

God's Gift for Marriage

A dialogue between a mother
and her daughter



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Ways to Use God's Gift for Marriage Day 1-5 Dialogue

- 1. For Girls:** When it comes to talking to your children about sex, you want them to hear the truth from you rather than pick up misinformation from the media or from friends. Bringing up the topic early can help establish a trust relationship. The first day of the dialogue is written to bring up the topic and discuss puberty. It's helpful to start talking about this before the periods start so your daughter knows what to expect. Periods usually begin within 2 to 3 years from the breast buds appearing. Therefore, for girls, when you see breast buds appear, start looking for opportunities to have a good conversation. You may find that while your daughter might be ready for the first day of dialogue, you may wait to discuss day 2-4 until she is a little older.
- 2. For boys:** Sex education can often be overlooked since they don't have to deal with periods. As a parent of boys, I have found that all cultures put a lot of pressure on boys to have sex outside of marriage. Movies and TV shows act like pornography and premarital sex are just part of growing up. So, I feel like it is important to be very intentional at a young age to teach our sons to respect girls and women and to have a healthy biblical view of sex. While boys should also read all five days of the dialogue, Day 5 is designed specifically for boys to step up and be the kind of man that women want to marry. If the dialogue brings up questions, feel free to discuss them. The purpose of this resource is to give parents a tool to get the conversation started. Your sons and daughters need to know that they should come to you if they have questions or concerns regarding this topic.

- 3. Church based women's groups:** Develop a Bible study that discusses what the Bible teaches about sex. (Read scripture about sex and the role of parents in teaching children.) Discuss cultural challenges parents face in teaching this topic to their children. Talk about social pressures their children face to not obey the Bible. Note that 1 in 3 women have faced some form of abuse. Be compassionate as you discuss this topic, pointing them to Christ's love, mercy, and grace. (There are many Bible stories of Jesus showing compassion and forgiveness to women that have not obeyed God's commands about sex.) Read the dialogue as a skit in the group and/or print it out as a resource parents can use to share it with their children.
- 4. Youth groups:** Ideally parents should be having these conversations with their children. Some have successfully used this resource as a skit at a youth event. The youth read a day of dialogue, then divided into same sex small groups and discussed it. If you use this dialogue at a youth event at your church, I encourage you to tell parents ahead of time what you will be discussing and encourage them to have follow up conversations with their children.
- 5. School:** This dialogue is an abstinence-based sex education tool that could be included in a unit about reproduction in science class. It could also be used in the Bible knowledge classes. The dialogues could be printed out and sent home to be discussed with parents. Once again, as much as possible, parents should be the ones using this tool.
- 6. Commercial Use:** This dialogue can be printed and distributed with reusable sanitary pad kits.



Mom: Good afternoon, Cynthia. How was your day at school?

Cynthia: It was good Mother, thank you. How are you?

Mom: I am well. I have been thinking about how fast you are growing up. God has given me the responsibility of teaching you all about Jesus and his salvation and the way he wants us to live as Christians.

Cynthia: You and Dad have taught us so much about the Bible.

Mom: Today, I want to talk to you about what the Bible teaches about sex, about God's plan for sex.

Cynthia: My friend says that this topic is too shameful to discuss with our mothers.

Mom: I agree that it is a very private topic of conversation and I don't want you repeating what I share with you to the neighbors. The Bible teaches that God gives parents the responsibility to teach their children about how he wants

them to live. The Bible has a lot to say about sex. In fact, people that don't know the Bible don't understand it the same way. What have they taught you in school about your changing body?

Cynthia: They have told us that our breasts will get larger and boys' penises will get longer and larger. Both boys and girls will grow hair under their arms and in the private area. They have said that we will also smell under our arms when we sweat and that we need to be sure to bathe every day. Also, we learned that women have a vagina, located between where we pee and where we poo. The vagina leads to the uterus. The uterus will be where a baby will grow.

Mom: That is correct. I am happy that you are paying attention in class. Did they say anything about periods?

Cynthia: Yes. They said that every month girls will bleed from the vagina. Will it be like when I pee?

