



Six Ways to Keep the "Good" in Your Boy: Guiding Your Son from His Tweens to His Teens

Dannah Gresh

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When bestselling author Dannah Gresh was body-slammed by her 12-year-old son, she was hit with reality: raising a boy is a whole new ballgame!

A boy's relationship with his mom during the formative age between 8 and 12 is vital to his future well-being. So how can moms teach sons to be honest, confident, and respectful when the world and situations encourage them to make bad decisions and grow up too fast?

Dannah's practical experience and research, along with advice from her husband, Bob Gresh, provide a mom with six proactive ways to help her son:

honor his body in a healthy way

get outside to play unplugged

live out his faith

This accessible resource will empower moms with information and hope to raise sons of integrity and faith.

Includes an insightful Connection IQ Inventory test, activity ideas, and Scriptures to pray over sons.

Six Ways to Keep the "Good" in Your Boy: Guiding Your Son from His Tweens to His Teens Details

Date : Published February 1st 2012 by Harvest House Publishers (first published 2012)

ISBN : 9780736945790

Author : Dannah Gresh

Format : Paperback 208 pages

Genre : Parenting, Nonfiction, Christian, Religion, Christianity



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From Reader Review Six Ways to Keep the "Good" in Your Boy: Guiding Your Son from His Tweens to His Teens for online ebook

Melissa says

I couldn't even finish it. I don't know what it was, but the author's over-zealous style drove me crazy.

Had some good concepts, couldn't get past the "greater than thou feel" portrayed by the Gresh couple.

GONZA says

Even if there are some good imput in this book, there is too much religion and I do not really think that considering "bad" the drives towards sex of children and try to challenge or ignore it are safe for them.
THANKS TO NETGALLEY AND HARVEST HOUSE PUBLISHERS FOR THE PREVIEW

Amy says

I'm not sure if I gained anything from my reading of this book, except perhaps that it led me to focus more on raising my sons. I'm trying to build my relationship with one of my "tweens" right now. Gresh is a tolerable but not articulate or eloquent writer. The six ways she outlines seemed unoriginal to me and didn't add anything new to my parenting approach. Here they are: #1: Get Him Outside to Play, #2: Give Him a Book So He Can Discover a Real "Call of Duty," #3: Host Wing Nites and Fantasy Football Parties, #4: Celebrate His Entrance into Manhood, #5: Unplug Him from a Plugged-In World, and #6: Let Him Open the Car Door for You. In my words: your son should play outside, read good books, spend time with dad and other men, have conversations with parents about the birds and the bees, have limits on electronics, and respect women. No novelty there and not expressed profoundly either. Gresh's one strength seems to be in biblical exegesis. She interpreted a couple of scriptures, Proverbs 22:6 and 2 Timothy 3, by going back to the original Hebrew and Greek and gave me new insight into those passages. I will forever see those scriptures differently, and for that I am grateful. This could be a good selection for Christian parents wanting help in guiding their sons but is not a place to seek out new ideas or quotable passages.

Susan says

2.5 stars rounded up. This book was just ok. I didn't learn anything earth shattering and became pretty annoyed at the author and all her stories about her 'perfect' son, but I pushed through. The book was very heavily Christian centered (which I was completely ok with), but I ironically felt it was also judgmental and almost too traditional. The two big things it highlighted for me (which I knew, but it was worth being reminded) were: 1) having a good, consistent male role model (be it Dad or another man) is SO important and 2) having a discussion about sex/sexuality/pornography/etc. is important to do earlier than you think you need to because of the ability to access things more easily (and thus at an earlier age) online.

Christina says

This is a great resource book. I didn't love the first part of the book, where the author rehashes the typical boy tips: how their brains are different, why they need to play outdoors more, you need to limit screen time, allow for quality time with dad, etc. I'd recommend you skim those chapters to get to the heart of the book, which is what the author is an expert on: preparing your tween for sexual purity. I learned a lot from these chapters, which cover body changes, aggressive girls, pornography, and sex. They contain explicit directions on when to introduce what topics, what to say and which parent should do the talking. Some of these early conversations need to happen around age 8-10, so I will be re-reading this again next year to make sure we are staying on target.

If you have a girl, Dannah Gresh is the founder of the very popular "Secret Keeper Girl" movement and has an identical book like this for girls- "Six Ways to Keep the Little in your Girl".

Amanda says

I'm so thankful for this book! Being a mom, I don't really understand man-culture. This book really opened my eyes and taught me some of the very things I was annoyed by were the very things my son and husband needed most. It even touched on some things I'm not ready to think about but most certainly need to. Highly recommend.

Momma says

the reading was entertaining enough, if campy. HOWEVER the topic is beaten to death, nothing new, same old thing. zzzzzzzzz

Timothy says

This book offers a lot of practical advice in connecting with your sons. As a believer in Christ, I resonated with their incorporation of religious ideologies - if you're not a believer, you may struggle with this aspect of the book. They're upfront with their faith-based approach and lay this out early in the book. My rating and appreciation of the book may be the reflection of my existing beliefs or biases that the book discusses. I don't feel like this book changed my thought-processes about parenting as much as refined some of my ideas and helped me to articulate to myself and discuss with my wife why we do some of the things we do when it comes to parenting. I appreciated Dannah's acknowledgement (and emphasis) the central role of a father in raising boys. That's not to say that a mother's role isn't important, but to become a man, a boy needs to see a man in the family. That said, the book was written by a mom to moms, so I don't think I was part of the target audience. One aspect that the book did address that has been on my mind a lot lately was that of video games and specifically the impact on my sons. It can be a source of friction in our home for certain and how my sons view video games, how I view video games, and how we play them is something that requires some thought, scrutiny, and addressing.

