

Gracie's Way

Isaiah 43:19 ...I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert.



For Such A Time As This

By Sharon Hawkins

When Gracie was a little girl, she dreamed of being a princess. She loved the Disney princesses and watched and obsessed about the videos. She memorized every scene and retold every fairy tale until her whole family was sick of them.

She had a princess backpack, princess purse, princess comb and brush set, princess comforter and pillows, even a princess toothbrush. And her parents surprised her with a princess birthday party complete with tiaras, tea cups and royal party robes for all her friends. What a dream come true!!

But as she grew she didn't feel so much like royalty. Actually, she felt more like a lowly peasant girl—really nothing special. And the tiaras, tea cups and royal party robes all got packed up with her princess dreams.

There were no trumpets to announce her arrival, no Prince Charming on a white horse waiting to sweep her off her feet. And when she asked the mirror who was the fairest of them all, well, in her mind at least, it certainly wasn't her. There seemed to be no happily ever after any where in her future.

Someone else who had no idea of her full potential was a young Jewish girl from the Bible named Esther. She had been raised by her Uncle Mordecai after her mom and dad died. He loved her very much and treated her like his own daughter.

When King Xerxes of Persia needed a wife, he sent his servants to search the land far and wide for a suitable queen for him. Esther was chosen along with many other young women to go to the palace. Mordecai told Esther not to let anyone know she was Jewish.

Each girl chosen was pampered and given beauty treatments at the palace for a year to prepare her to be presented to the king. When it was her turn, Esther met the king and he realized her beauty inside and out. He fell in love with her and chose her for his queen. He threw a great feast to celebrate.

Later, the king's highest ranking official Haman became angry at Mordecai for not bowing down to him and devised a plan for all the Jews to be killed.

Esther learned about this plan and Mordecai asked her to go to the king. She knew the penalty for going before the king uninvited was death unless the king raised his gold scepter. Mordecai suggested to her that just maybe she became queen "for such a time as this".

Risking her life, she approached the king to plead for the lives of her people. Thankfully, he raised his scepter when she entered and her life was spared. God was with her.

Esther was a very special woman created and placed specifically for God's special purpose. Her defining moment was when she was willing to

sacrifice it all to save her people. It was her time!

What Gracie doesn't realize is that she is royalty too—a daughter of the King of Kings, in fact. And, He has great plans for her just like He did for Esther.

She can't be more wrong thinking she is nothing special. She is a one-of-a-kind original, fearfully and wonderfully made by the awesome Creator of the Universe and He had a special plan designed just for her long before she was ever born.

No one else has the same personality, the same likes and dislikes, the same family, the same friends, the same school, the same church, the same area of influence as Gracie. She is unique. She was born in this time period for a reason—to make a difference.

As a daughter of the King, she has a responsibility to share the good news of His great love with those she comes in contact with—to stand up when the time comes, to be ready and available for whatever the LORD has planned for her to do.

She can live out God's plan for her life by being surrendered to Him and listening to His voice as He guides her down the path ... waiting for that defining moment ... It is her destiny ... "for such a time as this".

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Special points of interest:

- Watch for our Grace In The Wilderness Teen Conference EMPOWERED JESUS GIRL in October, 2012.
- We're on Facebook. Become a fan of the Grace In The Wilderness Page. Look us up...



Esther 4:14

"...And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?"



Darbi's Journal "Chasing Love": The Race

Hello ladies:

I am so excited and nervous about telling you my stories. I know writing and digging into the ...du du dum ... PAST is going to hurt. That's going to be OK as long as GOD gets all the GLORY. If I tell my stories, will you do something for me? The pain my stories bring up will all be worth it...if YOU allow these words to draw you closer to YOUR FATHER, YOUR ABBA! (Abba means Daddy.) Is it a deal? Oh, my name is Darbi.

