



Raising Daughters of the King

Princesses that bring Honor to their Royal Father

Mom to Mom

Hello, my dear sweet friends!

How are you? I hope each of you can answer that in a positive way! We have all seemed to struggle in one way or another during these unusual times. I want to acknowledge that health issues, lockdowns and general upheavals all around us have placed challenges before us. I wish I could tell you that I've walked through my challenges in victory, but I think the better perspective might be to look at it from God's perspective. He declares that we are more than conquerors. I am so grateful to serve a God who can take my feeble attempts and even defeats and turn them into victories in Him. I hope you can see His perspective over you as well.

It's been quite a while since I've written due to several challenges over the past many months (even before 2020 began), but I wanted to write you because some of you could use a little encouragement right about now. I know I sure could! Since talking about the good things of God and connecting with our community - our people - are two very healthy ways to encourage ourselves, I figured it was time to do that through a newsletter.

When I was in Africa this time last year, I was talking with some beautiful ladies in a village there. At one point, they asked me how I maintain my faith when I am faced with adversity. My answer to that question is that I have a deep belief in the Goodness of God. Over the years, I have also grown to know, among many other Truths, that God is love and He is supremely sovereign. When we are faced with really hard things or bad things, if we can still lift our eyes knowing that He is truly and completely good, we can go through those difficult moments with trust and our faith remains firm.

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A Game Plan

Pouring into the Faith of our Children

How do we lay the foundation for our child so he or she can develop that deep sense of God's goodness?

Take a moment to think back: How did you develop that? If you can answer that question it will help you pass the same on to your child. Personally, I can't remember a time when I didn't believe there was a God or thought that He was anything but good. I don't mean that I haven't struggled with areas of faith, but I wonder if that simple thought is like an instinct that babies are born with. Perhaps you have a different thought about that. No problem, but nevertheless on to the question at hand about laying a firm foundation for faith.

My guess would be that sometimes as children begin to grow and must face their own difficulties that questions about God's goodness and existence are raised in their hearts and minds. What an opportunity for adults, whether parents, family or friends, to be present when those questions arise so that we can plant eternal seeds of Truth into their precious hearts. I was blessed to have mentors and coaches in my church that I could ask questions. They faithfully pointed me to see good in struggles and in God's promise to work things for good in my life. They loved me and were good to me. They prayed for me and taught me about Jesus.

Then, when things were really hard, they helped me to learn to lift my eyes off the ocean waves of the storms and call out to Jesus; much like Peter did when he was sinking in the sea. I am so thankful they were in my life and took the time to pour into my life those eternal seeds of faith. I encourage you to be that person for any and all children you have the privilege to be around.

For those adults who are still trying to learn this truth yourself, don't wait till you are convinced to share it with your child. Share the Truth you firmly believe and keep adding more as you learn more. Please don't hesitate to teach such a valuable lesson because you feel you have failed to obtain it. *God is good.* It's such a simple statement – but for many of us, I think we live our lives trying to truly learn that deep in our beings.

Whatever brought us to the place of faith where we reside today, we still must walk through sickness, grief, unspeakable disappointments, sin and sorrows. As those children of Israel said so long ago as they were facing the furnace because they would not bow to any other god: Our God is able to deliver us from these unprecedented

circumstances, but even if He doesn't, He is still good and He is still worthy of our worship. It's in those darkest of moments that the determination to believe in His goodness defines us. With that determination, God graciously causes the depth of the Goodness of God to dawn on our souls.

As we walk through this current difficult, life-changing time, I want to encourage you to think about what other things that you want to teach your precious children. Seize the day! Take advantage of every possible moment! What are the many concepts you want to pour into their very beings every chance you get? I hope one concept you desire to teach is this truth that God is good and wrapped so tightly around His goodness is that He works all things for good for those that love Him because He loves them. The list goes on and on. He is so infinite that it will take an eternity to learn it all, and yet He makes faith so simple that a child can love and know Him – just teach that child of yours the same way you helped them learn to walk, step by step. Bible story by Bible story. Principle by principle. God tells us to speak of His goodness when we stand up, sit down, go out or stay home. God is the One who will actually make Himself real and true for each child but planting the seeds and laying the foundation the very best that YOU can is a tremendous opportunity.

I am so thankful that you take advantage of that opportunity and choose to make such a difference in the life of your child. Research shows that our kids need help being able to connect with their emotions since they have so much screen time at an early age. As you tell Bible stories to your children, encourage them to connect with the Bible character. To do this, have them tell you what you think the person was feeling in the story. If time and circumstances present themselves (which the lockdowns have sometimes provided us), have them act out the story. This gives them a grasp of the story and makes it real to them.

