A publication of Genuine Joy Ministries

The Hard Questions

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 5 SUMMER 2011

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Children are in essence learning about sex from the time they're born.
- There are several books written for various ages about the sex act: body parts, conception, pregnancy, delivery, etc. Find & buy one.
- Always, always give your children the straight information, honestly and matter-of-factly.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Dear Joy	1
References & Info	2
Summer Quote	3
Just for Fun	3

Answers to Life's Hard Questions—Are You Ready?

Dear Joy,

My husband and I as Christians are wondering about the right time to tell our children about sex. They are two and four, a boy and a girl. We want to be ready when the time is right and hear many conflicting ideas about the "right age" for this. Your thoughts?

I hope this isn't another conflicting idea to add to the rest. I sympathize with you because there are so many different thoughts on this subject coming at us from all sides.

I'm so glad I learned the following from a wise preschool teacher while my two were preschool age. I followed her advice and believe it gently and carefully deals with the concerns parents have about sex and their kids.

First, you need to know that your children are in essence learning about sex from the time they're born. We don't sit them down with graphic pictures or give them the "Birds and Bees" talk when they're infants—it would have no meaning for them. What does have meaning, however, is their parents' relationship with each other and with others. When they see you hugging and kissing, see you snuggling together on the couch; when they see how their dad treats their mom and the way he treats other women, these all impact their minds. Remember, your kids from Day One are taking notes on your interactions. Your day to day lives with its ups and down, joys and disappointments, loving and arguing all influence the little eyes and ears that are watching and listening.

He learns from dad how to treat a woman; she learns from mom how to treat a man. They even learn when you argue and then make up and everything is okay that arguing isn't the end of their world. They should never be subjected to a scene of domestic violence where one is physically attacking the other. Children worry about divorce. They find out about it from school friends whose daddy left home and isn't coming back. When you fight it raises this concern. However, arguing, even a loud discussion, when followed by reaching an agreement and lovingly affirming the other one shows the children that their world remains intact. It may not sound like it but this is part of sexuality and so part of sex education.

The next thing to know brings more concrete results. There are several books written for various ages about the sex act: body parts, conception, pregnancy, delivery, etc. Find one of these, purchase it and bring it home. On a quiet evening, maybe before bedtime, sit down with your children and page through the book with them. If something catches their eye and they ask about it, take the time to either explain it in your own words or read the text. Then say, "This is your book. I'm going to place it here on your bookshelf. You can look at it any time. If you ever wonder about something in it or have a ques-

Children Learn What They Live (1959)

If a child lives with criticism, he learns to condemn . . .

If a child lives with hostility, he learns to fight . . .

If a child lives with fear, he learns to be apprehensive . . .

If a child lives with pity, he learns to feel sorry for himself . . .

If a child lives with ridicule, he learns to be shy . . .

If a child lives with jealousy, he learns to feel guilt . . .

BUT

If a child lives with tolerance, he learns to be patient . . .

If a child lives with encouragement, he learns to be confident . . .

If a child lives with praise, he learns to be appreciative . . .

If a child lives with acceptance, he learns to love . . .

If a child lives with honesty, he learns what truth is . . .

If a child lives with fairness, he learns justice . . .

If a child lives with security, he learns to have faith in himself and those about him . . .

If a child lives with friendliness, he learns the world is a nice place in which to live . . .

WITH WHAT IS YOUR CHILD LIVING?

By Dorothy L. Law

tion, come ask me or your father and we will answer it."

Always, always give your children the straight information, honestly and matter-of-factly. Give the correct names to body parts. If you want to use euphemisms when out in public, no problem, but they should know the correct names. A penis is a penis but it can be a "peepee" when they need to use the bathroom. It's also appropriate to explain that this information is something discussed only in the family among family members. You can explain some things are private and only talked about with their immediate family.

The reason you need to talk to children at a young age becomes apparent when they reach three or so years old. It's about then when they discover their genitals and perhaps see the genitals of someone of the opposite sex—a baby maybe during the changing of its diaper. This brings up questions in their minds. Some handle their genitals and notice an unusual sensation and this also brings up questions to little inquiring minds.

Sexually uncomfortable parents may have one of two reactions. "That's dirty, nasty! Don't even look down there. You're being naughty. Stop it right now!" OR "Don't play with yourself. When you're old enough I'll explain why. You don't need to know about those things. Now go play."

If you want to raise children who are comfortable in their own skin, children who don't need to look to others to fulfill unmet needs, children who don't learn later in life that you lied to them when you told them their new sibling grew under a cabbage or you found him in a row of cribs at the hospital or God dropped her from the sky into Mother's arms or whatever other nonsense we use to avoid difficult explanations then you'll learn it's best to tell the truth to your children. And perhaps you should find a way to become comfortable with the whole idea of sex.

Interestingly enough, God invented the two genders and the sex act. The devil didn't come up with the idea, God did. He did it for a good reason: so we could reproduce our own kind and so we could enjoy married life with a special partner. It's meant for recreation as well as re-creation. He meant it for our good. Sex is not dirty, nasty or something to be endured. It's something good we can pass onto our children. Explanations to children should always be at their level of understanding, be truthful and delivered matter-of-factly. After all this is merely information like one and one equals two or the explanation for aerodynamics. We parents are the ones who give it more power than it deserves.

Sex is a fact of life just as death and taxes are a fact of life. Learning to deliver this information to our children in a dispassionate and matter-of-fact manner goes a long way towards helping them accept and understand what life is all about.

Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it. Proverbs 22:6

RESOURCES & INFO

Web Sites:

Talking with Kids About Tough Issues—Sex & Relationships

Talking to your Kids About Sex

Where Do Kids Learn About Sex?

Healthy Childhood Sexual Development

Books:

How and When to Tell Your Kids about Sex: A Lifelong Approach by Stan and Breanna Jones

Why Boys & Girls Are Different by Carol Greene

Where Do Babies Come From? by Ruth Hummel

HELPING YOU FIND GENUINE JOY!

Genuine Joy Ministries

A publication of Genuine Joy Ministries

Editor/Publisher: Beverly Ann Bender

E-mail: info@genuinejoyministries.org

Visit us at: www.genuinejoyministries.org

QUESTIONS????? Write us.

Sometimes you come up with really hard, tough questions that you don't have the answers to.

At times you're too embarrassed or uncomfortable to ask your friends and family... and when you are brave enough to ask the questions, even they don't always have the answers.

You don't think you have anyone that you can talk to… well now you do.

Genuine Joy Ministries is dedicated to helping you find the answers to life's hardest questions.

Just For Fun

AN IRISH BLONDE IN A CASINO

An attractive blonde from Cork, Ireland arrived at the casino. She seemed a little intoxicated and bet twenty-thousand Euros on a single roll of the dice.

She said, 'I hope you don't mind, but I feel much luckier when I'm completely nude'.

With that, she stripped from the neck down, rolled the dice and with an Irish brogue yelled, 'Come on, baby, Mama needs new clothes!'

As the dice came to a stop, she jumped up and down and squealed...'YES! YES! I WON, I WON!'

She hugged the dealers, then picked up her winnings and her clothes and quickly departed.

The dealers stared at each other dumbfounded. Finally, one of them asked, 'What did she roll?'

The other answered, 'I don't know - I thought you were watching.'

MORAL OF THE STORY—Not all Irish are drunks, not all blondes are dumb, but all men...are men.

When one bases his life on principle, 99 percent of his decisions are already made. ~Author Unknown

If you know someone who would be interested in or needs to see this newsletter, you can easily add their email address to our mailing list. Just send a quick email to: info@genuinejoyministries.org