



## *Raising Daughters of the King*

*Princesses that bring Honor to their Royal Father*

### **Mom to Mom**

Hello Friends,

How are you holding up these days? I realize that's quite a question filled with complicated answers! However, I am genuine in wanting to know how you are doing. Whether you are family and friends that I know well, or someone who just happened onto my website, I would really like to let you know that I care. Of course, let's be honest, just because **I care** about you, doesn't really change your circumstances, or make your life better at all, but perhaps the **reason** that I care will.

I am writing. To you. Because. God. Cares. About. You.

That really does make a difference, doesn't it?! And because He does care about you, I am willing to be available to encourage you in your circumstances.

These days of sickness, fear, loss, and change have been really hard for everyone, and harder for some than for others. For you and me, we've made it through so far. Now what? I haven't written for quite some time. But now, on the other side of some of this, I'd just like to check in and let you know that I am still here. I had covid a couple of times both fairly mild cases thankfully. For those who did not experience covid in its mildest of forms, I'm very sorry for your struggles or those of your loved ones. I am very sorry you've had hard experiences. I want you to know that I still pray for you who have been part of our little community of believers through this website or our Facebook group, and I'd love to hear from you. If you have specific prayer needs or parenting questions that I can help with, I'd love to do so. If you just need someone to walk alongside you through changes and transitions, I'm here as well. Please feel free to contact me by clicking on the button, and I'll try to answer (privately). I'd love to pray with or for you however you prefer.

## From Jan's Heart

### An exciting new opportunity that has come my way

I'm excited to share with you about a new outreach that I have been volunteering with these past four years. (Don't worry! I'm not recruiting or asking for money! LOL) I am excited to share with you a few tips that will help you, your friends, and your families.

One thing that I've learned through this opportunity is how important our need for a safe community truly is and how much we crave a place where we can be listened to without feeling judged, without fearing our story will be repeated to others, and without having others try to fix our problems. I'm excited to try to incorporate that kind of community into our newsletter. I realize that it's a challenge to do this in an online format – but I love a challenge if there is value in it, and I can tell you: there is value in community!

Previously, you've shared prayer requests and concerns with me. Now, I'd like to invite you to share your stories or struggles with me (privately.) I'd love to see if we can develop an online Zoom community as interest and trust develops. If you are one of those that are craving this community, let me know what times your best moments are to squeeze in a **few minutes** of meeting together in person or in Zoom if those things interest you.

## Coach's Corner

There is certainly a great need for that safe community at this moment, isn't there? Here are just a few ideas to help you meet your parenting goals. As you move toward helping your children grow in relationship with Jesus, tell your children Bible stories. Don't just read them stories (though there is nothing wrong with that!) When you **tell** your child a story from the Bible something special happens in the heart of your child! They **hear** it! You know what I'm talking about. It is similar to when someone gives a presentation **reading** from PowerPoint slides or when someone **tells** you about the slides, you learn and appreciate differently. Additional benefits of telling the Bible story are many – to both you and your child!

Sometime ago I learned that a person needs to hear a Bible story at least three times to be able to remember the story. I don't know if three is still considered the magic number, but I do know from personal experience that if a person hears it twice and acts it out twice and tells it to another person, he or she will certainly remember the story better! After telling your children the story, have them act it out. You may want to participate in the drama or help them remember details. Or maybe you need to pop some popcorn and enjoy while they act out the story for you and other family members. Stories do not have to be long since free times are sometimes short. Whatever you end up doing, what delight to enjoy with you children and what an eternal impact this will make for them.

When that is all said and done, there are some great questions you can ask. I'll get to those next time but for now, the simplest question to ask is: "What did that person (Mary, Joseph, David, etc.) feel at a certain point in the story?" When I ask this question, I find that God shows different aspects to different people. Sometimes the answers are similar, but how insightful it can be to hear what God shows to different individuals! A few newsletters ago, I mentioned that experts were becoming concerned because our children of these times of text messages and anything-but-in-person communication have become disconnected to their feelings and those of others. This technique of question asking can be a huge gift to our children both now and to their future families. They begin to develop a pattern of awareness of feelings of others (as well as their own), and the people in the Bible stories become more relatable and real.

As you try these few simple ideas, let me know what you find works best for you and your family or what might not have seemed to work. I'll be glad to help you tweak areas of struggles and incorporate your successes to help others. For those of you who don't have children around at this point in your life, consider asking **yourself** about the feelings of the people in the Bible stories you read during your devotions or find some kids to tell a Bible story to, impact their eternities with this simple act.

Follow me on Twitter @nanaqueenbee6  
Instagram: Janice\_utt  
Facebook: Raising Daughters of the King