OK, here we go—my first story. This one may be a little dull in comparison to some of my others but it gives you my background. Believe me there will be others that are much juicier! Anyway, I don't remember this one but I have had it recounted many times by Mom. Matter of fact this story was drilled into my head. I was a sweet adorable (at least I think so) little 2-year-old girl. I did not have a care in the world. I had a mommy and daddy, and siblings that loved me, we had a big nice house, nice cars, a boat and MONEY...we had it all! Not really, at some point we left GOD out! BIG, BIG MISTAKE! My world was about to go down a path that I did not need to be on, one that my ABBA was going to have to protect me from. And He did many times over because He loves me! He had a plan for me even when I was two and living in a dysfunctional family and guess what... He has a plan for you too!

Back to my story, my world was being rocked. After many years of marriage, my parents were getting a divorce. The day my parents decided to take their paths,

their separate paths, the one away from each other and away from GOD...was a bad day! Ya know what is funny? My mom's path and my dad's path which were now separate led to the same place and there was a race to see who could get there first. Where you may ask...HA, the BANK!

Who was going to get the money first? I mean that is the most important thing right? Mama got there first! Go MAMA, come on girls we know we can drive better than the guys, right? Wow, now that I think about it she must have been a great driver because she got to the bank first and she had a 2 year old bouncing around. This was before car seats...now you know I am as old as dirt!

So, back to Hot Rod Mama in the BANK! She was at the counter, baby on hip, getting all the money when in walked Daddy and he was mad! I am sure I was excited to see him because all little girls love their daddy. So, imagine me bouncing on Mama's hip with excitement at the sight of MY daddy! Daddy stalks over and understands that Mama has the money so NOW he wants me...he jerks me from Mom's arms! I am sure this must have been a scene in our small town bank but all dignity was gone. The battle lines had been drawn and I was suddenly a pawn in their twisted war! My daddy didn't want me because he loved me so much. At the time, he knew he could use me to hurt Mama.

This was not the first time I was trapped in the middle and I am sure I will share those stories in the future. Looking back I see that my childhood was full of lies, betrayal, and emotional abuse and let's

not forget the fights! Some even included guns!

See, long before I was born, Mom and Dad had let Satan slip into our home. I am sure it was a small crack that Satan slipped through. The crack could have been a small but noticeable glance at another man or vice versa. Satan doesn't need much to squeeze into our lives! So, ladies don't let your eyes go where they do not belong. YOUR ABBA has a plan for you just as he has a plan for me! No matter what life is handing you at this moment HE can use YOU for HIS GLORY! So that you are not worried, I will tell you GOD has brought me full circle and I am a very blessed wife and mother today. So no matter your situation, race on God's path, not Satan's!

The race was on and it still continues today! My race, YOUR race to a Father MY ABBA, YOUR ABBA!

...Having Love, Darbi

Hebrews 12:1-2

Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin that doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of GOD.

By Brenda Horne

You first pray about it and decide if talking about it is going to be beneficial. But you have to be honest and not hurtful or hateful. If they are a true friend they will be understanding of the situation. Madison, 17.

I let my friend know that she should not bully other people because she doesn't



Facing the Giants...

How do you let your "bossy" friend know that sometimes, she can be a "bully"?

(Self-check: Are you "bossy" or maybe a "bully" too?)

First you can show her how to be kinder. You should try to be an example for her. You know "monkey see, monkey do"

works the same way with people. You set your friend a good example and she will most likely follow. Show your friend how God wants us to act and treat others! And during this process can tell them not to be so bossy. Savannah, 15.

Tell them in a parable like Jesus did. Anonymous

Facing the Giants (Cont'd)

By Brenda Horne

know who she is hurting.

I admit that I am bossy sometimes. I don't realize that I am hurting God the most and that I am hurting the other people too. It hurts me to see her bullying the other person. It's best to pray for that person. God knows who is bullying someone. People don't understand that God is watching them. I know that it is not right to bully my friends. Alecia, 16.

