

# Parents Crosslink

## Singled Out

Paul K. Kremer

**B**ullying is a pervasive problem. While it is a part of living in a sinful world, bullying is never acceptable. The formal term is *peer victimization*. Most parents have had to deal with it at some time in their child's developmental years. It is naïve to believe there are no bullies in good schools or among Christian children.

Peer victimization is a systematic abuse of power in which specific children are repeatedly singled out for intentional, mean-spirited behavior. In his explanation to the Fifth Commandment, Luther wrote, We should "not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body." In writing the meaning for the Eighth Commandment, he said, We should "not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, or give him a bad name." Both of these commandments reflect on the bullying phenomenon. We are talking about a behavior that is unacceptable in society and in schools. It is abhorrent to our perfect God.

### A Christian perspective

Jesus never bullied anyone. He was the perfect model for all relationship building. Yet, at the hands of real bullies, he became a victim for each of us. He died even for the bullies who had lied about him and executed him for crimes he did not commit (2 Corinthians 5:15; Luke 23:34).

Peer victimization is a complex issue. It

can make a parent flush in anger. Some parents encourage their children to meet a bully's aggression with a stronger dose of their own aggression. It is easy to forget that bullies and their acts of peer victimization, which call for repentance, are forgiven because of what Jesus accomplished on Calvary.

### Bullying behaviors

Bullying behavior is easiest to identify when it is direct, overt, and aggressive. The most recognizable forms are physical and verbal. Such types are typically referred to as *direct victimization*. However, some forms of victimization may be more subtle or covert. *Social exclusion*, for example, is a form that is just as harmful. Such forms of abuse are referred to as *indirect victimization*.

Today there is a new form of indirect victimization receiving increased research attention. It is known as relational victimization. *Relational victimization* involves the spreading of lies or rumors about a child in order to harm his or her relationship with other children. Social ostracism is used as leverage.

The latest wrinkle in indirect victimization has been coined *cyber bullying*. Cyber bullying occurs when a "child, preteen, or teen is tormented, threatened, harassed, humiliated, embarrassed, or otherwise targeted by another peer using the Internet, interactive and digital technologies, or mobile phones." \*

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### The consequences of bullying

The consequences for those victimized by sins against the Fifth and Eighth Commandments include psycho-emotional problems, behavioral problems, and negative attitudes about school and learning. One well-documented outcome is the strong correlation between victimization and internalized problems—particularly loneliness, anxiety, and depression. And some victimized students are at risk for externalized problems such as aggression, disruptive behavior, and truancy. Bullying has also been linked to poor physical health, low academic achievement, and acting-out behaviors like smoking or drinking alcohol.

### Parental intervention

In order to prevent bullying, parents should be able to identify the different kinds of bullying behavior, as well as the long-term and short-term effects that peer victimization can have on children.

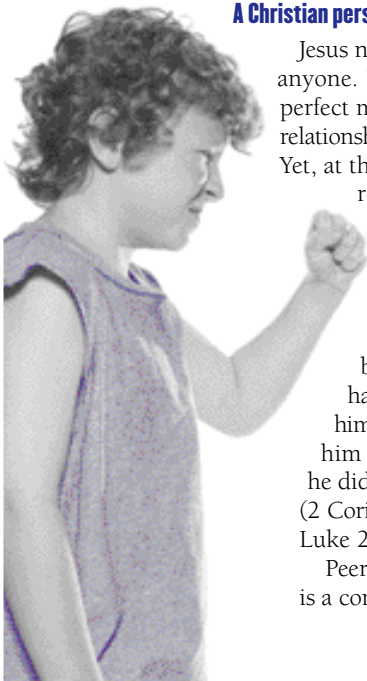
Make sure you are available to talk, listen, support, and encourage your child. If you think your child is being bullied, ask specific questions. Encourage your child to share the *what, when, who, and how* of the bullying activity. Sharing a problem is always empowering. Discuss the feelings your child may have regarding incidents that involve bullying behavior. Offer ideas and suggestions. If necessary, intervene.

Parents are often reluctant to report that their child is being bullied. They fear reprisals, thinking that their actions will only make the situation worse. But the best deterrent to such behavior is to hold

(Continued on page 2.)

