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From the cradle to college, tell your daughters the truth about life before they believe the culture's lies. For mothers with girls newborn to eighteen, *Five Conversations You Must Have with Your Daughter* is simply a must-have book. Youth culture commentator Vicki Courtney helps moms pinpoint and prepare the discussions that should be ongoing in their daughters' formative years.

To fully address the dynamic social and spiritual issues and influencers at hand, several chapters are written for each of the conversations, which are:

1. You are more than the sum of your parts
2. Don't be in such a hurry to grow up
3. Sex is great and worth the wait
4. It's OK to dream about marriage and motherhood
5. Girls gone wild are a dime a dozen—dare to be virtuous

The book is linked to online bonus features offering invaluable tips on having these conversations across the various stages of development: five and under, six to eleven, twelve and up.

Five Conversations You Must Have with Your Daughter Details

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From Reader Review Five Conversations You Must Have with Your Daughter for online ebook

Kari Olfert says

3.5.

I really liked the concept of five conversations but I found the author to be super preachy and I get it, she's a minister and perfection and the God path aren't the only ones she can promote but I actually found it TOO lecturery. I had to make myself finish it because it's like one ginormous parenting lesson, one where if you're anything like me you've already failed every point she's trying to make. There's no grey area, either 100% or 23%.

This book would have been great if it was based on spiritual ideas instead of rigid religious ones and if the book started out by laying out the big 5 convos. Less of the blah blah blah and more CLEAR helpful guidance.

If you like feeling like a failure or you are perfect then you will love this book.

IrenesBookReviews says

Five Conversations You Must Have With Your Daughter is a very informative book. The author, Vicki Courtney, is honest about subjects we need to broach with our young girls. She also highlights areas we need to watch in our relationship with our daughters to keep them wanting to talk with us about what is happening in their lives. Her major sources of advice come from verses in the Bible. She stresses that we need to keep these Biblical principles as the guidelines for steering our daughters' in the right direction.

Some of the major topics in this book are weight, how dressing changes the way you are viewed, and sexual experiences now compared to fifty years ago. She shows how the media and even our conversations can change how a young girl views her body and chooses to act. With the media being the major culprit we need to scrutinize what our daughters are watching, reading and even listening to. The author stresses that even if we think our daughters might be old enough for online socializing we should limit it until they are age 18. This is just another form of influence you need to keep yourself abreast of.

The author is very open about her personal life and personal convictions. You may not and probably won't agree with all she has written. I thought she did a great job of presenting her viewpoint by using examples as well as researched statistics. If anything this book will open your eyes to what really goes on in a young girl's life and the influences that affect her view of herself. Worth reading if you have a young girl or teenager and want to know how to approach certain subjects with her. Not all of the book will help you but it does give you a guideline to follow to at least start talking!

I would like to thank NetGalley and the publisher for the copy of this book I enjoyed reading. I gave an honest review based on my opinion of what I read.

Gina Hott says

Are you a mother? Grandmother? Aunt? Father? Teacher? Coach?

Then I'd suggest you read this book. As everyone knows, girls are absolutely different than anything you've ever dealt with — even if you were one yourself. Because of the culture that we have today there is a very slim margin for error in handling situations or even conversations with girls and young ladies.

Take some time to learn the facts and some great insight into the lives and hearts of our next generation.

Hott Review:

A while back I reviewed *Five Conversations You Must Have with Your Son*. It was a great book but not nearly as scary as this one. Maybe it's because the conversations we're to have with are sons aren't as heartbreaking, I don't know, but this book really shook me.

I don't think I made it through a page of this book without highlighting something and sharing it on facebook. I don't know why things are so much worse than they were when I was a teen/preteen but I know that they are. Even in private schools with 'good Christian kids' not everyone has the same morals, standards, or even feelings about what constitutes right and wrong.

I'll be purchasing a physical copy of this book to loan out to my friends and using my digital copy as a daily resource and reminder. I also think that reading through some of these stats at prayer time would be great guidance.

Kelly Boggs says

My mom gave me this book years ago but I really started chewing on it this year. This is a very practical book about the conversations that are important to raising a strong godly woman. It gives statistics from research that may be a tad bit outdated now but still shows what's going on society.

