

01 God's Lovestory

PARENT GUIDE

BIG IDEA:

Your child needs to understand that it doesn't matter who they are, what they've done, or what they will do. God loves every child. He is not a distant father; he is a loving father waiting and desiring to embrace your son or daughter. There is nothing they can say that would surprise God or make him love them any less.

5 Minute Check-In with Yourself and/or Your Spouse:

We recognize that not every parent engaging in this series will have a spouse. Whether or not you're married, we want to encourage you to check in with yourself each week. If you are married, ask these questions of each other.

The goal of this check-in is to understand what you bring to the conversation surrounding sex, sexuality, and gender. Whatever pain, hurt, shame, celebration, or joy you carry with you has the potential to impact what you share in this dialogue and how you share it. Taking stock of your own attitudes will help you better engage in the conversations you have with your child. If this check-in is scary or awkward, we totally understand. Lean into this challenge and consider it an opportunity for growth and even healing.

1. How consistent are your own values in the realm of sex and sexuality?
2. Do you believe your voice is heard when it comes to this subject in your child's life? What could you do so that your voice is not only heard but points your child directly back to Jesus?
3. Who would you identify as the 3-4 other voices that you trust to share similar values in your child's life? They could be incredibly impactful; the more voices your child hears saying the same thing, the more likely they are to engage and follow.

5 Minute Check-In with Your Child:

Like checking in with yourself or your spouse, checking in with your child about what they're learning might be really difficult. Maybe you've never done something like this before. Despite the awkwardness, we want to encourage you to make the effort. Your kids will appreciate it even if they don't show it right away.

1. What did you hear at your youth group this week that you agreed or disagreed with?
2. Is there anything you think we can do as parents to better engage in our home with conversations about sex and sexuality?

Tips for Further Conversation:

Find out what TV shows or YouTube channels your child loves to watch. Ask if you can watch them together. Then, after the show is over, ask if you can talk about what you observed. Find ways to engage in the content, good and bad, and use this as an opportunity to share your values and beliefs without criticizing your child or their show. The older your child, the more specific you can be in your conversation. Use this exercise to learn more about your child's world and share how your values may be similar to or different from what you saw or heard.

Additional Resources:

VIDEO: Full-length interview of Jackie Hill Perry

TOOL: Weekly devotional

HANDOUT: 7 Tips for Talking About Sexuality in the Home

