterate what you have been trying to model and teach your daughter. The Bible teaches that he or she who walks with the wise will grow wise.

**Having a mentor could be the one relationship that helps your daughter through her teenage years, especially if you and her hit some turbulent times.** A good mentor will back up and support you by model and teach your daughter. And the more support you have in your daughter's life will promote wisdom, spiritual growth, maturity, and support. She will have the support and strength to be able to navigate through life, help cultivate a modest heart, and protect her purity.

## **8. TEACH HER THE FOUR TYPES OF PURITY**

**PHYSICAL:** It is important as parents that we start teaching our daughters from a young age the importance of not having to touch or have physical contact with members of the opposite gender. Explain and teach them that other than hugging and kissing their parents, that they should **save their hugs and kisses for the person they are going to marry.** And those are privileges of marriage and reserved for your future spouse.

**EMOTIONAL:** It is important to teach our daughters that a boyfriend/girlfriend relationship is a very special relationship to save for the one she is going to marry. **Teach her that He has a special person for her, and to encourage her to save her heart for that special person.** When she gets a little older, you can begin to encourage her to be emotionally faithful to her future spouse by saving their emotions for that person.

And it is very important that you start her teaching both aspects of purity in relationships when your kids are young. You want her to understand this before emotional attachments or physical involvement takes place.

**PURITY OF MIND:** As parents, we need to be actively guarding what goes into our daughter's mind through her eyes and ears. **There is a very real battle for your daughter's purity that is waged in her mind.**

**PURITY IN DRESS:** Teaching our daughters to dress modestly is a slippery slope if we are not careful. **A very modest dressed young gal can have a very impure mind and heart.** If we are only teaching modest through our daughter's clothing, then we have completely missed the entire issue. Modesty and purity are issues of the heart, that encompass an entire attitude and dressing modestly is only one aspect.

**However, by having a modest dress code for our daughters will teach them to respect themselves, focus on their heart and what is truly important in relationships.** By also dressing modestly it teaches our daughters to not cause young men to have impure thoughts nor draw unwanted attention and accentuate certain body parts.

## **9. TEACH HER TO THINK FOR HERSELF**

**It is important that your daughter is taught *why* something is wrong instead of "its wrong."** Your daughter needs to be wise enough to be able to use discernment in different situations. So, instead of just handing your daughter a list of rules and boundaries (no dating, curfew is at 10, and skirts must be fingertip length, and never touch alcohol), train her to think for herself.

The day will come that she'll be out of your house. Teaching her to be equipped to fight the battles for purity on her own comes in a combination of parental guidance, experience, and Biblical wisdom. She will eventually develop her own set of personal convictions.

**Your daughter needs you to be her greatest confidant, wisest mentor and counselor, and her prayer warrior.** No matter how hard it may be to get to that point or the battles that will undoubtedly happen, do whatever it takes for *that* to happen. Teaching your daughter how to remain pure is very important. You are helping her to cultivate a modest heart and Christlike attitude.

## 10. MAKE SURE THAT YOU ARE A ROLE MODEL OF MODESTY AND PURITY

In a quote from Jeff Randleman, of DeliberateDads.com, he said, *“Our kids learn by watching. Our example is the most consistent and persistent that they see in the home. If our kids only see us telling them what to do and not exemplifying it ourselves, they won’t understand the important nature of it, and will come to see us as hypocrites.”*

The main idea here is to not be a hypocrite. If we want to teach our daughters the concept of modesty and purity, then we must be role models ourselves. **As parents, it is up to us to set the standards of the home.** And as a mother, if you want your daughters to become modest young women someday, then it means that you are to help set the standard by being an example of a purity and modesty.

### Here are a few ways to consider being a role model:

**\*Dress appropriately.** Make sure that you do not have body parts hanging out or are dressing provocatively.

**\*Speak life:** Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. Ephesians: 4:29

**\*Explain:** Discuss with your daughter why modesty and purity are important. Be sure to use Scripture to support your statements.

**\*Pray:** Ask for guidance in all areas of raising your children.

**God calls us and our children to a life of purity, and modesty as a natural outworking of a pure heart.** The most important reason for embracing a modest lifestyle and seeking to become pure in heart is because God’s Word tells us to do so. If the Holy Spirit lives in us, our bodies are God’s temple, in which we are called to remain pure in heart and modest in actions.

**We want to hear from you! What do you focus on when raising your Godly girl with a pure heart?**

## ARE YOU A BOY MOM?

Raising Godly boys in today's world is an achievable but hard task. Thankfully we don't have to go through the parenting journey alone. There are so many areas concerning our children that can be lifted up in prayer. It draws us closer to the Lord and we realize even more how much we need Him.

Join Anu Abraham-Varghese of [Growing Curious Minds](#) as she shares [5 Prayers for Raising Godly Boys](#).

## ∞ ABOUT THE AUTHOR ∞



**Encouraging, Equipping, and Educating Women in Biblical Homemaking.** A wife to Brian and Mom to seven, six here with her and one waiting for them in Heaven, her prayer is that prayer is that the Lord is able to utilize her as a vessel with His loving, living and life-affirming words of truth.

Her aim is to be able to offer common sense Biblical advice on matters in life that affect women and mothers, through her own eyes and experience. She covers finances, frugality, faith, family, homekeeping, housekeeping, healthy tips, marriage, parenting, and grief and she would love to encourage you in your journey!

You can find her here: [Training Keepers of the Home](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Pinterest](#) |

# The Best Way to Move from Girl Mom to Mentor

by Tiffany of Hope Joy in Christ

*How many times has your Tween Girl moaned “My life is over” as she storms out of the room?* Ahem... how many times today!?!?!?!?! 12 times today and it's only 10 AM. We are in the transition from little to Tween. She needs a different parenting style from me in this more mature stage. I have to **Move from girl mom to mentor.**

**Titus 2:3-5** *Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good, so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be dishonored.*

## Parenting is seasons and stages

When they are babies they need us to do everything. But as they take each new step toward adulthood they need to learn how to do everything for themselves.

I don't know about you, but I am trying to hang onto those moments where they need me. Those moments are few and far between as they stretch for Independence and it makes me both joyful and sad.

- Sad that the sweetness of innocence is gone.
- Joyful to see the beautiful young ladies God **created to shine for Him!**

## When do we Move from Girl Mom to Mentor?

You know your girl, but the age of a Tween is 8-12 – which is quite a span. Some girls are more mature earlier, some are slower to blossom but it is good to check in and gauge her maturity.

## Some indicators your girl is ready to be Mentored instead of Mothered:

- She understands some biblical truths
  - Maybe even questions them
- She is pushing all the boundaries reaching for independence
- You see peer pressure alive and well in her choices

- It seems she cares what others think of her
- She is clearly a leader or follower already
- The Drama and attitude are reaching teenager proportions
- She is a chaotic ball of emotions (dare I say hormones)
- You notice her trying to problem solve
  - Her problems and yours

**These are just a few things that indicate she needs to be Actively Mentored.**

**A mother is focused on:**

- Meeting every need and want
  - Often before they complain
- Behavior modification
  - Obedience is key here
  - Discipline is involved
- A mother corrects (maybe even nags)
- The child is told what to do and expected to follow direction

**But a Mentor is focused on:**

- Heart Attitude
- Discipleship
- Spiritual Preparation for adult life
- Growing you to the next step in life
- A mentee is asked to help solve the problem
- Independence is taught – to take care of yourself and help serve others

There is an awkward in-between stage. Children take steps toward independence and often step backward – afraid of what they thought they wanted. That is why I Advocate Mentoring.

## **The Best Way to Move from Girl Mom to Mentor**

For years I was told I would never be a mother. God showed me the joy of being a Spiritual Mother.

### **Today we call that Mentoring.**

That looks like spending time getting to know a woman. Taking time with her One on One to talk about the real things in her life. Finding tools and resources to help her grow and mature – until she is ready to Mentor another woman.

We started the process of Mentoring with our girls early – just to test it out and get them used to the idea. This is what it looks like:

- Each month we take a morning away from the house (one on one).
  - It is crucial that it be a fun neutral place where they won't feel like a little kid but a young lady.
- We spend time talking “Woman to woman” about whatever they want to talk about.
  - No mothering allowed.
  - I bring the friend side of me – just listening, encouraging and asking questions.
- Then we transition into what we are studying in the Bible together
  - **This is a discipleship process**
    - We are always reading a Bible study book
    - **Bible Journaling**
    - Or a book of the bible together
    - Or a Topical Study together
  - Each month there is a part for her to do alone and come back to talk about.
- We talk about real prayer needs
- To end our time we transition back to fun girl time – just to enjoy each other.

We've used several studies over the past few years and Absolutely Loved Lee's **Girls Created to Shine Study**.

## **Girls Created to Shine is a Great Mentoring Tool for Tween Girls**

Personally, I love a deep Beth Moore Bible Study, but my Tween girl cannot stay focused that long. She needs a quick win in her Bible study time. It has to be Fun, Fast and Relevant to her world!

**Girls Created to Shine** is not all teachy-preachy but it does cover real topics that girls face in today's world. You can take it at your own pace and drag it out over the course of a year if you meet monthly.

There are Fun Girl Activities in the study that have Biblical Application. My Tween Girl's Favorites (Which she still pulls out to do together) are Smoothie Recipes & How to Give a manicure!

The Study is easy to use and relevant to her world which made it a Win-win for us!

We've used **Brave Beauty** and Lee's **Fruits of the Spirit Printable** as well as Sara B's **Trust in the Lord Bible Journaling Tool Kit** and so many more!

**The Point is to find that balance with your Tween girl. Knowing when to switch from Girl mom to Mentor.**

Building a relationship that will last as she leaves the nest one day. Preparing her to make the real-life decision. **And what better time than in your home where you can catch her if she fails!**

Don't get me wrong, there are still lots of times she needs me to be the Girl-Mom, but I know I've gone too far back in that direction when the whining and "My Life is over" pop up.

*Is your Tween girl ready to Move into a Mentoring Relationship with you?* I have a **Printable to help you get started down that path!** You will both be blessed and it's not complicated ( promise you can do it and God will equip you)!

In HIM,  
**Tiffany**

## ARE YOU A BOY MOM?

Our All-Knowing God created boys and girls with so many differences we can't number them. He had a plan and a design. It is critical that we raise them up to be who He created them to Be. Godly Boys were created with a wild nature and long for adventure – just like God. How can we nurture them to raise godly men?

You can also Join Tiffany Montgomery of [Hope & Joy in Christ](#) as she shares [Godly Boys Need Adventure: 3 Simple Ways to Help!](#)

## ∞ ABOUT THE AUTHOR ∞



Tiffany is a Jesus Girl with a passion to Encourage and Equip Wives and Moms through practical Biblical Discipleship. She loves to unite with biblically minded women to grow their Christian Marriages inside her [growing Facebook Community!](#) [Join the community here!](#)

Blog: [Hope Joy in Christ](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Pinterest](#) | [Instagram](#)

# What's The Most Important Thing To Teach Your Daughter?

by Joanna of Mums Kids Jesus

**Question: What's the most important thing (ever) you could teach your daughter?**

- Not to talk to strangers?
- To be kind and considerate to others?
- To value and protect her purity?
- How to cook?

All important for raising Godly girls. (The cooking one's a bonus!) **BUT** not what I'm talking about!

**So ... what's the most important thing to teach your daughter?**

**Answer: Her value and worth as God's precious, beautiful daughter.**

If your daughter truly knows who she is in God – that she has a Father who is proud of her, who delights in her, who loves her unconditionally – then she will be able to stand stronger, more secure and confident, in all this world throws at her.

*Your daughter can know God's arms of love around her when others hurt or reject her. Your daughter can be secure in her beauty and worth, and not have to try and impress others. Your daughter can remain confident in who she is, even when she fails.*

Wow! What a privilege to be daughters of God, daughters of the King – a truth we all need revelation of (in fact, we need our own revelation of God as Father, in order to share that with our girls).

It's a truth God's been speaking deep into my heart these last few years ... through the story of a woman in the Bible, I'd previously only thought of negatively: Eve! God has shown me just how precious Eve was to Him. She was His treasured daughter. Even when she sinned, God sought her out, call her to Himself, and clothed her. What a picture of unconditional love and acceptance.

