The Mean Mom's Guide to Raising Great Kids

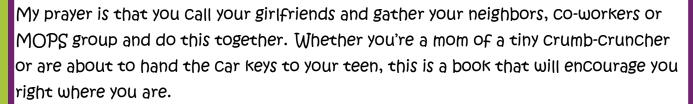
Leader's Guide

Congratulations!

I'm thrilled you're leading a group through *The Mean Mom's*Guide to Raising Great Kids. I wish I could be there with you!

We have a lot in common. We believe in the One who weaves

us together for His purpose and we believe in encouraging others.



I recommend going through "The Making of a Mean Mom" chapters one through five, first. Then, look over the following chapter guides and choose which chapters to study in-depth and on which weeks. This will allow you to personalize this study by topics and length of time, for your group.

Being a mom is not for the faint of heart. It's an appointed position by God Himself. We can't do this alone. We need Him and we need each other. I'm so grateful you are breathing this message into the heart of each mom who gathers alongside you.

Mom-friend, you are being prayed for.



Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. Glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever! Amen. Ephesians 3:20-21



Is this your first time?

Before we jump in, I want to make sure you're comfortable facilitating a group. I remember the first time I led a group of women. I felt so ill-equipped. I over-prepared and fretted, a lot! First things first, take a deep breath and relax. You don't need a degree in child psychology or a seminary doctorate to dig in with other moms and learn together.

Are you still feeling a little nervous? God loves to work through someone who depends on His strength. Here's a verse I pray out loud sometimes when I need Him most: *I can do all things through Him who strengthens me. Phil. 4:13 ESV*

A few suggestions:

- Group Guidelines—I've included my own on the next page. Feel free to create your own, or print off what I've included and pass them out. For some, this may be the first time they've ever gathered and read through a book together. Guidelines are a great way to begin.
- Study Buddy—Women are relational. We desire to connect. Have the women throw their names in a hat and randomly select someone to be their prayer-partner these next eight weeks. They can exchange emails/phone numbers/ and reach out to each other. Relationships are built this way. Plus, a random selection of women impedes cliques and encourages befriendingsomeone they may never have reached out to before.
- No Groupies—God is not exclusive, so your group shouldn't be either. Reach out to people who aren't in your regular circle of friends. Pray and ask the Lord to put someone on your heart. Is she a single mom? Or, the mom struggling with her marriage or kids? That's the person you need to include and invite to join you, too.

The Mean Mom's Guide is not heavy on homework but I pray it's heavy on heart-work. Be praying for these women even before they agree to join in. Pray your group is a safe place where strangers become friends and where you can read through these chapters and lay your heart bare. Pray you can laugh at crazy-mom-stories and are comfortable enough to pray for one another when the tears come.

My biggest prayer is for you to come alongside these moms but not as their judge, but, instead, to give grace and love them for the mom they're becoming—inspiring them to be the mom God wants them to be.

Through it all, may you draw even closer to Jesus and may God be glorified in and through your journey.

Draw near to Him and He will draw near to you. James 4:8

One of the benefits of being in a group study is having a front-row seat to all God is doing in the lives of others. But, before the heart-work can begin it's important to lay some loving boundaries from the get-go.

The Mean Mom's Guide to Raising Great Kids

Group Guidelines

■ Respect each others time. Choose a time to begin and end and make that a priority.

Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Romans 12:10

■ **Pray.** Lay the groundwork for God and pray for your group Pray for your study-buddy. Pray for your group leader. Pray before or after group begins. "We cannot be too frequent in our requests; God will not weary in His children's prayers." -D.L. Moody

Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. James 5:16

■ Leave the judgement to God. It's easy to start thinking, "Wow, this mom is a train wreck." But, where do you go from there? Do you reach out to her, or do you scoot a little farther away on the couch? Judgement always draws people apart. Grace and love draw us closer.