This is a down to earth book for mothers who are seeking biblical guidance for their daughters. I love how Vicki Courtney says it: "God is not looking for perfect mothers raising perfect daughters. He is looking for imperfect mothers who are raising imperfect daughters in an imperfect world, and desperately dependent on a perfect God for results."

The key in this book is always engage with your daughters. Don't have one conversation with your kids. Have ongoing conversations. Be honest with them. Tell them the truth of God's word and discuss it along with the corruption of this world. Guide them. Hold them accountable. Be firm. Love them when they mess up.

This is a great read for all girl moms.

Nicole Pramik says

[Zero Stars]

On one hand, there is good material here that, for the most part, is grounded in Biblical principles (which is important if you happen to be a Christian parent). Her stances on advising moms to not let their girls grow up too fast and to keep a pure attitude regarding sex are good though they don't chart any new territory. Sadly, my positive remarks end there as there are far too many issues present here to be ignored.

My biggest gripe is that this book seems to purport bizarre, illogical, and even ludicrous "insights." Some of these include banning fashion magazines, not permitting your daughter to listen to hip-hop, and not allowing your daughter to wear certain kinds of underwear. These generalizations often blanket observations that either needed expansion (along with specific Biblical groundings) or carry on far too long.

There tends to be a good side and a weak/bad side to each of the arguments Courtney poses. For instance, can fashion magazines contribute to a young girl's sense of poor self-worth? Absolutely, but not every girl is affected in this way. Rather than banning certain materials outright, mothers should teach their daughters discretion, which the book never fully touches on. The same argument holds true for music choices, which Courtney spends quite a bit of time discussing. However, the book seems to possess a prejudice against certain genres rather than educate parents on how to judge a song based on its lyrics, its genre notwithstanding. Pop, country, and rock have songs that are sexist or promote questionable/unhealthy choices, yet the author rarely mentions these as hip-hop gets the brunt of her dislike. But telling your daughter that "all [fill in the blank] are bad" circumvents critical thinking, which requires discretion and wise choices. Labeling all of a particular variety of something as bad without question (i.e. "All rap music is bad") or good without question (i.e. "All Christian music is good") is dangerous as it downplays the need to evaluate something on its own merit.

By way of example, Courtney could have encouraged moms to listen to the music their daughters enjoy and use those as teachable moments. What do the lyrics say? Is it a positive message or a negative message? Is the song meant to be taken seriously or is it satirical? What does the Bible say about the topic(s) the song talks about? Does the song reflect Biblical truths or common sense? Is the song musically good art? As one might find, not all "secular" songs are morally questionable and not all Christian songs are theologically sound. This process takes more time and effort as it involves deeper, more critical thinking, but ultimately it is far more productive as opposed to simply declaring something is good or bad "just because," which is the surface-skimming methodology Courtney advocates here.

This leads me to another protracted argument Courtney makes, which is what I shall call the great underwear debate (make that the great thong debate because, like hip-hop, she seems to harbor a special distaste for thongs.) This discussion goes on far too long and could have been summed up by asserting that ladies should dress modestly. Regarding choices of undergarments, this is a matter that's in the mother's hands, in my opinion. If a mom is still buying her daughter's clothing, then she has the right to say what her daughter can and can't wear. If the young lady is buying her own clothes, then she should be taught what's appropriate, what's inappropriate, and what may need to wait for a later time. Thus, I think the author could have edited these portions to discuss far more pressing matters rather than making it sound like Victoria's Secret is a devil's den.

But my biggest issue involved the author's stance on marriage and motherhood. To start, Her belief that being a wife and mother can be worthy goals is fine, and it's one of the rare moments where I agreed with her. I fear many ladies these days are being taught that they don't "need" a husband, but if a woman wants to be a wife and mom, that's an acceptable life choice. However, my agreement with Courtney on this point ends there.

If I could sum up the rest of her presumptions regarding this topic, it would be to make sure your daughter

gets married in her 20s or else she'll never get married, or, if she does, she'll be infertile. The author also insists that college is a great place to meet men and comes close to saying that if you don't have that mythical "ring by spring," you're doomed to be single for life. Likewise, this author seems to tout that after 30, a woman's chances of getting pregnant are slim. That might be true for some women but not everyone - just as your organs don't start wearing out by age 30 (as she purports with no credible medical evidence). By this point I began to question where the author was getting her information from as so much of the book seems based on her opinions, which is fine, but these opinions seemed to push past what was ultimately informative or even helpful..

