

# 01 God's Lovestory

## PARENT GUIDE

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### **BIG IDEA:**

Your child needs to understand that it doesn't matter who they are, what they've done, or what they will do. God loves every child. He is not a distant father; he is a loving father waiting and desiring to embrace your son or daughter. There is nothing they can say that would surprise God or make him love them any less.

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### 5 Minute Check-In with Yourself and/or Your Spouse:

We recognize that not every parent engaging in this series will have a spouse. Whether or not you're married, we want to encourage you to check in with yourself each week. If you are married, ask these questions of each other.

The goal of this check-in is to understand what you bring to the conversation surrounding sex, sexuality, and gender. Whatever pain, hurt, shame, celebration, or joy you carry with you has the potential to impact what you share in this dialogue and how you share it. Taking stock of your own attitudes will help you better engage in the conversations you have with your child. If this check-in is scary or awkward, we totally understand. Lean into this challenge and consider it an opportunity for growth and even healing.

1. How consistent are your own values in the realm of sex and sexuality?
2. Do you believe your voice is heard when it comes to this subject in your child's life? What could you do so that your voice is not only heard but points your child directly back to Jesus?
3. Who would you identify as the 3-4 other voices that you trust to share similar values in your child's life? They could be incredibly impactful; the more voices your child hears saying the same thing, the more likely they are to engage and follow.

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## 5 Minute Check-In with Your Child:

Like checking in with yourself or your spouse, checking in with your child about what they're learning might be really difficult. Maybe you've never done something like this before. Despite the awkwardness, we want to encourage you to make the effort. Your kids will appreciate it even if they don't show it right away.

1. What did you hear at your youth group this week that you agreed or disagreed with?
2. Is there anything you think we can do as parents to better engage in our home with conversations about sex and sexuality?

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## Tips for Further Conversation:

Find out what TV shows or YouTube channels your child loves to watch. Ask if you can watch them together. Then, after the show is over, ask if you can talk about what you observed. Find ways to engage in the content, good and bad, and use this as an opportunity to share your values and beliefs without criticizing your child or their show. The older your child, the more specific you can be in your conversation. Use this exercise to learn more about your child's world and share how your values may be similar to or different from what you saw or heard.

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## Additional Resources:

**VIDEO:** Full-length interview of Jackie Hill Perry

**TOOL:** Weekly devotional

**HANDOUT:** 7 Tips for Talking About Sexuality in the Home



# 02 The Authority of God & Scripture

## PARENT GUIDE

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### **BIG IDEA:**

There's no point inviting people to follow a Christian sexual ethic if they're not clear on who their authority is. As Christians, our authority is God. And one significant way God has revealed his authority to us is through the Bible. This lesson will drive home the fact that God, as our good creator and designer, has revealed to us his plan for sexual flourishing through the Scriptures.

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### 5 Minute Check-In with Yourself and/or Your Spouse:

1. What are some influences in your life that, if you're honest, compete with God's authority? (Work, social media, music, shows, movies?) Pay special attention to how you answer. Whether you like it or not, your child probably also sees this. Before you begin talking with your child about God's authority, make sure you recognize where other things have potentially replaced the Creator in your own life.
  2. How is authority, in general, viewed in your home? Does it have a positive or negative connotation? What about the authority of God? Does it ever get discussed? Be sure you examine this before diving into conversation with your child.
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### 5 Minute Check-In with Your Child:

1. What stood out to you in this week's teaching and/or small group time?
2. Where do you see authority being a good thing? What about a bad thing?
3. Do you think we as a family do a good job of discussing and then doing the hard work of submitting to the authority of God? (This is a very personal question. If you're not used to having this kind of dialogue in the home, you might save this question for a later time.)

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## Tips for Further Conversation:

Use mealtimes as an opportunity to take small steps toward bigger and bigger conversations surrounding sex and sexuality. Not every sex talk begins with a question about sex. These conversations are informed by how you engage other questions, live life, and respond to God in your own personal life.

If talking casually about God, life and love throughout your days and weeks isn't something your family is in the habit of doing, there is no better time than now to start!

### Remember:

100 one-minute talks are more beneficial than one 100-minute talk! Sometimes the best moments for these one-minute talks happen at the dinner table. If you have young children who aren't ready for these conversations, consider talking to your older children while travelling to and from a sports activity or school. One way to open up dialogue is to talk about things you saw this week and how they impacted you. What did you and your kids watch or listen to that reinforced the values we learn from Scripture? Where did it not share these values? Pray for wisdom and discernment as you open up dialogue that will shape who your child follows and what or who has authority over their life.

Use this time to move your teen from dependence on you to dependence on God!

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## Additional Resources:

**VIDEO:** Full-length interview of Francis Chan

**TOOL:** Weekly devotional