When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." John 8:7

■ Family Confidentiality. There will be topics these next few weeks when you'll want to share a story from your own life. Trust me, we need the encouragement and we all enjoy a good story! Just make sure your family is okay with you doing that.

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.

John 13:34

■ Group Confidentiality. Be sensitive. What is shared here is not for everyone else you may know. When you bump into your group-friend and her husband at the grocery store this is not the best time to tell her you're praying for her marriage. Caring is not always sharing.

Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other. 1Thess. 5:13

■ It's not all about you. Do you have the gift of gab? Can you fill every uncomfortable pause in the conversation? Don't do it. Others need a chance to speak. Sometimes that silence is the sound of the Holy Spirit encouraging a mom to share something hard. Allow an awkward silence—it's a good thing.

In the multitude of words sin is not lacking, But he who restrains his lips is wise. Prov. 10:19

Week 1 Chapters 1 & 2

Are you a Mean Mom?

Prepare: Read through Chapters 1 & 2 before you gather and discuss questions below. Print off copies of "The Definition of a Mean Mom" and hand out at the end of group today. Have women randomly exchange contact info for a study-buddy.

<u>Homework</u>: Read Chapter 3. Highlight parts you want to discuss next week.

Heart-Work: Pray for your group. Reach out to your study buddy this week via email/text message/phone call.

- What's YOUR definition of a Mean Mom/Marshmallow Mom?
- Was your mom a Mean Mom or a Marshmallow Mom?
- Which are YOU?
- Discover what mean really means on page 17. Read this list with your group and discuss which ones you struggle with. Which are you strongest in? Allow each woman to take a turn sharing her strengths and weaknesses.
- Pages 24-25 explain jumbo-sized marshmallow moms and mini-marshmallow moms. Read aloud and discuss.
- Do you struggle with being a marshmallow mom? Which marshmallow mom can you relate to on pages 26–28? Give yourself a marshmallow name:

Example: Maria Mykidcantdothat or Emma Emptythreats

- What elements are needed to be a successful mean mom?
- Encourage each of the women. Motherhood is a journey. It is an evolving adventure and God uses each of us uniquely for the child He has given us.
- Share homework for next week. Pray.

The Definition of a Mean Mom

A Mean Mom Keeps her word when it's hard.

A Mean Mom gives, models, and expects respect.

A Mean Mom puts her husband before her child.

A Mean Mom knows her child's friends and where they live.

A Mean Mom instills dinner times, bedtimes, and curfews.

A Mean Mom treads water longer than her child can make it rain.

A Mean Mom never makes excuses for her child's strengths or weaknesses.

> A Mean Mom doesn't let her own fears overrule her child's freedoms.

A Mean Mom sees the adult her child can be and inspires until he or she catches the vision.

A Mean Mom loves passionately, encourages openly, and behaves righteously.

Week 2 Chapter 3

Mean Moms Walk By Faith

Prepare: Read through Chapter 3 before you gather to discuss questions below.

Homework: Read Chapter 4. Highlight parts you want to discuss next week. Invite women to bring a wedding photo next week.

<u>Heart-Work:</u> Pray for your group. Reach out to your study buddy this week via email/text message/phone call.

Before we can help our children, we need to be strong first. Whether that's nutritionally, emotionally, or spiritually. It's important to talk about what makes up a mean mom. What makes her tick?

- "Right behavior always follows right beliefs. Never the other way around."
 What do you think about Michael Youssef's quote?
- Joanne Kraft shares her God story on pages 37-39. What's YOUR story?
- Have the women look up the scriptures in the highlighted box on page 39.
- Faith in Christ is not a religion. It's a relationship. Discuss.
- Name other relationships in your life. Do you spend time with the people you're closest to? When we're in relationship with Jesus we need to spend time with Him, too. What does your time with Him look like? Discuss. (Remind them of Romans 8:1)
- Pages 42-43 give lots of examples of how to spend time with the One who made time. Read these out loud. He can redeem time, too. So, don't be afraid to ask Him for a little.
- God loves relationship. He created us for it. Still, there are boundaries He has put in place for our protection...because He loves us. Discuss God's boundaries on pages 44-45 and the Ten Commandments.
- Share homework for next week and invite your group to bring their wedding photo to share. Pray.