Mom: No. The bleeding will come a little all throughout the day and night. It last for 3 to 7 days. It's actually not a lot of blood, but we can't control it. For this reason, I want to be sure to teach you how to take care of yourself during this time of the month. For most women the period comes every 28 days. It's a good idea to mark a calendar, so you can be prepared for it to start each month. But for some women, for girls that are first starting their periods, and older women the bleeding can come at anytime. They have irregular periods.

Cynthia: Do you have to stay in the toilet all day?

Mom: No. I use reusable pads to collect the blood. You attach a pad inside your panties like this. When your pad is full, you remove it and put it in a bucket of water to soak. At the end of the day, you can wash the dirty pads and put them over the edge of the bucket to dry. It is helpful if they can be exposed to the sun as this will help keep them clean. You are old enough now to wash your pads all by yourself. You can carry a pad to school with you in case you start your period while you are at school. Some women use cloth to collect the blood and others may use disposable pads. The disposable pads must be wrapped in tissue or put in a plastic bag and thrown away in a trash can or pit. They are not to be put in the toilet because it can stop the drain and break the toilet.

Cynthia: My friend said that when I start my period I am going to need to start putting my fingers in my vagina to wash it well with soap.

Mom: You should not put anything in your vagina. God made our bodies so that it naturally cleans itself when you have your period. You could scratch yourself or get an infection if you put your fingers up your vagina. But, like your teacher said, you should bathe everyday with soap including the hair near your vagina. Do you have any more questions about the periods?

Cynthia: Is it painful?

Mom: There should not be any pain at the opening of the vagina or when you bleed. Some women have abdominal pain a

day or two before they start their period and maybe a few days into the period. Others have headaches during this time. I have also heard of women that get sick and vomit, but that is rare. The hormones in our body that cause us to start our periods can sometimes make us feel sad or irritable.

Cynthia: That all sounds awful. I think I'm just going to stay in bed whenever I get my period.

Mom: That is not possible for you, Cynthia. Do you see me lying around once a month? Actually, you will find that you will feel better if you get up and move around. If the abdominal pain and headache are severe I can give you some Brufen. Also it's helpful to eat more foods with iron during this time of the month, like beans, greens, and red meat. Having a monthly period is a healthy, normal process, getting your body ready to have babies.

Cynthia: I want lots of babies.

Mom: Not this early, I hope. I still want to talk to you about how babies are made and God's plan for sex. I think we have talked enough for today. Put a pad in your school bag so that you are prepared in case you start your period at school. Let's keep talking tomorrow. I need to check on your baby sister and you need to do your homework.



Cynthia: Mom, good afternoon. I'm home. How was your day?

Mom: It was good, and you? Did you learn a lot at school today?

Cynthia: Yes. The science teacher taught us about reproduction, how babies are made.

Mom: Come. Sit. Let's talk. I want to teach you what the Bible says about God's plan for making babies, having sex.

Cynthia: The teacher said it is necessary for the human race to continue.

Mom: Yes. That's true, but it is so much more than that. Do you remember the story of how God made Adam and Eve from the Bible, in Genesis 2?

Cynthia: A little bit. Wasn't Eve made from a rib?

Mom: That's right. On the sixth day of creation, God formed man out of dirt and breathed the breath of life into him. He

placed him in a beautiful garden and told him to care for all of God's creation, the plants and the animals. God told him he could eat from any tree except from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. God said, "It's not good for man to be alone. I will make a suitable helper for him." Adam named all the animals, but none of them were a suitable helper. So, God had Adam sleep and from a rib taken from his side, he made woman. Do you know what Adam said when he saw her for the first time?

Cynthia: Here it is in verse 23: He said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called woman', for she was taken out of man."

Mom: Read verse 24 too.

Cynthia: "That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh." Oh. Is this talking about marriage?

Mom: Yes. God's plan for marriage is for one man and one woman to leave the homes they grew up in to start their own home as one. It's the one flesh relationship. In verse 25 it says "Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame."

Cynthia: I would be so ashamed if a man saw me naked.

Mom: Yes, and you should be because you are not married yet. But, Adam and Eve were married. They had a one flesh relationship. They had sex together because they were married. So, it is good and right for them to be naked in the

privacy of their bedroom without experiencing any shame. Sex is a marriage gift that you should wait to enjoy until marriage.