Pouring into you – A Bible story

Now let me tell *you* a story from the Bible, maybe you can connect to the emotions of the character (who found herself in a difficult spot – and God answered).

There was a widow woman with a child who was living during a very difficult time. She had a huge debt that she would never be able to pay and had no idea what would happen to their lives. She went to the man of God and asked for help. He asked her what she had in her home. All she had was a pot with a little bit of oil. Elisha

instructed her to borrow as many pots and containers from all her neighbors that she was able. Then she was to pour her oil into the borrowed pots.

So, she borrowed as many pots as she could. As she poured her oil, it filled pot after pot and did not run out until she had filled all the pots. She was told to sell the oil to pay off her debt and live off the extra money. Try to imagine: How did that widow feel about her huge debt? How did she feel when the man of God told her to borrow pots from her neighbors? How did she feel as she kept asking neighbors for pots? How did she feel as she poured the oil into the first pot and it didn't run out, and the next pots, and the final pot? What did she feel when she had enough to pay her debt and live off the extra? Finally, is there a need in your life right now like that of the widow? Since this is a true story, how will it change your life this week?

I love to tell Bible stories to children of Jesus rescuing a lost lamb, or calming the storm, and especially when Jesus welcomed the children and blessed them. Today, if I was raising young children, I would tell all the lovely stories of Jesus and the adventures and miracle stories of the Old Testament. Throughout them all, I would paint a picture of a good God who desires a relationship with His people and loves them. That can be a challenge to find at times but look for that even in days of Noah. With that I would add the questions of how the characters felt.

If I were to do it all again, I would tell my children more stories, and teach them more about prayer, and pray for them even more. In Christ, I have no regrets, but I certainly value so many more things today than I did in the midst of raising young children. Treasure the eternal and parent intentionally. May you be blessed to pour all that you have into your children's lives and may you find, like the widow, that He multiplies whatever small or large amount you may have. Not only does He fill their lives as you pour into them, but that God also provides for your needs as well.

Coach's Corner

Practical ideas on transmitting faith to your children:

1. Make your faith real. Touch up the areas that are lacking so that you are genuine with your children and be warm in your emotional expression.
2. Pray for your children – many times, every day. Pray with your children often.
3. Tell, rather than read, Bible stories to them daily. Repeat the stories many times throughout their lives. (It takes hearing them at least three times for them to stick.) Make the stories exciting (without changing content) so that they love to hear the stories. Help them apply the stories to their own lives. Help them connect to the emotions of the Bible characters.
4. Be willing to be the family that others ask why everyone in the family seems to have an authentic, genuine faith. (This means lots of difficulties to walk through – that is how people of God who impact the world are formed.) It also means that you and your family will not “fit in”.

A few ideas for school days at home:

1. Remind yourself that you can do this with God’s help. Start with a Bible story. (That way, you have accomplished the most important thing of the day.) Speak kind words and thoughts to yourself all day.
2. Start by praying with your kids that God would help your family win the day. (Believe that He will help you!)
3. Plan out your week before hand (if you are in charge of that) have a written or digital copy available to refer to often.
4. Do a few simple lessons that can help you feel successful from the start.
5. Before the first break, eat some spinach (figuratively, of course!) Do the hardest or least favorite lesson near the beginning of the day so that will not be hanging over your head like a dark cloud through all the rest of the day. Get it over with so you and your child can enjoy the day.
6. Use an alarm or timer of some kind that lets you know when you need to take a break. Use that same alarm or timer to tell you when break is over. The timer takes a load off your shoulders, and the breaks are greatly needed.

7. Allow your child to take much responsibility in their learning! This also helps relieve a burden from your shoulders.
8. One of your goals during this time, is to do the very best that you can (not be perfect).
9. Enlist help from friends and family when you need help.
10. During this uncertain time, try to build a love for learning into your child. It will help determine whether they hate school or love it in future years. Remember that God has a plan for your child's life and that at this moment part of that plan includes these days!

From Jan's Heart

Throughout my newsletters, website, and Facebook page, there are boxes or comment lines where you can ask questions, etc. Especially during these days, I want to invite you to feel free to ask me for help.

I realize that many of you have resources that are amazing – many of you ARE someone else's resource! But if there is anything that I can help you with or pray with you about, I'd be delighted to do so. Please let me know.

In the meantime, I will be praying for you as you succeed in the challenges God puts before you and as you pour eternal values into all those around you!

I'm sending love and hugs,
Janice