Week 3

Chapter 4

Mean Moms Put Their Marriage First

<u>Prepare</u>: Read through Chapter 4 before you gather to discuss questions below.

<u>Homework</u>: Read Chapter 5. Highlight parts you want to discuss next week.

<u>Heart-Work</u>: Make a point to pray for spouses in the group today! Ask your study buddy how you can specifically pray for her marriage this week.

Want to raise great kids? Then work on your marriage. A family is only as strong as the marriage inside it. If your marriage struggles, so will your kids.

- Ask for volunteers to share how they met their husband and share their wedding photo if they brought one.
- Read out loud "Dwell There—Take Thoughts Captive" on pgs. 48-51.
- Look up: 2 Corinthians 10:5, Isaiah 26:3 and Romans 12:2. Read out loud.
- Explain how God is the creator of relationship and wants us to love Him and others well. Read John 15:12 and Philippians 4:8 to the group.
- Practice sharing praiseworthy things about your husband. Ask for volunteers to share theirs about their husband if they'd like.
- Read Genesis 2:18 out loud. Explain what the biblical definition of a helper/helpmeet is.

Definition: Helper meet (suitable, adapted, completing), a companion ... a helper suited to his needs, a helper such as he needs.

- Is there a way you can help your husband this week? Discuss.
- Share homework for next week. Pray.

Week 4 Chapter 5

Mean Moms Pray

"Until you know that life is war, you cannot know what prayer is for."—John Piper

<u>Prepare</u>: Read through Chapter 5 before you gather to discuss questions below.

<u>Homework</u>: Assign Chapter(s) to read next week. Highlight parts you want to discuss .

<u>Heart-Work</u>: Make a point to pray for wisdom/intercessory prayer for your study-buddy and her family.

As a Mean Mom, there is nothing more powerful we can do than pray for our children. This week we're going to dig in to a foundational part of mother-hood: prayer.

- In the beginning of Chapter Five, I share a story of answered prayer. Share your own story when God answered your prayers.
- When our children are young, it's especially difficult to find time for prayer. Ask your group to share where/when/what their prayer life looks like. Read Romans 8:1 out loud. Remind your group of God's grace.
- Read "Wisdom" on page 62. Share with your study-buddy your own wisdom/intercessory prayer request for your child/children. Pray together.
- In the Bible we see Jesus praying often. He teaches how to pray: Matthew 6:9-13 and Jesus even prays for all of us: John 17:20-23.
- Can you name a woman in the Bible who prayed for God to move on her behalf? **Answer**: Sarah/Mary/Elizabeth/Hannah/The Shunamite Woman
- The Mean Mom Team had lots to say about prayer. Read "Walk" on pages 62—67 either aloud as a group or to yourself. Share the Mean Mom who you can relate to or encourages you most.
- Share homework for next week. Pray.

Week ___

Chapters 6 & 7

Mean Moms Model Honor & Mean Moms Don't Take Sides

<u>Prepare</u>: Read through Chapters 6 & 7 before you gather to discuss questions below.

<u>Homework</u>: Assign Chapter(s) to read this week. Highlight parts you want to discuss next week.

<u>Heart-Work</u>: Send a card to your study buddy this week.

There's no magic pill we can give our

children to guarantee they grow up to be respectful, selfless, kind, hard-working adults. But, there are a few things mean moms do well to mold a great kid into this kind of adult.

What does the Bible say about respect and honor? Look up and read out loud: 1Peter 2:17, Proverbs 11:16(a), Matt. 19:19, Phil. 2:3

- Read "10 Simple Manners Every Kid Should Know" on pages 75-77. Share manners you can instill that aren't included. Which of these manners do your kids see YOU modeling?
- Read "Humility Brings Honor" on pages 79-81. Discuss humility. Do you respect humble people? Jesus is our greatest example of humility. Do you exercise humility in your parenting? Share a time when humility made a difference in your life.