What have you learned in school about reproduction or sex?

Cynthia: The teacher said that when a man puts his penis in the vagina, sperm travel up through the uterus to the fallopian tube where they unite with the woman's egg. Then the egg travels down to the uterus where the baby will attach and grow.

Mom: Yes, that is the definition of sex. And that is how babies are made. There are many actions that lead to this. Holding hands, kissing, and touching are actions that can lead to sex. Married couples do this to show love to one another.

Cynthia: Why have I always heard that sex is a sin?

Mom: Sex within marriage is not a sin, but sex outside of marriage is a sin with lots of consequences. The Bible is very clear that a man should only have sex with his wife and a wife should only have sex with her husband. You see, sex is a special gift that God gave to married people so that they would be united as one, in the one flesh relationship. This marriage gift is to be shared by one man and one woman only in the committed relationship of marriage.

Cynthia: I want that kind of marriage one day.

Mom: The way a man loves and protects his wife and the way a wife respects and honors her husband is a living example to others of how Jesus loves his bride, the church. Marriages

that obey and honor God's instructions help people understand how much Jesus loves us.

Cynthia: It seems to me sex is more than just making babies.

Mom: Yes. Sex unites a man and a woman and makes them one. God's instructions are for our own good, so we can enjoy this gift as He designed it to be in Genesis 2. But, sadly sin entered the world and the Father of Lies caused a lot of problems for humans. Tomorrow I will tell you this sad story. Here. Watch your sister. I need to finish washing the cloth





Mom: Good morning, Cynthia. Why aren't you in your school uniform?

Cynthia: Good morning, Mother. Our teacher told us there wouldn't be school today. She is going to her brother's funeral. Some of my classmates said he died from AIDS.

Mom: I'm sorry to hear that. We should take some time now to continue our discussion from yesterday. I think this early in morning we won't be disturbed. Get some tea and come join me.

Cynthia: What are we going to talk about today? Should I get the Bible.

Mom: Today we are going to talk about how sin entered the world and the lies that Satan tells us about sex. I need you to read Genesis 3.

Cynthia: All of it?

Mom: Yes. Read the whole chapter and then we can discuss it.
(Read Genesis 3)

Remember at the end of Genesis 2 we read that the first man and woman were naked and unashamed. What happened to change that?

Cynthia: The woman and man believed the snake's lie and both ate from the tree that God told them not to eat from. Then they noticed they were naked and they hid.

Mom: That's right. How did God punish them?

Cynthia: He told the snake that he and the woman would always be enemies. Does that mean women will always hate snakes?

Mom: Yes, but it is deeper than that. We know that the snake is Satan. He will always be trying to tempt all of humankind to sin. What else?

Cynthia: Pain in childbirth, difficulty working, and returning to dust. It's so different from the way things were in Genesis 2.

Mom: You are totally right. Now that sin has entered the world, we see that the man and woman are experiencing shame. They are even hiding from God. The relationship between man and woman is even troubled. Most of all Satan is constantly fighting against mankind, telling them lie after lie. I want you to understand that we are in a battle against the enemy, Satan. He doesn't want us to enjoy the good gifts that God has given us. He tells us many lies about sex.

Cynthia: What lies?

Mom: One lie would be that lust is the same thing as love.

Cynthia: What is lust?

Mom: Lust is when a person looks or touches another person with the desire to have sex with them. See, God wants us to only have those sexual desires for the person we are united to in marriage. Jesus says that when we lust after another person it is as if we have had sex with them. Lust is selfish, thinking about your own physical desires. Love is being patient, kind, not jealous, not boastful, not prideful etc... What other lies have you heard?

Cynthia: My friends say that we should practice sex before we are married.

Mom: Why would she want to have sex before marriage?

Cynthia: I was told “practice makes perfect.” Also, it’s a good way to get money for make-up, hair products, new clothes, etc...