I would probably leave them alone for awhile until they calm down. Anonymous

You calmly and kindly confront her: telling her that it hurts your feelings when she is bossy. Tell her that you're only

confronting her because you love her and want your friendship to grow. Brett, 17.

I tell her/him that they need to stop being so bossy and when they want something they can do it themselves. Too many people are bullies today and we can stop that rising number by stepping up. Jenni, 15.

Having a bossy friend can sometimes be very difficult. They start out bossy then it slowly turns to bullying. If they don't get "their way" they can be very hard to get along with, yet they are your friend, so how do you deal with it?

We all need help in these tough relationship situations (each person has different

circumstances) so we pray and ask the Lord to guide us and our words. If the Lord leads you to confront them, be gentle...remember this is your friend. Choose your words carefully; you may even want to practice what you are going to say. Practicing will allow you to hear how you sound so you can speak with gentleness and not anger.

Proverbs 15:1-2

A gentle answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger. The tongue of the wise makes knowledge acceptable, but the mouth of fools spouts folly.

By Taylor Hawkins, 17

truly love you is if he loves God first. Make sure he isn't only saying he loves Jesus just to impress you. You should be best friends with him.

The two of you should bring each other closer to God. That's how a Christian relationship should be. Choose wisely. It's important.

Proverbs 27:17

As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.

By Reid Long, 17

be more of a love story rather than a tragedy.

Make sure God is your first love forever and always!

2 Corinthians 6:15

...What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever?

From A Guy's Perspective: Choose Wisely



I'm sure you have your idea of the perfect guy. I don't know, maybe he's tall, handsome, sweet, and funny. Whatever idea you have of your dream guy, is he what God would plan for you?

You can usually tell how a guy truly is if you hang around him enough. When it comes to boys, lots of them sadly have no respect for young ladies. I'm sure you've heard the term "locker room talk" before. In the boy's locker room, talk can get pretty nasty and vulgar. Do you think your boyfriend gets involved in all that? Think about it.

Are you sure that he is the one quietly ignoring all that talk? Make sure he has character and is the same person all the time, even when he is away from you.

Does he treat you like a queen? He should. You should be treated like you are the world's most expensive diamond. He should want to grow closer emotionally instead of physically. All the physical stuff should be important enough for him to want to wait until marriage. If he really loves you like he says he does, he will want to wait.

Don't date a guy just because he's cute and funny. You should know that number one in his life is Jesus Christ. The only way he'll

From A Girl's Perspective: Your First Love



It is so important for you as an individual to daily walk with Jesus Christ, seek His face, dig into His Word, and worship Him with your life.

If you find these things more of a chore than a desire, then you should wait on a boyfriend. If you can't follow Christ alone, than what makes it seem like it will be easier with a boy who's got your attention?

I want to give words of encouragement. Don't look at your time alone as loneliness, but more as time to grow in your relationship with God.

Your time as a single person is preparing you for your future significant other. Once you have matured in your faith and gained focus on what really matters in your life (Jesus Christ!), then pursuing a relationship with a fellow believer of Jesus would



Is Your Crush Crushing You?

By Lynn Cowell

"I have considered my ways and have turned my steps to your statutes." Psalm 119:59

It lasted for years...seven to be exact. My crush on Greg was absolutely ridiculous; unhealthy too. I wish that someone would have stepped into my life and told me to just get over him.

Do you have a crush that is crushing you? Let me be the voice I wish I had in my life: this crush is not good for you and you can do something about it.

I believed that I was stuck; I couldn't quit liking Greg. I was so wrong.

Getting over a crush is a choice.

It's my choice what I choose to obsess over. Yep...it's your choice too.

Is my obsession good? Good for me? Good to me?

Mine wasn't. Not having him as my boyfriend just made me sad. It made me miss out on all of the great things going on around me because I was too caught up in what wasn't around me. My obsession drew me away from really good friends. It drew me into myself and my selfishness. It made me just plain annoying! Those around me got so tired of hearing about Greg!