I'd love to share with you a free 3-day devotional I (Joanna) have written to help your daughter discover, and grow in, her identity as God's beautiful daughter:

### **Hidden Treasures in the Story of Eve (Girls Only Edition)**

This devotional explores the story of Eve and her relationship with God as Father. Day 1 of the devotional is posted below.

*Want to grow in your own relationship with God as Father? You can download the adult study here: [Hidden Treasures in the Story of Eve \(Women's Edition\)](#). Your older teen might also prefer this version.*

### **Hidden Treasures in the Story of Eve (Girls Only Edition)**

#### **Day 1: Born Into Love**

#### **What Do You Think?**

You know the Bible story of Eve, right? You've probably heard it a million times before! Adam and Eve. The snake. The forbidden fruit ...

But have you ever put yourself in Eve's shoes (well, actually she didn't have any shoes ... but you know what I mean!), and imagined what it would have been like 'waking up' to a brand new world? Eve wasn't born as a baby; she was created a beautiful young woman, maybe the same age as you, or just a bit older!

She wasn't there. Then suddenly she was!

So ...

**Question #1.** How do you think Eve felt when she was first created? Write a few thoughts here (or draw a picture):

OK! Next question ...

**Question #2.** Who did Eve first see when she was created? God or Adam? Have a guess (and write down your answer)!

*Let's Find Out!*

**Question #3.** Let's find out if the Bible tells us who Eve saw first. Read Genesis 2:18-22. Any clues? (Hint: What word begins with 'b' in verse 22?)

Yes! God **brought** Eve to Adam. This must mean Eve was with God first. **Then** God brought her to Adam!

Can you imagine, Eve waking up to her new life, and seeing God! Wow!

**Question #4. What do you think God looked like?** Write a few thoughts, or draw a picture (though I know it's very hard to draw a picture of God!):

God was Eve's Father! Eve had no human parents. God was like a mother **and** a father to her.

I'm sure God's heart was bursting with pride (the good kind) as He looked at His beautiful new daughter. I'm sure He held her in His arms and told her how much He loved her. He may have even cried with joy. I know He was smiling huge smiles! And I bet He was excited about introducing her to Adam too!

\*\*\*

There are lots of verses in the Bible about God loving His children (just like He loved Eve).

**Question #5. Read the following verses. How does God love His children (His people)?** Write down your thoughts:

Zephaniah 3:17

Jeremiah 31:3

Psalms 139:13-18

John 3:16

Ephesians 1:4-5

Ephesians 3:18-19

**How About You?**

God's love is incredible! We can't really describe it in words.

And you know what? God loves **YOU** too!

Eve was born into God's love. You can also be 'born' into God's love!

Of course, you have already been born (I know that!) BUT you can be 'born again' into God's love. Your human birth was a physical birth. Your 'born again' birth is a spiritual birth. You can become God's daughter, just like Eve (Hey! Eve can be your sister!!).

You can know God's arms around you, experience His love, and know Him smiling huge smiles over you!

There's a simple way to become God's daughter. Just ask! Ask God to be a part of your life. Tell Him you want to know Him as your Father.

*If you'd like to know more about being God's daughter, and what God has done for you through His son Jesus, you can ask the person who gave you this study or [watch this video](#) (Bonus: you'll get to see me, Joanna, the writer of this study!).*

Maybe you have already asked God to be a part of your life. That's great! You are God's beautiful daughter, and you can experience more of His love each day.

**Question #6. How have you experienced God's love in your life?** Write your thoughts, or draw a picture (it may have been a feeling, something God did for you, or something He spoke to you):

### **Let's Pray!**

Use the prayer below, or make up your own (just like chatting to a friend), to thank God for His love:

*Father God,*

*Thank you for loving me so much. Thank you, your arms are tight around me, and that you smile on me! Help me know your love more. Help me know you as Father. In Jesus name.*

*Amen.*

### **Bonus Extra!**

Hey! Would you like a sneak peek of my book [Forever Loved: Eve's Story](#)? It's a creative retelling of the story of Eve – as you've never heard it before! (If you don't, then don't read any further. Ha ha!)

*Here's a bit from the beginning of the book. It describes Eve 'waking' to God's love.*

As you read, imagine **yourself** waking to God's presence. Imagine God speaking His love to **you**.

I remember the day I was born. No other woman can say that!

*Nothingness.*

*Gradually a glow, like the first touch of sunrise, then a brightening, a flickering orange behind my eyelids. I open my eyes. Waterfalls of soft light. A voice, as warm and tender as the light on my face.*

*“Hi, I’m your Dad. Wow! You are so beautiful!”*

*Arms around me. I look up to see a face swimming with emotion. Eyes, oceans-deep with love for me. A smile, oceans-wide with joy. The voice again,*

*“You are so beautiful, my precious one. I love you.”*

I describe my birthday with understanding now. At the time, I had no frame of reference to know what I was seeing or words to describe what I was feeling, though I understood everything my Father said to me. All I knew was that I had not been, and now I was. All I felt was a love so intense it engulfed me.

*“My daughter, I love you so much.”*

**That’s the end of Day 1 of ‘Hidden Treasures in the Story of Eve’ (Girls Only Edition).**

I pray both you and your daughter experience more and more of God’s Father heart of love in the coming days.

Let’s press on raising Godly girls in the knowledge and experience of God as Father. There’s nothing more important to impart to them.

**Free downloads:**

**[Hidden Treasures in the Story of Eve: A Devotional Study \(Girls Only Edition\)](#)**

**[Hidden Treasures in the Story of Eve: A Devotional Study \(Women’s Edition\)](#)**

**ARE YOU A BOY MOM?**

We all want to raise our sons to become responsible men. Anyone who has been a parent, however, knows that our kids don’t start out that way. Our young children are naturally selfish and irresponsible with a tendency toward being lazy. So, how do we raise godly boys to become responsible men?

Join Michelle Caskey of **[Homeschool Your Boys](#)** as she shares **[5 Tips for Raising Godly Boys to Become Responsible Men!](#)**

## ∞ ABOUT THE AUTHOR ∞



Joanna Chee gets excited about God! She loves to write and is often awake in the night with a million ideas for her next book or project. Joanna blogs at [JoannaMayChee.com](http://JoannaMayChee.com) and [MumsKidsJesus.com](http://MumsKidsJesus.com), where it is her heart to encourage and equip women to love their families and meet with God. She is the author of [\*\*Forever Loved: Eve's Story\*\*](#), a creative retelling of the Bible story of Eve, and a #1 Amazon UK bestseller.

Connect with Joanna:

[Facebook: Beautifully His](#) | [Facebook: MumsKidsJesus](#) | [Pinterest](#)

# Raising Godly Girls: Should they be Nurturing?

by Sarah of Bible Baton

**Is it okay to be nurturing?**

**It used to be a given that girls were the sweet and caring ones.**

A hundred years ago, nobody discouraged girls from mothering their little baby dolls and dreaming of marriage.

But today, our girls are growing up in a world where stay-at-home moms are looked down on and women are told that they should put their careers ahead of their husbands and their families.

**Our girls live in a world where women fight for their rights and get angry if a man holds open a door for them.**

Yet God has designed females to be nurturing and caring.

**I believe it's not only "okay" to be nurturing, but biblical—and something we should *encourage* our girls in!**

But how?

**Teach your daughter what God says about nurturing.**

I'm [Sarah from BibleBaton.com](http://SarahfromBibleBaton.com), and I help Christian women teach the Bible to kids using creative lesson plans, simple crafts, and unique activities. Today I'm here to share a simple, fun idea for teaching your daughter what God says in His Word about being a woman!

Want to encourage your daughter to purposefully develop her caring heart as something that is pleasing to God? Then turn straight to the Scriptures. Teach her, from God's Word, what He thinks is important for women.

**God clearly shows us in His Word that He values the caring and nurturing heart far more than the world does.**

And you can use a simple yet fun activity to show your daughter from the Bible that God doesn't look down on her for being nurturing. On the contrary, He truly values it!

**Do a simple Bible activity for girls (based on Titus 2:4-5).**

## Supplies Needed:

- At least 10 cards with various characteristics
- A poster with 7 empty spots
- Tape
- A Bible

You can make the characteristic cards and poster for this activity yourself. Or [click here to get the FREE cards & poster printable!](#)

## Activity Instructions, Part 1:

**Lay the characteristic cards face up** on a table or on the floor. 7 of the activity cards should state the traits listed in Titus 2:4-5. At least 3 others should list other characteristics. These could be things that the world expects (such as “be successful in your career” or “make lots of money”). Or they could be more subtle things.

**Hang the poster** on the wall or set it on the floor across the room.

Now challenge your daughter to **choose the cards that she believes God thinks are important**. She should choose the most important one first.

**Carry the cards one by one and tape them to the poster** in order from most important to least important—according to your daughter. Let her choose which she thinks God values most, down to which He values least.

## Discuss the Scripture:

After your daughter has arranged the cards she chose on the poster, **read Titus 2:4-5 from the Bible** together with her:

*...admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed. ~Titus 2:4-5 NKJV*

**Briefly explain the meaning of each item in the list:**

1. love your husband
2. love your children
3. be discreet (serious-minded, self-controlled)
4. be chaste (pure, modest)
5. be a homemaker (watchkeeper of the house, domestically inclined)
6. be good (useful, pleasant, joyful, honorable)
7. be obedient to your own husband

Now invite your daughter to **compare her list to God's list**. How does the arrangement she created on the poster line up with the order in God's Word?

**Talk about the contrasts.** Does God value some things more than she thought? Did she highly rank some things that God doesn't even care about, according to Titus 2:4-5?

**Activity Instructions, Part 2:**

Remove the cards from the poster and take them back to the table or floor where you had laid them out initially. **Lay out all the cards again.**

Now, using Titus 2:4-5 as a guide, **choose the cards that God says are important to Him.**

Carry the cards to the poster and **tape them up one by one, in order.**

**Encourage your daughter to personally apply Titus 2:4-5.**

Your daughter may have been surprised by how different her idea was from God's list in Titus 2:4-5. Even though this activity is simple, hopefully, it will help her clearly see what God values in a woman.

**And although your daughter is young now, she can begin to develop those characteristics that please God.**

God *designed* girls to be nurturing, caring, and encouraging. They shouldn't feel ashamed about encouraging their brothers, caring for younger siblings, or loving babies.

On the contrary, these are things to purposefully develop as God-given and God-pleasing traits.

So encourage your daughter, now that she knows precisely what God finds beautiful and pleasing in a woman, to **think about how she can personally develop those characteristics in her life.** She may not have a husband or kids, but she can practice loving her family!

And contrary to what the world says, she doesn't need to feel ashamed for doing it—because now she knows that God values it greatly.

### **Discover more Scriptures about biblical womanhood.**

Today we've only touched the tip of the iceberg. There are so many other Scriptures that talk about biblical womanhood—Proverbs 31, Ephesians 5, and others. I encourage you to delve into those passages with your daughter, too.

**I'm always here to help!** I regularly add [new ideas at BibleBaton.com for teaching the Bible to kids.](https://www.biblebaton.com) You're warmly invited to stop by and see if you find resources for the topic *you're* teaching.

May the Lord bless and encourage you as you seek to “pass the faith along” to your daughter.

## **FOR THE BOY MOM**

We live in confusing times when distinctions between the sexes are blurred. This is an attempt to make them appear all but eradicated. But boys and girls are very different and for mother's especially, we need to recognize this. If we want to raise godly boys who recognize and embrace the many ways they can make a difference in the lives of those around them, then we need to not only recognize their differences but embrace them.

Join Heather Haupt of [Heather Haupt](https://www.heatherhaupt.com) as she shares 5 ways on how to embrace boys differences and help them thrive in [Helping Boys Thrive Means Embracing Their Differences!](https://www.heatherhaupt.com)

## ∞ ABOUT THE AUTHOR ∞



Meet Sarah from [BibleBaton.com](http://BibleBaton.com)! Sarah is a certified Montessori teacher with a Bachelor's in Biblical Studies, plus over 10 years of experience working with kids. She's passionate about helping Christian women teach the Bible to kids! And she loves sharing [creative lesson plans](#), [simple crafts and unique activities](#), and [practical teaching tips](#) with her blog readers. [Pop over now to grab your free printable!](#)

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# Raising Godly Girls in a ‘Bachelorette’ Society

by Tatiana of The Musings of Mum

**As you strive to continue raising godly girls, I encourage you to teach them the difference between courting and dating.** Though I believe the Lord had a plan for my life, I also believe that if I had truly understood the clear difference between the two when I was a teenager, I would have spared myself an awful lot of heartbreak.

