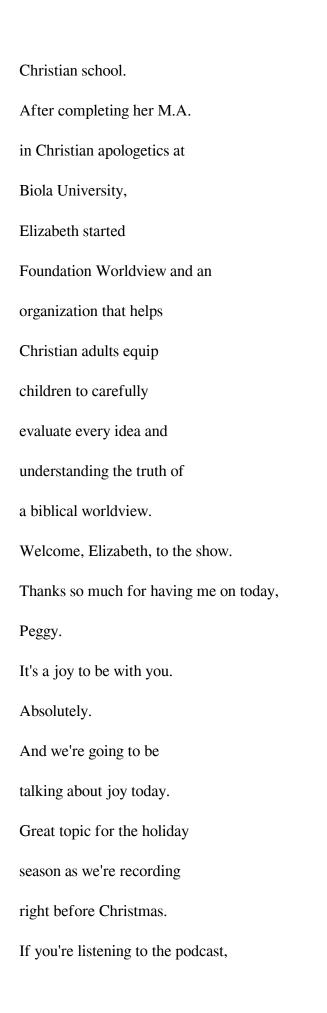
Welcome to Empowering Homeschool Conversations, your authority in navigating the world of homeschooling diverse learners. Featuring Peggy Ployer from Sped Homeschool, Annie Yorty from Annie Yorty.com, Leilani Melendez from Living with Eve, Stephanie Buckwalter from ELARP Learning, and Dawn Jackson from Dawn Jackson Educational Consulting and Tutoring. With over seventy five years of combined homeschooling expertise, experiences and perspectives, this group is eager to share their wealth of wisdom to empower your homeschooling journey. So grab your favorite mug, settle in and get ready for insightful discussions,

valuable insights and practical tips. Give your homeschool the power boost it needs to successfully educate the unique learners in your home. Hi, everyone, and welcome to Empowering Homeschool Conversations. Today, we are going to talk about restoring joy, a biblical approach to bullies, forgiveness and healing. And my guest today is Elizabeth Urbanowicz. Elizabeth is a follower of Jesus who is passionate about equipping kids to understand the truth of biblical worldview. Elizabeth spent her first decade of her career as a professional teaching elementary students at a



you're joining us a little bit after Christmas, but it's something we all want. for our lives. We want to want for our children's lives. And sometimes things get in the way of that. So we're going to be kind of talking about through some of that, about forgiveness, bullies, healing. Um, and so, um, if you have a child that is, um, experiencing trauma. I know I have ten adopted siblings and lots of kids that if you have an adopted child or a child that you take care of through the foster program, which I know a lot of our families do, this is something that really you need to be equipped to handle. And so hoping today's conversation will really

bless you and equip you in that. So Elizabeth, the first thing I love to ask all my guests is This was one of the topics that you had listed as something you just were eager to speak on. And so I always know that there's a story or something behind that. And so I'd love for you to share with us just why you're passionate about talking about this topic. Yeah, well, I think there's multiple reasons, you know, just why this is a topic that's near and dear to my heart. And I think one of them is like personally just from growing up. And then the other one is also personal, but as a perspective, as an adult,

when I was in the classroom. And so I know that when I was growing up, I went to public school and school was really hard. to me on multiple levels. And I just know that just experienced a lot of like bullying and unfair treatment. And it just affected me on so many different levels and how I viewed not only school, but how I viewed myself, how I viewed my relationship with God. And so in that experience in school, that was actually one of the reasons why I wanted to become a teacher because I didn't want other children to have to experience that. But You know, even when you are in a situation where you are in control of

what's happening, you know,

when you're homeschooling your kids,

you know, when you're raising your kids.

For me, when I was in the classroom,

there's still things that

happen that are beyond our control.

You know,

even when we are in a situation

of authority,

we can't completely smooth

out the road for our children.

So it's just really

important for us to be able

to think through how can I

equip my child to think

biblically about what they

are going through?

And so really from my own

experience as a child and

then my experience in the classroom,

it just gave me a passion

to talk about these things with others.

Yes, absolutely.

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I, I, you know,
it always ties in with that,
but also with our
foundational beliefs too, and,
and just how we view the world and how we,
we feel called then to help
others as well and, and to love,
love them and to,
to walk with them through,
through other things.
So how is bullying different
from just say regular
childhood conflicts?
Yeah.
Yeah,
so children are always going to get
in conflicts within your home,
whether it's between
siblings in your home,
whether it's just out on the playground,
whether it's in a classroom.
even in a church setting.
This can happen.
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And this just naturally happens because all of us, when we look at the biblical worldview, we have all been affected by Adam's sin. And we don't have to teach our children how to say no or mine, things like that. We don't have to take the toy away from others. And so when we're just thinking of normal conflicts, it's just the everyday two children or more children, they both have opposing desires and they get into conflict. Where bullying is where a situation where one student or child. sorry, sometimes I use the student language because my experience was in the classroom, but it's where one child is purposely, intentionally,

and consistently going after another child for something. a reason that has mal intent behind it. So that can be your traditional physical bullying, where someone physically threatens a child. They're intentionally and often repeatedly going after that child. It can also be just a child consistently saying mean things to one another. Or it can even just be an attitude. I think we've probably all witnessed. Sometimes this happens more among girls than boys. It can happen to both genders. Sometimes girls, they might not say anything, but they'll just have certain facial expressions or body language where they're communicating to others.