Obsessions rarely honor God; unless of course you are obsessing on Him!

Make a choice to move on.

Change the way you think. Change the route you drive. Change the kids you hang out with. Change whatever you have to change to move toward God and away from your unhealthy guy. As you change,

just watch. Your heart will become healthy once again.

Jesus, I like my crush; even though he's crushing me. Help me want to get over him, but until I do, help me make the changes I need to make. Amen

If you enjoyed this straight up devotion today, you'll love Lynn's book "His Revolutionary Love; Jesus' Radical Pursuit of You". Find it at your Christian bookstore, Amazon or www.shopp31.com.

Lynn Cowell

Wise Women...Wiser Daughters

Author of "His Revolutionary Love; Jesus' Radical Pursuit of You" just released!

Speaker with Proverbs 31 Ministries

www.LynnCowell.com and www.RadRevolution.org



gossip girl

By Nicki Koziarz

gos·sip
noun. idle talk or rumor,

especially about the personal or private affairs of others

We hadn't seen each other in a few weeks. I was excited to catch up on my friend's life. Arriving at the restaurant we hugged, took our seats, and ordered some sweet tea. Immediately, we dug into the previous month's events.

A few minutes into our catch-up session a person's name {who I didn't care for} came up. My friend told me a story that made me dislike this person even more. I then told my friend a story about this same person that made *her* dislike them more too.

And so our conversation went ...

When I left the restaurant, there was a sick feeling inside me. My thoughts wandered around our conversation and I felt deeply convicted it'd been nothing but

idle talk. The crazy thing was, in the midst of the conversation, I didn't even realize what was happening. I thought I was just catching up with an old friend, but I had slipped up big time.

As I've been allowing God's Truth to shape my character, I've begun to understand how my slip-ups {read: sin} separate me further away from Him. One of the greatest deceptions of sin is that we often don't realize what we've done until it's too late. But thankfully God is always willing to forgive us and empower us to become stronger in Him.

So how should we handle conversations like these?

Preventing idle talk is one of the greatest ways to not get caught up in it. Some days I have to consciously say to myself, "I don't want to dishonor anyone with my words today." I've asked God to make me aware of conversations that don't bring honor. {Proverbs 13:3}

Another way we can handle gossip-centered conversations is **ignoring** them.

Just because we've heard the latest juicy scoop doesn't mean we have to continue to spread it. {Proverbs 11:13}

Lastly, **confronting** gossip is important. If we really have an issue with a friend, we should go directly to that person. It takes more courage to confront someone than it does to ignore him or her. If something's bothering us, we should deal with it with the right person. {Matthew 18:15}

I'm still working through this. I felt horrible for how my conversation went that day at the restaurant. But, I'm challenged to **prevent, ignore or confront** conversations like these. I don't want to be a gossip girl.

Nicki Koziarz is a woman who thrives off the 3 C's of daily living: Coffee, Christ, and Creativity. Visit www.nickikoziarz.com for more from her!

Check in with Nicki over at She Seeks, Proverbs 31. www.sheseeks.org

Letter To My Teenage Self

By Amanda Seawright

Dear Manda Jane:

Where do I begin? I hope this letter will help you along your journey in life. First, I'd like to say that even though you have fallen and gotten some bumps, scrapes, and bruises along the way, I think you turned out pretty good. You have learned that everything happens for a reason. God never will leave you alone, especially when you need Him the most which you realize is every second of your life.

At age 30, you have finally figured out not to be so serious about life, to laugh at yourself when you do something and you think, "What was I thinking?" You have learned it's ok. When you do make a mistake, God's forgiveness is always available. But you have to truly mean it when you ask for His forgiveness. You're learning how to forgive yourself as well.

