

MOM, TELL ME THAT STORY AGAIN

I, Jennifer, recently found myself having my patience tested. It seems bedtime with children can do that to you. We were trying to hurry the bedtime process along and Allison was doing her best to draw it out. After we had searched for a long-lost stuffed bunny, gotten a second drink of water, exchanged the clothes that she had picked out for the next day for the third time... my patience was wearing thin.

Finally, she laid down, I pulled the covers over her and I leaned in for the final kiss goodnight. Allison smiled her sweet smile at me and said, "Mom, tell me that story again, when I was in your tummy and you found out I was going to be a girl!". Ah! She got me, I love re-telling that story! I slowed down, savored the moment and retold the story again.



When I was first pregnant with Allison, I thought for sure she was a boy. But then, at the ultrasound appointment when the nurse looked up and said, "You are having a girl!" my world literally stopped. I couldn't believe it! I could not believe that God would allow me to be the mother of something so precious...a daughter! Allison is one of my greatest treasures from God, and she loves hearing me talk about how precious she is.

ASK YOURSELF

Remember looking into the face of your newborn child. *What were your thoughts, hopes and dreams for your child? Are you seeing those dreams become reality? What are you doing to help your child become all they were made to be?*

Even if you are not a parent, I am sure there are children around you that you are influencing in some way. Whether you are a parent or not, I am sure you would agree that raising children in today's world is tough and can be an overwhelming task.

When raising children, we need a long-range vision and we need practical day to day help.

When I read Proverbs chapter 31, that is my vision for Allison. I want her to grow up to be a woman filled with love and grace, to be a woman of integrity, and that someday her future husband and family will be blessed by her.

Now that I have the vision, how do I get there? Where is the practical day to day help I need to make this vision a reality?

Here are the 4 simple steps I try to follow. (*Continued on the back*)

Praises and Prayers

Praise: Nathan's work at the Weekend to Remember in Indianapolis in April went really well! 1102 people attended the event and **102 people surrendered their life to Jesus Christ for the first time!**

Pray: for Jennifer as she trains this month to become an eMentor trainer. Training women all over the world to mentor the women around them.

Praise: Lucas and Allison are wrapping up a very successful first year of school here in Arkansas.

Pray: for all those raising children today. Pray God will enable us all to contribute in some way to the next generation, helping to raise godly men and women that will glorify the Lord in all they do.



1. Be surrounded by the Truth.

Be careful, this may not be what our culture is saying, but real Truth is God's Word. Study scripture so when something comes up that goes against what God's Word says you can spot it, and avoid it. **Romans 12:2 says, "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."**

2. Pray, Pray, Pray.

There are many types of great prayer guides out there for praying for your children. But remember that God loves the prayer of the helpless parent. I can't tell you how many times that I have been yelling at my children and then God tugs on my heart. I stop, close my eyes, take a deep breath, turn my face to the Lord, and I cry out, "Lord, HELP ME!"

3. Don't do it alone.

Find a godly mentor, someone that is several years ahead of you on life's journey. Ask them lots of questions. Take them out for coffee once a month. Join a small group of fellow believers. Find a group in a similar life stage as you. Each week you can share your struggles/joys, ask for prayer, and just be encouraged as you live life together.

4. Be still and trust God.

Know that there is going to be a time when you will be at your wits end, when you don't know what to do. It is in that moment that you will have to lean on your faith. Grab your Bible, hold it tightly in your arms, close your eyes and whisper, "God, I believe Your Word is true. I trust You and I will wait on You." Then trust and wait. God is trustworthy, He will come through.

Nathan & Jennifer



FREE GIFT

Let us know if you would like a "Lifting My Children in Prayer" Card. 15 scriptures to pray regularly over your children.

Here are a few practical resources that have helped us. This is not an exhaustive list. These are simply a few resources that may help you get started.

General Parenting:



Make Every Moment Count!

Get daily encouragement, ideas for connecting your family, creating memories, building godly homes and making every moment count!

Free in your inbox!

www.momlifetoday.com



www.passport2purity.com

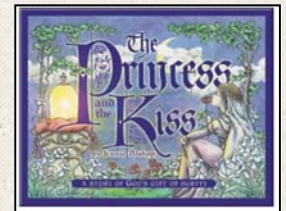
Raising Girls:



www.ahgonline.org

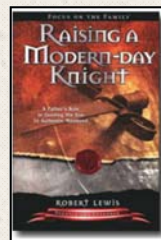


www.secretkeepergirl.com



Book:
The Princess and the Kiss
A story of God's Gift of purity

Raising Boys:



www.rmdk.com



Courageous Movie



Book:
Squire and the Scroll
A tale of the rewards of a pure heart