When I was 14, Juanita, my youth group leader, proudly announced she was courting a young man named Eric. Eric was a pastoral intern. He was in his early twenties, and he was a little awkward. He was quiet, reserved and had absolutely no sense of fashion. Juanita, on the other hand, was someone I looked up to. She was kind, friendly, stylish, and way out of Eric’s league in my mind.

I was baffled by the very odd pairing, I didn’t get it, and **I was even more confused when she went on to explain the difference between courting, and dating.** It was like she and Eric were from another planet.

**One of these things is not like the other.**

Earlier this week, ABC reported that 5.7 million viewers tuned in to “The Bachelorette”.

I confess, I watched probably 2 to 3 episodes of earlier seasons, however, my sole purpose for watching was to ridicule the contestants. Believe me, my intent, is not to judge anyone for watching, regardless of your purpose, but to simply help you realize that though we know this is not the most wholesome of shows, **we are watching.**

The Bachelorette is just one in a series of dating shows. Shows where young girls are told they can learn to be confident, strong, decisive, and sought after. Handsome intelligent men compete for The Bachelorette’s affections, making it appear almost chivalrous, yet the premise of the show is to win by deception.

*Dating is a battleground filled with deception and infidelity.*

– Andrew S. Trees

**Courting, on the other hand, has a completely different purpose.**

Merriam-Webster defines courting as *'the activities that occur when people are developing a romantic relationship that could lead to marriage'*; however for the sake of today's topic, we will refer to the definitions provided by the Urban Dictionary. These best reflect our culture today.

### **Why raising godly girls who understand courtship, is important.**

The urban dictionary defines courting as:

*the experience of developing a deep relationship with someone, with a view to seeing if marriage is right for the couple, without the complexity of sexual intimacy being part of that relationship*

I love that this definition clearly points out that **there is complexity in sexual intimacy**. This is a fact our society often misses. A woman's promiscuity was once taboo, and today, it's almost celebrated. Purity is rare, girls are ridiculed for being prudes.

Courting intends to develop and eventually establish a deep relationship that will one day become a successful marriage. A marriage that is pure, and committed. A marriage focused on unconditional love and trust.

The end goal of courting is marriage. It's as simple as that.

***He who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from the Lord.***  
***Proverbs 18:22***

As we are raising godly girls, let's take time to teach them that like purity, courting should not be taken lightly, and for the Christian, it should be regarded as an agreement, a contract, a pledge, to commit to wait and be faithful to one another.

### **How dating has everything to do with self and nothing to do with God.**

The urban dictionary defines dating as

*Where two people who are attracted to each other spend time together to see if they also can stand to be around each other most of the time, if this is successful they develop a relationship although sometimes a relationship develops anyways if the people can't find anybody else to date them, or are very lonely or one person is only attracted to the other and pretends to be in love with the second unfortunate person who has the misunderstanding that they have found love. This occurs quite often and eventually leads to something called cheating.*

Seriously, read that again.

Though this is not the most eloquent of definitions, in my opinion, it's pretty right on.

**In other words, dating is about fulfilling a personal need.** Whether it be that of companionship, sexual, financial, intellectual.

*Dating is really all about sex. In the conventional context, this means that the man invites the woman to go through a social encounter, the ultimate purpose of which is sexual engagement.*

– Alexander McCall Smith

The Bible, on the other hand, instructs us to do otherwise, and as parents who are raising godly girls we must steer them away from the world's definition of relationships; and steer them instead, into a relationship with God.

*So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.*

*2 Timothy 2:22*

**Christ above all things.**

Whether the godly girls you're raising are still little, or if they're already grown, **I ask you to consider teaching them the differences between courting and dating.** As a mom of five girls and one boy, I can attest to the sometimes subtle ways the enemy will try to poison and corrupt our children's thinking.

Please understand my intention is not to condemn dating but to encourage you to raise godly girls who long for a relationship with Christ above all things.

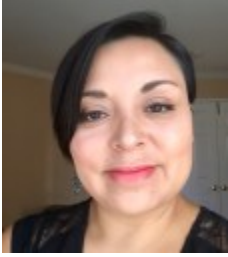
Everything else will be added.

**ARE YOU A BOY MOM?**

The picture of us raising our children to shoot them out into the world, as straight as arrows, ready for battle, will always stick close to my heart, and I pray that it will continue to mold and shape my heart as I help them make good decisions for themselves and to be SHOT OUT into the world and impact the world for HIS GLORY.

Join Christi Galy of [Dwelling Well Mom](#) as she shares her heart on [Helping Our Sons Overcome The Battle In Their Hearts!](#)

## ∞ ABOUT THE AUTHOR ∞



Tatiana is a follower of Jesus, wife, and mum to one boy and five girls. Her mission is to inspire, encourage and equip mothers to raise children who long to walk with Jesus. She is a compulsive organizer, lover of books and coffee, aspiring apologist, and is an avid supporter of school choice. **Connect with her below!**

Blog: [The Musings of Mum](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Pinterest](#) |

# Raising Godly Girls: Help Bring Hope to the Hurting

by Sarah of A Work of Grace

For the past few years, God has placed a burden on my heart for teens who are hurting. But it wasn't until now that I've really wanted to do something about it and reach out to others. Through social media and online research, I've learned that there are more teens struggling with *terrible life situations* than I knew. **And it wasn't until recently that I've noticed girls around me, including youth group and dance class, struggling with pain.** To Raise Godly Girls means we need to understand the Basic Truth For Battling Self-Harm.

She sat alone, a girl my age. I remember the first time I saw her. **I noticed her right away, and not because she wore the newest fashion, or because she had perfectly winged eyeliner.** I spotted her because of the scars and cuts she had on her arms. Not just a few scars, either – they went all the way up her arms. My heart broke for her instantly. I knew that she was in emotional pain, and every time I saw her arms, I would be reminded of the hurt she must be going through.

It hurts my heart whenever I see someone who has self-harm scars on their body. I knew I needed to understand more about cutting and self-harm. If I understood better, then I would know some ways to help. **And not just help this girl, but any teen who is struggling with emotional pain.**

## Just the Facts

Every year, about **1 in 5 females and 1 in 7 males take part in self-harm**. Most people who take part in self-harm start in their teen or **pre-teen years**. Normally, someone would take part in self-harming behavior for one of three reasons, or a combination of these three reasons.

1. **One of the reasons is to distract from emotional pain with physical pain.** Sadly, when teens do this, it is effective at the moment, but unhealthy and dangerous.
2. Another reason is for **the ability to “feel something” if they are emotionally numb.**

3. The third main reason is a way **to punish themselves because of shame** and feeling like they need to suffer physical pain.

When a teen starts self-harming, it may become addicting. The body can build up a tolerance for the pain. So, to experience the same amount of “relief”, they would have to self-harm on a larger scale. This can then lead to accidental death if a cut is too deep in a vein and help doesn’t come in time.

### **Encouraging Truth**

Some encouraging Bible verses that have helped me in my life are Philippians 4:13, 1 Peter 5:7, and Deuteronomy 31:6.

**Philippians 4:13** says,

*“I can do all this through him who gives me strength”. This means that through His strength that He gives to you, you can keep holding on. Just take one more breath, live one more minute, one more hour, one more day. Hold fast to Him.*

**In 1 Peter 5:7**, it says,

*“Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you”. To me, this means that you can give anything over to Him, big or small because He cares and loves you. Nothing is too big or too small for Him to take care of.*

**Deuteronomy 31:6** says,

*“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you”. This means that you don’t have to live in fear because He is always with you and there by your side. He is there for you to help and fight for you, right beside you.*

**Finding verses that can bring healing to your heart will help you get through those difficult times.**

### **He Understands**

Our Saviour went through spiritual, emotional, and physical pain when He died on the cross for us. He has scars, and He went through what He did so that we don’t have to. He understands our pain, and every rough patch we go through in our lives.

**For those of you who are struggling with depression, self-harm, suicidal thoughts; if you are going through a hard time in your life, I want you to know that you are *not alone*.**

You are loved by the One who created you, and He will help you get through your pain if you allow Him to. His arms are open for you, He wants to care for you. There is *hope* and *light* in the dark, never give up the fight. Because He is fighting for you, too.

To help you grow closer to the Lord, Sarah has a course she created with her mom, **[Cultivating the Heart of a Daughter](#)**.

## ARE YOU A BOY MOM?

The picture of us raising our children to shoot them out into the world, as straight as arrows, ready for battle, will always stick close to my heart, and I pray that it will continue to mold and shape my heart as I help them make good decisions for themselves and to be SHOT OUT into the world and impact the world for HIS GLORY.

Join Christi Galy of [Dwelling Well Mom](#) as she shares her heart on [Helping Our Sons Overcome The Battle In Their Hearts!](#)

## ∞ ABOUT THE AUTHOR ∞



Sarah is a Jesus girl who longs to see girls live for Jesus and fulfill His calling on their lives. She hopes to help teens to realize their true worth and that they are loved beyond comprehension. She lives with her parents and younger brother and younger sister in British Columbia, Canada. You can find her on [YouTube](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#).

## 9 Important Bible Verses For Girls About Self Worth

by Starla of [coffeewithstarla.com](http://coffeewithstarla.com)

Is it hard to be a girl in today's culture? Perhaps. With being a teen or tween, secular expectations on what to look like, what to wear, what to value and the rush to grow up is overwhelming.

**As a girl, tween or teen, living in a secular society, trying to find a healthy balance in finding out who Christ is and who you are in Christ can be challenging.**

I'm a mom of a teen girl. Princess. That's the nickname we gave her when she was a toddler.

My greatest heart's desire is to teach her to stand. To know Who her Rock is in life. As the earth shakes under her feet. As the storms rage around her. I want to give her the tools, resources, and love she needs to understand – firmly and securely – her **identity in Christ**.

There isn't a magical list of things to do or not do that guarantees your girl will deeply run after Christ with all her heart. As parents, we pray, sometimes fast, lead by example and then **trust God** with our babies.

### **Bible Verses for Girls**

One way, I not only encourage myself in the Lord but for my daughter as well, is truth journaling or **scripture writing**.

There is just something about writing out scripture that helps renew our minds but also instills in our hearts God's truth in our everyday lives and when hard times come.

I gave my princess a journaling notebook, colored pencils, stickers and a list of bible verses to get her started. She is old enough to dig into God's word herself, but for younger girls, I'd keep supplying them with bible verses.

## **Here is the list of Bible Verses for Girls that I gave my daughter.**

You are altogether beautiful my darling, there is no flaw in you. Song of Solomon 4:7

Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity. 1 Timothy 4:12

Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ. Philippians 1:6

### **Bible Verses on Self Worth**

\* For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Psalm 139:13-15 ESV

\* For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Jeremiah 29:11

\* Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? And not one of them is forgotten before God. Why, even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not; you are of more value than many sparrows. Luke 12:6-7

\* No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation, he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it. 1 Corinthians 10:13

\* Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. Romans 12:2

\* Better is a poor man who walks in his integrity than a rich man who is crooked in his ways. Proverbs 28:6

**And my last tidbit of mom to mom advice, talk to your girl. Hug her. Show grace, demonstrate boundaries, and lead by example. Spend time with her, let her know you will always be available to her if she wants to talk.**

I tell my princess that I may not always agree or see eye to eye with her, but I promise to listen and be there for her to talk it out.

*Are you parenting a teen girl? If so, what bible verses for girls have you written down or memorized to encourage your girl?*

## ARE YOU A BOY MOM?

It's not an easy task to raise godly boys but we know that we, godly moms, are called to intentionally raise our boys to love God, follow Christ's footsteps, and fulfill their God-given destiny. More than that, we are called to raise godly boys to conquer the world!

We know we live in a spiritual war zone and truth is that, in this war zone, what we don't conquer, will end up conquering us.

Join Ana Willis of They Call Me Blessed! as she shares her heart and offers encouragement today on [How to Raise Godly Boys to Conquer the World](#).

