

In This House We Will Giggle

Making Virtues, Love & Laughter a Daily Part of Your Family Life

Authors: Courtney Defeo

Snapshot Written by: Dan Istvanik

REVIEW:

In This House We Will Giggle, is a refreshing and fun book by Courtney Defeo. In very practical and creative ways this book guides parents through a life filled with true joy in Christ, that leads also to experiencing overwhelming joy and laughter in our homes.

The 12 chapters of this book cover 12 virtues that every home and family should be learning. Written to line up the 12 chapters with the 12 months of year, this book becomes a year long journey full of discussions, memory verses, fun suggested activities, and even catchphrases to quote throughout the month. Spread throughout the book there are also 60 completely silly “bring out the giggles” activities that younger children in a family will be sure to love.

This book is so much fun and has so many creative ways to bring more giggles into a home, it is sure to change the mindset and attitude around any house!!

OVERVIEW: Virtues is What We Are Teaching. Love and Laughter is How We Are Teaching...

Joy:

Joy is “when the reality of life meets a heart of gladness”. True joy for our family is more than just singing and smiling, but understand that God is in complete control of the details of our life. Joy comes from choosing to praise God in all things as a family even in the midst of disappointments.

Love:

Letting concerns for others guide behavior is the virtue of love in a family. Seeing children learn and express love in real ways is not only heartwarming but an experience of achieving God’s goal in the life of a child. The key elements of defining love in a family is learning to focus on others without preconditions.

Forgiveness:

Discovering the freedom that comes through grace comes through teaching children the forgiveness found at the cross. In the home forgiveness and freedom comes through teaching children to let go of hurts and rather seek to restore relationships.



Faith:

Growing faith in the home is planting seeds of trust for a lifetime of spiritual growth. What parents want most is for their children to know, love and follow Jesus. Both of these goals are not done alone. Faith is grown through discipleship and with help from partners. Allowing teachers, pastor, coaches, and camp counselor to be able to plant seeds as well will become part of a stronger lifelong faith.

Patience:

For children "patience is a virtue" is such an incredibly hard thing to understand and learn. Parents have the opportunity to teach the lifelong virtue that "some things are worth the wait." Patience comes as we rely on God especially in those moments when we have to wait on Him. Children learn patience from us, by watch us be patient.

Perseverance:

Pressing on through life's challenges is taught and modeled through instilling an attitude of hard work and never giving up. Parents should allow their children to work hard at things and not let things come easy. Through things like homework, sports, music and other activities children young and old learn the virtue and value of perseverance.

Respect:

God has made it clear we are to use our words and actions to honor others. Throughout life children are going to come in contact with people different than them and they are going to have to learn to be respectful even when they do not agree. Respect goes far beyond the home or parent relationships, but it is learned first in the home.

Responsibility:

Every parent wants their child to be responsible and take ownership of their actions and choices. Responsibility is however more than that. It is taking care of ourselves and what God has blessed us with. Through chores and jobs around the home, connected or not to allowance, instill ownership and responsibility around the house.

Service:

Service is best defined by "meeting needs with our hands, feet and hearts", and service once again is a virtue that starts at home first. God's plan is for us to meet the needs of others, no matter our giftedness. Serving each other inside the home begins the process and leads to families serving together beyond the walls of their home later.

Humility:

Giving God and others center stage is what humility truly is and that is hard in our world

where so much is self-centered. It takes a conscious choice as a family to think, practice and live out humility. While children have strengths and often have a natural tendency to try to outshine others, teaching humility is teaching a willingness to let us others shine instead.

Gratitude

Thankfulness and contentment is what will fuel gratitude in a home. In a culture built around needing more and having to have more, it can be hard for children young and old to learn to gratitude. Parents change their home by giving thanks first to God and making it a regular practice to say “thank you” around the home.

Generosity

It is the adventure of giving what we have so others can feel and see God’s love through us. Whether it be monetarily or material families become homes of generosity cheerfully giving their best to each other and others.

All these valuable virtues are taught and caught through actively teach them in homes where joy and laughter is also seen as a teaching tool. Creatively and openly parents can find the best teaching moments in the midst of giggles and fun!