Chapter Seven—Mean Moms Don't Take Sides

- Read "Parenting Evolution" on pages 86-87. Which of the "Don'ts" do you struggle with at home?
- Read "Preparation is Key" and "A Lesson in Response Preparation" on pages 87-88. What works in your home? What doesn't? Discuss ways to respond and not react next time.
- Read "Forgive Me" pages 90-91. When was the last time you ask forgiveness?
- Share homework for next week. Pray.

Week __

Chapters 8 & 9

Mean Moms Make em' Work Mean Moms Use Their Words <u>Prepare</u>: Read through Chapters 8 & 9 before you gather to discuss questions below.

<u>Homework</u>: Read assigned Chapter (s). Highlight parts you want to discuss next week.

<u>Heart-Work</u>: Pray for your study buddies children by name.

If your children are old enough to use a potty-chair then they're old enough to have a few chores. If you have a teenager at home who doesn't help around the house this chapter will be one of your favorites.

- Go around and share what chores your children are responsible for. Do you follow-thru and hold them to those chores? How often? Then share what chores YOU had as a kid. Do your kids do less or more than you did? Why?
- The central theme of the Bible is Jesus Christ. God put on flesh. The King of Kings came to serve, not to be served. Look up Mark 10:45. How can you encourage serving at home? Is there someone God is putting on your heart for your family to serve in your family, neighborhood, church or community?

Chapter 9-Mean Moms Use Their Words

- Read pages 107-109. How does God encourage His son? Have you used any of the same ways to encourage YOUR child? Explain.
- Read "Encouragement is not Praise" and "Everyday Encouragement" on pages 110-113. How we talk to our children makes all the difference in the world. Explain how you will encourage your son/daughter this week.
- Read the "Mom to Mom" section. Have you used any of their momtechniques with your kids, lately? Discuss.
- Share homework for next week. Pray.

Week ___ Chapter 10

Mean Moms Say No to TV

<u>Prepare</u>: Read through Chapter 10 and be ready to discuss questions below. Print copies of "Table Talk" questions for your group to take home.

<u>Homework</u>: Assign Chapter(s) to read. Highlight parts you want to discuss next week.

Heart-Work: Encourage one another to turn off your TV

Want to be a mean mom? Turn off the TV.

Most of us can sadly admit to wasting hours of our day in front of our television. When you read the statistics about how much time we're spending, it might be an eye-opener to your group. This week may smart a bit, but it will be well worth your time. I promise.

- Read page 107 to the group. How many hours a day is your TV on? Share if you dare.
- Communication is the foundation for a solid parent-child relationship. Is your family is used to a lot of white noise? This week, eat your meals without it on. Talk to one another, instead. (Use "Table Talk" questions.)
- Read "The Miraculous Kitchen Table" on pages 120-121. What were meals like when you were a kid? Did you eat around the table more/less? Discuss.
- Read "Be Diligent. Be Watchful." Look up 1Peter 2:9. Does it help to remember this verse when you choose TV shows for your child? Explain.
- When was the last time you *rooted for sin*? (page 125-126) Share. Have you considered Romans 1:21 in regards to time with your TV?
- Which of your TV programs would you invite Jesus to watch with you. Why? Why not?
- Consider fasting from cable TV one day a week. If you're an over-achiever unplug for the whole week. Ask your study-buddy to hold you accountable.
- Share homework for next week. Pray.

Table Talk

Start a conversation with your kids around the kitchen table.

