

VICTORY AT HOME

JUNE 2019 NEWSLETTER



"Because I said so!"

A comedian once referred to parenting as "being in a 24-hour press conference". As a parent, you can probably relate, and at times, you may find it difficult to answer the onslaught of questions. Those are the times when you realize how exhausting parenting can be.

Parents, wouldn't it be great if all we had to say to our children when they asked "why?" was, "because I said so"? That would undoubtedly be an easy way to end the press conference and move on. In our minds, this would play out with the child politely agreeing to do whatever has been asked. However, in reality, this is usually not the case. According to Dannah Gresh, the author of *Lies Girls Believe & The Truth That Sets Them Free*, the

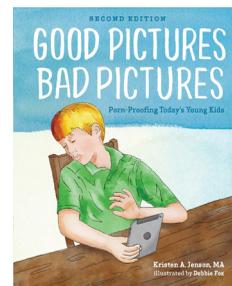
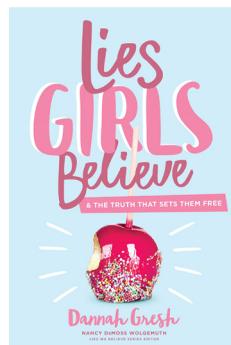
Simply put, we need to talk to our kids and listen to them at the same time. This can be incredibly challenging since most of us did not grow up in a family where this balance of listening and talking was displayed well. The default approach to parenting is often an authoritative one. While that may work in certain situations, it lacks any level of connection with our kids. Our kids desperately need to feel connected to us, physically, emotionally, and spiritually. It's why Deuteronomy chapter 6 is an integral passage of scripture for our Victory At Home Workshops. God calls parents to be the primary voice in our child's life, and while Deut. 6 calls parents to teach their children to love the Lord wholeheartedly, we must also be the first voice in their life when it comes to topics like sex, sexuality, and pornography.

As parents we can't influence someone we don't know. We must be intentional about knowing our kids if we want to have influence in their life.

"Because I said so" response might be effective up until the age of six, where a child typically believes whatever we, the parents, believe. But once they enter the 7-12-year-old range the meaning behind their "why?" changes slightly. It's not because they want to rebel against you or question your authority. **They are asking "why" so that they can decide if they believe it too.**

So fast forward a few months or even years, and those questions about "why" start to develop into conversations. When we invest time in and with our kids, we are building a foundation where we can begin to have a meaningful conversation. As parents, we can't influence someone we don't know. We must be intentional about knowing our kids if we want to influence their life. In actuality, it's not a matter of wanting to have influence; we **NEED** to have influence. In their book, *"Wild Things, The Art of Nurturing Boys,"* Stephen James & David Thomas write:

"Dads need to make **conversation** with their sons a priority. Remember, boys learn by example, experience, and practice. Dads need to **listen** to their sons' stories before giving them advice. They need to pay attention to their sons' hearts—and **listen first** before making their own opinions known. Dads need to dispense with the lectures and respect and honor their sons enough to open the door to **dialog.**"



The goal should never be to have just "The Talk." We need to create an environment where our kids feel comfortable coming to us (and us coming to them) and talking about vulnerable things. It needs to be an on-going conversation, and it needs to start much earlier than you probably think. If my kids don't feel comfortable coming to me when they have questions about sex, sexuality, and pornography, they will go looking for answers somewhere else. We need to be committed to being the first voice in our child's life when it comes to these topics, not YouTube, not social media or the endless amount of other voices they hear throughout the day.

An excellent resource for talking with kids about the dangers of pornography is the book by Kristen A. Jenson, MA, *"Good Pictures Bad Pictures."* In it, she maps out how the brain is designed to work and how porn hijacks the developing mind of a child long before it's equipped to recognize these images as dangerous. For the longest time, parents have been told to make sure they have Internet filters, and parental control settings turned on to keep their children safe. While filters and restrictions are a necessity, we can't become so focused on blocking the lies of the enemy that you forget to talk about truth.

Parents, we believe in you! Be the advocate for truth in your homes!

GOD CREATED EVERYTHING!

PRESCHOOL

WEEK 1

GOD CREATED THE WORLD - GENESIS 1:1-5

READ Genesis 1:1-5 All summer your child is going to learn about creation! Today we learned that on the first day God created light!

EXPLORE TOGETHER Use any piece of your child's artwork as a launching point for discussion. Ask him or her to tell you about the picture. Ask about the different colors he or she chose for the artwork. Use his or her answers to transition into a conversation about God's creation of the world. Discuss how God had a plan for His creation. He carefully and thoughtfully created everything in a specific order. Be very intentional this month about pointing out God's creation and use these moments to remind your child God Created Everything.

Pray: God, Thank You for creating the wonderful world we live in. We love You. In Jesus Name, Amen!

WEEK 2

GOD CREATED THE SKY AND OUTER SPACE - GENESIS 1:6-8

READ Genesis 1:6-8 Today in VicKids we learned God created the heavens and the sky.

