

Creative Girls' Ministry

Laura N. Farrar, Author/Speaker, *Dancing In The Rain Foundation*

the fight to keep our girls in church...

- secular media is sabotaging our girls with destructive messages and values
- girls are choosing radical feminism over Biblical truth
- only 15% of teens live with their married biological father and mother
- 1 in 3 high school girls are actively dieting
- they only see hope in the idea that they can be powerful and in control—fighting male dominance, when God has something so much better.
- they hear Bible stories of men from an early age and wonder “where do I fit in?”

schoolgirls & loss of self...

- posture: girls shrink into themselves, boys sprawl
- attention: teachers give more attention—good and bad to boys who yell out answers and disobey, leaving the good girls to be invisible
- “In one English class, traditionally girls’ turf, Weston boys received roughly three times the recognition of their female classmates” p. 13
- boys are inevitably disruptive, and some girls are too, but they are seen as containable
- media, sense of self, cultural messages, peers (Reviving Ophelia)

“Boys’ observations about gender swapping involve disparaging ‘have tos’, whereas the girls seem wistful with longing. By sixth grade, it is clear that both girls and boys have learned to equate maleness with opportunity and femininity with constraint... Marta, a 14 year old Latina girl was blunt, ‘There’s nothing lucky about being a girl...I wish I was a boy.’ – Peggy Orenstein, *SchoolGirls*

the key: relational ministry...

- girls talk, hang out
- biggest impact—doing life
- little things count: visiting at jobs, taking them out
- celebrate together: birthdays, holidays, special days
- one on one time: phone, email, text, follow up
- above all: when they speak, listen!

launching your ministry...

- write out goals, mission statement, ideas for activities
- work on ministry name, theme, logo, charm/physical reminder
- organize: leadership base, bio sheets, pictures to remember names, technology (FB group)
- plan simple events to start
- plan for dealing with crisis: resources
- train your leaders

girl groups...

- weekly Bible studies
- accountability & mentoring
- service
- fun: exercise, life skills, cooking, organizing/idea groups

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events...

- once a month: movie night, holiday party, banquet, theme
- camping, sleepover, pamper, relax, hear from women
- new students initiation, Christmas, Valentines, Easter, prom
- retreats: PJ parties, beauty, S.O.L.O.
- remember the arts: musicians, writers, artists, dancers, actresses
- serving together: projects, tutoring, missions trips, crisis pregnancy center, rescue mission
- don't forget the details—cards, texts, email, phone call, promo

teachable topics...

- help girls to see themselves in Biblical characters
- Mark 5:41 “Little girl, I say to you, arise”
- Stories to cover: Eve, Sarah, Rahab, Ruth, Hannah, Mary, Anna (Luke 2:36-38), Samaritan woman, Martha & Mary, Mary Magdalene, Lydia
- Twelve Extraordinary Women* by John MacArthur
- Encounter digital lessons “Strong Women”

For more resources and discussion visit

www.laurafarrar.com

www.dancingintherainfoundation.org

Great books for Girls

- **Redefining Beautiful* by Jenna Lucado
- **Faith Unplugged: stories for girls to challenge what you believe and how you live*, Honor Books
- **One Girl Can Change the World* by Claudia Mitchell & Kim Goad
- **My Life, Unscripted* by Tricia Goyer
- **Twelve Extraordinary Women* by John MacArthur
- **Girlfriend, You are a B.A.B.E.* by Andrea Stephens

GIRLS MINISTRY

-*Girls' Ministry 101: Ideas for Retreats, Small Groups, and Everyday Life with Teenage Girls* by Whitney Proseri

PSYCHOLOGY

- Reviving Ophelia: Saving the Selves of Adolescent Girls* by Mary Pipher, Ph.D.
- School Girls: Young Women, Self-Esteem, and the Confidence Gap* by Peggy Orenstein
- Meeting At The Crossroads* by Carol Gilligan
- How Schools Shortchange Girls* by the AAUW
- Odd Girl Out: the Hidden Culture of Aggression in Girls* by Rachel Simmons
- The Feminist Mistake* by Mary Kassian
- Ophelia Speaks: Adolescent Girls Write About their Search for Self*: by Sara Shandler