## ∞ ABOUT THE AUTHOR ∞



Starla Jimenez is a homeschooling mom of two kiddos, works as a Virtual Assistant and writes over at [StarlaJimenez.com](#). She writes to encourage hurting hearts to focus on the Lord. You can also follow her on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Pinterest](#). When you sign up to her [email list](#) you will receive a [free printable prayer journal](#).

# 3 Ways to Support Our Godly Girls to Lead Well

by Erin Weidemann of Bible Belles

As a teacher, I spent a lot of time mentoring girls. In class, out of class, on the athletics field. **I met and counseled hundreds of parents who were looking for ways to guide their daughters in today’s world.** Moms and dads and me. We’d sit down together and they would explain a struggle they were facing (“she heads straight into her room when she gets home – her door is always shut” or “every day she gets to school wondering who her friends are gonna be that day”) and they’d all ask me versions of the same question. “What can I SAY to her? What are the words I can use to reach her to close the widening gap between us?”

**“Can you give me the words?”**

I heard that all the time.

Whether our daughters are 6 or 16, girl Moms know that words can be a powerful tool when it comes to mentoring, **but it is our modeling, our behavior, and our leadership that will help them understand much more than our words ever will.**

The question becomes not “what are the words” but instead “what are the ways” God is calling our girls to leadership and “how can we – as their parents, their teachers, their mentors – walk alongside them, train them up as they learn how God wants them to become fully awake, to arise, and to advance His kingdom?”

**The truth is that God designed all of us that we would influence a dark and broken world for Jesus. That is what real leadership is.**

Leadership is influence, and our effectiveness as leaders depends upon how well we align our influence with His design of us as women.

**Here are three important ways we can come alongside our girls and support them to lead well.**

## 1. Understand Her Design

When I went from teacher to entrepreneur, I realized quickly that I needed a different kind of mentorship and support. So I joined a mastermind group where I live in San Diego – for female business owners who wanted to grow their businesses and lead from their values.

It was helpful for me because, although overly competitive as a young person, I had no real training in “businessy” things like negotiating or how marketing and public relations can work to help you scale your business.

**I was grateful for this group for many reasons. We’d meet every month and work through a variety of business concepts – but always, always, we approached our learning through the lens of our feminine design.**

The first few meetings were spent teaching us about how are we wired as women which I had never really considered before – **I mean, every woman knows we think, feel and operate differently than men do** (shake your head and laugh if that’s true). BUT specifically what is different and how knowing those differences can inform our leadership.

**I began to realize how crucial it is to understand more of our feminine design so that we can positively impact those we are trying to influence.** How does His design of us matter? What does it mean in the context of his mandate in Genesis 1 at the onset of creation?

*So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth. Genesis 1:27-28*

Be fruitful. Multiply. Replenish the earth. Subdue the earth, and have dominion over the animals (air, land, and sea). So often dominion over others is how leadership is approached. **That we would dominate other image bearers or position ourselves in authority over a person or group of people.** It’s how the current hierarchical structure of business is set up. I’m not saying we should scrap that system and start over. What I am saying is that the way God calls us to lead others has so little to do with our authority and everything to do with His.



A promotional banner for Bible & Belles. On the left is an illustration of a woman in a yellow dress and a child. The text reads "bible & belles" in a pink font with a cross symbol, and "Heroes For Her" below it. To the right, it says "FREE SHIPPING on \$25+" and "Code: FreeShipping". A yellow book titled "Heroes For Her" is shown next to a pink "BUY NOW" button.

## **What we can do as moms raising godly girls is help them increase their understanding of God's design of them and how it is different than our male counterparts.**

When we celebrate that, when we can see how God's design fits us well together wholly and holistically, both genders can lead from their giftings, their strengths, their values and that is how we are going to build the Kingdom of God.

I never studied this stuff. I'm more of an English/History kind of a girl. **Just for fun though – how many biological differences do you think there are between men and women?**

*Answer: There are over 100! Here are a few highlights:*

### **Female Brain**

- Predominantly hard-wired for empathy
- Values development of altruistic and reciprocal relationships
- While listening and interpreting sentences, women use both sides of the brain

### **Male Brain**

- Predominantly hard-wired for understanding building and complex systems
- Values power, politics, and competition
- While listening and interpreting sentences, neurons are active on only one side of the brain

## **2. Connecting Credibility to Influence**

### **Initial thoughts:**

We are designed to read people beyond verbal language. It's how we know when something is "wrong" with someone.

When someone is distressed, we feel distressed; when someone is in pain, we suffer with them.

We think in terms of whole community. We are wired to see "the bigger picture." It takes us longer to think through solutions (which can cause exhaustive analysis and overthinking).

The more we can understand, even generally, the differences between the masculine and feminine designs, the more we can support our girls to feel energized to do the work God prepared in advance for them to do because He prepared that work with their design in mind.

Mamas, we know that trust is the kind of thing that can take years to build and one day to destroy, Amen? Our girls have two separate challenges to tackle in this:

**Goal 1: they have to learn to trust and believe in themselves**

**Goal 2: they need others to trust/believe in them too**

Credibility is vital to their ability to bring others along on whatever journey they want to lead them on, whatever change they want to implement, whatever goal they want to attain.

When I became a mother, I began to recognize the sphere of influence God assigned to me. I can say with confidence that there is absolutely no one more qualified on this planet to raise my daughter than I am. I don't mean that in a prideful way. I say it simply to acknowledge that, regardless of how I feel or how much I trust or don't trust my abilities on any given day, God did not make a mistake when He gave her to me. He doesn't make mistakes.

*I can own the assignment because I trust the One who assigned it.*

Now, in the Founder/CEO/Entrepreneur sphere of influence – it was not as easy as what I just described. For a long time, BB was our little side business. I wrote the stories at the library on weekends between grading English essays and being a wife and a mom. Rooney was about 1 and a half when the first pallet of books was printed and shipped to us. It wasn't long after that Brent and I were sitting together in our backyard and he said, “You know I keep getting all these requests for you to teach and speak and I think you're supposed to quit your job and do this full-time.” I looked at him and was like, “you might be nuts.” But that challenged me.

I spent a lot of my quiet time with the Lord in that season just asking him to help me believe. God, can I trust and believe enough in myself, in what You say about me, to step out in faith – to get out from the behind the computer screen and lend myself, my voice to this movement?

What I didn't realize is how poised I was, and we are as women, to lead well in the modern world. There's a ton of science around this in recent years.

### 3. Creating an Accountability Culture

Is it surprising to you that most of these traits are considered as feminine to the people who participated in the study?

**Many of the values that women innately possess are the ones desired for modern day leaders! How cool is that?** It's such an exciting time to be a female leader – Both the environment and culture in which we live have changed and have become more accepting of the unique value that women can provide.

Romans 14:11-12

*It is written: “ ‘As surely as I live,’ says the Lord, ‘every knee will bow before me; every tongue will acknowledge God.’ ”*

So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.

**When my husband and I started this journey, we did it because we wanted to make a connection – we wanted to connect girls to Scripture through the stories of women.** We couldn't see all of the steps but we knew God was calling us to it.

And at the end of our lives, we will have to account for the opportunity that God placed before us. What did we do with it? Did we say yes to it?

That's all accountability is. God puts something in your way and you say yes to it. It's making a commitment to do whatever work He is laying out in front of you. **Accountability is honoring that commitment, submitting it fully unto the Lord. It's moving forward in obedience so that He can do what is in His good and perfect will.**

As you look ahead, I want to encourage you to evaluate your family's culture, your relationship with your girl, and what steps you might take to increase accountability. Say yes to the opportunities God is calling you to, both collectively and individually. **Talk about them, pray through them, and wait in anticipation to see the remarkable things God can do when we do our part.**

**A special note from Erin:**

When I think about how much time I spent talking to parents and hearing them say “Can you give me the words,” I’m reminded of a conversation I had a few weeks ago with [Lauren Green McAfee](#) of the Green family (Hobby Lobby and the Museum of the Bible).

**Lauren and I share many passions, one of which is to encourage women of all ages.** I remember talking to her about what it will take for the next generation of girls to understand that each one of them can play a unique and irreplaceable role in God’s story.

**She said, “I think it’s going to take a network of women to support them to live with their legacy in mind.”**

That’s exactly what we get to do. **We get to come alongside our girls to discover how the Lord is calling them to leadership, how God is calling them to lead a life that points to Jesus.** How he has equipped them, in design, in gifts, talents, and by His sufficient and perfect grace.

God has truly poured out many incredible blessings on His daughters, **maybe the most extraordinary one of all is the opportunity to live into our design, to lead from our values, and to be accountable today for the building of His Kingdom tomorrow.**

## **ARE YOU A BOY MOM?**

We tend to gauge godliness based on conduct- if they read their bibles, pray, serve, do religious things, and abstain from sinful things, then we would say that person is godly. But in God’s economy, it’s the condition of the heart that’s the measure of godliness.

Join Annie McGuire of [Daily His Disciple](#) in [Raising Godly Boys to be Devoted Disciples of Christ!](#)

## ∞ ABOUT THE AUTHOR ∞



Founder and CEO of [Bible Belles](#) and award-winning author of The Adventures of Rooney Cruz series, [Erin Weidemann](#) is committed to changing the world's current definition of beauty. As a certified teacher, coach, and nationally recognized speaker, she offers speaking, workshops, and seminars to equip women of all ages to let go of fear and step into the unique leadership roles for which they were designed. She is also pleased to be a part of the Speakers Bureau for World Vision, a Christian humanitarian organization.

A five-time cancer survivor, Erin lives in San Diego, CA and [speaks](#) at events, conferences, fundraisers, churches, and schools. Funny and real, Erin is also the host of the **Heroes For Her** podcast, interviewing celebrities, actors, musicians, and other women who are living out their passions in line with their personal values.

Blog: [Bible Belles](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Pinterest](#) | [YouTube](#) | [Instagram](#) |

# How to Teach Our Girls About Sex Without Shame or Fear

by Le of Mom \*

**As a couples counselor, I regularly work with Christian women who are trying to serve God but are struggling in their marriages.** Of course, there are many reasons that people come to see me and every situation is unique. It is quite common though, even among religious couples, for them to tell me that one of the biggest obstacles in their relationship is sex. Many of these struggling wives tell me how they struggle to be intimate with their husbands because of the messages they heard from their parents, communities, and churches about sex. **It seems to me that In an effort to pass down values, the purity culture has become so driven by shame and fear that it is driving teens from the church and harming the very marriages it was meant to protect.**

Talking to tweens about puberty, sex and development can make lots of parents squeamish. Christian parents often tell me that they feel stuck when it comes to having **“the talk.”** We’ve been told that our only choices are shame and chastity belts or handing our daughters the keys to a hotel room. That’s a false dichotomy. **The truth is that we can raise our girls to follow the plans that God has for them while helping them grow up, rooted in the truth that their bodies were designed by God and He calls them good.** Make no mistake though, this way is harder.

## Speak Truth

**One of the biggest mistakes parents and educators can make when teaching young people about sex is to lie or exaggerate.** There may be times when you tell your child that you don’t know an answer or are uncomfortable sharing certain information, but everything you tell them needs to be truth. Otherwise, they will struggle to believe you. **If you tell your tween that sex is miserable, they will compare that to the constant messages they get from the world about sex and assume you are either not experiencing it as God intended or you are lying in an attempt to keep them from experimenting.** If you tell them that every person who has sex gets AIDs or pregnant, they will look around at their friends and discount all the other truths that you have told them. **We want to be a reliable and accurate source of information while our kids learn about sex.**

That means we tell the truth even when it is uncomfortable and we learn when we aren't sure.

### **Start With Creation**

As girls journey through adolescence, they often struggle with **body image**. Eating disorders, **self-harm**, and **depression** are becoming more common **among teens**, even those in the church. **As parents, we need to purposefully take every opportunity to remind our daughter that they were created in the image of God. He made her and He called His creation good.** As you teach her about her body remember that every part was made by Him for a reason. He made her sparkly eyes, curly hair and pointy elbows. He also made her vagina. Every cell of her body was designed for a purpose and there is no shame in how He made her.

