

# Raising Heavenly-Minded, Down-to-Earth Kids

Children With Hearts Set on  
Heaven and Feet Planted  
on Solid Ground



Lisa Jacobson of *Club 31 Women*

# **Raising Heavenly-Minded, Down-to-Earth Kids**

**Bringing Up Children Who  
Have Hearts Set On Heaven  
and Feet Planted Firmly on  
Solid Ground**

By Lisa Jacobson

[www.Club31Women.com](http://www.Club31Women.com)

All Scripture is taken from the KJV Bible.

Copyright © 2015 by Matthew L. Jacobson  
and Lisa Jacobson

Cover design by Triumph Assistance

**ALL RIGHTS RESERVED**

No part of this book may be reproduced in any form—photocopying, electronic, audio recording, or otherwise—without written permission from the authors.

**To find Lisa Jacobson on the web:**

Blog: [Club31Women](#)

Facebook: [Club31Women](#)

Twitter: [@LisaClub31Women](#)

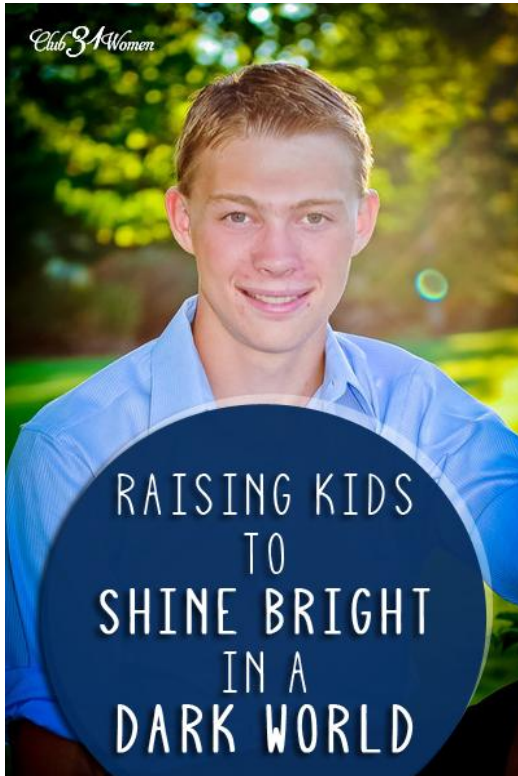
Pinterest: [Club31Women](#)

Instagram: [instagram.com/club31women](https://www.instagram.com/club31women)

If you enjoy this book, please consider leaving a review at Amazon. Thank you!

# Chapter 1

## Raising Kids to Shine Bright in a Dark World



*Children of God . . . among whom you  
shine as lights in the world (Phil. 2:15)*

*Please pray that I will be a bright light on a  
dark hill.*

That's the text message that came through on my phone.

Our oldest son, now 20 years old, was in Paris studying in a French language immersion program for the summer. He proposed the idea earlier in the school year - his sophomore year at college - and decided this would be the best way to complete his language credits, as well as get to see some more of the world.

So that's how it came about that our son was staying in the heart of Paris for nine weeks---far away from both friends and family. A young man alone. Certainly not

the ideal scenario for a Christian parent to consider.

His dad and I were never naive about what he might encounter there, having spent some time in Paris ourselves in earlier days. Not that we were against him going to France---not at all! We had greatly enjoyed our experiences in that famous city: the rich history, the ancient architecture, the art museums and - not to be left out - the mouth-watering cuisine. But we also recognized the spiritual darkness and moral depravity rampant throughout the ironically named, “City Of Light”.

And now it would seem that the streets of Paris were worse than ever. Filthy, dirty, immoral, and oppressively dark. Our son’s description of the conditions around him were even worse than we feared.

So did I have the impulse to text him back?  
To text him something along the lines of,  
COME HOME. NOW.

Why, yes, I did. A strong impulse to do that  
very thing. I mean, what mother wouldn't  
feel sick to her stomach to imagine her son  
facing just about every temptation the world  
has to offer? Drunkenness, carousing, sexual  
pleasure. It was all his for the taking.

Actually, it went further than that. The  
immoral life was all there just begging,  
urging - even pressuring - him to take it in.  
The young women were literally throwing  
themselves at him, confused and somewhat  
disgusted that he would refuse the easy  
opportunity to take them to bed. What was  
his problem anyway?

But that's not the way we raised him.