Overall, there were some good points here and there though, to be fair, they're common sense matters you don't need a book for. I'm sure there are better titles covering the same topics that are less preachy and promote fewer generalizations. In short, *Five Conversations* is parenting fluff: it brings nothing new or insightful to the table, most of the good portions are common sense, and the weaker portions are facepalm-worthy. I wouldn't say avoid this book but I definitely wouldn't recommend it. However, allow me to offer a sixth conversation: not every book labeled "Christian" is good or worthwhile. And this title is one of them.

Mandy J. Hoffman says

Vicki Courtney has written a wonderful resource for mothers. *5 Conversations You Must Have With Your Daughter* is full of encouraging advice about how to approach the tough topics with your daughter at each stage of her growing up years. She not only shares her advice, but her experiences - both good and bad, and information from a lot research that helps you understand the battle we are facing as women.

While I personally do not agree with absolutely everything Vicki wrote (mostly technique or a particular approach) I would still highly recommend this book for any mom to read no matter how old your daughter is. I have always anticipated having these conversations with my daughters because I want to be the one to share with them rather than let them fall into the world's false beliefs.

I noticed that at times Vicki seemed to be ultra careful in one area and then more "liberal" in another compared to what I would be. When reading/listening to this book I highly suggest you think about the information given and prayerfully make changes in your family in agreement with your husband. I think you will find a lot of helpful information and ideas to aid you in being a better mother to your daughter(s).

The one and only negative I have on this book is that I really did not like the way that it was read on the audio version. However, it was not bad enough to cause me to stop listening. The one caution I have is to make sure you listen to it out of the hearing range of any children of any age. This is most definitely a book for mothers only.

Ruth says

I appreciate that these are important conversations that Christian mothers should have with their daughters, but I'm a little sad that the need for a book like this is so great. Having taught high school for a dozen years, I'm aware that even in loving Evangelical homes, girls are not being adequately prepared for the emotional mangler that awaits many of them when they grow up. I'd add a sixth conversation to this list, though,

since in her chapter on preparing a daughter for potential marriage, singleness is treated as an okay thing that happens before marriage rather than a potential godly alternative for glorifying the Lord. Other than one sentence reading something like "and not all girls get married, of course," this option is never explored. A shame, since many girls are taught to value romantic relationships almost above all else and often suffer a genuine crisis if marriage doesn't happen for them. (Full disclosure: I'm thirty-five, unmarried, and happily content thanks to the grace of God and parents who helped me to root my self-identity firmly in Christ.)

Angie says

Practical, helpful, encouraging.

Renee says

This could have been written in five sentences.

Lee Fleming says

I didn't realize this was written by some evangelical lady but the first couple of chapters were good. Let me save you the time of reading it and summarize the main points I got out of it:

- 1) Fashion magazines are like drugs or alcohol for your daughter's self-image
- 2) Be flexible on some rules but not on having your daughter dress immodestly
- 3) Don't let your daughter date unless in a large group until late high school
- 4) Encourage your daughter to be healthy, not skinny
- 5) Help your daughter see that she is more than just the sum of her parts--but also remember to tell her she is beautiful

These were all points that are kind of obvious, but it was a great reminder.

Alisha Hanson-Glatzel says

The title should be Five CHRISTIAN Conversations You Must Have with Your Good CHRISTIAN Daughter.

Warning: If you are a "Godly" person and you can handle being constantly assaulted with all the talk about God, bible verses, modesty, purity and you are a total prude with a need to control every move your child makes - you will probably like this. I would venture to assume that if your daughter has the ability to think for herself, she won't tolerate this kind control over her life once she hits her teen years. Especially if you are

growing up in California's Silicon Valley around the year 2015.

I'm really frustrated at all the bible verse quotes and she must reference the word "Christian" at least 2 or 3 times per page. I didn't realize she ministered to christian teens for many years. That simple fact would have made me pass on this book.

Maintaining a girls PURITY is high on her list.

Disclaimer: The word purity PISSES ME OFF!!!