Lindsay Padgett says

I have to admit I started reading this book and almost put it down. However, my finish what you start mentality won out and I continued on. While the author and I clearly have differing views (if your biggest fear for your son is aggressive girls, Harry Potter, & Victoria Secret ads, this is the book for you), I am glad I kept reading. The book offers some useful advice for all moms raising sons in our current times, such as supporting/encouraging reading over video games (unless it is Harry Potter ;-)) and tips on bringing back the "gentleman" in our soon to be men.

It is an easy short read and would be even shorter without the constant mention of the authors other book Keeping the Little in Your Little Girl. So again, if you think walking by the Victoria Secrets ad in the mall, books like Harry Potter, or your son's "touchy" female class mate are going to lead your "good" boy to the "bad" side this book is a must read. If not, I would recommend making another selection.

Nora says

Some really worthwhile advice for any parent struggling to help their son stay on the straight & narrow.

"It doesn't matter what connects you. It just matters that you create intentional togetherness--and a lot of it."

"My kids are individuals. They each connect differently to me."

"Your child is more likely to experience positive, prosocial behavior if he or she experiences parent-child connectedness."

Deuteronomy 11:18-19 Proverbs 22:6 & 31

"It was a mark of his significance that I gave him my time. I now know that it was important for my son to just simple have me set that time apart to focus on him. I honored him with time, and he noticed."

" Your son's community should be made up of Dad, other men your son can look up to as role models, and peers who choose to live well and have the parental support to do so."

"I want you to know that you have permission to speak to my son the way a dad ought to. If you see him out of line, you may speak into his life."

Male call of duty to protect vs. false sense of purpose or mission. Your son needs to save the world & conquer. Gaming=isolation.

Give him books that push him to be more than he is. *Dangerous Book for Boys*

1-2 hours day screen time. Push him to go outside. Prepare to be the bad guy.

"Our boys need a little bit of physical adventure to discover their purpose and to have an outlet for the desire to take risks and be aggressive."

Contract of sexual purity? Weekly Father-Son time & \$ to invest. Initiate him into your adult community. Encourage good friendships.

"Reputation is what people think you are. Character is who you are when no one is around."

Aggressive girls vs. good girls--differences? Talk about it.

Set a standard of restraint in regards to your son's sexual behavior. Wet dreams are a sign of heroic sexual purity. They show that a boy is not masturbating voluntarily & not indulging in selfish self-pleasuring.

"Today's porn doesn't just misuse God's gift of sexuality--it misrepresents it grotesquely." Aggressiveness--lack of connection--using each other.

***Look for Safe eyes & Covenant eyes filters. Internetsafety.com

Porn=toilet water

Eat together & NO screens!

The brain--use it or lose it.

Proverbs 4:23 Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.

2 Timothy 3:1-5

Service

Honor

Integrity

Gentlemanly behavior

Proverbs 31

Ephesians 5:3 & 25-29

"Positive messages are more potent than negative ones."

A man is charged with heading his family's spiritual well-being.

"Remind your son often that the purity of any of his relationships with women is his responsibility, not theirs, and define the boundaries clearly for him."

Rachel says

Practical suggestions

Julie says

This book taught me a lot about how a mom is so important in her son's life. Much of the book didn't apply to me, but I like how it could work for families of just one child to ones that have multiple children.

Christy Ryan says

This quick and easy read was packed with great info on parenting my boy! I loved that it was specifically geared towards tween boys too!

Juliana Haught says

First off, I have to say that I couldn't give this book more stars because it's very Evangelical, bible-quoting Christian, and so much of the author's reasoning for having the values her family has, boils down to, "because the Bible says so". She also focuses a LOT of book time on the "evils" and "sins" of pornography and playing video games, but not a single mention is made about avoiding drugs. Huh. Granted, the author took her topics from a survey of other Evangelical Christian moms, and pornography and "temptations of the flesh" apparently were a huge concern, and drugs weren't. Anyway, I didn't give the book fewer stars because overall, I think the advice the author has about understanding the male physiology and mindset, the importance of connection with parents and with adult male role models that share your values, and the ways to impart your values all along in the growing up years, no matter what they are, are right on the mark. I didn't agree with every single thing the author said was important as a value, but if you can look past those parts and know what your own values and stances are, you can apply the same principles of imparting your values to your child, along with loving your child even when he strays from those values. That said, if the views of Evangelical Christianity really bother you, don't read this book.

Kelly says

Uh...where do I start? I am reading this book for a small group at church and although I am four chapters from finishing, I just can't read any more. First of all, she talks about her "research." Her sources that she cites are from popular media, abcnews.com, Newsweek and evangelical sources such as Focus on the Family. Hardly unbiased and scholarly. Some of her other resources appear to be from polls she conducted with women who regularly log on to her website...hmmm...these are the kind of resources one uses in high school to write a report. Not even a self respecting college student would use these as their primary sources.

Another example of her "research" is in Chapter 1 on page 25 (didn't get very far into the book before I was screaming) The author states, and I quote "the first reason boys become bad is that the feminist movement has told us they are bad." She bases her belief on her readings from a book called Bringing up Boys by Michael Gurian. Hmmm....while I have not read that book, I'm guessing he is a traditional, conservative Christian. Which is fine, but not one I would go to as an expert on the feminist point of view.

Her writing is very simple and there is not a lot of substance or details behind her ideas. Not impressed at all.

I did continue to plug on reading the book and about the only good thing I got from it was to limit my sons' screen time to an hour a day and to let them choose how they use it. We do have limits on our boys' screen time but we have set a 30 min limit per device. However, including tv, they have four devices. I like the flat hour idea.

There you have it. One nice thing to say. Sheesh...I'll be donating this book to the local used bookstore.i