EXPLORE TOGETHER Take time this week to grab a blue plastic tablecloth and a can of shaving cream, both can be found at your local dollar store! Provide your child with an old t-shirt to wear during this fun activity. Gather around a table, or in your driveway, and lay out the tablecloth to represent the sky. Next, spend time making clouds with the shaving cream. Encourage your child to use their hands to spread out the fluffy clouds on the tablecloth.

Pray: God, Thank You for creating the sky we look at every single day! We love You. In Jesus Name, Amen!

WEEK 3

GOD CREATED THE SEAS AND DRY LAND - GENESIS 1:9-13

READ Genesis 1:9-13 This week in VicKids we learned that on day three God separated the land from the seas and He covered the land with trees, grass, plants, and flowers!

EXPLORE TOGETHER Take a walk with your family sometime this week. As you walk, point out different pieces of God's creation. The grass in the yard, the flowers by the fence, or the trees down the street. If possible, take time to visit a park nearby with a creek or pond. Show your child how the water is separate from the grass, just like the Bible said, God separated the two!

Pray: God, thank You for creation, help us always to remember You are the creator of everything. We love You. In Jesus Name, Amen!

WEEK 4

GOD CREATED THE SUN, MOON, AND STARS - GENESIS 1:14-19

READ Genesis 1:14-19 Today we learned that on the fourth day, God created the sun, moon, and stars.

EXPLORE TOGETHER Remind your child that the sun he or she sees in the sky is the very same sun God made on the fourth day. On that day he also created the same moon and stars we see. Talk about the number of stars in the sky. Ask your child simple questions to review God's creations. Who made the sun? Who made the moon? Who made the stars? Talk about why you think God made them.

Pray: God, thank You for the bright sun when we are playing outside and the beautiful moon and stars we see at night. We love You. In Jesus Name, Amen.

WEEK 5

GOD CREATED FISH AND BIRDS - GENESIS 1:20-23

READ Genesis 1:20-23 This week in VicKids your child learned on the fifth day, God made things that live in the water and birds that fly in the sky.

EXPLORE TOGETHER If you live near an aquarium, take a field trip and explore all the different fish God created. Look at all the different sizes, shapes, and colors of the fish. If an aquarium is not available, go to your local pet store and talk with the worker about the many different kinds of fish. Also, take a walk outside to see how many different kinds of birds you can see. If possible, take binoculars so you can have a closer look at them. Listen to the different sounds they make. An additional option is to go to your local library and look at some books that show the many varieties of fish and birds. Explore the sea life and birds that inhabit other areas of the world.

Pray: God, thank You for creating all the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky. We love You. In Jesus Name, Amen!

THE BIBLE SAYS WHAT?

ELEMENTARY

PETER AND CORNELIUS - 1 JOHN 1:9 (NLT)

WEEK 1

Read: 1 John 1:9 This week in Vickids, your student learned about Peter and his travels to Rome to meet Cornelius. During this time, Jews (Peter) and Gentiles (Cornelius) did not get along, their customs were different, and they usually stayed away from one another. But God sent three Gentiles to a Jewish camp to bring Peter back to Rome, and Peter was so confused. God reminded Peter that He loves everyone the same; he doesn't have favorites!

Explore Together: This week with your family take some time to talk about why it is essential as Christ followers that we must treat everyone else with love, God doesn't have favorites. That could be someone we don't like, someone who hurt us, someone that looks different than us, no matter the case, God loves everyone the same, and we need to show His love to others.

Pray: Lord, I thank you for your grace and love, I know we don't deserve it, but you give it freely. Help us this week to treat others with love and compassion, just like you do for us every day. Jesus, lastly, we thank you for dying on the cross for our sins, what an amazing gift it truly is, in Jesus name, Amen.

PETER'S ESCAPE - ROMANS 12:12 (NLT)

WEEK 2

Read: Romans 12:12 This week is Vickids your student learned about Peter and his faithfulness to the Lord, regardless of being thrown into prison. Other followers of Jesus decided to come together and pray for Peter while he had been taken away, for doing nothing wrong. The Lord heard their prayers and cries and sent an angel to release him. He slipped past the guards while they were in a deep sleep. He fled the prison and went to those who were praying. Peter was led to safety by those who believed in the critical work of prayer.

Explore Together: This week with your family take some time to talk about why prayer is essential and how this is a fundamental way to connect with Jesus. It is something that can be done during family time, dinner around the table, or even when your driving in your car on your way to school. Pray for your friends, people in your community, or whatever else matters to you and your children. We want to build our students up to trust and talk with Jesus whenever struggles come their way, just like they learned in today's lesson.

Pray: God, This week I pray that we would become closer to you and trust you more and more because we know we need you. In Jesus name, Amen.

THE ROAD TO DAMASCUS - JOHN 14:21b (NKJV)

WEEK 3

Read: John 14:21b. Today in Vickids, your student learned about Saul and how he was chasing and persecuting Christians. One day, Jesus came to Saul while he was walking on the road to Damascus. Saul had an encounter with Jesus, and from that moment forward, he served the Lord for the rest of his days! God showed him mercy even his sin. Saul honestly didn't know God, but once Jesus revealed himself to Saul, he was ready to serve Jesus in whatever He asked!