\* www.stopcyberbullying.org

Photo by American Images Inc



(Singed Out . . . cont.)

bullies accountable. Parents should document and report cases of bullying. Thirty-two states (with legislation pending in seven new states) have laws that require their public schools to have written antibullying policies and provide curriculums and programs that address bullying behavior. Increasingly, public schools are being held responsible for providing a safe learning environment for their students. Private and parochial schools also need strong anti-bullying programs and policies. Learn more about those laws and policies.

One very difficult principle for parents to teach is to follow Christ's words and personal example to turn the other cheek (Matthew 5:39). There is good reason to train children to behave in a

nonaggressive way. The correlation between the aggressive behaviors of bullies and the behaviors of their victims becoming more aggressive is very high. Wise parents help their children learn to interact with their peers confidently, securely, and in peaceful and nonaggressive play. Make sure your child knows the difference between standing firm in resisting a bully's threats and wrongfully fighting back.

We need to set time aside to discuss the Fifth and Eight Commandments as they relate to bullying. Moses told God's people, "These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when

you get up" (Deuteronomy 6:6,7). We can help our children deal with bullies by bringing them back to their biblical foundations.

*Paul Kremer lives in Gold Canyon, Arizona, with his wife, Leslie, and their four children. They are members of Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Tempe.*



To add thoughts and continue the discussions about these questions and answers, go to

[www.parentscrosslink.net](http://www.parentscrosslink.net).

**Given the number of young people who seem to abandon their confirmation vows every year, is our rite of confirmation still relevant?**

Neither the age of the child nor the rite of confirmation is commanded in Scripture. Yet God does instruct us to "train a child in the way he should go" (Proverbs 22:6). While parental influence is no guarantee children will remain faithful to the Lord, keeping one's confirmation vow has less to do with the rite and more to do with an ongoing action of continuing in the Word. We dare not ignore the fact that children need the example of their parents, especially after they are confirmed.

Paul encourages believers of all ages, "But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it" (2 Timothy 3:14). Without a steady diet of God's gospel in

Word and sacrament, there is little chance for spiritual health, no matter what a person's age is.

Never underestimate the powerful influence that parents play in modeling their faith to their children. Children learn to know Jesus when they see their parents pray. Children learn to follow Jesus when they see the priority their parents place on Bible study. Children grow in their faith, when Jesus is a regular visitor in their home.

**I've tried to teach my children to be friends with everyone at school. But in my son's class there's one boy no one likes, and for some pretty good reasons. What should I tell my son?**

Try helping your son imagine what it would be like to spend 40-plus hours a week in school programs where few people liked him or wanted to be with him. Studies show 10 percent of school-aged children have no friends in their classes and are disliked by a majority of their classmates, often due to their social-skill deficits.

Among Christian friends, exclusion should not be an option, but forgiveness is a solution. We all have strengths and weaknesses, and some weaknesses show more than others. Those children with social-skill deficits need a lot of practice.

Should we allow classmates to hurt others or break the rules? No. Should children have consequences for their actions? Yes. Then, forgive them and give them another opportunity to practice those social skills again and again.

**My mom and dad are divorced. I live with my mom. Is there anything I can do to improve the communication between me and my father? We hardly ever talk.**

There are several ways to improve communication with your dad. However, it is important that your dad is also willing to participate. Here are six ways to improve communication:

1. Develop a routine that puts you in regular contact with each other.
2. Suggest activities you can do together while you are visiting him.
3. Exchange a notebook with your thoughts and feelings.
4. Ask your dad open-ended questions such as, "Tell me . . ." or "What's that like?"
5. Write letters via e-mail or regular mail, telling about your day or your feelings on deeper topics.
6. Pray every night for a closer relationship with your dad. Don't give up.



# TOO MUCH DIRT



Andrea Indahl

For a whole year, my little son Jackson wanted to be a “cutter” when he grew up. He simply meant he wanted to cut down trees. (He told me that I could carry the wood for him. Nice, huh!)

Two weeks ago, while vacationing in the Black Hills, whom should we meet but some real “cutters”—a small group of firefighters who were clearing trees and underbrush from the trails. They were working their way down the hill as we were going up. A friend who knows Jackson’s aspirations said, “Look, Jackson, you want to do that, don’t you?”

Jackson took a hard look at the firefighters’ grimy faces and answered, “No. They have too much dirt in their eyes.” Apparently Jackson had seen a disturbing detail—something that he had not previously understood about the work that woodcutters do.