Mom: Satan works hard to get us to disobey God’s commands regarding this marriage gift of sex. He wants us to disobey God and have sex with people that we are not in a committed marriage relationship with. Satan has come to kill, steal, and destroy. When you have sex outside of marriage you are destroying your future. Sex outside of marriage is selfish, wanting physical pleasure alone, not thinking about what is best for the other. But sex within marriage is an act of love. The church provides counseling about sex before couples marry. It is best to learn about

sex with the husband that loves you and that you are committed to within the security of a loving, God honoring marriage. You don't need practice.

Cynthia: I have also heard that if a man tries to have sex with me I should just give in. Is that true?

Mom: That is a lie as well. If anyone tries to force sex on you that is called rape. You should try to get away and tell a trusted adult. Rape is a serious crime that should be punished.

Cynthia: What if someone wants to give me a hug or a kiss?

Mom: That's a good question. There are what we call safe touches and unsafe touches. Remember the difference between love and lust? When someone touches and looks at another person with the thought of having sex with them that is an unsafe touch. When an adult does that with a child that is called sexual abuse. A safe touch would be when an adult hugs or cares for a child out of love for them without any thoughts of sex. Another lie Satan likes to tell us about sex is that we won't have any consequences for disobeying God's commands about sex.

Cynthia: Like what?

Mom: A consequence specific to sex outside of marriage could be getting a sexually transmitted infection?

Cynthia: What is that?

Mom: It is an infection that is spread through the skin contact and body fluids that are exchanged while having sex.

Cynthia: How do you know if you have a sexually transmitted infection?

Mom: First off, if you have not had sex or been raped by anyone you don't have to worry about it. But if you have, you may have an infection and not have any symptoms. HIV is a sexually transmitted infection that doesn't have symptoms for a long time so it is best for someone to get tested.

Cynthia: I was tested for HIV, but I have never had sex.

Mom: Yes, because HIV can be spread by blood too. It is important for everyone to get tested. Other infections may give you sores in the vaginal area, growths, vaginal discharge, even abdominal pain, and put you at risk for certain cancers.

Cynthia: What should a person do if they have these symptoms?

Mom: They should go to the hospital. Many of these infections can be treated with medicine, but some of the sexually transmitted infections cannot be treated and could cause problems throughout one's life including sores that come back again and again, HIV, or even trouble with infertility.

Cynthia: If someone has infertility is it because they had a sexually transmitted infection?

Mom: No, No. Please don't think that. There are many different causes for infertility. In fact the Bible has many stories of women that were infertile because God had a special plan for them.

Cynthia: I have always heard that you should not get pregnant before you are married. I guess that's another consequence.

Mom: Yes. Pregnancy is another consequence of having sex outside of marriage. One of the reasons God designed sex to be between one man and one woman in a marriage is because that is his plan for the family. It takes a mother and a father to raise a baby. When a girl gets pregnant before she is married she is pressured to have an abortion and that can be dangerous to her health. Also, abortion is killing the baby growing inside her. In Psalm 139 we read how God has plans for that baby even while he or she is being made inside the mother. Adding the sin of killing to the sin of sexual immorality is never the answer.

Cynthia: Yes, but raising a baby by yourself would be so difficult and everyone would know you had sinned.

Mom: Experiencing guilt and shame is a consequence of every sin. The Bible says that "all have sinned" so everyone of us has guilt and shame that must be dealt with. Today we talked about a lot of serious topics. Sexual immorality is a big problem. But, tomorrow we will talk about God's solution for the world's struggle with sin. Tomorrow we will talk about God's grace.



Mom: Good afternoon Cynthia.

Cynthia: Good afternoon.

Mom: Come sit. Let's talk. Yesterday, we talked about our enemy that tells us lies about sex. But today we get to talk about God's rescue plan, the Savior, and His protection! Even in the middle of the tragic story of sin entering the world and everything going wrong, God gave us a promise. Can you find it in Genesis 3:15?

Cynthia: Here it is: "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head and you will strike his heel." It looks like it won't end well for the snake.

Mom: That's right. God told the snake "he will crush your head." This is a promise that points to Jesus Christ who will conquer Satan and death and sin by dying on the cross and

raising from the dead. What happened at the end of the chapter?

Cynthia: God made clothes for them out of animal skins.

Mom: This is the first time we see that the blood of an innocent animal covered the shame of their sin. Who do you know that lived a perfect innocent life and died for your sin and shame?