None of the changes to your daughter's developing body are sinful. When you talk with her about puberty and she **struggles with her changing body**, remind her that she is created in the image of God. When you are teaching your daughter **about periods**, talk about hygiene and reproduction and how every part of her body was designed by God. You can teach her about **boundaries**, health, and **dressing appropriately** but we have to take care that we are not doing in shame.

### **Work on Your Own Hang-ups**

Many parents struggle to talk with their tweens and teens because they still struggle with sex themselves. **If you have had trauma, misunderstandings or challenges in your own life, you may need to find some space to work through those to make sure you don't continue that legacy with your child.** I've spoken with lots of moms who want to teach their daughters about healthy sexuality but don't know much themselves. I recommend the book **A Good Girl's Guide to Sex** as a great place to start by educating yourself.

### **Go Beyond a Fear of Pregnancy**

Teaching our daughters about sex in the way God intended means eliminating shame and fear from our language. **For many years, the threat of pregnancies or bad reputations has been used to scare girls into promising to wait until marriage.** In reality, this approach has resulted in many Christian young people who are "technical virgins," believing that anything that cannot produce a pregnancy is fair game. **So, we see STIs running rampant through our youth groups and a generation questioning the hypocrisy.**

It is important that our daughters understand the physical aspects of reproduction and the impact that an unplanned pregnancy could have on their lives. We need to have those discussions. We can't stop there though. When you **talk to your daughter about sex**, you need to talk to her about all types of sex and sexual activities. We need to be clear what boundaries are important **and why**. This is where you will really have to **dig into the scripture** and your own beliefs. **Your child needs a clear answer about what things are appropriate in what context and why you believe that.**

### **Remember That Your Daughter's Value is Not Tied to Virginity**

In many parts of the purity culture, the sister of fear is **shame**. Girls are told that having sex, whether it is consensual or not, makes them as worthless as a piece of chewed up bubble gum. They hear words like nasty, or slut to describe sexual acts and the girls that perform them. **At home, the messages may not be as explicit but our daughters pick up on the gossip about certain women, the responses that we give their outfits and the topics we avoid in discomfort.** By the time young wives find their way to my couch, they are often either so **engulfed in shame** over not meeting the standards that they cannot be free in their marriages, or they are struggling to embrace the wonderful physical relationships that they were designed to have with their husbands.

**We should teach our kids the standards that we believe in but also walk in grace.**

The Bible is clear that **fear** and **shame** do not have a place in the education of our daughters. Perfect love casts out fear and there is **no condemnation** for those who are in Christ. (Condemnation is the Biblical term for shame.) The hard part is that teaching our girls about sex, reproduction, and **boundaries** is harder without shaming and scaring them into line. **Instead of using broad euphemisms or saying that certain actions or attitudes are bad, nasty or "un-Christian," we have to be able to explain what we believe and why.** That means that we as parents, need to work through our own hang-ups and dig into scripture for guidance. If you are looking for one scripture to use as a starting point when you teach your daughter about sex and her body, my suggestions would be **Ephesians 4:15, speak the truth in love.**

## ARE YOU A BOY MOM?

Have you ever asked yourself the question...”God, couldn’t you have given me easier boys?” If the answer is yes, or if you’ve questioned His love for you because of your “hard thing”, you may need to hear this.

Join Brooke McGlothlin, Co-Founder of [The MOB Society](#) in [“When You’re Mad at God for Giving You Hard-to-Handle Boys”](#)

## ∞ ABOUT THE AUTHOR ∞



Le Shepard is a mama by birth and adoption to kids with superpowers and special needs. She lives outside a one-stoplight town in Texas with her husband, three kids, four dogs, a lizard, and some cows. Le writes about epilepsy, orphan care, faith, and pure exhaustion at [Mom\\*](#) and would be pleased as punch if you followed her on [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#).

# Why Social Media Is Not The Real Problem

by Kristen of [Kristen Hatton.com](http://KristenHatton.com)

It's was nearly 11:30 pm. I'm normally asleep by then, but as I waited for the reassuring beep of the back door to alert me that my daughter was home safe I laid in bed scrolling through Instagram. She had been with twenty girls at a party so I knew there would be photos (Did the night even happen if there aren't?).

Sure enough, just as the backdoor beeped, the pictures started streaming in. Beautiful girls perfectly posed all having fun. **At least that's what the pictures begged me to think.**

Whether the night was as fabulous as it appeared, the world would never know. **But I couldn't help thinking that behind these red-lipped smiles there were hurting girls, lonely girls, insecure girls, trying to fit in girls, afraid to be less than perfect girls: girls who needed a true friend and felt lost even in this group of #besties.**

Sure enough, over coffee the next morning my daughter told me the real story of the night. **One that was nothing like what the pictures would have you believe.**

But even if our girls know social media pictures are edited to perfection and serve only as a highlight reel of someone's life, comparison still creeps in. **Research shows much of the stress and pressures our tween and teen girls feel directly connects to social media.** The effects of this pressure, ranging from (but not limited to) depression, eating disorders, **cutting, promiscuity** and substance abuse, go far deeper than most realize. **And "good," church-going girls are not exempt from these struggles.**

**Even still, social media is not the real problem!**

*Mark 7:15 reads, "Nothing outside a person can defile them...Rather it is what comes out of a person that defiles them."*

**In other words, sin comes from inside us.** So we can point our fingers at social media, but the heart of the problem is not social media. The problematic behaviors associated with social media are the by-product of what's going on in our girls' sinful, idolatrous hearts. Therefore, it is the idolatry we need to address.

Anything we desire more than God leads us to exchange the truth of God for a lie. It's the same lie humanity has bought into ever since Satan convinced Adam and Eve that God was withholding good by not allowing them to eat from the tree in the middle of the garden. A lie that convinces us that God is not enough and true life is found somewhere other than him.

**For our girls, all it takes is one quick scroll through Instagram to leave them vulnerable to Satan's whispering lies...**

"You're not good enough."

"You're not popular enough"

"You need to be skinnier."

"You're not like them."

"Your life is boring."

"You're worthless."

**The longer they look, scroll, and compare, the more these lies become "truth" and what God says is true is forgotten.**

*So how do we reorient our girls back to the truth that social media distorts?*

### **1) Uncover the lies by exposing the heart**

This can be done through probing questions. Identifying the false gods in which they seek to find their satisfaction and identity.

By identity, I mean worth – what or where they seek to find their value. It could be based on how many "likes" they get, how many followers they have, or what kind of comments they receive. But, it's not limited to social of course. **Their appearance, acceptance, performance, popularity, recognition and more can be false sources of identity.**

You likely have an idea of what her tendencies are, but if not, a great place to start is paying attention to her posts and what she talks often about. **But we should also be evaluating our own hearts.** Seeing how we do the same thing – where we find our worth and identity – is an important factor in our ability to show compassion and help our girls deal honestly with their sin.

## 2) Help our girls, in their sin, be anchored in Christ

To help our girls get their story straight, justification is the most important truth we can speak into them. It is the basis of their secure identity, and the anchoring truth that holds against the lies social media and everything else in this world distorts.

Therefore, regular conversations should take place about what it means practically to have been declared right at the time of salvation. **Remind them that everything good about Jesus is now good about them, that God views them as perfect because Jesus was perfect.** That they stand not only without accusation or condemnation but as righteous. If our girls know this, then when they inevitably feel insecure, less than compared to their friends, or have fallen into sin, we give them Christ to fix their eyes on, to see again how He was everything for them.

When our girls look at social media and think God isn't enough – or God isn't good – or God has forgotten them or doesn't love them because He isn't blessing them the way they want – or because things are hard – what they need is to be anchored to the truths of Gods word: **who He is and who they are in Him.** It is here they find their secure, unchanging identity. **The fruit** they bear (good or bad) will be dependent on this as their foundational root!

## ∞ ABOUT THE AUTHOR ∞



Kristen Hatton is the author of [The Gospel-Centered Life in Exodus for Students](#), [Face Time: Your Identity in a Selfie World](#) and [Get Your Story Straight](#). In addition to her own blog, she frequently contributes to the Rooted Ministry and PCA Women's enCourage blogs, and recently started Redemptive Parenting on Instagram.

Kristen lives in Oklahoma with her pastor husband and is the mother of three teenage/young adult children. Learn more by visiting her website at [www.kristenhatton.com](http://www.kristenhatton.com).

Blog: [Kristen Hatton](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Pinterest](#) | [Instagram](#)

# How an Eating Disorder and a Horse Named “Raven” Changed My Life

by FR. Brad Mathias of Brilliantly Brave Parenting

Part of a Father’s story while Raising Godly Girls...

**The horse named Raven is spectacular.**

A rather large girl, well over 1200 lbs. and covered in a shaggy long black winter coat of hair, tapering to huge hooves. She is a Percheron, complete with an elegant thundering gait and graceful black flowing mane. **Her gentle eyes hide the most remarkable intuition I’ve ever experienced.** She has a gaze that gently probes into one’s very soul if you let her.

**I met Raven in Anderson IN, at a very special place. The [Selah House](#) for young women struggling with eating disorders.**

My youngest daughter was finishing up a two-month visit there. She was in the final stages of her recovery. **The entire family was asked to come for several days of group discussion and therapy.** Part of their care included “[equine therapy](#)”?

I had no idea what that was but I was dedicated to doing “whatever it takes” to help my daughter. I jumped right in .... so to speak.

Dr. Don Zimmerman and his amazing wife Linda met my daughter and me on a frosty cold February morning and led us into the barn. When I asked what to expect in our three-hour session.. they smiled with their eyes, a kind-patient–warmth deep within them. They said, **“you’ll just have to experience it for yourself.”**

**So we did and the next three hours were magical.**

Raven was introduced to us and stood patiently by my side, at first uncomfortably close. Her bottom was at least six inches higher than my head (I’m pretty big at 6’4 and 230 lbs). Her head was easily the size of my waist. **She quietly listened to Dr. Don and Linda as they explained what we were to do.** Then, the “professionals” left the indoor corral and watched expectantly for us to start our therapy.

It was a bit intimidating to stand alone that close to a draft horse as massive as Raven, but we did. The goal of the session was simple, but odd at the same time.

*“We want you to lead Raven through a series of activities **without touching her or feeding her**. You can talk to her and walk around her, but you can’t touch”, Diane said smiling.*

**Those ‘activities’ were simple enough.** I was to have her walk through a series of cones, and stand still for a minute between two boards on the ground. Then to walk her through a small obstacle course and over a small gate. All in 3 hours.

Without touching her? Right

**We were told a horse instinctively “knows” if someone is trustworthy and authentic.** Thankfully, we passed that test. Raven seemed to trust us and we could safely walk her around the corral without being trampled. **The Zimmerman’s explained we would need to be very clear and confident with her if we were to succeed.** We needed to be obvious about what we wanted her to do for and with us.

- If we were clear, she would do it.
- If we acted in uncertainty, were confused or acted out of sync with each other, she would balk.

**Seemed simple enough...**

*An hour later I was convinced I was an idiot*

Raven had snorted, stomped and shuffled, but not actually in any of the places I wanted her to go or be. My daughter and I had begged, pleaded and walked her around the entire corral without any of our objectives being met.

**Desperation was growing, it seemed we wouldn’t get this figured out.**

Dr. Don stepped into the corral with some gentle words of guidance and Raven came right up to him as we talked. She nuzzled us.

**When we talked about our family and the patterns of communication and dysfunction we experienced, Raven got even closer until it was clear she was gently touching my daughter's arm in affection.** (How a 1200lb animal can be so gentle, delicate and careful with a 100lb girl is amazing to watch)

**Dr. Don explained, we needed to be clearer and more confident in our actions.** We are to walk side by side with Raven walking in between us. Walking together in sync at the same pace and stride. Then she would do whatever we wanted her to. **But not if we stood in front of her, behind her or at an angle.** Raven was more than happy to follow once we sorted it all out and we soon finished up our assignments.

Raven never left our side and as we stopped to discuss what we had learned. Tears flowed and Raven bent to nuzzle my daughter. Like she could understand her... feel her pain, her frustration with life. **That horse was touching a very intimate and tender spot in my girl.** The spectacular truth of it hit me. Here was this amazingly huge draft horse, carefully and lovingly comforting a tiny young woman without any words. **Equine Therapy** indeed!