We raised our son, along with his seven other siblings, in a Christian home where Christian values were taught and upheld. We looked to the Bible for our source of moral instruction and life guidance. We attended our local church gathering every Sunday, prayed and read the Bible as a family, and boldly called ourselves Believers.

So that was good . . . .

## **Is A Christian Upbringing Really Enough?**

But was it really enough? Does this kind of upbringing adequately prepare our children



to grow up and, say, go off to Paris for the summer?

No. It really isn't.

A disappointing answer, but there you have it. Both you and I know it's not enough.

**We've seen far too many kids leave their good, Christian homes and never look back.** Or, at least never look back at their Christian training.

And such a trend terrifies me---me and a whole lot of other Christian parents.

There is a solution, however. Have you heard of it? It's simple, really.

Never let your kids out of the house.

Hmmm....no, even that's not radical enough.

Never them let out of your sight. Completely protect them and make all the decisions for them. Preferably for the rest of their lives.

I can see a few of you scoffing all the way from here. *Ridiculous!* That's not any kind of solution.

I see what you mean and agree with you. But whether you realize it or not, there are parents who are trying to do just this very kind of thing in a desperate attempt to keep their kids on the straight and narrow.

And I can hardly blame them.

## **How Will They Reach a Lost and Dark World?**

Why risk your children falling into sin and immorality if you can help it? Why risk them rejecting their entire upbringing and walking away from Christianity?

A moral dilemma to be sure.

But if we keep our children from all temptation and keep them from going out into the world where they might fall . . . and even possibly reject their faith altogether . . .

How will they reach a lost and dying world for Christ? How will they grow strong in their own faith? And how will they marry and raise Christian families of their own?

*Yes, how?*

These are exactly the kind of questions my husband and I have seriously wrestled with over the years. So what goes into bringing up children who have their hearts set on heaven and their feet planted firmly on solid ground?

**How do we raise heavenly-minded,  
down-to-earth kids?**

## Chapter 2

### Raising Heavenly-Minded, Down-to-Earth Kids



*Behold, children are a heritage from the  
LORD. The fruit of the womb is a reward.*

(Ps. 127:3)

**Every family has to start somewhere.**

Ours began with a letter.

The letter said, *He's tall, dark, and, believe me, handsome.*



Yes, I was intrigued. What single twenty-six year old - who had been a bridesmaid in no less than 12 weddings - wouldn't be? The beginning stages of despair that I would ever

meet “the man of my dreams” had begun to set in long before this letter arrived.

As I had had well over a decade to develop this dream man, my list for him was really quite impressive. *Impossible*, some said.

Yet, when he walked inside to join us for the dinner party, I knew immediately *there he is*. Just like I had always imagined it. There is the man I am going to marry.

The picture is as fresh today as that momentous night. He stood in the doorway: dark wavy hair, blue eyes, tall and strong, wearing black Levi’s and cowboy boots. He strode purposefully across the room and introduced himself to me. *Here he comes. Just like in my dreams*, my heart pounded.

I went home and called a close friend to say that I had finally met the man I was going to marry.

After a completely inexcusable eternity of three days, Mr. Right came to the same conclusion: We would marry. A few short months later we were happily married. So dreams really do come true.



{ You can read the rest of our love story here:  
[An Uncommon Love: A True-Life Love Story](#) }

Except that we weren't done dreaming.



We wanted more. We wanted to work together. We wanted to travel, explore and go on adventures. But more than anything, we wanted to start a family.



**We hoped to have children that we could enjoy and raise to know and love God.**

## **When Children Are a Blessing**

A year and a half after our wedding day, I gave birth to our first child. We had a son and he was amazing. No one had told me how miraculous and wonderful and all-consuming a child could be.

Sixteen months later we had a beautiful baby girl.

Then another girl and another. And another.

One son and four lovely girls.

Our poor boy was beginning to get discouraged. When we called from the hospital to tell him that we had yet another

little girl, he asked, “Are you really *sure* it’s a girl?” Yes, we were fairly certain. But he wanted a little brother so very badly that he hoped we had somehow made a mistake with our announcement.

He didn’t have to stay disappointed for too terribly long because the next baby was a boy. A brother at last! And then another. And another. Now we were finally evenly matched.

For those who have been counting, yes, that would make 8 children. One son, four daughters, and then three sons. Eight children in twelve years. You wouldn’t think that was mathematically possible, but apparently it is. Because that’s exactly what happened.

I'd given birth to eight children.

