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In This House, We Will Giggle: Making Virtues, Love, And Laughter A Daily Part Of Your Family Life



Synopsis

What do indoor picnics and funny face contests have to do with loving Jesus? More than you realize! As a mom in the throes of parenting, Courtney DeFeo believes that instilling virtues in children starts with laughter, not lecture. That perspective propelled her to create this idea-packed book, in which she offers motivating reflections, real-life stories, and a sandbox full of inventive ways to help you turn your kids' hearts toward God. Each chapter focuses on one virtue that is key for developing your child's character. Along with insights into how this virtue plays out in the nitty-gritty of life, Courtney includes a memory verse, activity ideas, and discussion questions to reinforce that virtue throughout the month. Here you'll find a full year of ways to draw your children closer to God through delightful antics like Family Olympics, One Fancy Feast, and Light 'Em Up. In This House, We Will Giggle shows you how to capture the hearts of your children through fun so that they experience the goodness of Christ, the joy of following Him, and the difference they can make in the lives of others. (Water balloons not included!)

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I'm always looking for inspiration and encouragement as I raise three energetic and unique little boys. The title of Courtney DeFeo's book attracted me because it signaled a book full of grace rather than legalistic "training." Overview Each chapter is devoted to one of 12 virtues: love, joy, forgiveness, faith, patience, perseverance, respect, responsibility, service, humility, gratitude and generosity. These chapters begin with a short kid-friendly definition of the featured virtue before

flowing into DeFeo's and her many mentors' and friends' thoughts on instilling this virtue into children. In each chapter, DeFeo also offers a memory verse, talking points, and a lesson plan with discussion questions, a big family activity, shorter optional activities and a corresponding passage to read out of Sally Lloyd-Jones' The Jesus Storybook Bible. There are also "60 Ways to Bring out the Giggles" sidebars sprinkled throughout the book. It was a lot to take in at first glance, and took me a couple of chapters before I settled into the rhythm of all the components. But instead of letting myself get overwhelmed, I took DeFeo's advice from the preface to heart: "I encourage you to customize all these resources to fit the style and needs of your family, discarding anything that doesn't work and mixing in your own creative ideas" (9). What Spoke to Me DeFeo's chapters on Forgiveness, Patience, Perseverance and Humility resonated with me, as evidenced by the amount of my underlining, starring and scribbling in the margins. I was especially inspired by her prayer and vision for homes where "we hear their hearts and take responsibility for our part in any conflict."

As a parent of three and a follower of Christ, instilling the virtues of Christ is one of our top priorities as parents. However, how we do it, is easier said than done. There are many ways to try to teach our kids these virtues but many times we fail because we try to do it the "adult" way. If we come to the kids eye level, how do they learn? By doing, by having fun, by engaging them instead of lecturing them. Ms. Courtney DeFeo book is exactly that. As a mother of two, through her own experiences and observations, her book is about teaching our kids the Godly virtues by having fun with our kids. She shared her own personal journey in getting to this point and understanding what's the best way for her kids to learn. She takes the twelve virtues of Joy, Love, Forgiveness, Faith, Patience, Perseverance, Respect, Responsibility, Service, Humility, Gratitude and Generosity and breaks them up into twelve chapters full of activities and short lessons. She suggested that each month, the family can focus on one of the virtues and do the activities in it. She explains each virtue in a very clear and concise manner, that's easy to understand and explain to the kids. At the end of each chapter, there is an activity relating to that virtue. For example, for the virtue of respect, the activity is planning a party, but not the parents planning it but the kids. It's about kids learning to plan the party and then interact in a respectful way with the guests. I love the one about service, where we service, in conjunction with other families to learn to serve others. I can't wait to begin to try some of these. I love that sprinkled throughout the book, she has 60 ways to bring out the giggles.

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