Cynthia: Jesus!

Mom: Yes. So, even in this sad story of sin and shame we see that from the beginning God wants us to know that He has a plan to cover our sin and shame by offering his son, Jesus Christ, to die in our place. You see when Jesus died on the cross he took all of our shame and sin on himself. In fact he himself was shamed. Think about the crucifixion, what are some of the ways that Jesus was shamed?

Cynthia: He was beaten, mocked, spit on. They removed all of his clothes. They nailed him to the cross.

Mom: Why did Jesus allow all of that?

Cynthia: To pay the punishment for our sins.

Mom: That's right. So whether your sin is a sexual sin or pride or theft or lying or gossiping or cheating, Jesus took that sin on himself on the cross. We know that's not the end of the story. What happened after Jesus' death?

Cynthia: He rose again.

Mom: Yes! Jesus took our sin and shame on himself when he died on the cross, but he rose again three days later. If you confess your sin, repent, and trust that Jesus took your punishment, then you can have a new life in Christ.

Cynthia: What do you mean by a new life?

Mom: Cynthia, when you have a new life in Christ, you live differently than the rest of the world. In fact, God promises to give us a counselor, the Holy Spirit, who will help us obey (John 14:26). Read I Corinthians 6:18-20.

Cynthia: “Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body. Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.”

Mom: God’s design for sex – one woman and one man within marriage- protects us from sexually transmitted infections. And if we use God’s protection, guarding our hearts and minds from lust, it helps us wait to have sex until marriage. If both you AND your husband wait, then you won’t have to worry about getting a sexually transmitted infection. So, we must be careful to guard our thoughts and our actions to keep from lusting and causing others to lust.

Cynthia: How do I do that?

Mom: In Psalms a young person asked the same question. Read Psalm 119:9-10.

Cynthia: How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your Word. I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands.”

Mom: God’s protection is for us to firstly know and then obey God’s Word. God teaches us about his plan for sex and marriage as shown in Genesis 2 – one man and one woman living as one in a loving relationship. He wants good things for us. There are also some practical things you can do to help stay safe.

Cynthia: What can I do?

Mom: The most important thing you can do is talk to me or another trusted adult. As your parents, God has given your father and I responsibility to protect you. If anyone at all tries to touch you or have sex with you, please know that it is safe to tell us. Also, you should walk in groups. Don’t allow any boys into your room. Guard your heart and mind from lust by the clothes you wear, the movies you watch, the people you spend time with, and what you look at on the internet.

Cynthia: It seems like there is so much sin in this world.

Mom: Ever since sin entered the world in Genesis 3, the world has been broken. But, God promises that for those that trust in Jesus for salvation we too will rise from the dead after

we die. And in heaven there will be no more sin, no more shame, no more sickness, and no more sexual immorality.

Cynthia: Is there no hope on earth?

Mom: My dear, there is so much hope even in this sinful world when we strive to obey Christ. Through Christ we can all have a hopeful future. Tomorrow we will talk about the characteristics of a godly man – the kind of man I pray that you will marry one day.





Cynthia: Mother, I had the most amazing dream last night!

Mom: Tell me all about it.

Cynthia: I dreamed that I was dressed in a beautiful new dress and that I walked to the front of the church where a handsome young man was holding out his hand to me. And we said our wedding vows and the pastor prayed for us.

Mom: My dear, Cynthia. Even now I am praying for the young man that God wants you to marry so that together you may serve Him as one.

Cynthia: Getting married is such a big decision. How will I know who to marry?

Mom: I pray that you marry a man like Joseph from the Bible. Do you remember the Bible stories of Joseph, the husband of Mary, the mother of Jesus?

Cynthia: Yes. God told him in a dream that he shouldn't be afraid to take Mary as his wife.

Mom: Joseph was a godly man and he wanted to marry a girl that loved and obeyed God. When he heard that Mary was pregnant he thought that she had sinned and had sex with another man because he knew he had not had sex with her. But even though in the law he could have shamed her publicly and had her killed, he chose to quietly break up with her.

Cynthia: Joseph obeyed God and married her and even waited to have sex with her until after baby Jesus was born.

