

APRIL MAY JUNE 2019 EDITION

GIRLTALK

MINI MAG FOR LEADERS



IPHC GIRLS' MINISTRIES



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POWER CHICKS



SUGAR AND SPICE AND EVERYTHING NICE

Perhaps you recall, as I do, an old nursery rhyme about what little boys and girls are made of. The short version of the original (and much longer) poem is generally found in the Mother Goose Nursery Rhymes book. According to famlii.com, the children's version is most commonly attributed to the English poet Robert Southey (1774-1843). The version I recall reads like this:



What are little boys made of?
Snips and snails and puppy dog tails;
That's what little boys are made of.
What are little girls made of?
Sugar and spice and everything nice;
That's what little girls are made of.

Oh my, if only life were that simple now. As we all know, our culture has changed a lot of things that were once believed about little girls and boys. We face issues of gender confusion and gender identification. The family as God designed it, is under major attack. Our children are intimidated by a new brand of bullying that we never could have imagined. Gone are the days of "everything nice." It made for a good poem, but truthfully, I'm not sure the simplicity described in it ever existed. And for sure, it does not exist today.

In light of the issues we face, this edition of Girl Talk is dedicated to opening the dialogue and determining what we can do to counteract the worldly culture. Girls' Ministries is in its 73rd year of ministry. From day one, we have followed and recommended the Titus 2 model of women ministering to other women and girls. It calls for the teaching of sound doctrine, and it tells us how to go about it. Rachel King expounds on this topic, in her leadership article, about why gender specific ministry is so important in today's culture. Our club update section shares the five reasons why gender specific ministry is important. These reasons are part of the "Capturing the Heart" series, created and distributed by the Assemblies of God (<http://mentoringkids.ag.org>). Both our Mpack and Ranger curriculum are produced by the Assemblies, so we wanted to make you aware of the material they offer, to make local churches aware of why they (and we) believe in gender specific ministry.

This second quarter of 2019 also encompasses the Discipleship theme of Strong in Fellowship, as modeled by the early church. Girls' Ministries is a great place for fellowship to occur while becoming sound in doctrine. Relationships must go beyond friendships online. Loneliness is at an all-time high, despite (or perhaps because of) social media sites. Check out our Social Butterflies page on Loneliness. And finally, what better way to foster fellowship among churches, leaders, and girls than to bring them to Power Chicks '19! We hope to see you there.

Irvina Parker

Irvina Parker

Girls' Ministries Director

Discipleship Happens at the Table

CLUB UPDATES

written by Irvina Parker

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Reasons

WHY

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FIVE REASONS TO GO GENDER SPECIFIC

As most of you are aware, the curriculum that we have recommended for IPHC Girls' Ministries since 1999 is gender specific. While we realize that a gender-specific ministry is not always possible, it is still one of the best options to combat the issues we face in a culture that defies our Biblical teaching.

This gender-specific curriculum is produced and promoted by the Assemblies of God (AG) denomination. It is still our recommendation for use with girls, while Boys' Ministries considers Royal Rangers the best option for gender-specific curriculum for boys. In our training for girls' leaders, we couple the AG leader's training guide with our own *How to Make It IPHC* booklet.

If you are not convinced that gender-specific ministry is worth the extra resources, consider taking a look at the material described here. We have highlighted the five reasons they cite for each gender. These reasons are part of the "Capturing the Hearts of Girls & Boys" series created and distributed by the Assemblies of God. They have produced a PowerPoint and other resources for you to use on the local level, and it is all available as a free download on their site (<http://mentoringkids.ag.org>). They have encouraged us to share this information with our churches. These materials are available in both English and Spanish.

Here are the 5 Reasons for each gender, as excerpted from "Capturing the Hearts of Girls & Boys." For more details on each one, check out the "Presenter Notes" on the website's downloadable files.