We all laughed. But my three-year-old son was serious. Later, I got to thinking about how easy it is for all of us to let the dirty little details derail our plans and dreams.

It happened to me as I was preparing to go on that very same vacation. I had promised a year earlier to go along with my husband to a conference he was scheduled to attend. But as the time grew closer, I began to worry. I worried that we didn’t have enough money. I worried that I had other things that needed to be done. The point is that I almost allowed the details to ruin a wonderful family vacation.

Life is full of little details, isn’t it? Meals to prepare. Floors to wash. Homework to help with. Skinned knees to kiss. Laundry. Shopping. Bill paying. It never ends! The plain truth is that we can’t ignore these details in life. But we can choose how we deal with them.

In Philippians 4:8,9, Paul wrote, “Finally, brothers, whatever is true,

whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. . . . And the God of peace will be with you.” He’s talking about the choices we make with regard to how we see the details of our lives.

We can see the dirty grime in all the mundane things we have to do in our daily routines and let it destroy our passion for living. Or we can see the real beauty in the common, ordinary things that others might dismiss as unimportant or trivial.

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Our family plays the High/Low game at dinner each night. We each share the best and worst parts of our day. It forces us to face the fact that life isn’t really all ups; there are also some downs. But even downs can seem okay by looking at them positively.

In a book titled *The Mission of Motherhood*, Sally Clarkson acknowledges the challenge of maintaining a positive attitude in a household. She writes, “We choose to be joyful, even when we feel like complaining. We choose to be peacemakers, even when we feel like arguing. We choose to be patient, even when we feel like getting our way.” Finally, “We choose to be

gracious, even when we don’t feel like it” (WaterBrook Press 2003).

There will be times when our children get on our nerves, and yet we’ll choose patience. There are going to be times when we want to yell at our spouses, and yet we will choose peace. As we try to live for Christ and seek his Word for guidance, we will see many successes.

But because we are human, we will also see many failures. There will be times when we’ll feel like yelling at our spouses, and we will. Nevertheless, the more we fail, the more we are humbled. And the more we are humbled, the more we see our need for Jesus.

When I lost my baby two years ago, there were days when I thought I was going crazy. I was too weak to overcome my negative thoughts—my own worst enemy. The miracle came each time I would open my Bible. What I found there was true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent, and praiseworthy. There, in the enduring promises of God’s Word, I saw Jesus. I saw all that he had done for me, in spite of my sins. I saw God’s promise to hold me close, in spite of myself. I saw his promise to love me—his message of mercy and grace. I found peace.

Whenever the details of your life seem to drag you down, choose to be positive. Overcome all the negative details of life by focusing on the positives of Jesus’ victory over Satan, sin, and death. When life gets to be too much to bear, take your load to Jesus. There’s real beauty in the dirt on his face.

*Andrea Indahl lives in Omaha, Nebraska, with her little ones—Sydney, Emma, Jackson, and Anika—and her awesome husband, Scott.*



# A Distorted View

Angie Molkentin

If they knew what this article was really about, most parents would not read on. Why? Because they would think this could never happen to them. Then they'd find out that it's happening to their best friend's daughter . . .

Or their daughter's best friend . . .

Or their daughter.

Then they'd want to devour every piece of information they could find to understand how this could happen on their watch. They'd be starving for something . . . anything . . . to explain why she's starving herself.

Four out of ten Americans either suffer from or know someone who is suffering from an eating disorder.\* It happened to Mandy, who grew up in a wonderful Christian home with "great parents who were positive and loving."

"Some people have a tragic thing in life that triggers an eating disorder. But I was just a normal kid," says Mandy. "I compared myself with others, like most kids do. How could my parents know what was going on inside me?"

For Mandy, the worry and self-consciousness that is a normal part of adolescence started to control her. She worried about getting fat, so she started restricting things in her diet, like desserts.

"I could never understand why I was so self-conscious. As a Christian, I would beat myself up for beating myself up." *Why can't I just accept myself as God made me?* she would ask herself. And a struggle for emotional control would ensue.

Restricting food became a coping mechanism for the stress of high school. "When other factors were out of my control, I could control food," she says.