Explore Together: The truth is, we all sin, and sometimes that can make us feel hopeless. If we desire to get back on track with Jesus, we need to come to Him and ask for forgiveness. God took Saul amid all his sin and transformed him into one of the most well-known men in the Bible. In fact, Paul went on to write almost two-thirds of the New Testament. This week take some time to sit down and talk to your children about how God can take any situation and make amazing things from it, just like He did with Saul.

Pray: God, we thank you that the Bible teaches us that even when we are feeling lost and far from you that you are always there to love and care for us. This week remind us that you can take any situation and make it into something spectacular. In Jesus name, Amen.

PETER'S DENIAL - ROMANS 8:39 (NLT)

WEEK 4

Read: Romans 8:39 This week in Vickids, your student learned about Peter and his denial of Jesus when hearing what would happen to those who followed Jesus and were close to him. Peter was accused of being a follower, and then he denied knowing Jesus three times before the rooster crowed, Jesus spoke to him before being arrested and told Peter that he would deny knowing him.

Explore Together: This week, take some time to sit down with your family and talk about the loving and forgiving nature of Jesus! Even when Peter denied knowing Jesus three times, Jesus chose to restore and love Peter each time. Forgiveness is essential for us to practice, instead of holding anger and unforgiveness in our hearts towards the ones we love. We need to ask Jesus to help us forgive so that we can love the way He loved Peter.

Pray: Father, we thank you so much for your love and grace. We know that you will always forgive us. We come to you as a family and ask that you would help us to be more like you. Help us this week to be quick to forgive and love anyone who may hurt us. In Jesus name, Amen.

PAUL AND SILAS - Galatians 5:25 (NLT)

WEEK 5

Read: Galatians 5:25 This week in Vickids, your student learned about Paul and Silas and their journey to Macedonia. In our lesson today, Paul had a vision from God to travel there and share the good news. On that trip, he cast out a demon that was tormenting a woman. They were later thrown into jail because they were "ruining" the business for two men. Paul and Silas knew that God had a purpose for them going to Macedonia, and they were content with that.

Explore Together: Many times, in life, we are put into circumstances that aren't comfortable or ideal, and we wonder how we got in them. Paul and Silas did not expect to be thrown into jail on their trip, but God led them there beyond what they knew of, and they trusted God. This week sit down with your family and talk about why it is vital for us to trust God more than ourselves. God already knows everything that is going to happen and how you will get through it, but we need to trust him first!

Pray: Lord, we thank you so much for today and how you remind us of how you are always looking out for my family. Jesus, we come to you today because we want to learn how to trust You more, despite not ever knowing what is going to happen. In Jesus name, Amen.

PARENTS NEED TO KNOW

5 C'S OF DIGITAL PARENTING

You have probably asked yourself this question at least once, *"Where do I begin when it comes to helping my child with a digital device?"* **Don't panic. Parent.** Here are 5 things you can do to navigate these waters while building boundaries and connection with your kids.

Communicate: WWWWW - **Who** are they talking to (online or otherwise), **What** is your child doing online? **Where** are they going online? **When** are they going online (is it when you are not around?)

Critical Thinking: Decide early if your child/family needs another digital device, game, app or robot. If you say "yes", decide upon the most responsible and safest way to use it. Maximize your privacy and data protection.

Confidence: It doesn't matter what the trends throw at us, have confidence in knowing you can do this! Every generation had something that parents had to deal with and understand. The Beatles in the 60's, Madonna in the 80's, and now video game dances (Have you seen your child do a Fortnite dance?)

Continue the Conversation: Talk to your kids. Talk early, talk often and don't stop! Use every opportunity to talk with them about school, friends, their online world and most of all, God.

Community: Community is key to finding resources and understanding what it takes to be the best parent you can be. Whether it's your extended or church family, every one needs a support system that will help them make good decisions and give them the encouragement needed for the long haul!

Campus Calendar

NORCROSS

06/02 - VicKids Volunteer Orientation - 1:15 pm
Lower Level Connector

07/10 - VicKids Volunteer Orientation - 7:00 pm
Lower Level Connector

HAMILTON MILL

06/02 - VicKids Volunteer Orientation - 9:15am
Vickids Suite

06/23 - VicKids Volunteer Orientation - 9:15am
Vickids Suite

07/28 - "The Talk" Workshop - 1pm, Classroom B

MIDTOWN

06/02 - Outdoor Water Baptism!

06/08 - Membership Class - 10:00 am
The Gathering Spot

NEW RESOURCES FOR DIGITAL PARENTING

Coolmomtech.com

[The Digital Parenting Community - FB Group](#)

[Parenting in a Wired World - FB Group](#)

iParent101.com

Themodernparent.net

"It's important that parents recognize that this is the only world our children have ever known. They may know a lot of the technical 'stuff', but we as their parents have the life experience. We must be there to help them with that"

Martine Oglethorpe

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it."

1 PETER 3:15 NLT

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Additional Resources

victoryatl.com/athomenewsletter/