This word serves to tell the female population that sex without marriage is dirty and you should be shamed if you make such a horrendous decision. While the male population does not suffer the same consequences, they get a pass, almost saying males can't help it while denying the existence of female sexuality and desire.

She is also hypocritical when it comes to what she expects the boys to do in order to "date" her daughter. However, on the flip side - she calls her son at college and he is unaware of these "rules". For me, it's the Christian religion wrapped up in a very simple little box. We expect our girls to jump through all these hoops, to feel demeaned and ashamed by their own sexuality and are basically told if you can't control your sexuality - you are a whore, you are weak and you are a disappointment to God. While boys don't have any of this pressure, they walk away without all the damaging ideas of what sex is. It's BULLSHIT. When 2 mature adults want to explore their God given bodies, it shouldn't have

I gave it 2 stars because she made some good points.

Rebecca says

I read this book in preparation for a few days away with my oldest daughter. It gave me lots to think about and was very helpful in preparing for the dialogue with we will have together in the coming years.

Katrina says

more anxiety provoking than helpful, though there were helpful parts.

Iola says

Five Conversations is full of sensible, biblical advice backed up by extensive social and medical research, and relevant quotes from the Bible. The author also reassures us that "God is more than enough to make up for my parenting insufficiencies along the way". She makes it clear that the five conversations referred to in the title are not one-off conversations, but ongoing life lessons, to be modelled and reinforced at any available 'teachable moment'. The five conversations are:

- 1 You Are More Than the Sum of Your Parts
- 2 Don't Be in Such a Hurry to Grow Up
- 3 Sex Is Great and Worth the Wait
- 4 It's OK to Dream about Marriage and Motherhood!

5 Girls Gone Wild Are a Dime a Dozen—Dare to Be Virtuous

Courtney comments that “when girls in the nineteenth century thought about ways to improve themselves, they almost always focused on their internal character and how it was reflected in outward behavior”, whereas the modern focus is on physical attractiveness and (often) sexuality. “I wish she would grow up. She wasted all her school time wanting to be the age she is now, and she’ll waste all the rest of her life trying to stay that age.” (a description of Susan, quoted from *The Last Battle* by CS Lewis). How true this can be!

As is typical with any book of this type, some of the information I knew already (“many studies have found that those who live together before marriage have less satisfying marriages and a considerably higher chance of eventually breaking up”), some I really don’t want to know (apparently, thong underwear can be linked to recurrent urinary tract and vaginal infections. Thanks for sharing!), and there were also some great one-liners (“a decision to pierce or mark her body needs to wait until she is out of college and off our payroll”, “if you’re not worth dating, he’s not worth kissing” or “should any of my three children opt to live together outside of marriage and then decide to marry for real, this momma won’t be paying a dime toward wedding expenses”). I like this woman.

And I like this book. Part of me thinks I should now buy and read the companion volume, *Five Conversations You Must Have With Your Son*, while part of me will be happy to continue to bury my head in the sand. And I know that with a 12-year-old daughter, there are only so many opportunities to share this kind of information in a non-threatening way, so I need make the most of them. Recommended for mothers with daughters aged 10-18.

Thanks to B&H Publishing and NetGalley for providing a free ebook for review.

This review also appears on my blog, www.christianreads.blogspot.com.

Brandy Painter says

Vicki Courtney has a lot of helpful and important things to say about the subjects she covers in this book and it is very clear that she is a mom who is engaged with the reality of the modern world.

In short the five conversations involve:

1. You are more than the sum of your parts.
2. Don't be in such a hurry to grow up.
3. Sex is great and worth the wait.
4. It's OK to dream about marriage and motherhood.
5. Girls gone wild are a dime a dozen-dare to virtuous.

Each section contains an overview of everything in that particular area young girls are fed by popular culture and then moves into strategies and ways you as a mom can help them see things differently. I particularly liked that Courtney was not advocating removing them from the world, locking them up, and throwing away the key. Nor was she insisting that girls would be better off by pretending they live in Little House on the Prairie.(Those days are gone folks. No bringing them back. Thank God.) These are all conversations I had started with my daughter prior to reading the book, but I found the information and strategies for conversations as she gets older to be incredibly helpful.

My husband is actually interested in reading it now that I'm done. He had seen it on our bed, flipped through it, and said he felt fathers should be having these conversations too and he wanted to see what she had to say.