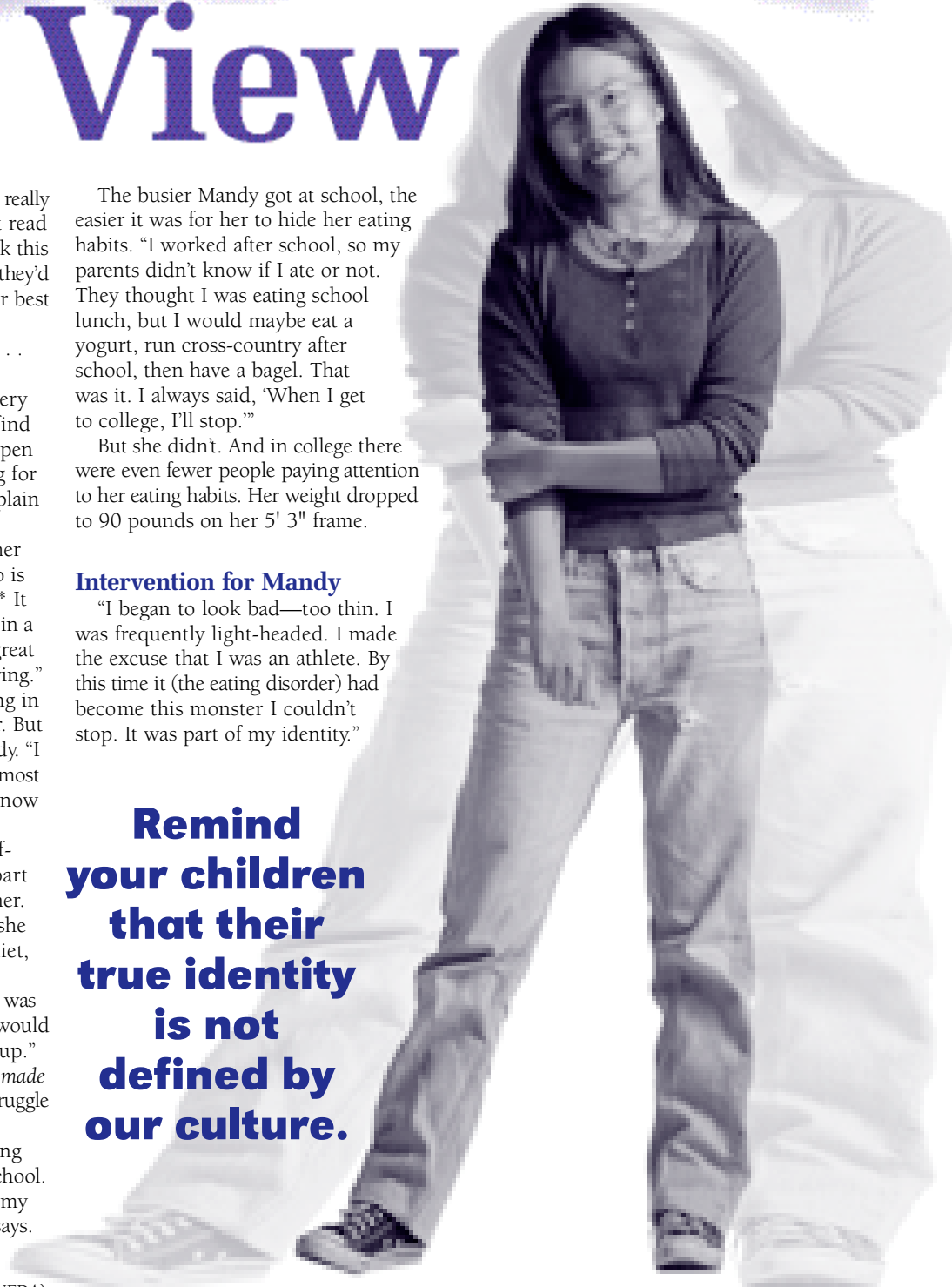
The busier Mandy got at school, the easier it was for her to hide her eating habits. "I worked after school, so my parents didn't know if I ate or not. They thought I was eating school lunch, but I would maybe eat a yogurt, run cross-country after school, then have a bagel. That was it. I always said, 'When I get to college, I'll stop.'"

But she didn't. And in college there were even fewer people paying attention to her eating habits. Her weight dropped to 90 pounds on her 5' 3" frame.

## Intervention for Mandy

"I began to look bad—too thin. I was frequently light-headed. I made the excuse that I was an athlete. By this time it (the eating disorder) had become this monster I couldn't stop. It was part of my identity."

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\* National Eating Disorders Association (NEDA).