You're learning to leave things in God's hands and not take them back. You've learned that the simple things in life really are all that matters. Family and friends are very important. You won't have them forever on this earth even though you will see them again in Heaven. Time is short on this earth, you need to say and do the things that need to be said and done before it's too late. Tell someone you love them or how much they mean to you.

Some advice I will give you to help you along the way is to be yourself. Don't give in to wanting to fit in and be popular. Do the things you enjoy!

You gave your life to Jesus at a very early age but you didn't stay close to Him, you need to stay close. There are some scary things that will happen and you need Jesus to see you through. Pray and read your Bible on a daily basis. Really try to stay close to God because when you don't, you have a very independent way about you that will get you into trouble. Pray and ask God to show you His will for your life. Don't just assume that because you're saved that it just happens. You've got to stay in prayer daily.

Remember, even when you feel like you are drowning—the only thing left sticking out of the water is your finger tips, your vision is blurred and you can't see that there is help, God will reach down to pull you out of the water and breathe life back into you if you allow Him too.

Listen to your mom, she does know a lot more than you think ... lol! If not, you will have to eat some words that you spoke later on. Go hunting and fishing with Daddy as much as you can because one day, life will get in the way.

Watch how you speak to others and treat them. Don't stop smiling even through the

tears. You will get your heart broken to the point that you think it will never heal, but God will heal it in time. So don't give up, keep your head held high. Let God handle it.

You are very strong willed and it's not always a bad thing but sometimes it keeps you from listening to people who know what's best for you. Don't let fear keep you from doing the things you want to accomplish in this life. Pray and seek the Lord. He will calm your fears and give you peace that only comes from Him.

When you feel like no one cares or loves you, always know your family does but most importantly, God does. He wants the best for you. Remember, life may not always go like you plan but God is in control and it is always how He planned your life. See you when you're all grown up.

...Love Always, Amanda Jane

Matthew 28:20

Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.



Driving Lesson—The Suggestion

By Brenda Horne

My daughter was 16 years old and had been driving for over a year. Surprisingly, she is a careful driver and I have no complaints, except for this one small area (I'm a Mom there is always "one thing").

We live off of a curvy road and for some reason when my daughter turned onto this particular road she immediately morphed into a NASCAR driving, thrill seeking, speed demon! I tried not to worry about her "lead-footedness" because, like I said, she is normally a cautious driver... but this road scares me.

It is a winding road with very deep ditches and no guard rails. All it would take is one glance down at her cell phone or one

peek at the radio while she is "flooring" it around the curves and her Jeep Cherokee would turn into a four-wheel flying machine. Now, she may think soaring through the air sounds like fun ... that is, until she reaches the crash landing!!

So here I was riding in the car with her as she power slid around the curves of this dangerous road, when I saw the bright yellow street sign with 25mph written on it. I brought it to her attention that she was speeding and pointed to the sign to prove it.

She casually replies "Oh, yellow signs are just a suggestion. You don't actually have to go the speed limit on the sign." "What?!!," I question. "Yes" she repeats,

as she leans into the next curve, "the yellow signs are only suggestions."

Well, I'm sure the Moms out there can just imagine the look I darted at her while my body was being flung around like a rag doll. Then in my best "mom" voice I very calmly but sternly said "Then I **SUGGEST** you **SLOW DOWN!**"

Later, after we arrived safely at our destination, this "yellow suggestion sign" episode brought the 10 Commandments to my mind. It made me truly thankful that our loving God gave us the "10 Commandments" and not the "10 Suggestions" !



Driving Lesson—The Suggestion (Cont'd) By Brenda Horne

Our Heavenly Father took the time to write down exactly what He wanted from us. We all need to know where the boundaries are, and with God's 10 Commandments we know exactly what is expected of us. When God says "Thou shall not" - that is exactly what He means. It is not a suggestion, it is a command. The commandments may seem like God is putting limitations on us, but the truth is, without law there is chaos-- both spiritual and

vehicular.
Deuteronomy 5:7-21
1 Thou shall have no other gods before me.
2. Thou shall not make any graven image and not bow down to them, nor serve them.
3. Thou shall not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain.
4. Keep the Sabbath day to sanctify it, as the LORD thy God hath commanded thee.