- Thorns & Roses. Share a thorn (sad/painful/hard moment) and a rose (happy/funny/kind moment) from your day.
- Favorites. What's your favorite pizza topping, sport, holiday, dinner, color, friend, number, story in the Bible, animal, ice cream, book, Disney movie?
- If you could be anyone in the world who would you be and why?
- What do you want to be when you grow up?
- Share your bucket list with your kids. Ask them to share theirs.
- Give reasons why you love their father. Share how he proposed.
- Tell a story from your childhood. Ask their favorite family memory.
- Quiz how well you know each other. Example; "What's your sister's favorite toy/music/friend?"
- Share your perfect day. Ask your child to share hers.
- If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go and why?
- When you get to Heaven, what one question would you ask God?
- Share the reasons why you love Jesus. Ask them to share theirs.
- If you could have any pet what would you want?
- Talk about the things you'd like to do over school break/summer vacation.
- Discuss different character traits like faith, honesty, kindness, courage, hardwork, self-control, love and share where you see them growing in your child.

Week _

Chapter 11

Mean Moms Slay Goliath

<u>Prepare</u>: Read through Chapter 11 before you gather to discuss questions below.

<u>Homework</u>: Assign Chapter(s) for next week. Highlight parts you want to discuss next week.

<u>Heart-Work</u>: Email or text your study buddy this week with a favorite scripture verse.

Bullies have been around for centuries. Who hasn't heard of the infamous nine foot bully Goliath, David's nemesis? Preying on the weak, a bully uses lies, intimidation, and sometimes brute force to torment and shame his adversary.

- Share a time you were the victim of a bully.
- How does a bully prey on others? (Ask the group if they know.) Answer: lies, intimidation and sometimes brute force. Ask your group if they can think of any other ways.
- Cyberbullying has become a growing concern. It includes sending threatening texts, posting or distributing libelous or harassing messages, and uploading or distributing hateful or humiliating images or videos to harm someone else. How do you monitor your child's online time? If your child is too young to be online then share how you plan to in their future.
- Want your child to be bully-free? Then teach how valuable they are. Read pages 137-140 "What Are You Worth?"
- When our children struggle with their worth, oftentimes, it's because their mom or dad struggle with theirs. Look up: john 1:12, Jer. 31:3, Psalm 32:10, Eph. 2:18, Col. 1:14, Col. 2:10. How about you? Do you believe what God says in His word about YOU?
- Share homework for next week. Pray.

Week ___ Chapter 12

Mean Moms Don't Speak the Language of Busy

<u>Prepare</u>: Read through Chapter 11 before you gather to discuss questions below.

Homework: Assign Chapter(s) for next week.

<u>Heart-Work</u>: Pray for your study buddy. Call or text her an encouraging message this week.

"It's not enough to be busy—even the ants are busy. The question is, 'What are we busy about?""—Hendry David Thoreau. This week we're going to dig in and find areas where we can take a break and slow down.

- Look up John 10:10. I believe the enemy comes to steal our time, kill or joy and ultimately destroy our relationships. It all starts with time stealers in our day. To discover your biggest time-stealer just answer this question, "Where would someone put a sticky-note if someone needed to get a hold of you in a hurry?" Share your personal time-stealer.
- How often do you leave the home to drive your kids to sports, dance/music classes, etc? Have you considered giving one or more of these things a red light for awhile? Why or why not?
- Share the acronym of B.U.S.Y. (Burdened under Satan's yoke.) Then Look up Matthew 11:28-30. Discuss.
- Read "Be Still Before He Makes You" on pages 150-152. Ask your group to share a way they can "be still" each day? Be specific.
- God commands us to Honor the Sabbath. On the 7th day God rested.

 Question: Why do you think He rested? Answer: Because He made man on the 6th day. On the 7th He wanted to spend time with him. When was the last time you honored the Sabbath? What does that look like in your home?
- Share homework for next week. Pray.

Week __

Chapter 13

Mean Moms Mean Business

<u>Prepare</u>: Read through Chapter 11 before you gather to discuss questions below.

<u>Homework</u>: Assign Chapter(s) for next week. Highlight parts you want to discuss.

