



Welcome to
Raising Daughters of the King
Princesses that bring Honor to their Royal Father

As I have prayed and struggled over what to write next. I keep coming back to what I consider the hardest yet most important aspect of raising children of the King. There are so many little tips that I will add at the end so that maybe a few practical pointers will be part of each newsletter, but I feel that our Royal King has given very clear instructions to us as to how He wants us to proceed in raising the children He placed in our homes and lives. The primary step is to make sure that you have an active, growing relationship with the Lord Jesus. Raising children that grow up loving Jesus is surely a formidable task; without a genuine love and friendship with Jesus, it would be impossible. I was blessed enough to have been led to a country where I needed Him so much and was shown that need so that I was forced to get to know Him (and myself and my needs) just to make it through each day. If you feel you don't have that with Jesus, then I would say, your first task is to seek Him and plead with Him to make Himself real in your life. That, too, is a lifelong task – but here I will jump to the next step in raising Daughters of the King – our Words. If we look to the only Perfect Father for our example, we see that He chose each and every word He spoke ever so carefully. From the day when He spoke creation into existence to his last words on the Cross, each word was spoken in truth and with love.

RaisingDaughtersOTK@gmail.com

Coach's Corner

Our words hold the power of life and death. Like bricks, we can use them to lay foundations and build great things, or we can throw them angrily and recklessly and break fragile crystal and intricate designs. In James we are told that controlling our tongue is a lifelong lesson and harder than most areas of our lives. So, we must face the fact that we are not perfect and that we will fail – a lot! But for every defeat, you will experience many victories....if you get back up and keep trying. Do NOT give up! Do NOT expect to be perfect! If you are by nature a quiet person, THANK GOD for that gift. Many times I have been frustrated with myself for not being able to say the things I wanted to at crucial moments.....but how many apologies I have avoided by being naturally “slow to speak and quick to hear.” (James 1:19) If you are one that is gifted with the ability to think on your feet and respond quickly, THANK GOD for that gift as well – and yes, you will have to work hard to speak with wisdom, BUT, oh how sweet to be used by God with your tongue. The gift of words is another area where God can show us our need for Him and then fill that area with His Sweet Presence. Truly, it is a gift anytime that He shows us that we need Him.

I think we are wise to follow the Psalmist's example (141:8) and plead that God would “put a guard on our lips”. The Bible is full of instruction on our words and tongue. We could learn so much about not allowing corrupt things to come out of our mouths and how both sweet and bitter should not proceed from the same mouth, and countless more valuable instructions. If we keep in the forefront of our thoughts and heart that these children actually are not ours but rather belong to our Heavenly Father, it helps us be more deliberate in our words and actions. When He says that He holds His children as the apple of His eye (Ps.17:8), it makes me think twice before saying an intentional harsh or hurtful word. I wish I could say I never did; but honestly here, bad moods and frustrations do take over - it helped me to think twice though – I didn't want to make their Father mad!

I think a help with this is to try to pick one area in which you wish to train yourself and work on that until it feels like a habit. I tried to tell the exact truth in all areas. I know that people differ on their sense of humor and on their views of exaggeration. In college, I was a fan of Ann Kiemel – who wrote about truth in all areas. I chose to follow that as much as possible. I didn't even let the girls tell lies in order to bring about a surprise. Integrity in all areas. Oh, we had lots of laughs and love a good story and surprises. We just chose to challenge ourselves by pulling those off without telling a lie. I think it helped so much to bring home the point that God never, ever tells a lie – in fact, that it is impossible for God to lie (Titus 1:2). Oh, He has a great sense of humor and He writes an amazing story, but He pulls it off without ever telling a lie.

A wonderful by-product of this was that whenever the girls were feeling a bit self-conscious over a hair cut or clothing item or just life in general, they could ask me, and then trust me to tell them the truth. I said it gently, if I did not think they would like the answer. But, I made myself tell them the truth. How many times we look for a true friend who will tell us if we should go back home and change our clothes or get the spinach off our tooth or if our backside looks big in these clothes. Or, on those soul searching days.....where we're wrong in our attitude or behavior. Yes, I have chosen to speak gently the truth in love – but I called a lie a lie no matter how “white” it might be, I called pride pride, gossip gossip, bullying bullying, especially if it was my daughter testing that area to see if it felt like a trait she wanted to make into a habit. I wanted my kids to be able to ask me anything and know that I would give them a straight answer. Sometimes my flesh crawled at the words: “Mom can I talk to you,” but I made myself strong and answered how I felt God would have me answer. Crazy how this one area – words (wisdom, discretion, truth, keeping your word, etc.) can keep you on your knees!

A Game Plan

A very wise Amy Carmichael suggested that we put our words through this test before we speak them. 1) Is it true, 2) Is it kind, 3) Is it necessary. You may disagree with the need for all 3 each time, but if nothing else, it will make us think before we speak. ☺

1) Great habit to develop for when you mess up. For every negative thing we say to our kids, it takes 10 positive statements to un-do the damage.

2) Self-fulfilling prophecy. Don't state things that you don't want to come about: like *she is lazy*, or *trouble*, etc. But follow the example in the movie *The Help*: You are kind, you are smart, you are important (to me and to the Father).

3) Catch your child being good and then state it. "Oh, I like your manners!" "Oh, you are so strong when you stand up for others."

4) Work on sibling talk. Apologizing for mean words is important, but sometimes those mean words lead to a life of resentment and broken relationships. If they are not allowed to say hateful things, it will minimize the number of wounds that can cause pain. That is the reason we didn't say stupid, shut up, idiot, I hate you, etc. Reminding them that they and their siblings belong to the Heavenly Father is also an attitude they need to learn.

5) Same rule for self-talk. We chose not to say (or think to ourselves) things that could lead to destruction of self-image and hope. I'm stupid, fat, I wish I'd never been born, etc.

6) Make your word valuable and true. Don't make idle threats or empty promises. Just make a statement. If you do promise a punishment or a reward, make yourself remember and follow through just like He does. Then, when you actually promise something important, your kids can bank on it. "God has a plan for your life." "God will get you through this."