

God's Girls



God's Girls

*Secrets of Leadership
for Young Women*



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Publishing Designs, Inc.



Publishing Designs, Inc.
P.O. Box 3241
Huntsville, Alabama 35810

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Second Printing 2015

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Edited by Peggy Coulter

Printed in the United States of America

Publisher's Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Hampton, Teresa
God's girls / Teresa Hampton; foreword by Brenda Johnson
158 pp.
Thirteen chapters—Daily Devotions—Side-text questions.
1. Teenage girls—Religious life—Leadership. 2. Young women—Religious life—Leadership
ISBN 978-0-929540-79-5

248.8'33—dc22

Dedication

To the girls—now adults—that
I've had the privilege of teaching,
especially Jill, Charlotte, Laura, and
Morgen, who patiently answered my
questions and guided me to a better
understanding of the great strength
within each young person.





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Foreword

Is there anything as precious as young, innocent girls? They always make me smile because they transport me to the time when I was young and eager to please God. How important, then, is it to teach them to become God's girls? It is vital to the Lord's body and to the world, although the world doesn't seem to understand it. Women hold the keys to the home and they strengthen the church because of their God-given role to nurture and teach their children. A godly mother wields her good influence on her children until her death. How do we insure that the church is filled with godly mothers? We blaze the trail by training our girls to be God's girls.

Many of the woes in our sinful world started with the demise of the home. Now a broken home is the norm. A woman on a reality television program said she "missed the various times when she had been a wife." Imagine that! She had been married so many times that her "homes" became blurred mixtures in her mind. Broken homes are not God's plan. The place to prevent domestic catastrophes is with the youth, before their lives are saturated with sin.

God's Girls is a beautiful biblical study we can use to teach our girls in the classroom or at home exactly how to live up to the name "Christian." Teresa's simple yet profound approach will touch and train young hearts who are poised to become women of God. Most important, *God's Girls* zeroes in to train "tomorrow's women" to be leaders! This leadership is not defined by the success-standard of the world, but by God—girls leading through service. They in turn will train the young women of the future.

Teresa has a great understanding of the issues facing girls in this modern world of sin. She doesn't shy away from encouraging them to challenge the culture by holding to God's unchanging

hand. *God's Girls* defines a spiritual leader and gives practical, biblical advice on becoming one. I was particularly touched by Teresa's wisdom regarding dress, purity, and words.

In my opinion, this book covers the important matters that pertain to developing a well-rounded spiritual and physical life that glorifies the Lord! Any Christian girl who opens her Bible to the scriptures outlined on these pages will find herself on the inside track to leadership, God's way.

All God's girls should be given the opportunity to learn from this material. I am convinced that training them now for service in the kingdom will assure a bright and wonderful future for our Lord's church as they grow into God's women!



Brenda Johnson

Lads to Leaders / Leaderettes

Introduction

“Will you teach the young women?” That question jolted me into the real world; my first emotion was terror. Over the course of the next six years, however, a dramatic role reversal transpired—I became the student and they became my teachers. What a treasure! My terror was transformed into joy.

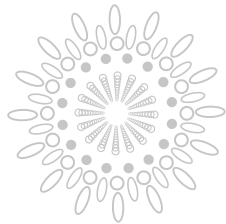
Every day of my experience was unique. One day the girls would come to class emotionally high, giddy with laughter, and the next day they might be filled with solemn expressions or anger or tears. They were young adults one day, discussing adult ideas and wanting to be treated as such. But the following day they were as likely as not to reveal childlike expectations or behavior.

In a very short time I made an amazing discovery. Aside from their roller-coaster emotions, these girls were very much like me as they tried to find their place in the body of Christ. As spiritually motivated, blossoming young adults, they eagerly sought to know God’s Word and to understand the adult female role in the home, the church, and the community.

I have since talked with many young women and discovered that whether in school, in college, or in the working world of singles, they are searching for their place in the church.

Are you seeking to know God better? Do you want to know more about how young women can best serve God in the twenty-first century? If so, embark with me on a fascinating journey as we explore our role as women of God.







God's Girls Understand True Leadership



Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, before the difficult days come, and the years draw near when you say, *I have no pleasure in them.*

Ecclesiastes 12:1

Jan was a petite college freshman with long blonde hair and a soft voice. Her beautiful smile brightened any day, but she was different from all her friends—very different—and her difference was obvious. You see, Jan was born without arms and hands. Her feet and legs were also her hands and arms. With them she dressed, put on makeup, walked to class, turned pages, and took notes. And I might add, her makeup was flawless and her penmanship was beautiful. She drove anywhere she wanted to go in her personal, specially adapted car. In a special interview, the school newspaper reporter asked about plans for the future.

“My short-range goal is to finish my degree in social work. My long-range goal is to use that knowledge to work with those who have extreme challenges and obstacles in their lives.

The interviewer then asked, "Is there anything you have not tried and mastered?"