Heart-Work: Pray for something your study buddy

Dear Leader, this week could be a hard one. Talking about how you discipline your child can be a sensitive and private subject. Encourage your group to give much grace and to keep hurtful comments about others to themselves.

Encourage your group with biblical discipline. Share a story of your own parenting/discipline journey. What has worked best in your home?

"Your greatest contribution to the Kingdom of God might not be what you do but who you raise."—Andy Stanley/ Do you agree/disagree? Why?

One of the most challenging parts of parenting is discipline. The true biblical meaning of the word means to educate, cultivate, develop and prepare. Developing a child takes time and one size does not fit all. Let's begin this week by talking about how <u>NOT</u> to discipline.

- When you were a child what type of discipline didn't work with you? Have you adopted the same methods with your own children. Why or why not?
- Read "How Not to Discipline Your Kids" on pages 157-159.
- Share ways you *react* in your home. (examples on pg. 159).
- Discuss how you can respond instead. (read definition of respond on page 160).
- Share homework for next week. Pray.

Week _

Chapter 14

Mean Moms Embrace Failure

<u>Prepare:</u> Read through Chapter 14 before you gather to discuss questions below.

<u>Homework</u>: Assign Chapter(s) for reading. Highlight parts you want to discuss next week.

<u>Heart-Work</u>: Think of a way you can implement one thing you learned during your study. Do it this week.

We need to embrace failure instead of trying to avoid it. Those people who spend their lives trying to avoid failure are also eluding maturity. —Henry Cloud & John Townsend

It's our nature to want everything that touches our child's life to be perfect. From the friends they make, to their schoolwork and even their health, we want everything that touches their life to be a slam-dunk-success. When our kids fail they hurt—and we do, too. Failure shouldn't be feared. We need to allow our kids to experience it.

- Share a time when your child failed at something. How did you respond?
- Read "Let Them Fall" pages 169-170. Share a time you did one of these very things.
- God teaches all of us through the trials of failure. Share a time God turned an epic fail in your own life into something of beauty.
- When your child struggles it's hard to watch. We want to help but don't want to cripple them from learning to stand on their own. Share a scripture verse that has encouraged YOU when you've struggled or failed.
- Read "Encouragement When They Fall" on pages 173-174. Share with the group how God did NOT abandon you or how He refreshed you when you were discouraged?
- Think of a Bible character who failed yet succeeded with God's help.
- Share homework for next week. Pray.

Week __

Chapter 15

Mean Moms Rule Technology

When I polled my Mean Mom Team, technology ranked number one when

<u>Prepare</u>: Read through Chapter 15 before you gather to dis cuss questions below. Print copies of "Social Media Contract" to share with group.

Homework: Assign Chapter(s) to read next week.

<u>Heart-Work</u>: Make a point to pray every day this week! Encourage one another to turn off your TV this week. Pray for your study buddy when she does.

it came to needing help with boundaries. Moms want to know how to navigate these uncharted waters.

- "We are digital immigrants while our children are digital natives."—Tracey Eyster Do you agree/disagree?
- Share what type of technology you had as a child.
- Our first responsibility is protect our children. How do you protect your child online?
- Read "She is a Great Kid" on pages 180-181. The average age a child sees pornography is now eight years old. Discuss.
- When our son asked us to buy him a cellphone he told us he "needed" one. At eight years old, it was time I explained the difference between a want and a need. Have you had this discussion with your kids? Parents provide needs for their child. Which technology is a "need"? Why?
- Mean Moms have programs on home computers that protect their children from adult content, but overlooked one HUGE area for damaging photos/ porn to reach our kids: their smartphone. Have you?
- Dennis and Barbara Rainey keep Psalm 101:2-4 taped on their TV at home.
 A great verse to have taped to our technology, too. Look up Psalm 101:2-4
- Print off social media contract and discuss with your group.
- Share homework for next week. Pray.

