



Ladies of Grace
Bible Studies for Women
The Ministry of Womanhood Series

Every woman has been born into the ministry of God. It is spelled out for her in Scripture, lived out before others in her home, church, and community, and recorded by God in the pages of eternity.

Titus 2:3-5 ~ God's Instruction Manual For Raising Daughters

When I first began mothering my girls, my first thoughts about raising them went along these lines:

1. I want them to have the things that I never had.
2. I want them to do the things that I always wish that I would have done.
3. I want them to look like I always wanted to look.

And consequently, during the first few years of my daughter's lives, their rooms were filled with toys galore, their schedules were packed with a never ending list of events, and their closets were stuffed with many beautiful clothes. And, at the ages of 2 and 3, they were well on their way to becoming the most spoiled and annoying children that would live on the face of the earth.

But then something changed. I got saved and by God's grace, the older women around me started teaching me the truths of God's Word. It seemed like every time I turned around, someone was dragging me to the second chapter of Titus and pointing their finger at some area they felt that I needed to change. And although, I must admit, I didn't really like all of their intervention at that time, now that I look back, I'm so thankful for the love and concern that God showed to me as a mother (and as a woman!) during those years, through the teaching and admonition of those women . . . Women who really cared about me and my girls, and who genuinely wanted us to grow up and become all that God wanted us to become.

As I sit down to write this study for you today, I want you to understand that my whole goal in teaching you God's instruction manual for raising your daughters is so that your girls will grow up and become everything that God wants them to be, and so that all of your mothering efforts will not be in vain. I pray that God uses the things that I am going to share with you to encourage you, inspire you, and to remind you that **God has a specific purpose for your daughter's life, and a specific manner in which He desires her to be trained.**

Please turn with me to Titus 2:3-5, and let's look at the eight courses of instruction that God wants every daughter to learn in her own home, from her very own mother.





As we read these few verses, we see quite clearly that God expects for us to raise our daughters to become home centered and marriage oriented. According to God's Word, all of our instructions should be focused upon training them to become good wives, good mothers, and good homemakers someday.

THE COURSE ON HOW TO BE SOBER

In this course, all of the lessons center around teaching your daughter to live a sensible life. What is a sensible life? It is one in which the decisions are made by truth, and not by emotion. This is going to be a tough course to teach, because everybody knows that all girls are emotional by nature! And this is ok, because their emotional nature is what makes them a good female and helps them to be kind and compassionate. What we will need to do though, is teach them to be kind and compassionate about the right kinds of things. If not, they will grow up to become foolish and unstable minded women. How will we teach them this? By helping them make sound decisions in the daily issues of their lives. Here are some ideas:

1. Give them an allowance to buy the things that they use and need, and then teach them how to live within it.
2. Teach them to amuse themselves with the work of their hands and minds (music, art, reading, crafts, cleaning, cooking, etc.), rather than with the sight of their eyes, the money in their pocket, or the help of a car.
3. Establish a daily routine for them to follow, and train them to follow the order of it. Being sober is about doing what needs to be done, no matter how you feel, no matter what anyone else is doing, and no matter if anybody is watching you or not. This will all be taught if you make your daughters follow a daily pattern of things.
4. Establish certain ages for the major events in their lives. Don't allow them to just 'drift' through life copying what everyone else does, when everyone else is doing it. In our house, there was no make-up until the age of 16, no thoughts of dating until high school (near college), no driver's license until they graduated from high school, and no marriage until everyone involved was finished with college. These don't have to be your ages for things, but if you want to train your daughters to become sober minded, you should establish some sort of ages for things. Why is this so important? It teaches them to be patient and to do things because it is time to do them, not just because they feel like it or because everyone else is doing it.
5. Make the Bible and the preaching of God's Word their guidebook. Don't hold up some parenting expert or friend as their standard ~ keep the truths of God as the plumb line in their lives. God's Word never changes, and you will be especially glad about this when your girls become teenagers and they become people that will want to drift and change everything about them continually!
6. Train your daughter to feel deeply, but then to get over things quickly. The best way to do this is to teach them to pray about everything and everybody that they are concerned with.
7. Teach your daughter to love the way God loves and to pick the right friends.
8. Allow your daughter to experience the natural consequences that accompany the sins that she commits in her life. This is the very best way for her to think clearly about things and to understand the truths that you want her to grasp in regards to good and evil, and right and wrong.

THE COURSE ON HOW TO LOVE A HUSBAND

This is something that your daughter will learn through the love that she is taught to have for her daddy. From an early age, teach your daughter to be her daddy's girl and to do what she can to care for the everyday needs that he has. Let her get him his paper, make him his lunch, tell him he is great, and write him notes of affection. By doing this, she will begin to understand men and how to deal with them properly. Don't worry about teaching her about the intimate part of marriage, that is not your job anyway, that is her husband's job!

THE COURSE ON HOW TO LOVE CHILDREN

This is something that your daughter will learn through caring for children younger than her. Always use your daughter as a babysitter. Don't ever feel bad about this. And when your daughter gets old enough, let her work in the church nursery, help with the Kids Choir, work on a bus route, baby-sit for others, and teach Sunday School.

