



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

My heart goes out to you today because there are so many ways to raise our kids. There are so many challenges, so many struggles, and it feels like you are responsible for so much. Sometimes it feels like you cannot do anything right. Please know that the place of prayer is the place of peace. Let me also tell you that the Holy Spirit speaks and guides you with His still small voice. It is imperative that you listen to that still small voice. It is imperative that you raise your children from a place of trust in Christ. The place of worry and stress is not the place you need to be. Remember that God can even turn your mistakes into good for your children. He is the One that is ultimately responsible and the Only One who will never make a mistake with your children.

Yesterday my devotional spoke of the verse: We lay aside the weights that so easily entangle us. Sometimes the weights are not

sin. Sometimes it is sadness or despondencies that we feel that weigh us down. That despondency can lead to doubt and unthankfulness and open doors for the enemy to work on us. When we are in that state of sorrow, even our prayers feel blocked or Heaven can feel like closed iron door. What a good reminder that the joy of the Lord is our strength, that thanking God in the midst of our troubles is a command and weapon against our enemy. If you are currently in this condition, please find a friend who will pray with you and encourage you so that God can give you His mind on the challenges you are facing. Maybe a few funny stories will help you through this time. Maybe after you read of few of my challenges you will be able to say “If she can do this, I can surely do this!” And then, we can be reminded that God gets all the glory for our successes with our children.

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Coach's Corner

Things that did not work for us:

The 5 second rule At home if our fries fell on the floor where only our germs resided, we occasionally used the 5 second rule, blew off the fry and chomped down. UNTIL the first visit to Mickey D's where someone else's fries were on the floor for longer than 5 seconds but the generalization had been made and down the fry went while I was trying to fish it out of the precious little mouth. That same little mouth on a different occasion saw a piece of chocolate on the sidewalk. Her little tongue was quicker than a frog with a June bug – out it came and down the chocolate went. By this point, we disallowed the 5 second rule forever. LOL

What about the “**Look with your eyes, not with your hands**” rule? Two of my kids were looking with their eyes while two were confined to the grocery cart. All was going well – too well, when I realized they were looking with their tongues also: scraping the frost off of the frozen meat packs and eating that and on another occasion, one was walking down the meat window with her tongue on the glass all the way!

This same little taster loved texture. One day while visiting a brand new store, we made a pit stop in the brand new restroom. I placed the baby in the arms of the 3 year old and gave instructions that she was not allowed to touch anything. Then, I realized that the two year old was licking her hand and rubbing it on the shiny new metallic stall. Then, licking her hand again. After that point, we tried to only go to stores where we could be in and out without making pit-stops. In fact, years later when our oldest was in 5th grade and attending a school rather than homeschool, she came home so excited because their field trip included lunch at a mall...her next questions was: “what is a mall?”

Spiritual training I overheard my girls quoting a Bible verse, “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.” Janice's 1:1 or the little one whose consonants were still developing: “Joy to de worl de Lord is dom.” How funny when I looked down to check on my children in church to see that one of them had rolled my skirt up above my thigh – good thing that was back when slips were used. Or after attending a few weddings, my little preacher girl saying: “do you take this man to be your awful wedded husband.”

Or **always tell the truth** So the little ones told the church-welcoming visitor that “Mommy just turned 40 but we aren't supposed to tell anyone.”

And don't forget my policy of **preparing everything the night before**: in the rush for church one morning, we couldn't find the shoes for the 4 year old so she clomped to worship in the shoes of the 7 year old.

Keeping a close watch on the little ones: What shock to hear the mobile of the newborn start playing music only to find the 16 month old had climbed into the crib and was playing the mobile music while standing above the newborn. Or when the older ones worked out a system where one climbed into the crib of the 18 month old and handed her out to the 3 year old who was saying “me hold, me hold.” Or on the Sunday morning when all were dressed in ruffles and lace only to hear giggles as they found the mud in the driveway and threw it at each other – video camera came out for that one...no church that morning but funny memories created.

I should probably stop here...lest you stop reading my advice. What I would like to stress here is that if anything good comes from us, we can know that God had much to do with it!!!!

A Game Plan

Try to make your rules for your children to work for all locations that you take your child. (5 second rule may not be acceptable.)

Looking with your eyes not with your hands OR tongues, feet, etc.

Enjoy the fun of little ones growing in the knowledge and love of Jesus – even when their consonants and innocence produce somewhat inaccurate renditions of the lessons. Suggestions and policies such as “Prepare the night before” really does reduce stress, but laughter helps get you through the unprepared moments.

Keeping up with little ones can be very challenging at best and seemingly impossible at times. Baby proofing a home to help keep a baby safe is very important for those off moments.

Laughter and joy make even the most difficult times “do-able” and help us hear from God and plug into His help when we are at our worst and most needy times. “The joy of the Lord is my strength.”

Find a mentor who has “been there, done that” with both successes and failures to remind you that little by little your child is learning and growing and thriving under your loving care. The final victory belongs to God not to moms.

For a few new ideas that may work, check out the lists on the website. Additions are made frequently.