**I left the barn knowing a whole lot more about myself and how I should be leading my family than time permits me to share.**

Crazy I know, but seriously....that horse "got us".

**She could sense the struggles my daughter and I were having.** The ways we didn't trust each other and the uncertainty of how to move forward from where we were in life **to being open and clear with each other as a dad and daughter should be.**

**The mystery and beauty of that afternoon will be a treasure for life.**

That beautiful girl Raven was kind, sensitive and patient enough to teach us some profound lessons on how to be a family. She showed us how to be a team. **Horses can sense our deepest fears. They feel our pain and release our tension by us taking the time to simply "be" with them.**

Raven is an amazing example. **Her power of beauty and gentle strength was used to unravel some of the tough emotional knots. Ones that tie families up for a lifetime.**

**Equine Therapy** provides deep insights to many families in crisis. If your family is struggling with an eating disorder situation... I highly recommend looking up Dr. Don and Linda to see for yourself what I'm talking about.

**And to Dr. Don, Linda and Raven... “thank you” from the bottom on my heart!**

Peace and Grace,

Pastor B.

## **ARE YOU A BOY MOM?**

Do you find yourself whisper-yelling during prayer time? Or feeling angst that their relationship with the Lord isn't as solid as you would like? If you are experiencing any or more of these common frustrations over your child's prayer life you won't want to miss today's post! Join Allie King of **The Modern Mary** as she shares 3 methods that have worked for her in **Raising Godly Boys Who Know How to Pray!**

## ∞ ABOUT THE AUTHOR ∞



Parenting should be full of faith, family and adventure... not dread, frustration and regret. His blog, **Road Trip Parenting** is designed to serve as a fun and practical resource for parents, pastors, and those who serve kids.

Pastor Brad Mathias works as a bi-vocational Pastor of **Four Winds Anglican Mission** in Columbia, Tennessee, co-host of the **Brilliantly Brave Podcast**, along with serving as the President of the TGA. (**Tween Gospel Alliance**). Follow the adventure here:

Blog: [Tween Gospel Alliance](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#) | [Instagram](#) |

# Raising Godly Girls: Do You See His Grace?

by Angie Gordon of Gathered & Sown

This may be the most cliché thing I can say as a Mom, but I'm going to say it anyway. **I wouldn't trade one day of raising my teen girls for anything.** I'll take each mood swing, each time they talk back, each sweet conversation we have while driving from place to place. Each of these moments is a precious gift to me, and I'm hoping we can sit down for a moment and talk about why.

*God's amazing, wonderful, complete and beautiful Grace.*

I am here today because I am loved with an everlasting love, from a God who holds nothing back. And while some days He feels distant, it's not because He is. It's because I've looked away. But He always pulls me back in. And sister, that is how we raise these children. Step by step, following Jesus, asking God to guide us.

When I was 18 years old, I was recovering from 3 years of a vicious cycle of abuse. **These years were the darkest years of my life, filled with self-hate, depression, and isolation.** I hid all that happened to me from my parents, for fear that they would hate me if they knew what had occurred. I remember my Mom asking me how she could help, she was desperate since I had gone from a bubbly and goofy tween to a dark and suicidal teen in a matter of a few months. She loved me fiercely through this time, trying so hard to fix things for me, but there was nothing she could do to ease my self-loathing.

**No one at that time could tell me that I wasn't broken, worthless and forgettable.**

By 16, I was coming through, surrounding myself with better friends and finally beginning to come out of that depression. My senior year was highlighted by my high school graduation, where my parents watched me walk up that aisle with such pride. That day meant so much more than just finishing school. For our family, it was a new chapter to a brighter future.

**But that joy was shortlived.**

One week after my high school graduation my Mom was diagnosed with cancer. We fought as a family alongside her until she lost that battle a year later when I was 19 years old.

**I wondered for so long how God could do this to me.** Why would He bring me through all that I had suffered in the years before only to take away the one person who loved me unconditionally! She was my rock and my best friend, and now I was alone once again.

**The next few weeks and months were a complete blur.**

My brain blocked out all memories of that first year after her passing, the trauma was too much to deal with. But slowly over the next few years, as I grew up a bit, I began to notice small glimpses of God's amazing grace in the most difficult circumstances.

**Seven years after my Mom died, I gave birth to my first daughter.** I was in such total shock and disbelief! I had always wanted a daughter, but all throughout my pregnancy, I swore I was having a boy. When we watch her birth video, we laugh because I say more than once "Are you sure it's a girl!?!?!"

Two years later (almost to the day!!) I had my second beautiful daughter. And I thanked God over and over again. These girls were such a gift to me! My sister and I had always been so close, **so seeing these two little sisters, and watching their relationship grow has been a greater gift than anything I could have ever asked for.**

*"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us." Ephesians 3:20*

This isn't to say that they don't fight, hit or even get on my nerves...believe me, they do! And those hormones...oh boy... they are seriously no joke.

**But when you've been in a place where you feel there is no place lower than where you are at, you start to recognize God's hand when He gives you more than you even thought to ask for!**

God created each and every one of us unique and equipped for different things. He designed us to love Him and promised us that He will never leave us or forsake us, even when life feels impossible.

*Psalm 46:5 says: God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day.*

## Did you see what God said there?

He just flat out told us that He is there and He will not let us fall. Not only that, but He promises us that He will help us each and every day! He doesn't check out when things get rough. He doesn't expect us to do things on our own. **And even when we forget to look towards Him, He makes things new with the break of every new day.**

How amazing is that!?!?!

I can look back over the last 20 years and not only see how God walked step by step with me through the darkest of days, He has given me strength that I wasn't capable of having on my own. **And He gave me a second chance.**

**My daughters are now the same age that I was when my life took that first dark turn.** I take very seriously the care that God has entrusted to me to care for these children who are His, not mine. But with that great responsibility comes great joy when I get to see that I finally have that Mother/Daughter relationship that I've been longing for so many years. I see so much of my own Mom in myself, and so much of me and my sister in my girls.

## God is so good!

Dear friends, I'm here today not to bum you out. I really hope this story is actually quite the opposite. **My prayer for you today is that you can realize that God loves you and wants to help you raise your own teens.** I pray that you can lean on God in your own dark times and wait expectantly for His grace and redemption on the other side. He is always there, and He won't ever leave you.

I challenge you today to look back over the dark times of your life and see if it's possible that you've missed seeing God's blessings for you as He's brought you through.

**No matter where you are right now, God's grace is there waiting to hold you tight.** In the midst of trouble and trials, keep your eyes fixed on Him and He will show you the way you should go. And I promise, no matter how hard things are in a moment, nothing is too big for God.

So even when you have one of those days where you may forget to show grace to your own children, God still wants to give it to you abundantly. **And when you rest in His grace, you will find you can give more in return.**

If you're struggling, need encouragement or would like prayer as you walk through this. Feel free to reach out to Angie [by email](#) or leave a comment for us below. We would be honored to pray for you in it.

## ARE YOU A BOY MOM?

If we want to raise Godly boys, we need to connect them with Godly mentors. Growth and change come as we learn from others who love on us and share their life as an open book.

Join Ed Miller of [National Center of Biblical Parenting](#) as he explains about how important and life-changing it is to have Godly Mentors in your son's life in today's post – [Raising Godly Boys: Boys Need Mentors](#).

## ∞ ABOUT THE AUTHOR ∞



Angie is a Married, work-at-home girl mom of two, born and raised in Sheboygan Wisconsin. She 'loves to talk' and is happy with a good friend and a good cup of coffee.

She is the owner of [Gathered & Sown](#) where she creates [Bible study and journaling tools](#) and beautifully [handcrafted leather accessories](#) that bring organization and beauty to your time in the Word.

Through her writing on her [blog](#) and **VIP emails**, she loves to encourage other sisters in Christ. She believes each of us has a God-given purpose in this life and encourages you to find what yours is and make the most of it as someone, somewhere, needs exactly what you have to offer.

Follow Angie's Journey Here:

[Gathered & Sown](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Pinterest](#) | [YouTube](#) | [Instagram](#) |

# Raising Strong Girls: 88 Acts of Independence and Adventure

by Amy of Amy L Sullivan and Gutsy Girls Books

**Recently, a friend told me I have six more summers with my daughter.**

Six.

Six summers until we are outfitting my girl's dorm room. Six summers until the world calls her an adult. Six summers until my girl no longer bounces around our house chomping on sour cream and chive potato chips.

Six.

Really, how can this be? I just delivered the girl once a schedule gave birth last week, and the doctors and nurses told my husband and I we could take our baby girl home from the hospital. We thought it was an insane idea. I mean, hello, we just met the kid, and we didn't know anything about babies. We put our girl in a very uncomfortable (but extremely adorable) outfit. We fumbled with the dreaded, fifty-pound bucket seat, and then we slowly drove forty-five miles an hour and headed home.

**“What are we supposed to do now?” I wondered aloud.**

My husband shrugged, and we decided to go to Burger King. I ordered onion rings, and that is the last thing I remember, onion rings.

Now, I only have six more summers with my beauty, the one who is all legs and full of endless stories and high-pitched giggles.

**The one who forces me to open my eyes wide and sip each day slowly.**

And it was this thought which prompted me to think about Raising Strong Girls: 88 Acts of Independence and Adventure

Our family has loads of unscheduled summer lounging in our future (trust me, we dominate spending time together in a nonstructured way), but I also want to be intentional with my girl

My girl and I made this list for you. **It is a list promoting independence and adventure.** This list longs to hang on your refrigerator. Go ahead, and take down the school lunch menu, and you will have the perfect spot for it (scroll down, and you can print it off because it is also a snazzy printable).

**This list contains 88 acts of adventure and independence for girls.** It includes perfect ways to spend time together, starting points for conversations, ideas for battling the beast of boredom, and reminders for our girls to play hard. Plus, if your girl is anything like mine, she loves a good checklist, and **her little adventurous self can check off items as she goes.**

### **88 Acts of Independence and Adventure**

1. Understand how to use a circuit breaker
2. Learn to code
3. Tread water
4. Determine if someone has a fever
5. Identify edible flowers
6. Create a short film
7. Read a book in one day
8. Catch a baseball
9. Make a slingshot
10. Rock climb
11. Design a website
12. Identify local trees
13. Iron
14. Create an outdoor fort
15. Check the oil in a car

16. Throw a Frisbee
17. Memorize Scripture
18. Throw a baseball
19. Sew a button
20. Make an obstacle course
21. Play Jacks
22. Paddleboard
23. Understand how-to consume information online (in a healthy way!)
24. Design a kite that really flies
25. Make jam
26. Mow the grass
27. Learn to use a hammer
28. Catch a frog
29. Complete a 1000 piece puzzle
30. Climb a tree
31. Run a 5K
32. Drive a boat
33. Make bread
34. Volunteer
35. Bake a cake from scratch
36. Grow vegetables
37. Learn two jump rope songs

38. Build a zipline
39. Play football
40. Come up with a catchphrase
41. Build a fire
42. Learn how-to mind map
43. Kayak
44. Say no
45. Learn a new language
46. Chop wood
47. Sew curtains
48. Make a candle
49. Design and **build a mini-waterpark**
50. Put a chain on a bicycle
51. Pitch a tent
52. Paint a room
53. Create a budget
54. Reupholster a chair
55. Study bees
56. Use a rope swing to jump into a lake
57. Write a poem
58. Read a map
59. Handwrite a two-page letter

60. Learn basic substitutions for cooking
61. Learn how to treat minor burns
62. Start a rock collection
63. Invent something new
64. Take a class
65. Do a handstand in the lake
66. Learn to ride a horse
67. Stand up for a friend
68. Play a musical instrument
69. Treat a minor cut
70. Learn to skateboard
71. Identify poison ivy
72. Hang a swing in a tree
73. Put a chain back on a bike
74. Read a book over 100 years old
75. Inflate a flat bike tire
76. Cook over a campfire
77. Speak in front of a group
78. Ride a bike no-handed
79. Write a book
80. Jump a car
81. Play hopscotch

- 82.Design a video game
- 83.Attend a rally
- 84.Ride a skateboard
- 85.Hike a mountain
- 86.Read the Bible
- 87.Try out for something
- 88.Ask for help when you need it

And here's the fun news! If you want a copy of our list, it's yours ([\*\*Strong Girls Can: 88 Acts of Independence and Adventure\*\*](#)). Should you want to create your own Raising Strong Girls list instead, do it!