5. Honor thy father and mother.
6. Thou shall not kill.
7. Neither shall thou commit adultery.
8. Neither shall thou steal.
9. Neither shall thou bear false witness against thy neighbor (lie).
10. Neither shall thou desire thy neighbor's wife; nor thy neighbor's house, his field, his servants or anything of thy neighbor's.



Be The Person God Wants You To Be

By Abby Porter, 14

"Why not, Mom? All my other friends are doing it!," Emily says.

"If all your friends jumped off a bridge, would you?," Mom replied.

How many times have you heard that? Well, Emily has to do what everyone else does! She loves to follow the crowd. She

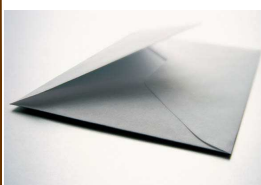
is just like her friends. She has the same clothes, hairstyles, cell phone; she has the same everything! You will never see her alone, by herself without any of her friends by her side.

Emily would be completely lost without the crowd to follow. In Leviticus, God says, "You must not do as they do..."

Be your own self!

Shine the light of Christ through your own self! Don't be a "stuck-up" person that follows the crowd! Be free! Be courageous! Find your inner soul without having someone find it for you!

Be the person God wants you to be..Not the person your friends want you to be!



Open Letter From Young Christian Guys

Girls, could we talk to you from our hearts for just a minute?

It's hard to talk about something like this in person so we're writing you a letter. We are saved young men and we love God wholeheartedly. We desperately want to live for Him and not follow the ways of the world.

We know that girls and guys are so different. And since we want to follow hard after God, we want to ask you if you would please help us with a few things? We realize that females respond to touch. But did you know that males respond to sight like females respond to touch? When we see girls who are dressed in a revealing, suggestive way it causes a problem for us.

For example, if you are wearing a shirt that barely meets the waist of your jeans and some of your skin shows while you are moving around, or simply sitting, our minds are geared to wonder what more of your body would look like further

up ...This causes our bodies to respond biologically, and suddenly we are fighting a war in our minds and bodies that can continue a long time after you are gone. We hate this because our "righteous mind" wants to think pure thoughts.

Low cut tops and tops with the back out also cause us major problems. What we are saying is this: If it's not for sale, please don't advertise it to us!

The Holy Spirit must nudge you when it is too tight, too short, too low or too revealing. Will you please listen?

Here's something that you may not know but it is the honest truth—we really don't want the kind of girl who dresses provocatively, because we know that if we marry her, she will still be that way in front of other men.

We are faced with this every day by females in the world, on tv, in magazines, etc. We would really like to not have to struggle with it from our friends who are Christian girls.

A girl can be beautiful, modest and fashionable all at the same time. And when she has a pure heart and isn't afraid to dress and act that way, it is more attractive to a Christian guy than you can imagine.

We have responsibilities as Christian young men to dress and act accordingly too and should treat you like ladies. If we are really committed Christian guys, we will try our best to treat you like Jesus would. After all, you are daughters of God.

Thanks for listening! You know we love you and aren't trying to beat you down. We just wanted to let you know some things that are on our minds and that you can really help us with as we walk this Christian walk together.

1 Thessalonians 4:7

For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life.

Just Do Something...

By Sharon Hawkins



One day a few years ago I was sitting on the beach reading a book, Just Like Jesus, by Max Lucado, my favorite author.

The book was challenging me to “*just do something*”, you know, to reach out to people even when it’s uncomfortable, even when we don’t know what to do.

After a while, I put the book down and headed to play in the ocean with my family. I spotted some expensive sunglasses floating in the water. I prayed a little prayer, “God, I want to ... but how can I possibly do the right thing when I have no idea who these belong to?”