5 REASONS EVERY CHURCH NEEDS A GENDER-SPECIFIC MINISTRY FOR GIRLS

1. Unique Concerns for Girls: (depression, eating disorders, purity)
2. Diminished Role Models: a gender-specific ministry ensures girls have the opportunity to see women in leadership roles.
3. Girls learn differently than boys: optimized learning preferences specific to how girls learn.
4. Separate Topics and Approach to Mentoring: centers around self-value, self-image, and interpersonal relationships.
5. Classroom Management Benefits: open discussions, stronger mentoring relationships, builds camaraderie, response time equalized, and reduces distractions,

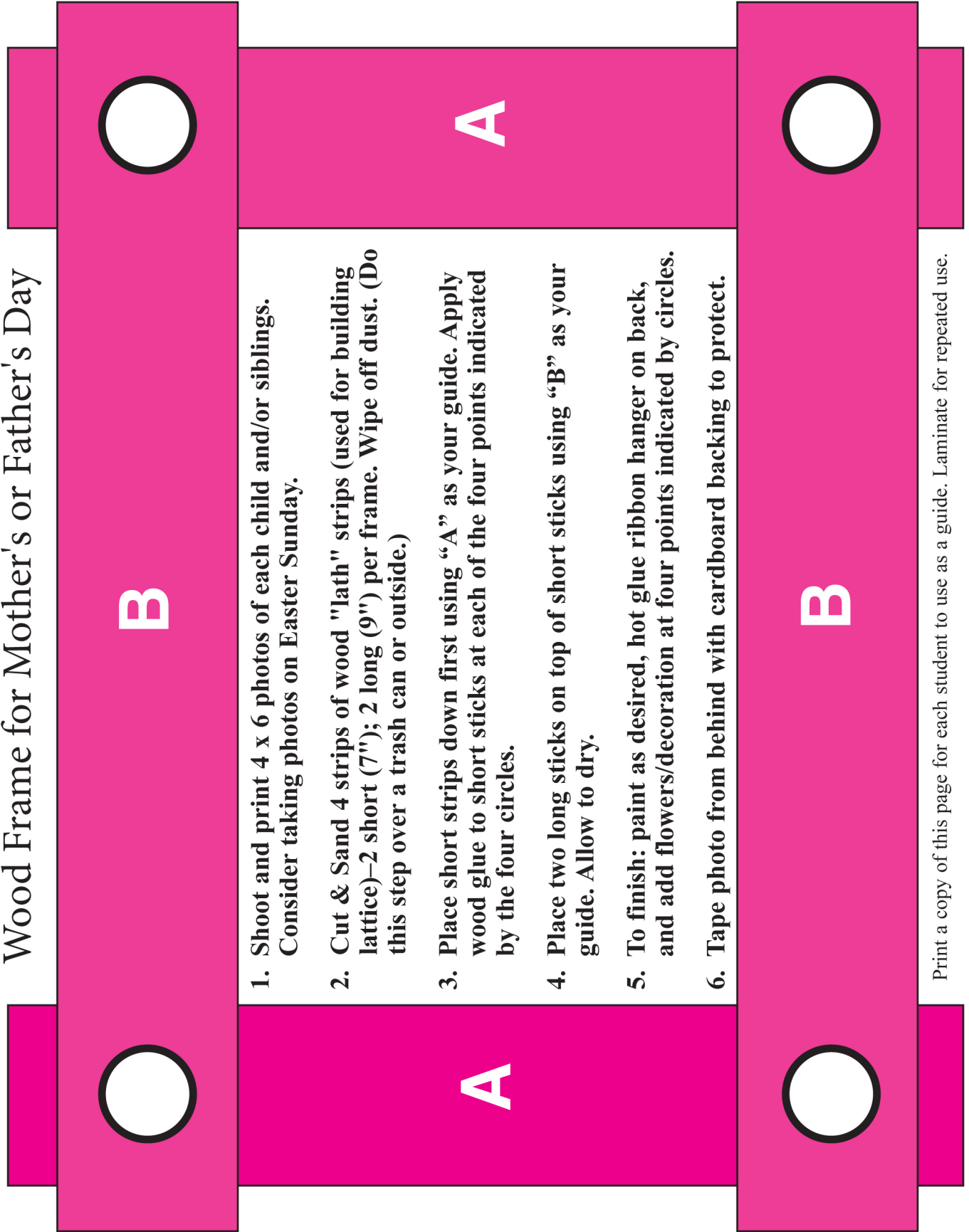
5 REASONS EVERY CHURCH NEEDS A GENDER-SPECIFIC MINISTRY FOR BOYS

1. Unique Concerns for Boys: (suicide, violence, academic struggles)
2. Diminished Role Models: a gender-specific ministry ensures boys have the presence of a godly male role model who will mentor and disciple them.
3. Boys learn differently than girls: optimized learning preferences specific to how boys learn.
4. Separate Topics and Approach to Mentoring: centers around issues related to authority and maturing into a godly man.
5. Classroom Management Benefits: open discussions, stronger mentoring relationships, builds camaraderie, response time equalized, and reduces distractions.