**Now all we had to do was raise them.**

## **The Perfect Parenting Technique (Don't you wish?)**

**I wanted to this parenting thing right.**

*More than anything.*

We all do, don't we? I mean, who wants to do parenting *wrong*?

Okay, but I really, *really* wanted to do it right. So I did what I always do when I'm determined to get good at something: I bought and borrowed every book I could find on the subject. My shelves are overflowing with books on Christian parenting and it's actually a bit embarrassing.

Rows and rows of them. I've studied and experimented a ton (*our poor children*) in my search for the perfect parenting technique.

You see, I needed answers. Desperately. I was so afraid of messing this up. Messing *them* up.

Now here I am 20 years later (*yikes!*) and am starting to look back just a little. So what has “worked” and what hasn't? What would I say now that we have kids grown and gone---and others who're still growing up in our home?

**So what goes into bringing up children who have their hearts set on heaven and their feet planted firmly on solid ground?**

## **Further Reading:**

[How Training Your Child Can Bring New Peace into Your Home](#)

[Teaching Our Children the 10 Habits of Happiness](#)

[Confessions of a Yelling Mom {Now Reformed}](#)

# **Chapter 3**

## **Raising Kids Who Know They Are Deeply Loved**



**The perfect parenting approach.**

That's what I'd been searching for. I was determined to learn the *best* way to parent our kids so they might turn out okay. No, more than okay---that they might grow up to genuinely love Jesus. Because I can't help hoping that they'll walk with God long after they've left our home. Like you, I've struggled and agonized over this very real concern.

I don't want to leave them up to chance.

I don't want to leave them up to their friends.

And I definitely don't want to leave them up to this world.

**So what is the best way to parent your kids so that they grow up strong and firmly grounded in their faith?**



## **The Very Best Way to Parent**

If I were to pick just one thing? The most important element of all? Surprisingly, it's not going to be based on your background, your rules or lack of rules, your Christian activities, or even your church.

**The best way for kids to grow up loving God is for them to grow up knowing they are loved by you.**

Deeply loved. Just the way they are.

Knowing they are loved will help carry your children through so many of the hard things they'll encounter through their growing up years: hurts, trials, temptations, and knock-downs. These things *will* come. I wish they wouldn't and we've dodged as many as we could, but there's simply no way to avoid them altogether.

But if you have a loving relationship with your children? Then you can walk through those challenging times *together*. You don't want them to walk it alone. With your arm around them, you can gently point them back to the love of God and to the Word of Truth.

## **The Difference Between Loving and Feeling Loved**

Now I can hear you protesting, *But obviously I love my kids. I'm their mother, after all!*

And, of course, you do.

**But it's much more than only loving our kids**, they need to know - *to feel right down to their toes* - that they are loved by you.

I emphasize the difference because, quite honestly, it makes all the difference in the world. I've met far too many adults who will

admit that, although they believe their parents loved them, they didn't actually *feel* loved. In fact, for the most part they grew up feeling alone, misunderstood, and even rejected. You might have met some of these same adults too.

You might even be that adult. This might be your story. But don't let it be the story for your children.

**If you have one goal for your children?**

Let it be that they know, above all things, that they are deeply loved by you.

*But isn't it important for them to know they are loved by God?*

Yes. Absolutely. And that will come out later in the series, but as for a starting place? Start with showering them with your love. Then the love of God will be so evident, it will hardly even need explaining.

## **How do you convince kids of your love for them?**

**Spend time with them.** There are no substitutes. Not stuff. Not activities. Not sacrifice. Nothing replaces the necessary investment of your undivided, undistracted time. { [25 Special Ways to Spend Time With Your Child](#) }

**Decide you like them.** Not only love them. Your children want to sense that you enjoy them - with all their quirky ways, their mistakes, and their messes. You simply like them for who they are and how God made them.

**Affirm them with words.** Make it a daily habit to say something that communicates your love for them and builds them up. { [101 Words of Affirmation Every Child Wants to Hear](#) }

**Listen to them.** Sometimes you can say way more by not saying anything at all. By listening to your child, you're communicating that you're interested in their thoughts, fears, struggles, and ideas. [Keep quiet and let them open up their hearts to you.](#)

**Care about their hearts.** Even more than their behavior. While we desire for our children do the right things, it's less about getting them to "act" a certain way than it is about encouraging them to have a heart for the right things.

*Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ~ 1 John 4:11*

So what would I say now after all my searching? All my studying? All my agonizing?