we don't want to be with that person or like you're not in if you're with that person. So I think it's helpful to help our children differentiate between bullying. You know, if a child comes up, a sibling, you know, whoever it is and takes a toy that they wanted, that's not bullying. That's a normal conflict, you know? Right. It is can step in where if someone is intentionally and repeatedly bullying going after them with malintent, that's something that would be defined as bullying. Yeah, great. Great definition and distinction between the two of them. So are there any warning signs that parents can look

for that a child might be dealing with the situation, especially if a child's nonverbal or if they tend to be more closed with what they share? Just some kids are just a little more closed off or quiet. Mm hmm. So every child is different. So there's not a way for me to say, you know, like, look out for these three things and you've got your right. So this is where for our parent, you know, parents that are listening, you know, your child best. And so this is where your knowledge of that individual child is going to really come in handy. But I think one thing that's really important to look out for are sudden changes in behavior.

And this behavior can be like a child's attitude towards something. Like maybe, you know, they've always been excited or they've been compliant about going to a Sunday school class at church. And all of a sudden they don't want to, like they have a stomachache in the morning or they just say like, it's boring there. Or, you know, like, I don't like it. They might not say anything about another child, but if there's a sudden change in their behavior or attitudes. Yeah. about something that something that can be, you know, it's not it's not automatically a red flag, but it's a yellow flag that

could be pointing to a red flag. Also, just change in their behavior at home. And again, an automatic change in behavior. It can be due to a lot of things. You know, maybe their sleep schedule is off. Maybe something in their diet is off. You know, maybe they're coming down with a cold. but that's something to pay attention to as well. You know, are they, maybe they were doing a good job with organizing. Maybe you have them fold their socks or something, you know, maybe they were doing a good job with that consistently. And all of a sudden things seem to be really messy or they were remembering to do

a certain task that you had

assigned to them.

And they now have a bad

attitude about that,

or they completely forget those,

any changes in sudden

changes in their behavior

or in their attitude

towards something can be

just a yellow flag to say,

You need to dive deeper into that.

And so that's what I would

encourage parents.

You know, if you see those things again,

it doesn't mean that these things happen.

It means bullying is happening.

There can be a whole host of

things that are happening,

but it's wise to start

asking questions and you

don't need to sit down and say,

are you being bullied?

You know, you can just sit down.

Because they may not even

call it that at that point.

They may not even realize what's going on.

They may just know that they

just don't feel good about the situation,

you know,

so you can you can sit down and

talk with them and ask them, you know,

what are some things that

you like about going to Sunday school?

What are some things you don't like?

Or, you know, even just asking,

how can I help you?

You know, like fold your socks, you know,

or remind you that to try

to get down to what's going on.

Now that's, if a child is non-verbal,

you know,

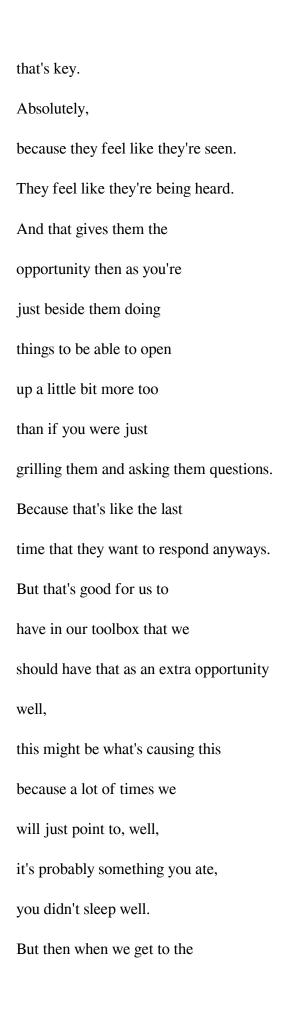
obviously that's going to be a

little bit more challenging to get.

So just taking the time to

let them know that you

notice that something is going on,



bottom of that and it's still not that, what do we have left? And it may be that there's something else going on that is causing some sort of trauma that they're experiencing that they can't even voice or don't even understand at that point, but know that it's confrontational for them. Yes. And this is something if anyone watching or listening has multiple children, this can be an area where it can be helpful even to ask a sibling, because sometimes children pick up on things that we don't pick up on simply because we're not like if it's happening, like in a Sunday school class or in a classroom

setting or at soccer

practice or in the neighborhood, you know,

a lot of times our other

children are going to be

picking up on things that

we might not pick up on.