SEASON SELECTIONS



Wood Frame for Mother's or Father's Day



1. Shoot and print 4 x 6 photos of each child and/or siblings. Consider taking photos on Easter Sunday.
2. Cut & Sand 4 strips of wood "lath" strips (used for building lattice)—2 short (7"); 2 long (9") per frame. Wipe off dust. (Do this step over a trash can or outside.)
3. Place short strips down first using "A" as your guide. Apply wood glue to short sticks at each of the four points indicated by the four circles.
4. Place two long sticks on top of short sticks using "B" as your guide. Allow to dry.
5. To finish: paint as desired, hot glue ribbon hanger on back, and add flowers/decoration at four points indicated by circles.
6. Tape photo from behind with cardboard backing to protect.

Print a copy of this page for each student to use as a guide. Laminate for repeated use.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT



Are Boys' and Girls' Programs a Thing of the Past?

Written by Rachel King

For almost 20 years, I was a children's pastor. My most difficult hurdle was having enough leaders to assist in the classroom or a room large enough to hold everyone. Usually, the only solution was to corral all the children in one large room where, with the help of very few adults, you could still have a wonderful program with minimal disruptions. That continues to be the dilemma in most churches today, however, several very important opportunities for ministry are lost in those settings. Boys' and girls' programs can be the small group solution designed to meet those needs.

Boys and girls are different. We all know that and

so do children. Their gender identity flows to every cell of their bodies, and how they perceive and interact in their world is very different. They learn, play, and think differently because that is how God made them, but we miss opportunities to mentor and encourage those differences when ministry only happens in mixed company.

Here are my five reasons why gender specific programs are so vital in a church setting:

1. There are greater opportunities for mentoring and modeling by adult leaders. Just because children attend church does not mean they have godly examples at home. With divorce so prevalent,

even in our churches, many children do not have a father in the home, and in the case of young boys, a godly male figure is fundamental for their spiritual development. Boys' and girls' programs are the perfect setting for the mentoring and modeling process.

2. Gender specific groups allow instruction about the wonderful way God created men and women. Current culture has taken a new twist with gender identity. It is not what gender your genetics say, but with what gender people associate. These are strange ideas that today's culture is using to bombard the minds of our children. Without a core understanding that God has designed us male and female, children can quickly be sucked into the black hole of today's gender identity and LGBT movements that are contrary to God's Word.

3. Small groups allow for gender specific questions. From the ages of 6-13, children develop physically and spiritually at a rapid rate. Often, children might bring up questions that they wouldn't ask their parents and would never ask in the company of the opposite sex. Parents should be the primary people to answer those questions, but gender specific small groups are the perfect setting to teach children biblically based answers for developing minds and bodies.

4. Children are more secure in expressing problems or revealing issues at home. If you've been around kids for a while, you know that they can tell you information about their home life that would make their parents cringe. Often, those stories are a source of immense humor, but on occasions church leadership can hear a cry for help from one of their students. Small, gender-specific groups are the ideal setting for those problems to surface, and trusted leaders can get them the help they need or notify authorities if necessary.

5. Gender-specific programs can be an open invitation to win your community. Not all boys love football, and not all girls love makeup. However, usually boys and girls enjoy very different types of activities. Providing activities that appeal to specific genders will have kids bringing their friends. Activities can be a specific method to drive home the weekly lesson or just be a source of enjoyment for busy kids. Either way, small group gender-specific activities

develop lifelong memories of fun at church. This can never be accomplished in Sunday morning attire with 200 kids to corral.