**Love: it's the perfect parenting approach.**

## **Further Reading:**

[21 Questions Your Daughter Really Needs You to Ask Her](#)

[21 Questions Your Son Really Needs You to Ask Him](#)

[How to Help Your Fall-Apart Child...Pull It Together](#)

# Chapter 4

## Raising Kids Who Genuinely Love Jesus



I held my breath when the call came in.

I could hear the man's voice on the other line asking to speak to our son and I've

never been so tempted to hang up on anyone in my entire life.

If only I could pretend that the connection was bad - possibly add some staticky sound-effects - then *click!* Maybe then I could spare our son from the pain that was inevitably coming his way. Because I had no doubt that what was going to be communicated would come as a harsh blow and his world would come crashing in.

But instead I quietly handed him the phone and helplessly watched his face fall.

Watched the devastation.

The call was relatively short and clearly to the point. Then, when all was said and done, our son said goodbye and - without saying another word and without looking back - he walked out of the room.



*Oh, dear God, I cried out. Help that dear, young man.*

A mother's heart-felt plea.

And I watched him climb the stairs and firmly shut the door behind him. All this followed by a strange and almost eerie silence.

*How was he going to handle this crushing news? Where would he turn? What would he choose?*

He was no longer a child and I couldn't choose for him. He was 17 and well past a mother's compassionate interference.

But if only I could. Interfere. Protect him. Shield him from all that pain. Or at least have been able to hold him and comfort him like I did when he was still my little boy.

But those were no longer options for him and me. Such sweet times were behind us now.

Instead, I was left alone to stand outside his closed door, pressing my forehead against the solid wall.

Praying. Silently weeping.

*Waiting.*

**What else can a mother of a teenage son do?**

An hour or more passed before I finally heard his voice on the other side of that wall. And it took me a minute or two before I realized what I was hearing.

A small, slightly muffled sound. But I was fairly certain it was a song and a familiar one at that.

Our son was singing praise songs to Jesus. One after the other. Song after song. I didn't even realize he knew quite so many worship songs. His voice was slightly raspy and betrayed his emotional state. He might have even been crying. Yet even so, he was definitely singing his heart out.

**In the midst of great personal pain, he was praising Jesus.**

That moment in his 17-year history was not our son's first test and by no means would it be his last. Yet for some reason it's the most memorable in my mind. A significant time in a mother's life when she is left to agonize: *Which way will he choose?*

**How do you bring up children  
who genuinely love Jesus?**

More than anything, a Christian parent desires to see children who grow up to love Christ with all their heart and soul.

We're not looking for our kids to simply go through the motions of Christianity, or to mimic the Christian culture. If they don't come away with an authentic and sincere faith - then what have we really given them?

We parents are keenly aware that eventually, over time, our children have to come to a place deep inside them where they embrace the Christian life for themselves. They will need to embrace the Savior as their very own - not merely as a family custom or a convenient religion. Because we know that when times get tough or circumstances change, nothing less than a deep, abiding faith will bring them through.

As loving, committed parents, we want to bring up children who will genuinely know and love Jesus as their Savior.

**Our children are people, not projects.**

We are all parents of smart children. They know what's real and what's fake. Even my special-needs daughter can sense the difference between those who view her as a genuine "person" and those who look at her as something more of a nice "project". Like the rest of us, she wants to feel valued and worthy of your sincere time and affection. She's not a friendly pet or a good cause: she's a person with thoughts and feelings of her own.

Your children are no different.

**We simply can't turn our kids into a Jesus-project.** Not only is it demeaning, but

nothing will turn your children off faster than suspecting that they are more of a conquest than they are a true treasure.

Perhaps we feel the pressure, either from church friends or nearby family, to make sure our kids are in Sunday School or that they're baptized---preferably at a young age. Maybe it's about attending church camp or the youth retreat. Maybe we're hoping that our school choices (homeschooling, or that good, conservative Christian school) will save them.

But, of course, we know that none of this will ever be enough. Not that these aren't necessarily good things, because they can be. But they certainly can't be considered as the "way" to get our children to become Christians.

There is only one way and that is Christ Himself.

*"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man cometh unto the Father but by me."*

John 14:6

**Our own genuine love for Jesus has a powerful impact.**

Children are incredibly perceptive and so as parents we have to be the “real deal”. We don’t have to be perfect (kids care way less about this than we think), merely *authentic*.

**So if you want your children to be sold out for Christ?**

Then you get to be sold out too.