"I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart." Psalm 40:8



THE COURSE ON HOW TO BE DISCREET

This is taught by teaching your daughter to mind her own business and NOT talk about other people's business. You can help her become good at this if you will teach her to stay off the telephone (ours were never allowed to talk for more than ten minutes at a time, and only then if they had something specific to talk about), stay out of secular magazines, and stay away from TV shows, overnight events and large gatherings of just kids.

THE COURSE ON HOW TO BE CHASTE

This is taught through teaching your daughter to live by the standards set in God's Word. Teach your daughter early that God wants attention drawn to her character, not her appearance. The Bible is very clear in Proverbs 6 & 7 that it is the *strange woman* that dresses immodestly (in clothes that accentuate the body, or reveal body parts that should be covered), and draws the attention of men through her smooth speech and outward adorning. If a daughter is going to grow up and become chaste (or pure), she is going to need her mom to guide her to dress modestly as a young lady, teach her that there are some things that are not appropriate to say, and to carry herself in a way that is untoward (or uncompromising) in front of others.

THE COURSE ON KEEPING A HOME

This is taught through regular daily chores. As a daughter grows, so should her list of homemaking chores, and so should her knowledge of how to do extra things around the house as well. What are some of the things that a daughter can learn how to do as she grows older? Grocery shopping, sewing, baking, gardening, stamping, knitting, painting, bread making, canning, upholstering, basket weaving, etc.. The list is endless. I think this was my very favorite part of having girls, the opportunity to teach them about all the fun things that are involved with keeping a home.

THE COURSE ON BEING GOOD

This is taught by making your daughters do what is right and not what is convenient. This comes by teaching them good character. Teach them the importance of doing the right things, and then make them do good things like make their beds each day, take a shower, groom themselves, follow the rules, tell the truth, be loyal to those that love and care for them, finish the job, clean up after themselves, refrain from touching until marriage, guard their eyes, protect their hearts, and work hard with their hands.

THE COURSE ON BEING OBEDIENT TO A HUSBAND

This is taught through being obedient to her own dad. Don't ever discourage your daughter from obeying the commands that her dad gives to her, even if you think they might be unfair, harsh, or burdensome. Of course, you know that I don't mean that she would obey the command to do something immoral or illegal, but most of us don't even deal with situations like that. And teach her to go to her own dad for the answers to the questions that she has, to meet the needs that she has, and to gain the direction that she needs. If she will learn to do this early, she will make a very good submissive wife later on (and won't her future husband be thankful to you for that!).

Well, this is the basic course of instruction that God wants us to follow as we raise our daughters. In between it all, He wants us to love them, enjoy them, help them to enjoy life, but most of all, He wants them to be taught how to become useful women, so that their lives will bring glory to Him, and not shame to His Word.

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Turning The Hearts of Our Daughters Towards Their Father

A few years ago, as my girls and I were walking to the parking garage in Hammond, Indiana, after church, we spotted my husband walking towards our second car a few feet ahead of us. At that time we owned a beat up white Toyota that had been rescued from being stolen and wrecked, and an old Dodge Caravan that had been resurrected from the dead for us to use while we waited for our Toyota to be rescued from being stolen and wrecked.



Anyhow, as soon as my girls saw their dad, they both went running after him shouting these words, "Hooray, it's my turn to ride home with Dad this week!" They were so excited to be with their dad, and their excitement warmed my heart and caused me to forget about the fact that I would now be riding with my own self all the way home.

As soon as they reached their Dad, he gave them each a big hug and turned around to give me an affectionate wave. He knew that I would be happy that the girls ran up to meet him, and he knew that I wouldn't care if I needed to drive home alone.

But he did something very sweet, for the sake of his testimony before them as a gentlemen, and to show them that I was the MOST special woman in his life . . . He told one of them that they should ride home with me, instead of him.

I knew he was doing this, because I could tell by the way my girls were interacting with each other. Even from a distance I could hear, "But I rode home with her last week," "No, I did," "But I have hardly seen Dad this week," "I know that it is really my turn."

In the end, I knew that my oldest daughter Kina had won, when my sweet Sabrina put a smile on her face, walked back towards me, and said, "Mom, I think I will ride home with you today, because I don't want you to have to ride home alone."

Oh, how precious was the gesture that she made towards me that day! And to tell you the truth, I would have loved for her to ride home with me that day. You see, at that time, we lived about 20 miles away in a town called Crown Point, and the ride home was long and would have been rather lonely. But

something in my heart told me that it would be a good thing for me to ride home by myself that day, and I quickly assured my daughter that I was going to be all right and that I wanted her to enjoy riding home with her Daddy that day.

"Really Mom! You really mean it? Thank you so much! You are the best and I love you so much! See you when we get home!" she said to me as she hugged me and then dashed off to catch her Dad and Kina before they drove away from the parking lot on that day.

My drive home that day was anything but long and boring. No, on that day, it was filled with thoughts of gratefulness for a man that loves his family, two girls that love their dad, and my own yielding heart that was willing to allow my girls to do what was best for them, rather than what would have been encouraging to me.

The Bible reminds us of the importance of this sort of thing in Micah 4:5-6 ~

"Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord: And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse."

And about John the Baptist in Luke 1:17 ~

"And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."