Mom: Yes. And he also took care of Mary and adopted Jesus as his son. The angel came to Joseph in the dream, telling him to take Mary and Jesus to Egypt for safety when Herod was killing the babies. Joseph obeyed God and protected his family.

Cynthia: He sounds like a respectable man.

Mom: Yes. So, for you I pray for a man that listens to the Word of God and lives a life that shows his obedience to God. I pray for a man that waits to have sex with you or any woman until marriage and remains faithful to you in marriage. I pray for a man that will love and protect you as well. The other Joseph in the Bible is another good example.

Cynthia: Oh yes, when Potiphar's wife tried to have sex with him, he ran away so fast he left his coat behind.

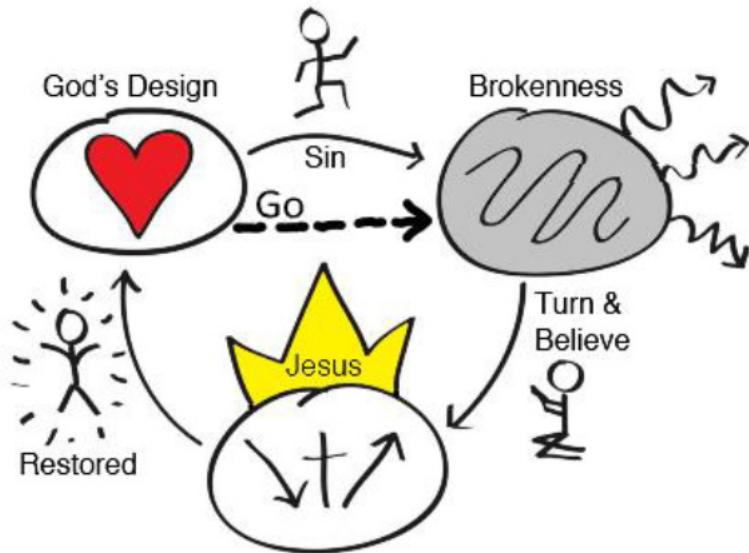
Mom: That's right. Cynthia, I want you to marry a man that flees from any hint of sexual immorality.

Cynthia: What kind of wife do you think I will be?

Mom: I pray that you will be a woman that loves and studies the Word of God. I pray that you are a godly example to other young women, waiting to have sex until marriage. I pray that you love, obey and respect the husband that God gives you. I pray that your marriage will cause others to want to know more about Jesus.

Cynthia: Mom, thank you so much for praying for my future and teaching me all of this. I see now that sex is a beautiful gift for marriage. I want to wait to have sex.

3 Circles Gospel Presentation



We live in a world of brokenness, full of hurting people hurting each other. We try escaping brokenness by focusing on career, money, success, drugs, gambling, or alcohol. But all this just leads to greater brokenness. John 14:6

Brokenness was not God's original design! God's design was perfect, like Himself, with no brokenness present. Genesis 1-2

Each of us has rebelled against God and walked away from His perfect design. The Bible calls this sin, and this leaves us in brokenness. Are you familiar with the concept of sin? Do you see this in your own life? Genesis 3, Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23

God saw we could not escape our brokenness on our own, so God

demonstrated his love towards us! God sent Jesus to the earth. Jesus was perfect and lived a perfect life because He was God. He suffered a horrible death on a cross to take our sin upon Himself. Then Jesus rose again proving that He has power over death! He's alive! John 1:12, John 3:16, Colossians 2:14, Ephesians 2:8-9

Jesus tells all people to repent and turn from your sins. He also tells us to believe that He died for your sin and that God raised Him from the dead and to follow Jesus as king of your life. Jesus promises that if you do that you will be forgiven and restored back to God's design! You will be a new creation! Romans 10:9-13, 2 Cor. 5:17-21

If we repent and believe in Jesus we can leave this world of brokenness and be restored into a relationship with God and pursue His design. Mark 1:15

More than that, God then sends us back into this "Brokenness" to tell others about the good news of Jesus Christ. Matthew 28:18-20

Where do you see yourself? Are you in God's perfect design or are you currently in brokenness?

If you feel like you are living in brokenness and want to repent and live in God's perfect design, please contact rodgerstrib@gmail.com