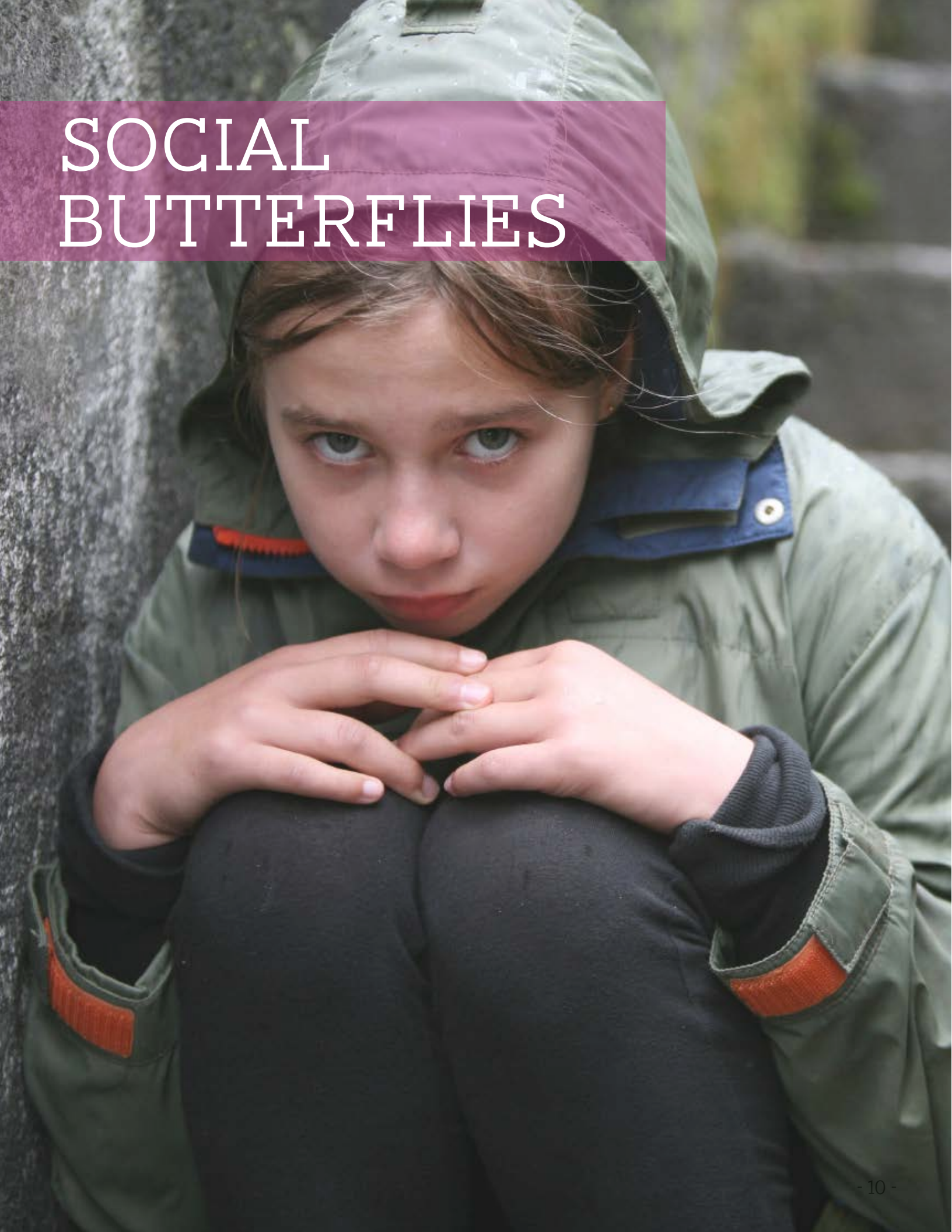
Almost any day, you can browse the posts on Facebook and find another "gender reveal" from some very excited parents. They wait with anticipation the arrival of a boy or girl and begin preparing for their arrival. We too should celebrate the distinct differences we have between boys and girls in our local churches. Like never before those distinctions are being attacked. As a children's pastor, I would have never believed that such distortion would be accepted in society, but we know that it is a sign of the Lord's soon return. As churches and children's leaders, we must take an offensive approach and begin now, securing the minds of our boys and girls. One of the best places to see our children flourish is through gender-specific programs.