But what if you’re one of those quieter Christians? You prefer to live out your faith without really making a big fuss about it. Maybe you don’t consider it necessary to pray aloud, quote Scripture, or to go to church at all.

Your children will know what they see. And they will believe what they hear. So if they don't see much, or hear much . . . how can they possibly believe much?

Parents don't hide your light under a bushel. Shine for Jesus.

If this is a new way of thinking and acting for you and it feels a bit uncomfortable? That's okay. Start shining anyway and keep shining until it feels more and more "natural" to you.

***What are some ways to shine for Jesus?***

Talk to your kids about your love for Him. Let them see you reading your Bible and share your favorite verses with them. Sing praises and songs to Him while you go about your work. Sure, it might feel a bit funny at first, but keep saying it and singing it until you really mean it. You might find that both



you and your child grow in your faith in the process.

## **The church cannot replace us as parents.**

My husband and I are highly committed to the weekly gathering of the saints. In other words, we go to “church” each Sunday (although he likes to remind us that we are the “church” and it’s the meeting we attend). We take seriously the Scripture that says "Forsake not the assembling of the saints" (Heb. 10:25).

So when I say “the church cannot replace us as parents”, it’s not that we don’t have a high regard for the role of church in the life of a believer. But the church is not called to disciple your children. Parents are called to teach their children the love of Christ and the truths found in Scripture.

We can't leave it up to the youth leader, the youth program, the Sunday School teachers, or even that awesome pastor to lead our children to Christ. **God made you the parent of your children and they need YOU to teach and disciple them.**

Our culture has come to have such a high regard for the “professional” that even we Christians sometimes forget that there’s really no such thing as the “professional” Christian or Bible-teacher in the Kingdom of God. This is not a Biblical concept.

It is also an easy way to convince ourselves that we are off the hook, so to speak, and it’s up to our church leaders and directors to lead our children to God. But it’s not up to them. They can support what you’re teaching at home, but it is the parents’ primary responsibility to disciple their children.

## **And a parent cannot replace the Holy Spirit.**

It's true. While we have much to offer as the parent, only the Spirit of God can transform our children's hearts. We can say all the right things, carry out all the right actions, but we can never "make" our kids change their hearts.

I didn't always believe this. For many years, I was under the delusion that if I was a good enough mom - instructed enough, loved enough, sacrificed enough - that our children would have soft, pliable hearts for Christ. I really believed this. Or maybe I simply hoped it could be true.

The older our kids grew, however, the increasingly clear it was to me that I had to rely far more on the changing power of the Holy Spirit than I did on my "parenting approach".

**Rejoice in the victories.** This is very important. If your child does something kind, something honest, or something obedient - then rejoice! Maybe they have some areas (even lots of areas!) that they still need to grow in, but don't let those be your main focus. Instead, celebrate each little step of victory!

**Discipleship is an ongoing process.** Rather than looking for immediate results, patiently sow the seeds and pull the weeds. What it might look like today in your home doesn't determine how it will always be. Take heart, my friend, for you are doing something wonderful for your children with your loving persistence.

*And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. (Gal. 6:9)*

And please know that I'm walking in a similar row right next to you. It's by no means "over" here in our home. We have no illusions about that. We are still growing, still learning, and still have choices to make every day on Who we are going to choose.

## **Further Reading:**

[12 Lessons I Want Our Son to Learn Before He Turns 12](#)

[4 Creative Ways a Busy Mom Can Find Time in the Word](#)

[The Most Loving Thing a Mom Can Do](#)

# **Chapter 5**

## **Raising Kids Who Might Fall...But Will Get Back Up Again**



**I held my breath as I watched him  
venture out.**

One step.

Then another.

My hands were shaking - as ridiculous as that may sound - when I entered the digits of his daddy's cellphone number. Without a greeting or the usual preliminaries, I burst out into the phone: **HE IS WALKING!!** He's taken his first steps!

You would have thought he'd walked on the moon.

*A moment of grand celebration.*

Then, right before my eyes....

Our son teetered.

Tottered.

And fell fully and directly right on his face.

*Waaahhh!!*

I rushed over to baby, scooped him up, wiped his tears, and set him back on his feet.

**Then I urged him to TRY AGAIN.**

And that, of course, was only the beginning. Because after walking came running. Then jumping and skating. And then the ultimate thrill of climbing.