So I went back to my spot on the beach to put them away while I could figure it out. As I sat there, I noticed a particular woman walking on the crowded beach laughing and talking with her husband and young son. I felt drawn to go to her. The look on her face instantly told me the glasses were hers. She had lost them that morning way up the beach. God taught me that day how I can make a difference with His help by ... *just doing something*.

How many times do we just say nothing when we don’t know what to say? ... Someone is on the verge of tears because a bully just humiliated them in front of a huge group of people. ... Someone is brokenhearted because someone close to

them has died. ... Or someone feels like they don’t have a friend in the world and they’d just like to end it all.

What would Jesus do? If we make the step to “*just do something*”, I know He’ll be there to guide us...

Colossians 1:10

So as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.

If You Want Friends...

By Marie Pritchett



I don’t know about you but the one thing that gave me the most heartache when I was growing up was not my looks, my grades or my parents. The one thing that worried me most and kept me awake at night was my friendships.

From the time I was a little girl, when the most popular girl in kindergarten wouldn’t play with me or didn’t want to be my friend, I realized that this friendship thing was just not going to be easy!

One of the problems was I just didn’t understand how relationships worked. My mother’s constant advice was “if you want to have friends, you’ve got to be a good friend”. How many times have you heard this? Ugh...On one hand, that is as true as anything is ever going to be. But on another, it didn’t always seem to work. I thought I was always friendly. I tried to be nice to people and still there were times in my life when I felt like I didn’t have any friends.

Now, I know I’m not the only one out there who has battled between loving life and everyone in it, and then feeling completely alone. I’m sure I’m not the only one who has wondered why friendships go wrong, and questioned how I could relate

to people better.

Who goes to bed at night and thinks about their friendships? I bet every single person reading this has done this once or twice.

If you’re a young woman heading into adulthood, the single most important thing in life is to first be right in your relationship with God. The second most important thing is to get your relationships with people right. This means every relationship you are involved in. And it’s never too late to start working on it.

Have you ever thought that some friendships can be a bad thing? Well, there are some reasons why we need to be careful when choosing people to be our friends.

The moviemakers in Hollywood tend to loosely base their movies on real life experiences. The most exciting movies are the ones where one of the friends turns out to be a psychopathic killer. Thankfully this is highly unlikely to happen to you, but you need to be aware that there are other dangers with friendship too.

Friends can cheer you on when you have a great idea or give you the strength to move forward when things seem impossible. When two or more people come together great things can happen. However,

the opposite can also be true. Friends can encourage you in ways that would not be pleasing to God or your parents. They can also pressure you into doing things that you know are wrong and go against everything you believe in.

If your friendships are leading you away from Jesus, you need to ask your parents for help or seek out a person you can trust to talk to like a youth pastor or your Sunday school teacher. The best place to start is with God! Pray and ask God to send you godly friends, the kind of friends that you can trust and rely on. But once again my Momma’s advice is true. “To have friends, you must first be a friend”.

Maybe today is a good day to examine your friendships. Are your friendships leading you away from Jesus or leading you towards Him?

Proverbs 18:24

A man of many friends may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.



Grace In The Wilderness Ministries

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FOCUS SCRIPTURE VERSE:

Isaiah 43:19

...I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert.

Grace In The Wilderness is an out-reach ministry for Today's Busy Woman and Teen Girl. Our mission is to encourage women and teen girls:

-To look upward to God as they discover Him in a new and deeper way,

-To look inward as they discover who they are in Christ, and

-To look outward as they discover God's plan for their lives.

We appreciate your prayers and support. Donations are also appreciated and may be made payable to Grace In The Wilderness Ministries (address to the left).

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*Grace In The Wilderness Teen Conference
EMPOWERED JESUS GIRL
10/2012 at Blue Ridge View Baptist Church,
Pickens, SC*

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Little girls with dreams become women with vision. —Anonymous

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