THEY LEARN, PLAY, AND THINK DIFFERENTLY BECAUSE THAT IS HOW GOD MADE THEM, BUT WE MISS OPPORTUNITIES TO MENTOR AND ENCOURAGE THOSE DIFFERENCES WHEN MINISTRY ONLY HAPPENS IN MIXED COMPANY.

Rachel King serves as the Discipleship Ministries director for Sunshine Network Ministries. She also serves on the IPHC Discipleship Ministries Council. Rachel's experience in children's ministry has served her well in both of these capacities. She is a loving wife, mother, and grandmother. She and her husband, Mark, reside in Orlando, Florida.



SOCIAL BUTTERFLIES



Social Butterflies

an endangered species



WHERE ARE THOSE FRIENDS WHEN YOU NEED THEM?

AWARENESS:

The most common definition of the word friend is its use as a noun to describe someone you are close to and can rely on. This level of friendship is so important to a healthy mental attitude and even to physical well-being. Another definition describes it on a less personal level as someone who is in the same group as you. Social media has given a whole new meaning to this level of friendship.

The word friend can also be used as a verb, and there are two listings to describe its use as a verb. The first is a definite call to action, because it describes a relationship where you act like a friend to someone. The second entry for the verb friend, in Merriam-Webster.com, describes adding someone to "a list of designated friends on a person's social networking site." And therein, lies a great danger that is slowly coming to light in recent studies and reports. Loneliness is becoming an epidemic. It's time to re-engage and take Proverbs 18:24 to heart: "A man who has friends must show himself friendly..." (MEV). Obviously, the blame for this epidemic can't be pinned on just one thing. It is critical, however, that we recognize it as a problem and become intentional in addressing the issues.

THINK ABOUT IT...

- Loneliness is not confined to just one specific generation. The AARP reports in a recent study that nearly half of those age 62 and above reported being lonely to a certain degree. In newly released data, the U.K.'s National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children says that in the past year, it counseled nearly 4,100 children and teens who grappled with loneliness. Some who needed help were as young as 6.
- Loneliness cuts life expectancy by about the same amount as smoking 15 cigarettes a day and more than obesity. It is also associated with a greater risk of heart disease, depression, anxiety, and dementia.
- The percent of high school seniors, who said they often felt lonely, increased from 26 percent in 2012 to 39 percent in 2017. Generation Z, today's students, are showing a higher risk for loneliness to develop.
- Technology is affecting the way we do business. Our work follows us everywhere on our devices.

STEPS TO COMBAT LONELINESS

- Barna studies indicate that when it comes to friendship, opposites do not attract. We tend to migrate to those with the same life stage, religious views, and economic backgrounds. Connect with a church and find your place within that body of believers. It can provide great opportunities for connections.
- Get offline and get outside, whether it's literally outside in God's creation or just outside of your normal routine that keeps you isolated. Quit looking online for your friendships. Start fostering face-to-face encounters.
- Check out the Psychology Today link below for an article on 10 things to try when you are lonely.

LINKS TO ARTICLES USED FOR THIS INFO SHEET:

- <https://www.barna.com/research/friends-loneliness/?utm>
- <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2017/04/30/why-do-we-feel-so-lonely-mental-health/100975442/>
- https://www.crosswalk.com/faith/spiritual-life/find-your-tribe-5-simple-keys-to-building-lasting-friendships.html?utm_content=buffer413df&utm_medium=fbpage&utm_source=cwpg&utm_campaign=cwupdhttp://www.mentalhealthamerica.net/mayate&fbclid=IwAR2jLkHeL65pmVZCUd1IXfkXffG3Uw4ueSvA537TSi7sEFpXPTUIZe0ii1g
- <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/turning-straw-gold/201612/10-things-try-when-you-re-feeling-lonely>

IPHC Girls' Ministries

POWER CHICKS '19

National Girls' Event

JULY 26 - 29, 2019

Blue Ridge Mountains • Ridgecrest, NC

Guest Speakers



Summer Sneed



Janice Marshburn



Early Bird
Registration
ends May 28

Total Cost of Power Chicks

Housing and
Registration
ages 11 & Under*

\$194.00

Housing and
Registration
ages 12 & Up*

\$239.00

For details and info:
iphc.org/girls/power-chicks

405-792-7134

*Event designed for girls going into 3rd grade through high school

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

In the last issue of Girl Talk, we highlighted five young ladies who were part of our 2011 and 2015 Power Chicks events.

