

## Gender Specific Ministry

- We are excited to talk to you about the importance of gender specific ministry for girls!
  - Over the years, churches have changed their approach to discipleship, to ensure that kids are not just hearing the stories of the Bible but allowing the Holy Spirit to transform them from the inside out.
  - As we discuss the need for ministry specifically to girls, the Titus 2 principle serves as a tremendous foundation of godly women training up younger women.
  - When a church leader understands the importance of this ministry format, they will be more effective in the areas of discipleship and mentoring.
  - We want to take a few minutes to highlight the purpose, value, and opportunities of a Girls Ministry that will nurture their personal relationship with Jesus Christ through mentor-based leadership.

**Jen:** I'm a mom, I have a son and a daughter and let me tell you, their personalities couldn't be more different.

**Lori:** When I think of the differences between boys and girls one specific thought comes to mind. Check this out!

### Teeth Brushing Video

**Lori:** That video perfectly depicts some of the differences between boys and girls. I'm a mom of two boys, and they would definitely scrape the toothpaste off the sink.

**Jen:** Yeah, I'm afraid my son would too, but there is no way my daughter would!

- The Bible says that when God made man and woman he called it "very good." He fully understood all of the differences and uniquenesses about them.
  - Boys and girls are different, but it is amazing to think that God intentionally designed them that way.
  - Knowing their unique differences, lets dive a little bit deeper into the needs of girls.
- Leaders and parents need to understand that it is absolutely okay to disciple and mentor girls differently than boys. Having times where boys and girls are separated provides necessary opportunities to meet their specific needs, for instance:

- Girls need to feel comfortable to open up.
  - Girls need to feel confident to openly share their feelings because they tend to process things verbally.
- Girls rely on relationships.
  - Girls love to talk! Talking helps them connect at the heart.
  - **Jen:** My daughter recently shared with me a conversation that she had with her best friend. Let's take a peek at it!
    - [Texting Video #1](#)
  - **Lori:** That was the best conversation ever! Do you want to see a conversation between my two boys? It's totally different!
    - [Texting Video #2](#)

## The Reality

- Let's look at the reality of some concerns girls are facing today. Based on recent statistical trends:
  - Girls are more likely to experience depression than boys
  - 40% of date rape victims are between the ages of 14 and 17
  - Eating disorders are now the third most chronic illness in adolescent girls
  - 1 in 3 girls has had sex by the age of 16, 2 out of 3 by the age of 18
- Let's face it, girls today are struggling. **NOW MORE THAN EVER** they need godly women who are willing to pour into them. They need to see the love of Jesus and they need to know that it doesn't have to be this way. God has a better plan for them.
- Girls need to have someone who can speak their language, so they can understand and respond. Churches that understand these issues and address them through God's Word, can make a significant impact on helping girls thrive despite our current culture.
- If we couple this reality with the unique needs of girls, we can provide a powerful resource to shape the hearts and minds of this generation.

## Needs That Girls are Facing:

- Every girl needs love and acceptance.
  - Creating a safe place for girls to express themselves is vital.
  - Until a teacher has reached a girl's heart, they will have little impact on her mind and soul.
  - Girls need to know that they are loved just the way they are.
  - You might have some girls in your class that may not fit the "mold" of what some think a "church girl" should look like. They need your love and acceptance just as much, if not more.
  - Let them know that who they are is important. More than that, they need to know who they are in Jesus and how much they mean to Him.

- Girls need to talk!
  - Be sure to allow girls to process verbally, understand that even mindless chatter among girls can be beneficial as they build relationships with their peers, leaders, and teachers.
  - Give them an opportunity to respond to discussion-based questions, questions that go beyond requiring just a simple yes or no.
  - Don't be afraid to talk about the tough issues!
  - Use wisdom as you discover or learn details about something that is really hurting one of your girls. Be sure to talk to your pastor if you find something that may be harmful to her.
- In light of these realities and challenges facing girls today, we understand that many churches may only have one contact with a child each week. This time needs to be maximized to truly capture the heart of the child.
- With that in mind, co-ed settings are not always sufficient for addressing the concerns related to girls, including relational, sexual, and emotional issues. These topics are often ignored in the church because they are not appropriate in a co-ed setting. The truth is, if the church is not talking about these aspects of a girl's life, we can rest assured that the world is. Whose voice will you allow to resonate in their mind?

## What's Next?

- **Create Excitement!**
  - Take the passion and purpose behind a gender-specific ministry to girls and talk to your pastor and children's pastor about starting or revitalizing a current ministry.
  - As part of the Girls Ministries family, we have district and local leaders in YOUR area that are ready and willing to talk with you and help you get started, or even ways to equip you and your team to effectively lead your ministry.
- **Develop a Plan**
  - Once you have established a plan for your ministry, consider the cost that may be associated such as curriculum, resources, and events. Talk to your leaders or pastor to determine what your role in the budget planning and expenses might be.
  - Determine meeting locations and what your space will look like.
    - Create an atmosphere that will encourage girls to attend and build excitement.
- **Raise Up a Team**
  - It starts with one! It only takes one godly woman with a heart for girls to begin the process. Build your team from there.
  - Share the vision with others: moms, grandmothers, teen girls, single adult women in your church.

- Consider training options...connect with local and district leaders about upcoming events.
- Check out the National Girls Ministries website at [ngm.ag.org](http://ngm.ag.org) for additional resources, and while you're online check out our social media sites for the most updated information available and to connect with other leaders just like you.
- **Prepare Your Materials**
  - As you plan, remember that the National Girls Ministries Department has all the resources that you need.
  - Start with a sponsor guide! Each sponsor guide provides you with the foundation for your Girls Ministries program. The sponsor guide has everything a leader needs to disciple girls through an entire year of curriculum. It includes lesson plans, reproducible resources, and additional club information.
- **Get Started!**
  - We hope that we have been able to clearly provide a foundation for the need of a Girls Ministry in your local church.
  - Understanding the purpose, value, and opportunity that lies within such a ministry will allow the local church to invest in the lives of girls today and raise up women of faith for tomorrow.