Social Media Contract

- I will include my parents and connect with them on any social media site/app I belong to. I will share with them all my passwords.
- My online conduct will be worthy of a child of God. I will not use profanity, racial slurs, or anything else that could hurt or embarrass someone.
- I will respect my family's privacy and never give out any personal information like my address, phone number, location, or where my family works without permission.
- I will not post words or photos that would offend my Grandparents.
- I will not post or share photos/videos of someone without their permission.
- I will not Create a secret or private account that my parents aren't aware of.
- I will not click on/or download anything without permission from my parents.
- I will respect my family's social media rules no matter where I am or whose computer/smartphone/laptop/tablet/iPod/technology I'm on.
- I will let my parents know if someone wants to meet with me or sends inappropriate messages.
- I will let my parents know if I discover anyone cyber-bullying or being cyber-bullied.
- I understand what I see online isn't always the truth. People can pretend to be someone else online.
- I understand a social media account is a privilege and not a right. That privilege can be suspended at my parents' discretion due to poor grades, a poor attitude or breaking any one of the rules above.

Child's Signature	Parent Signature

Week ___ Chapter 16 & 17

Mean Moms Talk Purity

Mean Moms Drag Kids to Church

<u>Prepare</u>: Read through Chapters 16 & 17 before you gath er to discuss questions below.

<u>Homework</u>: Read assigned Chapter(s) for next week. Highlight parts you want to discuss .

<u>Heart-Work</u>: Purity begins at home. Are you encouraging your kids with what you watch on TV, how you dress and even how you talk? Model purity this week.

Many things fall under the umbrella of purity; what our kids see, wear, read, watch. In Titus 2, the older women are encouraged to teach the younger women six things. One of those six is purity. That's how important purity is to God.

- Read "Julie Sanders" scripture verses out loud on pages 199-200. Is there a verse that encourages you about your kids? Why?
- Read "Tara Dovenbarger" pages 200-202. The world deceives our kids into believing there's no consequence to sexual sin. How do you plan to teach your child the truth?
- I asked my Mean Mom Team to share their hearts in regards to purity and their kids. They had lots to say. Read their words on pages 202-205. Can you relate to any of them?

Mean Moms Drag Their Kids to Church

- Do any of your children have a "drug problem"?
- Share how your church has encouraged you/your child's walk of faith.
- A church is a hospital full of sin-sick people and hurt people hurt people. If you've been hurt in the church have your children watched you model forgiveness?
- Share homework for next week. Pray.

Week ___

Chapter 18 & 19

Mean Moms Eradicate Entitlement
Mean Moms Friend Their Teens

<u>Prepare:</u> Read through Chapters 18 & 19 before you gather to discuss questions below.

Homework: Read assigned Chapter(s). Highlight parts you want to discuss next week.

<u>Heart-Work</u>: Does your child struggle with entitlement? Teach gratitude and put a little more responsibility on their shoulders this week.

Entitlement is a contagious self-centered attitude running rampant in our teens today. An entitlement is a right to something and a right always comes at the expense of someone else. To simplify, if your child suffers from entitlement you're giving too much and expecting too little.

- Ask your group if they know signs of an entitlement attitude? **Answer**: Ungrateful, disrespectful, expect "wants" to be fulfilled by mom/dad. Believe they've a right to things they've no right to (car/gas money/etc.).
- Read "Giving too Much" on pages 221-222. Where do you think you may be giving too much?
- Every parent wants to raise independent, hard—working, God honoring adults. But, so often, we steal these growing opportunities from them. Have you stolen from your teen, lately?
- Read "Cars and College Tuition are not a Right" on pages 226-227. Discuss.

Mean Moms "Friend" Their Teen

- How many social apps do YOUR kids use?
- Read "Play it Safe" on pages 239-241. Did you learn anything new?
- Read Philippians 1:27. Is your conduct worthy online? Is your child's?
- Pass out and discuss "Social Media Contract".
- Share homework for next week. Pray.

