

Talking about Gender with Children

Read Together

God made boys and girls: Helping children understand the gift of gender by Marty Machowski.

Great for 3-5 year olds, this book unpacks gender as a good gift from God, and explains our experience of it in light of the whole story of the Bible and the Good News about Jesus. Reading it together as 'just another book' with young children can help talking openly about gender in light of God's Word to be normal in your family.



Birds and Bees by the Book by Patricia Weerakoon.

A great series to read together with upper primary children to help have open and safe conversations about sex, growing up and gender. The volume: 'Learning about Gender' is a great development for primary school students to think more about what it means for them to be a boy or a girl and live for Jesus.



Teen Sex by the Book by Patricia Weerakoon.

This one is written for teenagers to read for themselves, in ongoing conversation with their parents. It helpfully and frankly helps teenagers to grapple with the realities of adolescence, sexuality and gender in light of God's Word. Soaked in the Gospel, Patricia constantly points teens back to Jesus for the forgiveness and fulfillment we all need.



For parents...

Talking Sex by the Book: Giving Kids a Bible-Based view of identity, relationships and sexuality by Patricia Weerakoon.

This book is aimed to equip parents to have pastoral conversations with their children about identity, sex and relationships from a Christian perspective. It is great for parents who might feel bewildered or anxious about the thought of talking to their children about sex or relationships.



Finally: having the right books isn't the most important thing...

Far more important than having the right books and reading them with your children is living in humble and zealous obedience to God's Word yourself. Our children learn as much, or even more from what they see in our lives than what we say and read to them. Paul's instruction to Timothy is true for parents as well: "Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers." (1 Tim 4:16).

And of course, we can achieve nothing without God's help. Here's a prayer you might like to use for your children: *"Gracious God, we thank you that through the death and resurrection of your Son, you have brought us from death to life. Enable us by your Spirit to resist the power of sin and give ourselves to you as a living sacrifice. May we not be conformed to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of our mind, so that we serve and please you in every way. We pray especially as parents, that you would give us a spirit of wisdom and love, that we may teach our children by word and example to follow Jesus. In our homes, give us the joy that comes from being faithful followers of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen."*

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