Something inside our child inspires him to simply *keep moving*. **But motion rarely comes without some stumbling, falling, aches and pains.**

## **We Don't Live in a Sin-Free Zone**

Our home is as prone to gravity - and temptation and sin - as yours.

Maybe you think you're the only one. You look around and so many others don't seem



to be struggling with the same things that you and yours are. But believe me, they are.

**Because the kids who learn to walk *will* eventually fall.** At some time or another. I know all mine sure have.

*And this goes for the spiritual realm every bit as much as the physical realm.*

So I'm going to confess something. If I had my way? Our children would never trip, never fall, never know grief, hurt, or regret.

Yet that's not the world we live in. **We don't live in a sin-free zone.**

I wish we did. But we don't.

Our children have gone places they were not supposed to go. They've seen things they were not supposed to see. They've said things they were not supposed to say.

I think you get the idea....

**But here's the key: your response to your children's mistakes and sins will have a strong impact on their lives from that moment going forward.** They need to know that you're not going to flip out. You're not going to look away. And you're certainly not going to give up.

And neither should they.

**So what does a parent do when a child stumbles or falls?**

**Start with confession, repentance, and forgiveness.** Our hope is that our kids will come to us with a contrite heart, but there are times when we've had to go to them. The best place to begin is for them to see where they went wrong and repent of it. Then they can walk in the freedom of forgiveness.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (I Jn. 1:9)

**Care more about the truth than about appearances.** We can be tempted to cover what's really going on. We're concerned about what other people think. But our main concern needs to be the truth of what's going on in their hearts.

**Don't take it personally.** Not that you can help experiencing grief or hurt as the parent of your child, but keep in mind that *this is not about us* and more about what God is doing - and needs to do - in their young lives.

**Don't take off on a long, luxurious guilt trip.** You can't afford it. I know what it is to feel regret as a parent, but don't linger there. But instead....

**Be willing to re-evaluate.** Take an honest look at the situation and the child and see what changes might need to be made. Stronger boundaries? More loving attention? Apply appropriate consequences?

**Let the consequences teach its lesson.** Often the most loving thing we can do for our children is to not stand in the way of the natural and/or necessary consequences.

*For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. (Heb. 12:11)*

**Communicate love, compassion, and confidence in your child.** And in the Savior who loves you both. When your child messes up, makes a mistake, or even blatantly sins----communicate with your eyes and from the depth of your soul that nothing has changed in your love and in

your strong hope for the good things God has in store for them.

So, mom, go ahead and scoop him up.

Set him back on his feet.

**And urge him to try AGAIN.**

*Even the youths shall faint and be weary,  
And the young men shall utterly fall,  
But those who wait on the LORD  
Shall renew their strength.*

~ Isa. 40:29-30 ~

## **Further Reading:**

[12 Simple Things That Can Bring Peace Into Your Home](#)

[Taking Radical Steps to Banish Bickering From Our Home](#)

# Chapter 6

## Raising Kids Who Walk in the Power of Purity



*Avert your eyes, Son.*

His dad started saying it to him from the youngest age - when he was still only a little boy. Might have been an alluring commercial while watching the ballgame. Or a billboard while driving down the highway. A pop-up on the computer screen.

As parents, we had purposed to teach him purity from the beginning.

And you wouldn't think that would be too tough to do where we live. We're out in the country, somewhere on the outskirts of a small western town. But that hardly matters anymore.

**Temptation can be found anywhere.**

Even in Target.

*Target?*

Yeah, I know. That's what I thought too. Until one day we popped in to pick up some

flip-flops for the summer and I remarked how he kept bumping into things.

*What is your problem, Son??*

"I'm just looking down, Mom," And with a nod, he indicated to the ads placed strategically above us. Billboards for the lingerie department. *Yikes*. I'd not observed them.

But then again...I'm not a vulnerable young man either.

*So sorry, my child.*

**I'm sorry the Enemy tries to pull you down everywhere you turn.** I feel badly we live in a world that's so ready to compromise a person's commitment to clean living. It's never been easy - only it's far worse now.

By "worse", I mean that our young people encounter vivid pictures and messages



promoting sensuality and immorality everywhere they go. *Everywhere*. Such wickedness is both rampant and increasingly elevated.

**Then how can we encourage our children to walk in purity in a blatantly immoral world?**

*For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality. (I Thess. 4:3).*

That's a question my husband and I have often asked ourselves, as well as prayed and agonized over at times. Here are some of our conclusions....