This time, I would like to take you back to the beginning of Power Chicks. That kickoff event was held in 2007, but the story starts before then. As the mother of a boy and the wife of a committed Ranger leader, my daughter Jennifer and I had sent the men off to Camporama two or three times. I put my time and energy into Girls' Ministries retreats for the Heartland Conference. Then, in 2001, I stepped into the position of national Girls' Ministries director. I thought about creating an event, but I needed to concentrate on getting myself adjusted to the new full-time position I had taken on.

Then about four years into my position, I knew it was time to move. There was a young girl in my local church who had watched her brother go off to Camporama too many times. She kept asking me, "Miss Irvina, when are you going to do an event for girls?" Time and time again, over the course of about a year or more, she pounded me with that question (in a "sugar and spice" way). The idea had taken root, and I had gathered ideas, chosen a name, and presented a proposal to the appropriate leaders. We got the approval, and Power Chicks was born!

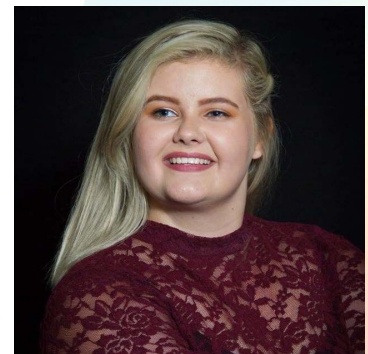
My little friend from church, Kristyn Thomas, attended the kickoff event in 2007 and then again in 2011. I asked her recently to share a couple of her favorite memories from Power Chicks and to reflect on how Girls' Ministries impacted her life. "Power Chicks

is where I experienced speaking in tongues for the first time," recalls Kristyn, "and that memory has stuck with me every day and every time I pray.

I remember how it felt to fully be in my prayer closet with God. Girls' Ministries instilled core values and morals that stuck with me daily and have helped me grow my love of people and the desire to help others." One of Kristyn's passions has always been dancing, so it is no surprise that she is now employed in a dance studio teaching ages 2-8. She has also become a passionate advocate for the deaf community and is currently attending OSU-OKC to become a Sign Language Interpreter. She is active in her local church in Yukon, Oklahoma. I love Kristyn's challenge to those girls preparing to attend Power Chicks '19: "Power Chicks is a great time to explore not only the nature around you but your own relationship with God while experiencing new things. Try everything at least once; you might find something new that you love. Be brave, be bold, be empowered."



Kristyn Thomas then and now.



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



Michael and Leslie Tignor, IPHC missionaries to Rwanda.



Jennifer and Leslie serving at the tea at Power Chicks '07.



Jennifer Terry loves connecting students with great books.

When I presented my proposal for Power Chicks '07, my mandate was that the event had to break even. The prospect of the unknown for a pioneer event was rather unnerving to a person who always needed to know every detail. That led me to look for cheap (i.e. free) labor. My daughter, Jennifer Terry, and her best friend, Leslie Harris, fit the bill perfectly! So they were “hired” as the first interns. I worked them so hard that I’m surprised they didn’t rebel. They represented Emmanuel College well and served the girls and leaders of the event with grace and respect. Leslie Harris Tignor and her husband Michael now serve the IPHC as missionaries in Rwanda. It is an honor to get to plant into their ministry now by financially supporting them. I am always delighted to see young people answer God’s call on their lives. Our daughter, Jennifer, serves God in her local church and works with grades 5-12 at Heritage Hall, a private school in Oklahoma City. She serves as the director of the library media center and loves to point children to positive and powerful literature. While it is not a Christian school, she finds plenty of opportunities to be a mentor and show God’s love.

All three of the young ladies you’ve met in this article are Power Chicks in action. Ministry does not just happen in the pulpit. It happens wherever God places you!

–Irvina Parker, IPHC Girls’ Ministries

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!