### **Keep me posted on strong girl happenings in your house!**

Share photos of what your strong girl is up to (or have her share them) in the [\*\*Private Parenting Facebook Community\*\*](#) via social media or using the contact form here. Make sure to tag Amy or Lee Felix and use the hashtag #RaisingGodlyGirls

### **Here's to summer, strong moms, and strong girls!**

Make sure to hop over and check out Amy's latest post [\*\*11 Things Your Daughter Needs to Hear You Say\*\*](#)

## ∞ ABOUT THE AUTHOR ∞



Amy L. Sullivan. Determined dreamer. Fan of early mornings, dangly earrings, and the underdog. Author of *Gutsy Girls: Strong Christian Women Who Impacted the World*. Find her at [AmyLSullivan.com](http://AmyLSullivan.com).

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# How to be Strong Enough to Stand for Purity in an Anything Goes Culture

by [Connie of Connie Albers.com](http://ConnieAlbers.com)

In four months my daughter will get married. Her journey through adolescence was similar to other girls. Somedays she had to endure ridicule and name calling for not giving in. And others days she was praised and applauded for saying no.

**When I told her I was writing this post for moms trying to raise godly girls she shared a few thoughts with me on what we did that helped her stand for purity in an anything-goes culture.**

**Jaelyn is very much like your daughter.** Friendly, kind, and involved in sports and piano lessons. She was a fashion-conscious teen who wanted to be liked by others.

Like your family, we have lots of conversations: who did what to whom, what were their friends doing, and the latest relationship statuses to name a few. **I listened intently to how they described situations and tucked concerning comments away to be discussed privately at a later time.**

Tom and I wanted to teach our kids the virtues of adhering to God's design for marriage. **We decided to start talking about dating, sex, and purity early.** At the time, we didn't know exactly how to approach such sensitive topics. Nor did we know how to get the kids to aspire to guard their heart and maintain purity. Many of our friends chose the courtship vs. dating approach. When their daughter reached a certain age, her parent's would purchase a beautiful ring symbolizing purity and give it to her after sharing the goal of waiting. The ring was a reminder of her desire to wait until marriage to become involved sexually. Some of them included the whole family, while others kept it between the parents and the daughter.

**After a lot of prayers, we decided courtship wasn't for us, but neither was dating.** Looking back I see how we combined the ideas of each and came up with our way. We saw nothing positive about casual dating, so we opted out during the high school years. Courtship was too formal and something we chose not to follow.

## **We often spoke about how important it was to get to know someone apart from the label of boyfriend attached.**

Jaclyn and the others children had mentioned how this helped them when others inquired about why they weren't "dating" anyone.

## **When culture collides with real life**

I remember after one of her sports tournaments she wanted to talk about an awkward situation that took place. It went something like this.

"Who will be your comfort buddy tonight?" the girls asked Jaclyn.

She responded, "Excuse me! What do you mean?"

"You know, who will you hook-up with this weekend?"

"No-one!"

As you can imagine, I was upset when she told me what she'd been asked by her teammates. These girls were asking my precious daughter who she was going to have casual sex with. Comfort sex! I thought to myself, who has comfort sex at their ages? I'm sure it took me a few minutes to respond because I was trying to gather my thoughts.

## **When I could finally speak, I let her know I was proud of her.**

I realized the courage it took for her to say "no-one" in front of the entire team. The peer pressure to go along with the others was intense. What made it harder was that she was with her teammates at a weekend tournament in another city. I usually traveled with her, but this time I couldn't go.

Over the years we shared many such stories. Each time a story came up, I paid attention to not only what Jaclyn said, but what she left out. Those were the details I had to ask about. Like, how did you feel inside? Were you embarrassed by others? How did you respond? **The more she knew her feelings were safe with me, the more she opened up. This was true of all the kids.**

**As she and I talked, there were four things she specifically brought up.**

## Develop core convictions

What helped her stand strong was our focus on developing core convictions. They weren't a list of dos and don'ts she had to follow. They were deeper than that. Core convictions are what gives our kids the courage to say no not now. Those convictions must come from God's Word. We taught her scriptures that address marriage, love, and, yes, sex. She mentioned how teaching her God's Word was a tool. When a situation came up, she knew God's standard. **Knowing the Word was an anchor for her to hold on to when confronted, or tempted do what others were doing.**

To help your daughter develop core convictions, she must know that God wants her to enjoy being loved and has someone special for her. She needs to trust Him and wait. **Don't be afraid to talk about sensitive topics often. If you don't, someone else will!**

## Acknowledge the desire to be loved

Affirm her natural desire to be loved by someone is normal. Talk about the meaning of love and intimacy within the context of marriage. Start this conversation early. We didn't wait until she asked about sex. The reality is your daughter has already formed an idea from movies, music, TV sitcoms, classmates, and from watching you and your spouse interact. Jaclyn was grateful we were willing to talk about God's plan for her life. Surprisingly, several of her friends couldn't talk to their parents about sex or dating or their feelings.

Many times I told the children, I'd rather you long for a partner than jump into something and be miserable for the rest of your life.

## Paint visual pictures of why waiting until marriage is worth it

When I see a picture of a couple on social media, I find myself wanting to know more about their story. How they met, when they fell in love, what brought them together. Our girls often wonder the same thing. **Painting a picture in their mind about adult life is incredibly valuable.** And, a great way to share truths in a non-threatening way. By painting visual pictures of how beautiful intimacy can be when she waits you are helping her look forward to having a healthy sexual relationship with her husband in the future.

## **Talk with and listen to your child's struggles**

Jaclyn has repeatedly shared how much she appreciated our chats. Your daughter is willing to be open with you if she feels heard and listened to. Talking about dating, kissing, sexting, or other sexual topics can be discussed casually over time when trust is established. **It's important that I tell you, one conversation about the birds and bees will not be enough if you want your daughter to refrain from sexual activity.**

The best time to talk to your daughter is when it's just the two of you. Some conversations will be longer than others. It's also important to pay attention to her body language. You'll know when it's time to change the subject.

## **Keep the end goal in mind when talking or listening.**

She may share thoughts or experiences she's had that you wouldn't approve of but, don't let that become an awkward situation leaving her to feel ashamed or dirty. Be prayerful and let the Lord lead you in your response. It's better not to say anything until you have time to think about a proper response.

**As a mother of five grown children, I can confidently tell you it is possible to guide your daughter through this sexually charged culture with love and grace.** It is worth your investment of time when you see your daughter is strong enough to stand for purity. The joy you will feel when she walks down the aisle beaming from ear to ear is the most rewarding feeling a parent can have.

## ∞ ABOUT THE AUTHOR ∞



Connie Albers has spent much of her adult life as a homeschool mom and mompreneur with an outreach and ministry to homeschool parents through her speaking and various leadership roles. Balancing her roles as a wife and business partner, **speaker**, homeschool expert, author, and active volunteer, she has learned to discover resilience and joy within the stop and go of life.

More recently Connie is the Associate Producer for **Schoolhouse Rocked: The Homeschool Revolution**, a full-length documentary on homeschooling, where she is also honored to be featured in the film. Her newest book by **NavPress** outlines positive approaches to parenting teenagers. The enthusiasm she has for helping parents navigate social media led to her taking a post at **Social Media Marketing World** as the Volunteer Relations Manager.

Connie and her husband, Tom, have been married 34 years and have successfully homeschooled their five children, all of whom continued their studies and graduated from the University of Central Florida, each child graduated debt-free. You can also join her in her latest venture of fulfilling her desire to equip women in their calling through her **Equipped To Be ministry**, and with **her website**. The Albers family lives in Winter Garden, Florida.

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# 6 Ways to Help Godly Girls with Discouragement or Depression

by Michelle Nietert of Counselor Thoughts

“Mom, I really am OK!” I heard my daughter respond once again to my questioning of how she was doing.

It had been a rough spring. In Florida during what should have been a fun-filled Spring Break, we discovered she had broken her right foot. Her left had been broken last fall. New X-Rays revealed a genetic abnormality. An extra bone that made her more susceptible to these kinds of breaks.

**In her second cast in less than a year, she returned to school in crutches and seven sets of class changes.** She seemed to be handling this life hurdle when yet another came her way. She experienced not being chosen for a part in a play she was hopeful to receive.

“Lord,” I prayed. “We could really use some good news.”

**She had begun to lose a little of the sparkle I so love observing.** As a mental health professional, I think we are almost hyper-aware of our kids’ emotional states. Over the next weeks, I began to notice she reported being tired often and then spending more time on her electronics and in her room. I also sensed my social butterfly was beginning to go through the motions of school, activities, and church but was not initiating any additional interactions with friends and family.

**At the same time, I met with a spiritual mentor, and we discussed we both perceived our daughters being under some spiritual oppression so we prayed for them asking God to intercede.**

**Another visit to the foot doctor, cast removal, and MRI revealed the foot wasn’t healing.** We are blessed with an excellent orthopedic who keeps up with the latest research. His solution made total sense to me. A check of Vitamin D levels revealed her to be deficient explaining not only her lack of healing but also her discouraged emotional state.

**I’ve been informed by numerous doctors that the research shows 70-80% of Americans show lower than needed levels of Vitamin D.**

This hormone not only effects bone healing but when levels are low, can contribute to depression. A prescription continued prayers from our village, and encouraging words produced a change over time not only in her freedom from the cast but also a happier outlook on life.

*Below are six ways to you can help your girls through difficult times:*

### **1. Arm them with Scripture ahead of time.**

Teach them that God is the lifter of their head (Psalm 3:3) and when their soul is downcast, they can put their hope in God (Psalm 43:5)

### **2. Pray for and with them.**

Our kids need to understand that some battles are not just earthly no matter what they observe. **Yes, our thoughts, choices, physical health and circumstances all affect our emotions, but there is also an enemy who is a liar prowling the earth looking to cause destruction.** Satan at times will attack our kids. Praise be to God that His eyes search throughout the earth to support those whose hearts are His (2 Chronicles 16:9).

### **3. Be intentional about being curious about them so you will notice changes.**

Realize that everyone has a bad day or a tough season but if the frequency and intensity of sadness seem to be increasing, it's time to take note. We can also see if others see changes and **approach our kids casually offering support and expressing our willingness to listen.**

### **4. Be an encourager of their souls.**

Most kids struggle with negative thinking when they are discouraged. They feel less confident in themselves and the goodness that the world might offer them. **Write notes, catch them doing good, celebrate their personhood and verbally affirm their strengths during hard times.** Also, my clients have taught me during difficult times, a silent presence can be more comforting than an enthusiastic cheerleader. A smile followed but a comforting touch while driving in the car can communicate approval without speaking a word.

## 5. Meet them in their space and their time.

This step is often challenging for this busy mom and counselor. I don't sit still well. But during this season of my daughter's life, I traveled upstairs and came to her rather than expecting her to come to me. I will confess I was tempted to clean or complain about the clothes on the floor but I knew that was not my mission. **My mission was to read beside her, listen to music with her, rub her back when she went to sleep and just be present and available.** My nonverbal message communicating, I am here and I am for you. You are valuable and worth my time and attention.

## 6. Consult and listen to the counsel of wise people.

I am so grateful to God for placing friends and family that listened to my concerns and prayed for her. As I reflect today, I am thankful for that discerning mentor and wise doctor whose solutions made a lasting difference.

Fortunately for us, her symptoms did not worsen. **A depressive episode for this age might also include increased tearfulness, irritability, hopelessness, and a negative view of self that continues beyond a short season.** If these had worsened or continued, we are committed to getting help. A great resource on this subject is **More Than Moody: Recognizing and Treating Adolescent Depression by M.D. Harold S. Koplewicz.**

As of now, she is still in a boot but with a cheerful spirit. We continue to take Vitamin D daily and I pray for continued healing of not only her foot but also her hope of a bright future. **May all our kids learn that God and their parents are for them even when the world seems against them.**

## ∞ ABOUT THE AUTHOR ∞



Michelle Nietert, M.A., LPC-S is a Licensed Professional Counselor and Clinical Director of **Community Counseling Associates** with 3 locations in the Dallas, TX area. She has been equipping audiences in the community, church, school and private practice office setting for over twenty years. Michelle has published parenting articles in both *Lifeway's ParentLife* magazine and on the *MOPS Hello Dearest Blog*. She is currently working with a Christian publishing agent on a book possibly titled *Uncomfortable Conversations* that will equip parents to introduce topics such as anxiety and depression, abuse, sexuality, and other mental health issues to their children before the culture does.