Jan replied in her soft, quiet voice, "I've had success with everything except roller skating. But I haven't given up on it."

What an example! What a leader! Jan often led both students and teachers to a greater faith and trust in God. She showed how to rise above mediocrity and realize the full potential to touch others for good. Yes, the school was impacted by her spiritual devotion, encouraged by her positive attitude, and influenced by her determination to live life to its fullest. Aren't these the things that make a leader?

My Influence

Write the word *influence* in each blank below. Then discuss why each sentence is true.

My choice of words has

_____.

My choice of entertainment has

_____.

My choice of friends has

_____.

Older & Wiser

Interview an adult. Ask one question: *What influenced you most positively in your teen years?* Compare answers in class.

Guide, Conduct, and Influence

A leader guides, conducts, or influences another. Obviously, every person, regardless of age or gender, influences others either positively or negatively. As Christians, we want to lead positively. We'll learn in the next chapter how God intends for men to assume the more visible leadership positions. Men are the spiritual leaders in the home, in the church, and in worship, but we women must never forget that we also lead others, many times in quiet but powerful ways. We will begin to understand true leadership by asking a few questions.

* *Must a leader be physically attractive?* No! The world has trapped us into believing beauty is everything. God's people, the Israelites, fell into the same trap. Neighboring countries had kings, but Israel had an old judge, Samuel. *A strong young king is just what we need*, they thought, *to compete in the world*. Samuel warned them of the pitfalls of having a king (1 Samuel 8:9–18).

Despite Samuel's warnings, the people were relentless in their desire to keep up with their neighbors. God gave them what they wanted—a mighty man: powerful, tall, handsome. *He will be a perfect king*, they thought.

What a disappointment. Almost immediately Saul began to disobey God. When he failed to destroy the Amalekites, God rejected Saul and asked the prophet to anoint a second king.

At last Samuel narrowed his search to the sons of Jesse. Arriving at Jesse's

Fair to Look On

Abram said to Sarai:
You are a woman of beautiful countenance. When the Egyptians see you, they will say, "This is his wife"; and they will kill me . . . Please say you are my sister . . . (Gen. 12:11).

Read Genesis 12:10–20. Was Sarai's beauty a negative or a positive factor? What happened as a result of her outward appearance?

Tall & Handsome

Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature . . . the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart (1 Sam. 16:7).

My Heart Check-up

1. What do I treasure? (That's where my heart is—Matt. 6:21.)

2. How do I honor God? (Is my heart far from God?—Matt. 15:8.)

3. What am I thinking? (I am what I think—Prov. 23:7.)

Whatever

*Whatever things are true,
whatever things are noble,
whatever things are just,
whatever things are pure,
whatever things are lovely,
whatever things are of good report*

...

(Phil. 4:8).

home, he was immediately convinced that Eliab, the oldest son, was God's choice. He looked like a king. He was of good stature—a good warrior he would be. "Surely the Lord's anointed is before him" (1 Samuel 16:6). Sorry, Samuel. You're wrong.

What had Samuel learned from his experience with King Saul, who seemed to be the perfect military and civil leader? He had learned nothing, so God intervened at Jesse's house:

Do not look on his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have refused him. For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart (1 Samuel 16:7).

The same is true today. God is always more interested in the heart. If you have a heart that is willing to please God, you have the

ability to lead others in a mighty way.

- * *Must a leader have a great personality?* Absolutely not! Some say that even the most introverted individual will influence ten thousand during a lifetime.

Even with a quiet, shy nature, you can influence and guide others positively. Elizabeth did. When she learned in her old age she was going to give birth to baby John, she hid herself, not because she was ashamed but because she was joyful (Luke 1:24–25).

Quiet people have unique strengths. They are often good listeners and organizers. A quiet girl with a listening ear may prevent someone from acting in a rash, angry, or impulsive way. Her unassuming questions or humble advice may lead constructively.

Quiet people make great leaders *if they have willing hearts.*

Was She Shy?

And his sister stood afar off, to know what would be done to him. Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and call a nurse for you . . . ?" And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Go." So the maiden went and called the child's mother (Exod. 2:4, 7–8).

Describe Miriam's personality. How did she save her baby brother Moses?

Faith or Fear?

God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind (2 Tim. 1:7).

How is God bigger than my family?

How can my family discourage me?

Why must I fight in the Lord's army, regardless of what my family does?

Girl Leaves Family

.....

Ruth left all her friends. She left her family. She left her country of Moab and moved to Bethlehem with her mother-in-law. Underline the phrase in the following scripture that shows that Ruth understood she was different from other girls.

You have comforted me, and have spoken kindly to your maidservant, though I am not like one of your maidservants (Ruth 2:13).

* *Must a leader have a strong Christian family?* No! Even if you live with an ungodly parent, you can still be a leader for Christ.