**We speak openly with our children.** We want our kids to remain innocent - but not naive - so we don't hesitate to discuss topics relating to physical attraction, purity, and morality. Some of these conversations take

place right in our living room and others more privately, one-on-one. But no secrets and no shadows here.

**Teach both our sons and our daughters.**

Maybe it's just me, but it seems there is a particular emphasis on instructing our girls on this subject. But don't our boys need it *at least* as much as the girls? Maybe even more so. Let's not leave our sons out of this discussion - most of which can come from their dads and/or godly men in their lives.

**View purity as something that comes from the heart, not just the body.**

We shouldn't limit our view of intimacy as something we "just don't do", or we'll have missed out on the beauty of it all. Purity is a lovely, wonderful thing and something to enjoy - not merely something to avoid. It's a physical gift that comes from the heart, not merely another item on the Good List.

**Consider what we're viewing.** We want to be careful about what we watch and take into our homes and lives, so we'll do things like encourage our children to "close their eyes" during a potentially suggestive scene. We're also quite willing to turn off a program, or avoid a popular movie altogether if it's promoting immorality. We're very cautious about what comes across our computers as well.

*(And, please don't think "legalistic" because we don't "lay down the law". Rather, we talk candidly about the principles and convictions behind our choices and our young adults have gone on to practice a similar approach - even after leaving our home.)*

**Offer loving compassion to those who've suffered.** I desperately wish there wasn't such grievous sin. That no one we've known or loved had ever been abused or misused.

Our hearts break for our very dear friends who've endured horrific experiences and we've painfully walked through the healing process with them - our entire family.

**Extend grace to those who've struggled.** People sin and make mistakes. Just like you and I do. And, as my husband often reminds us, "We are ALL radically saved." There are no grounds for considering one sin different than another. If we confess and repent? There is forgiveness (I John 1:9). Whiter than snow.

*"Come now, and let us reason together,"  
Says the LORD, "Though your sins are like  
scarlet, They shall be as white as snow;  
Though they are red like crimson, They shall  
be as wool." (Isa.1:18).*

Our young people so need our protection, guidance, and strong encouragement. Let's

be cheering for them and show them they can walk in the power of purity.

## **Further Reading:**

[The Essential Do's and Don'ts for Courtship and Dating](#)

[\*Purity: Do What's Right\* by a Teenage Girl](#)

[Why Christian Kids Should Save Kissing \(& Other Things} for Marriage](#)

# **Conclusion**

## **Raising Kids Who Shine**

### **Brightly for Jesus**

Maybe today doesn't feel so bright to you. Perhaps you've been discouraged or feeling a bit lost in your parenting. This is right where the Enemy wants you to be. He doesn't want you to believe that God is able to take these children, these gifts that He's given you, and have them shine for Christ.

But God is able. He is more than able.

So if you find you're convicted of past mistakes or regrets, then begin with repentance. Repent before God and ask forgiveness from those whom you've sinned against.

Open up the Word of God and ask Him to show you what He has for you there. Read and seek His purposes for you and your family.

Pray and ask the Lord to reveal to you what your next steps should be. Ask for wisdom and He will faithfully provide what you need for the challenges that you're facing.

Seek out other believers in Christ who will pray and support you and, ideally, walk together as you raise your families for God.

*. . . that you may be blameless and innocent,  
children of God without blemish in the  
midst of a crooked and twisted generation,  
among whom you shine as lights in the  
world.*

~ Phil. 2:15 ~

# More Books

by Lisa Jacobson

## 100 Ways to Love

### Your Husband

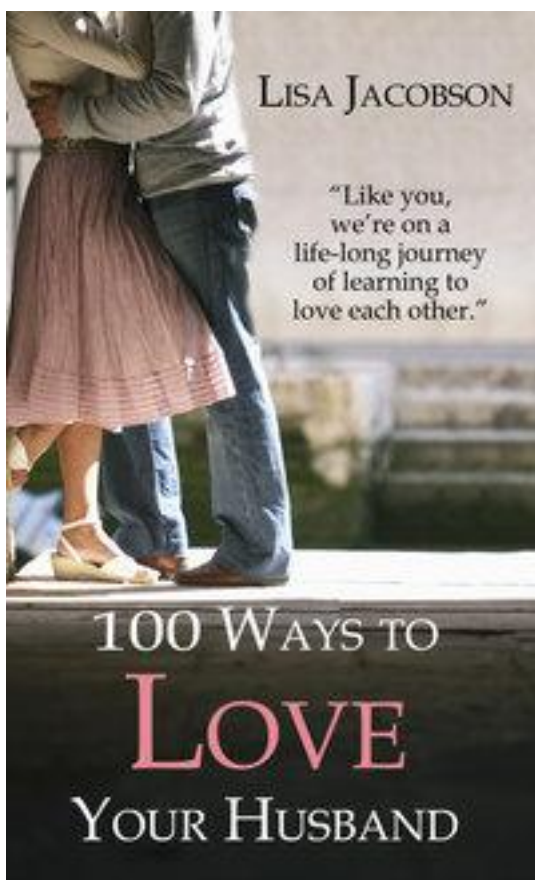
*What could I tell you about enjoying a great marriage? A happy and loving one.*