A happily married mom of two children age 8 and 10 with a husband who travels for work, Michelle loves inspiring readers and audiences alike to discover Solutions for Life with Practical Teaching and Biblical Wisdom. Michelle's favorite fun times include lazy days by the pool, trips to the beach, girls nights out with close friends and date nights with her husband. Her professional counselor bio is available [here](#).

**Michelle Nietert, M.A. Licensed Professional Counselor Supervisor and Certified School Counselor**

# Girls Created to Shine: Equipping Tween Girls to Pursue Their Identity in Christ

by Lee Felix of LikeMindedMusings.com

I bet you know the feeling.

You want to teach your daughter she's valued by God. To encourage her to embrace the unique and beautiful way God created her. You desire to equip her heart to rest fully in Him. For her to know her true identity in Christ.

I do too friend. I just didn't know how to begin.

As I prayed, read scripture, studied my own girl's hearts and researched the tween age group I began to see the depth and truth of Proverbs 4:23.

*Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.*

It all comes down to the heart. The heart must be our starting point.

As girl Moms, we need to fight for their hearts which are pulled by this world in every direction. I know this is a daily and often exhausting battle!

**But let me reassure you, there is no better tool than God's word applied directly to what they are facing.**

We can't guarantee they will have a deep personal relationship with the Lord. We don't know the paths they will choose. But we can set them on the best foundation always directing them to Him. We can build that foundation one heart at a time.

With God's word, prayer, intentional heart building, and character training we can help prepare them for lifelong faith. One that will help them pursue their identity in Christ as they grow into young women.

What a privilege we have!

This is the whole reason for Girls Created to Shine. It's for my girls and your girl. It's for all of our girls.

First, I started by teaching this to my own pre-teen daughters. Then I had the privilege of teaching other tween girls (ages 8-12) through our local homeschool co-op. Now, I've taken what I have prayed through, researched and taught from God's word and am sharing it with you!

My heart is to help Moms, Homeschoolers and Ministries equip tween girls everywhere to pursue their identity in Christ!

### *Why Is Girls Created to Shine For You?*

Do you desire to build a foundation of Biblical self-esteem for your tween girl but don't know where to begin? Maybe you feel pressure or fear when you think about teaching the topics covered. Or you're wondering what areas are the most important for tween girls?

### *Possibly the struggle is more practical for you?*

Do you lack the time to research and put together the verses and information needed to dive into each subject? Or, you worry you don't have "enough" Biblical knowledge to teach her? Are you struggling with ideas for fun hands-on application?

Or as many Moms have shared, maybe you just don't know how to apply a Biblical heart-based approach to these topics.

### *How do you explain what faith lived out in these areas looks like?*

I understand, and I want to help you!

### *Girls Created to Shine is a 12-week Course in God's Word + Today's Issues + Hands-on Application*

This course will help you teach your tween girl by topic but remains deeply rooted in God's word. It's designed to address real-life struggles and questions they face today. It will save you time. All the prep work is done for you so you can teach and share from the heart.

You follow a simple repeated format and have ideas for questions to ask and answers so you don't get stuck while teaching. You can teach this even if you don't have a lot of scripture knowledge!

It's all laid out for you to dig into and learn together. Girls Created to Shine is completely based on heart care and the principle of Proverbs 4:23 For everything you do flows from the heart.

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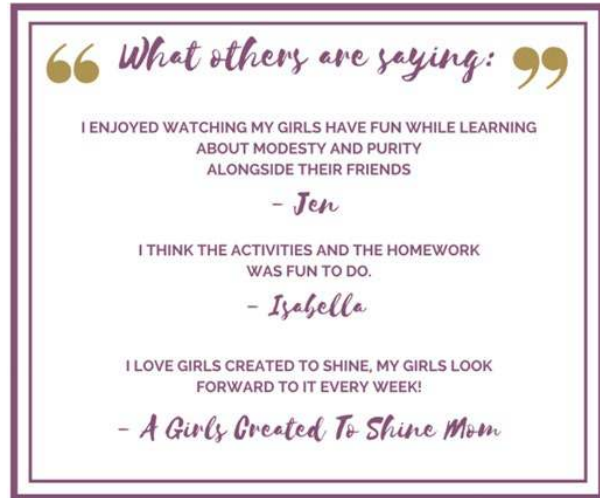
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Have Questions? Feedback? Let me know! Oh and... please share this and [help a Mom who needs it!](#)

As always in my little corner of the web, I value your input! Please feel to share by emailing me at any time! And while you're at it, why don't you quick let me know what your biggest struggle is with your tween girl today? I would be honored to pray for you!

Talk to you soon!

Lee

*O Lord, You have pleaded the case for my soul; You have redeemed my life.  
Lamentations 3:56*

## ∞ ABOUT THE AUTHOR ∞



Lee Felix is a Daily redeemed Christ follower, Wife of 20 yrs, Mom to 5 Treasures, Unexpected Homeschooler and Avider of Small Talk. She's a Faith Blogger & Lifetime Encourager who writes and creates over at Like Minded Musings. Her passion is to Encourage & Equip Christian Women and Tweens to Embrace the Imperfect & Radiate Christ!

## 25+ Resources for Moms Raising Godly Girls

♥ [Compared to Who](#) by [Heather Creekmore](#) in [Raising Godly Girls: How to Help Her With Body Image](#)

♥ [Parenting is Heart Work and Parenting is Heart Work Training Manual](#) from the [National Center of Biblical Parenting](#) found in [How to do the “Hard Parts” of Godly Girl Parenting](#)

♥ Rebekah of [Hargraves Home and Hearth](#) shares [“Lies Moms Believe \(And How the Gospel Refutes Them!\)”](#) in [Raise Godly Girls, Not Stereotypes of the World or Church](#)

♥ Phyllis of [Write the Vision](#) shares her book, [“Thoughts on Mothers and Daughters”](#) in [How to Show Your Godly Girl Respect](#)

♥ Angela of [The Diligent Woman](#) has a Bible Study, [“To Be a Handmaid of the Lord”](#) in [How to Teach Hard Bible Lessons to Your Godly Girl](#)

♥ [Teri Lynne Underwood](#) of [Prayers for Girls](#) has a wonderful book, [“Praying for Girls: Asking God for the Things They Need Most”](#) in [Don’t Take Score at Halftime When Raising Godly Girls](#)

♥ [iShine Live](#) sponsored the event with an iShine Teen Girls Graduation Mini Pack #7 Including, ONE of each item below from [their store!](#) It was featured in the post [How to Parent a Child Who Pushes Away the Things of God](#)

♥ Sarah of [Bible Baton](#) shares [God Keeps His Promises: Lessons from the Life of Jacob {Lesson Plan Book}](#) in [Raising Godly Girls: Should they be Nurturing?](#)

♥ Rachael of [Oh Lord Help Us](#) has encouraging gifts for you and your girl in her shop like the [Beautiful Hand-Stamped Aluminum Cuff Bracelet](#) Displaying 5 Words of Truth. Loved, Pursued, Redeemed, Beautiful, Enough featured in [A Mom's Fight for Her Girl Who is Cutting: Raising Godly Girls](#)

♥ [Becky Kopitzke](#) of [BeckyKopitzke.com](#) shares her eBook [Generous Love: Discover the Joy of Living "Others First"](#) in [Raising Godly Girls: No, Baby, You Do Not Want to Be Famous](#)

♥ [Julie](#) from [Unmasking The Mess](#) offers help with [The Anxious Woman Bundle](#) featured in [Avoid These 4 Problems You Experience When You have Sex before Marriage](#)

♥ [Anne Marie](#) is from [Future Flying Saucers](#) and she sponsored the event by giving away the Book [Helping Your Children Become Prayer Warriors](#) shared in [Raising Godly Girls: Teach Teens How to Handle a Crush](#)

♥ [Forest Rose](#) of [Kingdom First Homeschool](#) offers ideas to build memories (and in turn grow relationship) with our kids in her ebook [Best STAYcation Ever: Create an Intentional Family Vacation Without Leaving Home](#) shared in [Raising Godly Moms: Your Home is a Training Ground](#)

♥ [iShine Live](#) offered the book [Road Trip to Redemption – A Parenting Family Crisis](#) by Pastor Brad Mathias which was featured in the post [How an Eating Disorder and a Horse Named "Raven" Changed My Life](#)

♥ [Amy](#) of [Amy L. Sullivan](#) featured her amazing book [Gutsy Girls: Strong Christian Women Who Impacted the World series -Book 1](#) in the post [Raising Strong Girls: 88 Acts of Independence and Adventure](#)

♥ [Crystal Brothers](#) from [Serving Joyfully](#) shared Her New Book [Planting Seeds](#) in the post [How to Raise Your Bossy Girl to Be a Godly Girl](#)

♥ [Lee Felix](#) of [Like Minded Musings](#) offers help in the [Girls Created to Shine 12- Week Course](#) for You and Your Tween Girls! Featured in [5 Ways to Teach Your Daughter Modesty From the Heart](#)

♥ [Lynn](#) of [LynnCowell.com](#) & [Proverbs31 Ministries](#) has a fantastic resource for girls – [Brave Beauty: Finding the Fearless You](#) (Faithgirlz) shared in her post [Where I Got Hung Up When My Girls Were Growing Up](#)

♥ [Katie Horner](#) of [Paradise Praises](#) shares her study [The Omni-God Bible Study](#) in [What To Do When Pictures Speak A Thousand Words](#)

♥ [Luke & Trisha Gilkerson](#) of [Intoxicated on Life](#) featured their ebook [The Talk: 7 Lessons to Introduce Your Child to Biblical Sexuality](#) in [How to Raise Godly Girls to be Pure in Heart](#)

♥ [Tiffany Montgomery](#) of [Hope & Joy in Christ](#) encourages Moms with the [Finding Hope and Joy in My Marriage eCourse](#) in [The Best Way to Move from Girl Mom to Mentor](#)

♥ [Joanna](#) of [JoannaMayChee.com](#) shares an excerpt of '[Forever Loved: Eve's Story](#)' – a creative retelling of the Bible story of Eve, focusing on God's Father heart of love for us as women and for our girls in [What's The Most Important Thing \(Ever\) To Teach Your Daughter?](#)

♥ [Michelle](#) of [Counselor Thoughts With Michelle Nietert](#) recommends the [Total Family Makeover by Melissa Spoelstra](#) in [6 Ways to Help Godly Girls with Discouragement or Depression](#)

♥ [Aimee Imbeau](#) of [A Work of Grace](#) and Her Daughter Sarah are both featuring their [Cultivating The Heart Of A Daughter](#)– How to Help Your

Teen Daughter Draw Closer to God and To You Course in these posts: [3 Things You Need to Know About Pornography and Your Child](#) and [Raising Godly Girls: Bringing Hope to the Hurting](#)

♥ [Annie Pajcic](#) of [Thou Art Exalted](#) shared her [Brave – Bible Study for Girls](#) in [How to Raise Godly Women Who Have No Regrets](#)

♥ [Kristen](#) of [KristenHatton.com](#) featured her book, [Face Time: Your Identity in a Selfie World](#) in [Raising Godly Girls: Why Social Media Is Not The Real Problem](#)

♥ [Tatiana](#) of [The Musings of Mum](#) a favorite resource of [A Young Woman's Guide to Making Right Choices: Your Life God's Way](#) in [Raising Godly Girls in a 'Bachelorette' Society](#)

## Find 100's More Resources in [Our Ultimate Resource Kit for Your Tween Girl!](#)

♥ Mom do you need help staying organized? You can find the [They Call Me Blessed](#) incredible [Beyond Blessed Life Planner](#) below to help you in all aspects of Motherhood and life!

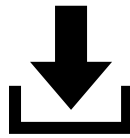
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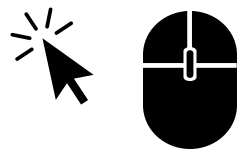


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