Remember Timothy, the young man Paul converted? His father was Greek and probably had little concern for spiritual matters. His temperament likely presented some difficult challenges for Timothy, but Timothy was a Christian first (Acts 16:1–2; 2 Timothy 1:5).

Your home may be one of many affected by divorce. You may have a stepmom or stepdad. Just remember that some Christian girls who live with both parents in a stable home have little encouragement because the parents do not share the passion of their daughter's faith.

No Christian has a right to give up, and that includes you. Who knows? You might lead your parents to Christ by providing a good example for them.

Girls, you can have a powerful impact on your families. Some of the most powerful leaders in the church are young women who, despite the odds, choose to serve God. God's girls practice true Christianity by actively teaching children, parents, and friends. They busy themselves assisting the ill and grief-stricken. They participate in local and foreign mission efforts. They assist young mothers during worship. Their good deeds are endless.

Having Christian parents makes Christian living easier, but it is not an essential ingredient. Young, single women have the ability to lead all ages in a sound direction.

* *Must a leader be of a particular age?* Absolutely not! You may believe you are not old enough or mature enough to lead others. Solomon disagrees. In his book of Ecclesiastes, he told young

My Impact for Service

Here are two ways I can practice Christianity this week:

1. _____

2. _____

Every Secret Thing

God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil (Eccles. 12:14.)

How many of my works will God bring into judgment?

What "secret" things will be brought into judgment?

How does this verse motivate us to fear God and keep His commands?



Seize the Moment!

*Remember now your Creator
in the days of your youth
(Eccles. 12:1).*

List two ways to follow the
previous command. (See
Ecclesiastes 12:13.)

1. _____

2. _____

people to remember God in
their youth.

Solomon knew there is
no guarantee of tomorrow;
but even if we had the
assurance of tomorrow, we
would need the spiritual
foundation to help us learn
to face adult responsibilities
and hardships. “Seize the
moment!”

Solomon says, essentially.
“Don’t wait until you reach
adulthood to know the beauty
and peace of serving God and
drawing others near Him”
(Ecclesiastes 12:1).

So what is a leader? She is a guide, a conductor, or an
influence. A good leader does not have to be beautiful. She does
not have to have an outgoing personality. She may be married or
unmarried. She may have Christian or non-Christian parents. She
doesn’t have to be a certain age, because leadership is for those of
any age. She doesn’t have to be popular or wealthy. But there is
one thing she must have if she is to be God’s successful leader. *She
must have a willing heart.*

As we continue this study, we will examine biblical examples
of women and men who became great leaders despite obstacles.
We will take a fresh look at female leadership. We will also
remember God’s list of a leader’s traits, because the world chooses
differently—the world chooses one who looks the part. We
must remember that true leadership has emerged from a young
shepherd boy and from a courageous young woman who, despite

the challenge of an armless and handless body, leads by example. Willingness is a key ingredient.

** Leading in Daily Devotion **

Read the scripture in each line below. After each scripture, look in the mirror and ask yourself the question that follows it.

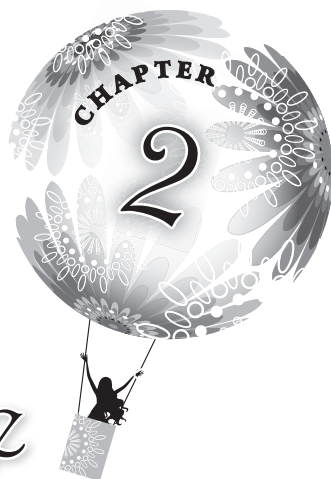
Day	Bible Reading	Self-Check
1	1 Samuel 16:7	Do I lead others in a positive direction?
2	Isaiah 53:2	Do I truly want to be like Jesus?
3	1 Peter 3:1-2	Do others observe my behavior and see Jesus?
4	Exodus 2:1-8	Do I obey God even during difficult situations?
5	2 Timothy 1:3-7	Do I listen to the counsel of wiser and older people?
6	Ecclesiastes 12:1	Do I remember God in my youth?
7	1 Samuel 17:33-37	Do I trust God to help me lead others?







God's Girls Lead with Obedience



This is the love of God, that we keep
His commandments. And His commandments
are not burdensome.

1 John 5:3

How would you like to plant your feet on the rim of an active volcano? Exciting thought? Well, I did. On a trip to Hawaii, my husband Gary and I toured an active volcano area. Excited, we gravitated closer and closer to the crater. I was stunned by the steam vents hissing just ahead. I inched forward. The strong sulfuric odors burned my nostrils. My brain begged my feet to turn and run. Steam jets were but a few feet ahead of my toes. Then I saw the sign: STOP! I did just that. I didn't need a second warning. I wondered, *Do sane people actually ignore that sign and go past it?*

A few days later, we learned that a young photographer did ignore the sign in an attempt to film the great lava flow. He took one step too many and the ground gave way without warning. You know what