*So many women ask me, they wonder how it's done. What has worked and what has helped us through the hard times? What has brought us this far? And what will keep us loving each other in the years to come?*

Whether you're newly married, have been together for decades, or still waiting to meet the one God has for you, Lisa Jacobson of Club31Women.com offers practical steps on how you can enjoy a lasting, loving marriage too.

Join her on the life-long journey of learning to love each other.





LISA JACOBSON

*"Like you,  
we're on a  
life-long journey  
of learning to  
love each other."*

100 WAYS TO  
**LOVE**  
YOUR HUSBAND

amazon.com

Buy Now

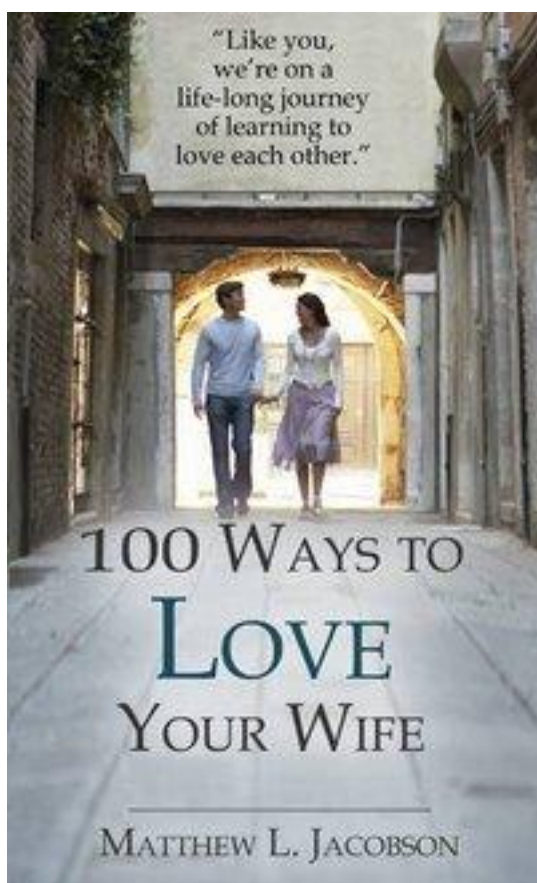


# 100 Ways to Love

## Your Wife

**By Matthew L. Jacobson**

*100 Ways To Love Your Wife* is filled with practical ideas for pursuing love, kindness, friendship, and appreciation in the everyday lives of couples committed to enjoying the best a great marriage has to offer (although much of what's here is apropos for those planning to be married, too!). What does it take to have a great marriage? It's not all that complicated - just a whole lot of decisions that say, "I love you," rather than those that say, "I love me." This book provides suggestions that help demonstrate to your spouse that she is a cherished priority in your life.



**amazon.com**

**Buy Now**



# About the Author

## Lisa Jacobson



I'm the happily-ever-after wife of **Matthew L Jacobson**, literary agent and author, and together we're raising and home-educating our 8 children, ages ranging from 8 to 20 years. I enjoy encouraging women to embrace the rich life of loving relationships and the high calling of being a wife and mother. You can find me sharing my passion for husband, home, and family here at my

blog, [Club31Women.com](http://Club31Women.com). I'm also a regular contributor at [TheBetterMom](http://TheBetterMom.com).

In addition to the blog, I'm the author of [100 Ways to Love Your Husband: The Life-Long Journey of Learning to Love Each Other](#) (also available in Spanish) and co-author with my husband of several children's books including the winner of the C.S. Lewis Silver Medal for Children's Literature, *Mommy, How Did God Make Me*, *The Amazing Beginning of You*, and *The Big Ten for Little Saints*.

.