

Mother of Boys  
Book & Bible Study  
Rebuilding the Next Generation Family... One Boy at a Time.

### What Kind of Husband Will Your Son Grow Up to Be?

It was a picture-perfect evening by the campfire on one of Southern California's beautiful beaches. My precious three-year-old son, Jake, and I were snuggled up under a blanket, watching the sun set over the sea. The waves gently lapped the shore. A young couple walked past us hand in hand, obviously in love. My little boy thought for a minute, turned his sweet little face toward me, and said, "Mommy, will you marry me when I grow up?" It was one of those moments that will be engraved on my heart forever.

I gently explained that mommies can't marry their sons. My heart ached as I watched tears well up in his big blue eyes and roll slowly down his kissable, chubby cheeks. How I treasure that memory. In that "mommy moment," I realized in that moment that I wasn't just raising a son, I was raising somebody's future husband. That night I got down on my knees and made a promise to God that I would use whatever time He gave me with my son to prepare him to become a man who knows how to love a wife. It has been twenty-one years since that magical moment on the beach. My son is now twenty-four and married with a child of his own: my training time with my son is now finished. I purposed myself to often talk about his future bride. Even though we did not know her name, we faithfully prayed for her and daily I prepared him to be her husband, from that magical beach moment, to the day he left to love and lead his bride.

What will happen if we do nothing to prepare them to fight for their future families? I have spoken at countless women's events over the past two decades, and I can't tell you how often broken women have shared with me the same story, over and over, about how empty their marriages are or how the marriage ended. Every time I came home from one of these conferences, I cried out to God to give our men the strength to remain faithful and gain knowledge on how to love their wives and protect their families.

Then one day it occurred to me that the way a man loves a woman has a lot to do with what he learns as a little boy through his relationship with his mother. What if a husband had a mother who invested her life not only in cooking, cleaning, and caring for her son, but also carefully and deliberately bestowing upon him what every man desires to know—how to understand and handle the fragile heart of his bride? What if every groom walked down the aisle with more than a ring and some heartfelt vows? Imagine how differently love stories would end if every new bride took the hand of a well-trained hero—a strong warrior, equipped for victory as a loving leader. How much more fulfilling the marriage "love story" would be if young princes were raised learning the art of loving their future wives.

## How Will You Prepare Your Son to Love a Wife and Lead a Family?

His is a generation of boys who have better relationships with their Game Boxes, iPods, televisions, and computers than they have with their families. His understanding of marriage is that it has little hope for success, witnessing a fifty percent divorce rate both inside and outside of the church. His world is one where pornography is no longer a hidden shame, but encouraged as entertainment. Our sons are in a daily battle of the mind, being bombarded by conflicting messages everywhere they go and fighting to distinguish who they are and what a man is suppose to be. It seems they are educated in everything except what it takes to love a wife and lead a family. Our nation's heroes are exalted for their selfish pursuits of pleasure, money, and fame. There are limited male role models willing to take a stand against immorality and infidelity. Few, it seems, know how to teach our boys how to declare victory for themselves and the generations to follow. Tragically, one in four homes is without a man in the house at all.

We all know how important a Godly, loving father is in a boy's life. You and your son are very blessed if you have a man of God in your home during these critical years. However, many mothers are alone in their battle to raise their beloved boys; countless others have a father in the home who has relinquished their God-appointed role in their son's life. Too many of our boys have witnessed bad examples of ungodly, critical, or controlling behavior by the man in their home, rather than a good strong loving leader. Although, a mother can not replace the father's role in her son's life, she doesn't have to wait for the world to change its moral fiber to raise a modern-day hero who will fight for his family and remain a faithful, loving husband and father. God's intervention, combined with your prayers and training and influence in your son's life, will help you empower and equip the next generation man, his marriage, and his future family. Just look at all the great men in our nation who attribute their success in life to their mother's influence and prayers!

No matter what place you find yourself as a mother, I pray you will grab hold of this truth: Our God is the same today as He was when He raised up mighty men in a fallen world thousands of years ago. He is bigger than any statistic, any attack, or any circumstance you are in. He is the lover of your soul, your provider, and ultimately your son's Father.

Our heavenly Father must really believe women have what it takes to bring a great man into the world. After all, He chose a young woman named Mary to deliver and raise His one and only son—Jesus.

And she made this vow: "O Lord Almighty, if you will look down upon my sorrow and answer my prayer and give me a son, then I will give him back to you. He will be yours for his entire lifetime."

1 Samuel 1:11,