Change for Mandy came when she met her future husband. He insisted that Mandy find help. “He made me go home and tell my parents, and that started my road to recovery.”

Mandy has been in recovery for 12 years now. She is finding it easier to talk about this life challenge. “It’s a pit I would hate to see others fall into. I’d like to see parents become better equipped.”

Sarah Reik from Trinity Counseling Services specializes in Christian counseling for young people, including those with eating disorders. “You can be a perfect parent and this can still happen,” she says. “Eating disorders have a genetic underlying, and the normal stresses of adolescence can bring it out.”

In assessing a case, Reik examines how the patient (most often female) sees herself. If medical or nutritional help is needed, Reik involves specialists in the treatment process. “With an eating disorder, who I am is based completely on appearance.” In treatment, Reik focuses on the patient’s identity as a redeemed child of God. “She has to see herself as perfect in God’s eyes. We also emphasize that God forgives her because guilt is a big part of this disorder. . . . A lot of girls hold on to the passage, ‘With God all things are possible’ (Matthew 19:26), as they work their way out of their downward spiral.”

### What parents can do

Christian parents have the opportunity to cultivate the special self-worth based on our Christ-won status in God’s eyes. With this perspective, Sarah Reik and Mandy offer these suggestions for parents:

- Talk with your children about their identity as God’s special creation. God designed our bodies beautifully! And because of Jesus, we are “new creations,” perfect in God’s eyes (2 Corinthians 5:17).
- When the media focuses on looks or identity, it becomes a teaching moment. Reik points out that it is normal for teens to notice and compare themselves with others. Parents need to provide context for comparisons. Remind your children that their true identity is not defined by our

culture. Encourage your teen to use media that reinforce positive images.

- Be careful what you say to a girl about her appearance or looks. Even a small comment about being “chunky” or “losing the baby fat” can plant a negative seed. As this seed grows, she may join the 80 percent of American women who are dissatisfied with their appearance.
- As a parent, be careful to model appropriate attitudes about weight and eating. Develop a healthy relationship with food and an active lifestyle. Don’t avoid fun activities (like swimming) because of your weight or shape.
- Eat meals together as a family so you can watch eating habits. Is she hiding food? Does she make excuses for controlling portions?
- Keep communication open, especially during times of change. Although everything looks fine on the surface, a child may be hurting on the inside. If you suspect a problem, be vigilant. Enlist the help of teachers to monitor lunchtime. Listen at the bathroom door after dinner to see if she’s purging. Talk to her friends. If she asks why you’re doing this, give specific reasons for your concern. Be caring, but firm.
- The earlier you catch a problem, the better. Once a minor turns 18, it will be more difficult to work with a doctor because of confidentiality laws. Mandy’s mother ran into this problem, which led to a delay in getting help for Mandy. Catching the problem early will prevent other health-related problems. It keeps the patient from spiraling further into addiction.
- Pray for and with your children. Ask God to help you or your loved one conquer the monster.

### Living with “the monster”

Mandy finally has a better relationship with food, but the monster still lurks in her life. “The desire for control is an ongoing struggle. I deal with it every day,” Mandy says. “It’s like any addiction. You think it isn’t a big deal at first, and then it consumes you, and then you have a lifelong struggle.”

God uses our ongoing struggles to keep us focused on him. “I can see from

## Anatomy of Eating Disorders

Eating disorders are illnesses with a biological basis influenced by emotional and cultural factors. The most common disorders are:

### Anorexia Nervosa

Intense fear of gaining weight or becoming fat. People with this disorder see themselves as overweight even though they are dangerously thin. Controlling the eating process becomes an obsession.

### Bulimia

Recurrent binge eating, followed by compensatory actions to prevent weight gain, such as self-induced vomiting, misuse of medications and laxatives, and excessive exercise. People with this disorder may maintain a normal weight but are intensely dissatisfied with their bodies. They feel disgusted and ashamed when they binge, yet relieved when they purge.

### Binge Eating Disorder

Recurrent binge eating episodes with a lack-of-control feeling. People with this disorder often feel depressed or guilty after overeating. Because they do not purge, they gain weight. Feeling disgusted with themselves leads to more bingeing and a cycle begins.

this experience how God has kept me close,” Mandy says. “He put people in my life to get me where I am now.”

Now the problem no longer consumes her. For Mandy, it lives in the background. And with God’s help, she will keep it there.