Week ___

Chapter 20

Mean Moms Focus on the Future

<u>Prepare</u>: Read through Chapter 20 before you gather to discuss questions below.

<u>Heart-Work</u>: Write down the names of the women in your group. Keep the list in your Bible. A reminder to pray for these moms. Remind them of Isaiah 43:18-19 before the group's last meeting is over.

The Ministry of Motherhood is life-long and has the biggest impact on the world. Molding a child's heart is a privilege. God chose YOU for this child. So, don't be surprised when hell breaks loose.

- Read "Don't Be Surprised When Hell Breaks Loose" on pages 247-250. Have you experienced an earthquake or two on your mom-journey? Share.
- How you respond to a trial makes a difference. Don't let fear win. Jesus quietly served His disciples even when He knew He was only hours away from being crucified. Where can you calmly serve Jesus this week?
- Mean Moms understand they're raising adults—not children. Where have you learned to expect more from your children, or from yourself while reading *The Mean Mom's Guide*!
- Whether you realize it or not, you're leaving a legacy. What kind of legacy would you like to leave your children, grandchildren, and greatgrandchildren? Be specific.
- God is growing YOU through motherhood. What has surprised you most?
- God grows us and teaches us through motherhood. Being your child's parent has the power to bring you to our knees or shout with joy—sometimes of the very same day. My prayer is that you'll remember your value and that His mercies are new every day. God put you in this group for His purpose and His plan—to come alongside you and raise great kids.
- READ Isaiah 43:18-19. Prav.

Mean Mom — Bill of Rights

- I. Freedom of Speech/Religion. You've the right to freely share wisdom and exercise religious beliefs in your home.
- II. Right to Bear Arms. You've the right to discipline—but not abuse.
- III. **Right not to House the Enemy.** You've the right to decide what/who comes in or goes out of your home.
- IV. Right to Search and Seizure. You've the right to search your child's room at any-time of the day or night and have the right to seize spiritual contraband when trust is broken.
- V. Right Against Self-Incrimination. You've the right to share as little about your past with your child as you decide to.
- **VI. Right to Counsel.** You've the right to consult with your pastor or counselor.
- VII. Right to a Jury. You've the right to request prayer and have your concerns heard by a jury of your peers—other parents who've encountered similar parenting situations.
- VIII. Right to NOT be Subject to Cruel and Unusual Punishment. You've the right to not be held hostage by pouting or a bad attitude, because you have the right to be treated kindly, courteously and with respect.
- VIIII. Non-Exclusive List. The listing of rights in this document does not mean you cannot create other rights that belong to you as a parent.
- X. Rights are Governed by God. The rights enumerated here are never to be in conflict with God's Word which reigns supreme.

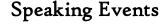
Dear Mom,

Thank you for gathering your friends and reading through The Mean Mom's Guide to Raising Great Kids.

Your willingness to facilitate a group helps put the "Mean Mom" message into the hands and hearts of moms everywhere. I appreciate you so much!

I'd love to show my gratefulness by connecting with your group. Contact me through email at JoanneKraft@gmail.com.

We can figure out a time for you to Skype/Google Chat me in. It would be a fun way to surprise your group and meet ya'll face to face. I'm game if you are!



I'd love to speak at your next women's conference/MOPS event or church gathering. Email me at JoanneKraft@gmail.com and request a speaker packet.

How Can You Help?

The response from moms after reading **The Mean Mom's Guide** has been overwhelming. What I hear a lot is, "How can I help you share **The Mean Mom's Guide**?" Here's a few things you and your mom group can do to help:

- Write an Amazon Review
- Pass along your book to a friend.
- Share The Mean Mom's Guide Amazon Link on your Social Media accounts.
 - LIKE my Facebook Author Page
 - Sign Up for My Newsletter at JoanneKraft.com
 - Invite a new group of mom's over to read The Mean Mom's Guide!
 - PRAY—for all the moms who are raising great kids.

May God Bless your mothering and the great kids He's gifted you with.

Joanne