



### Virtue of the Month

Join us this month as we pray **PURITY** for our children.

#### Prayer:

Dear God and Father, I ask that <child> would continually come to you recognizing her need to have a pure heart before you. Take away any wavering in her heart and renew a steadfast spirit within her so that she can follow you wholeheartedly.

### 3 THINGS TO REMEMBER AS YOU TALK TO YOUR KIDS ABOUT PURITY

(Taken from "*Conversations About Sexuality, A Parent's Guide*: Presented by the [Joshua Center Staff](#))

We are in a battle for our children's hearts. Proverbs tells us to keep our hearts with all vigilance for from it flows the springs of life, and purity starts with our hearts. As a parent trying to raise children to have pure hearts and pure bodies in an over sexualized world, you may find yourself wondering what to do. One answer is simply talk to your children. Remember that all behavior is communication and lack of communication still communicates. If we don't talk to our kids, someone else will.

Here are 3 things to remember when starting conversations with your child about having pure hearts and bodies.

\* First, **be open and honest**. Let your child know that you are a safe person to come to with questions and concerns. We want our kids to talk to us and we have to establish an honest dialogue with them. Don't fear the initial discomfort of talking to your children about purity; push through it. If you are too uncomfortable, metaphors are great ways to get the point across; use their favorite animal or their favorite movie as an illustration for more difficult topics.

\* Second, **start early**. Have you ever read the Song of Solomon? Hebrew children were exposed to the truth about sexuality at a very young age. When your child is between the ages of 7 to 9, start a series of conversations about what it means to be pure and what healthy sexuality is. Start with the scriptures and God's design for us. The goal in these early conversations is to beat their friends and the media to the punch! Our culture will be feeding them bad information and we want to give them good and right information. Talk with them about the importance of guarding their heart and the pain that results when we give our heart away too soon. Use scripture as a guideline for showing them how their eyes, ears, mouth, and actions are doorways into their hearts. And remember to keep the conversation going, so that when they are older, you have a good foundation for future, more difficult topics. If you are a parent to an older child, it isn't too late to start the conversation! There is grace for making up lost time.

**Scripture:**

*Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life. Put away from you crooked speech, and put devious talk far from you. Let your eyes look directly forward, and your gaze be straight before you. Ponder the path of your feet; then all your ways will be sure. Do not swerve to the right or to the left; turn your foot away from evil.*  
Proverbs 4:23-27 ESV

\* Finally, **be in their world**. Pray; ask God for help understanding your children and what they are experiencing. Set up accountability with technology and texting. Spend time with them and ask questions, then listen. Find out what their friends are saying and remind them of your promise to tell the truth. This will demonstrate to them that you value them and that they have a voice.

Remember, parents, you are the man/woman God wants to use most in your child's life! You are the one He has chosen to parent them. Let's embrace our role in their lives with confidence in that truth, dependence upon His power, and hope in His promise to use us.

## What's Happening?

**JULY & AUGUST:****Father/Son Retreat**

July 24 - 25  
Kiefer Barn, 307 SW "O" St.  
[More Details & Registration](#)

**Joy in the Journey:  
Dinner and a Movie**

Saturday, July 25  
6:30pm | *The Lodge*  
RSVP to Justin Heimer at  
[justin@heimerlaw.com](mailto:justin@heimerlaw.com)

**Next Gen Service**

Saturday, August 1  
5:00 & 6:45pm | *Students 7th-12th grades worship with their families in the Worship Center*

**Parent Quarterly**

Saturday, August 8  
5:00pm | *Parents worship with Junior High Students in Student Center Central*  
8:10pm | *Parents meet after service in the Family Center*

## RESOURCES

**Book**

[God's Design for Sex](#)

**Tools**

[Internet Accountability and Filtering](#)

**Blogs**

[Purity Works](#)

*Connecting Church and Family*

**FAMILY  
MINISTRY**