*Angie Molkentin is a freelance writer, communications consultant, and Bible study leader. She lives with her husband, John, and their three children in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin.*





# Viewpoint

## Time, Please?

Jane Schlenvogt

### You heard it from your parents: “Eat your vegetables, they’re good for you.”

A healthy diet is all about balance. So is life.

I recently asked my class of 25 six- and seven-year-olds the question, *What are parents for?* Hands quickly shot into the air. “Parents are for caring about you . . . for teaching you about God . . . for cleaning up after you.” (No surprise there.) The list of ideas grew. “They’re for reading books to you (A teacher’s *gotta* love that!) . . . taking you to the zoo . . . out to dinner . . . to church.”

I wasn’t surprised to hear that “parents are for loving you.” “How many of you think your parents love you?” I asked.

Oh, yes, all nodded in agreement. “Well, usually,” said a shy voice from the back of the room.

It was an effort to keep my eyebrows on the level. I couldn’t resist probing deeper. “How many of you think your parents *always* love you?” Only half the children responded. “What might be some times that you think your parents don’t love you?” The sincerity was evident as, one after another they echoed the same thought: “When they don’t spend enough time with me.”

But weren’t these the same children who said their parents were for “taking you places?” I wondered if that meant gymnastics, piano lessons, football, dance, soccer, and sundry other activities. Most parents excel in their efforts to provide plenty of opportunities for their children. What harm could there be in another serving of extracurricular activity?

A common thread began to emerge from the list. Can you find it? “Parents are for helping you with homework, playing with you, eating with you, praying with you, going to the zoo with you . . .” Fourteen of the 20 activities identified on the list were interactive; they were things these kids did *with* their parents.

We teach our children how important it is to eat a balanced diet of nutritional foods, but how well are we doing when it comes to maintaining a healthy balance in life?

Our relationships are the vegetables of life. Enrolling our children in a plethora of activities is like sampling everything on the buffet. You go home wondering if your stomach will ever be the same; and only then do you realize that it wasn’t a very nutritious

meal because it lacked balance.

“Parents are for wrestling with you, camping with you, and helping you remember stuff.” How about an extra helping of *memories*? Spend time *together*.

*Jane Schlenvogt teaches at Westside Christian School in Middleton, Wisconsin. She is a retreat presenter, Bible study and prayer leader, and serves on her congregation’s Women’s Ministry Team. She is the author of The Gift of Prayer: Power for Today’s Christian Woman (NPH 2003).*



## OUR family MATTERS

Katrina Brohn

### Bilingual

Our family is bilingual. Mostly we speak English. Other times we speak a language all our own. At our house a rainy day is a “Red



Rubber Boot Day.” The big slide at the park is the “Papa Bear Slide.” Three beeps on the car horn when Daddy leaves for work

causes us to recite: “Beep, beep, beep—Jesus is with me!” Reading to our children has given us this special bond of our own family language.

Snuggled on the couch under a blanket, we begin with “Let’s get cozy.” We read Mommy’s and Daddy’s favorites like *Katy No-Pocket* and *The Pokey Little Puppy*. We read classics like *The Mitten* and new stories like *Red Rubber Boot Day*. One of the joys of parenting is sharing a love of books with our children.



It doesn’t matter whether they love all the same books we do. But there is one book we read together that will always keep us close—to each other and to our Savior. Long after our daughters stop asking for *The Little Red Hen*, the one book we will continue to share is the Bible. It will keep us speaking the same language for eternity.

*Katrina Brohn and her husband, James, read to their two daughters, Kati Lin and Laura, in Beaver Dam, Wisconsin.*





# BIBLE STORIES



Karla Aden

They are just wisps of memory . . . moments from when I was a little girl. The memories are a little blurred around the edges from years that have passed. I can see my dad, more than 30 years ago, in the dim, pink light of my room, a primary Bible history book in his hands, as he reads me to sleep. On another night, I am on the edge of my mother's bed, as she says, "Let me tell you about a queen; her name was Esther. . . ." Then she opens her Bible and tells me the story.

Those Bible stories were reinforced as they were told to me again and again by Christian grade school teachers and Sunday school teachers—faithful men and women, training the young sinner-saint in me. Although I always understood that these stories were true and happened in real life to people who lived long ago, at some point I recognized my own place in them. These stories are my history. These are stories about an awesome, loving God, leading and forgiving his people. I am one of those people.

The stories of God's people have steadied my heart and mind often since then. I cannot imagine living this life without them. Through the high drama of adolescence, I knew that God was leading me. As a young adult trying to find my place in his world, I knew he had a plan for me. If God could take his people through walls of water on dry land, he could certainly get me where I needed to go.

This history steadies my words as my adopted daughter and I discuss how she came to our family. Through the stories of Joseph and Moses, I can show her that God leads us through sad good-byes and strange places to bring us to the place he wants us to be.

As I sat by the hospital bed of my unresponsive toddler, I remembered the

story of the Shunammite widow and her son. I felt her quiet desperation. From the same story, I knew the God who could heal my daughter or take her home to heaven, and I trusted his will.

I questioned God as I crouched next to the grave of the baby I would never hold. I heard God question Job, "Where were you when I created the earth?" I

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knew that it was time to accept the will of God, who would never forsake me. This God and I have a history, and as much as I can grasp with a limited human mind, I understand who he is. He is the God of the plagues, who means what he says. He is the loving Father, who forgives me, his wandering child. He is my Savior-brother, who laid down his life for my own. Each part of God's history teaches me that God loves his people; and, therefore, he loves me.

Some pastors have shared with me a growing, disturbing trend in their con-

firmation classes. They can no longer simply refer to the stories of God's people to emphasize a lesson, because our young people are losing their grasp on God's history. They can no longer count on the students knowing the stories from Scripture. If children do not learn them before they are confirmed, when will they learn them? How will they live peacefully in a world racked with the effects of sin if they do not know the history they have with their God who is leading them through life?

I believe the solution to this troubling trend lies at the beginning of this article—moms and dads opening their Bibles and reading them to their children. The neurological pathways of babies' brains are strengthened every time we speak to them. Why not strengthen those little roads with the language of our heavenly Father's love, found only in his promises? As you tuck your frightened toddler back into bed after she's had a bad dream, remind her of God's care for his people. Use God's Word to demonstrate to your teenagers and young adults that God is right there with them to reassure them that he has had a plan for them since before they were born. Share a story from the patriarchs—Abraham, Jacob, Joseph—that helps them see that they have an intimate history with the God who rules the universe.

*Karla Aden works at Our Shepherd Family Ministry Center in Appleton, Wisconsin. She and her husband, Darin, live in Greenville with their four children.*





# FAITH TAKES ROOT

Angie Lindeman

As spring arrives, the earth comes alive again. The development of a plant can be a beautiful picture of Christian growth.

The gardener begins by planting the tiny seed, which germinates. The plant takes root in the soil. The germination of the seed represents the beginning of spiritual life. The Holy Spirit causes faith to take root in our lives.

Without water the young plant will wither and die. A new Christian needs a daily dose of God's Word. Without the Word of God, the new faith will wither and die.

A plant will grow stronger and be healthier when the gardener adds fertilizer on a regular basis. Christians need to spend time with God—praying to him, worshiping him. The means of grace will provide the “fertilizer” that faith needs to grow.

Weeds in a garden can choke a plant. Sin and temptation are like weeds; they can destroy a Christian's faith. In order to grow spiritually, we need to weed the sin out of our lives. Yet we can't do it on our own. God helps us do the weeding.

Sometimes the gardener may need to cut off unwanted branches and guide a plant's growth. God mercifully helps us through the pruning process. His gentle correction is part of his plan for our lives.

The gardener may choose to add stakes near a plant to keep it safe from wind that might cause it damage. Surrounding ourselves with our fellow believers gives us the support we need in good times and bad.

After careful tending, the plant reaches its peak. Perhaps a beautiful flower can be picked or delicious fruit can be enjoyed. The Christian produces many fruits of faith, which are the good works we do out of love for our heavenly gardener.

Cartoon by Ed Koehler



## Parents & Crosslink

DEAR READER,

Today's parents learn from each other, sharing ideas and encouraging one another to meet the daily challenges of living in an increasingly godless society. In the context of the gospel, this is a very powerful dynamic. *Parents Crosslink* (PCL) is a response to the demand for an interactive approach to assisting parents with a biblical view of family. Please join our ongoing conversation about Christian parenting at the PCL Web site located at [www.parentscrosslink.net](http://www.parentscrosslink.net)

Kenneth Kremer, PCL Editor

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