So to just ask, you know, like, hey,

I noticed today, you know,

when you guys came back,

from playing soccer at the

park your brother seemed

really upset did anything

happen at the park to cause

him to be upset because

maybe your son isn't going

to be able to verbalize you

know what happened where

another son or your

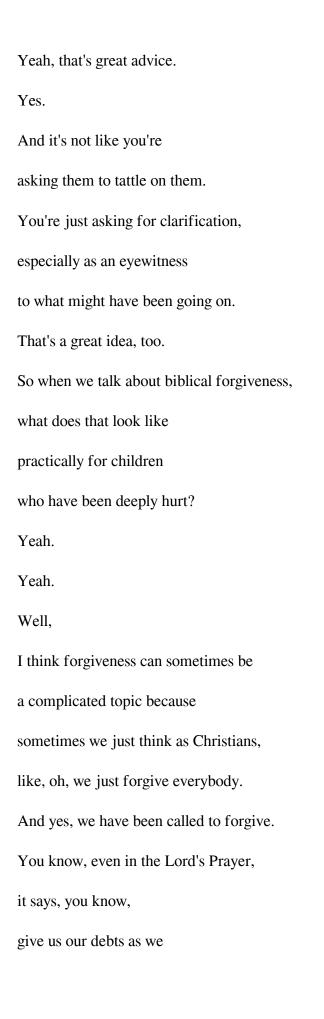
daughter will be able to

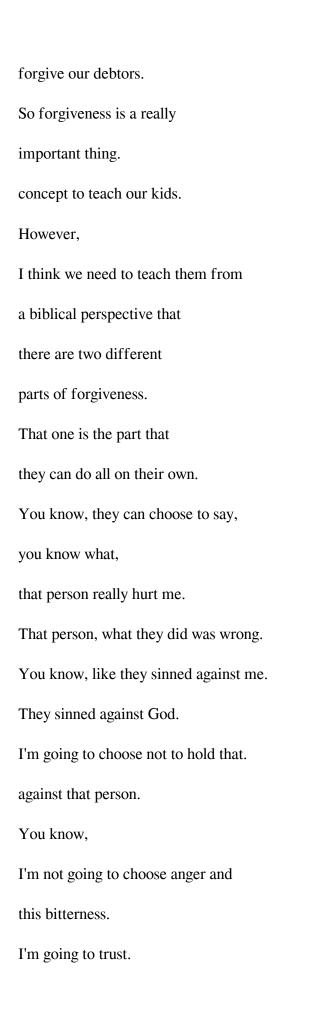
tell you so that's that's

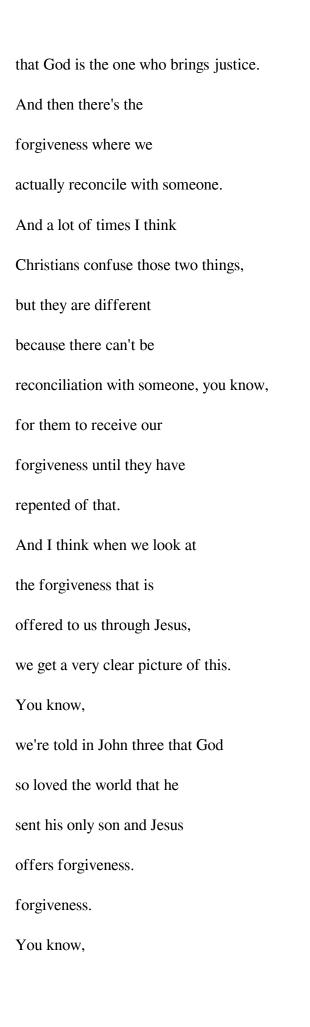
another just helpful thing

if you have multiple

children that are in the same age range







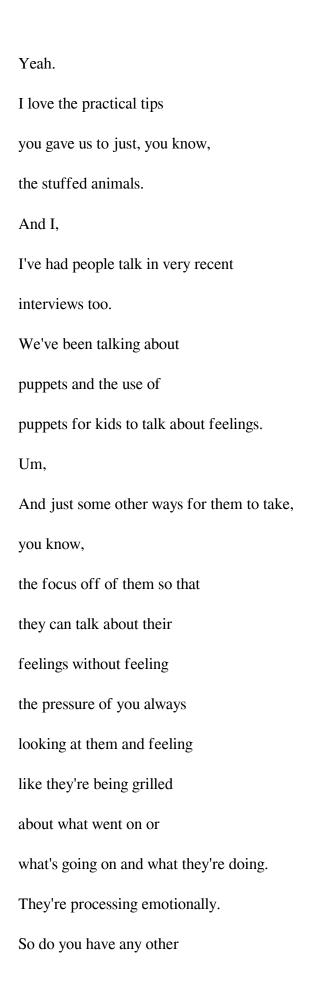
Jesus offers forgiveness to anyone who turns from him, but not everyone will be reconciled to God. In order to receive that forgiveness, to be reconciled, we have to turn from that sin. We have to repent of it and trust in Jesus. And now Jesus doesn't sit there like, I'm waiting. I'm just waiting. I'm waiting for you. He stands there with open arms Right. That reconciliation and unless we repent. And I think that's a helpful picture to give our kids to think of. That's our responsibility, that our responsibility is to work through those feelings of anger and hurt and to give them to God and say, God,

I'm trusting you. I'm entrusting you with this person. I'm not going to hold it against them. But there's not going to be reconciliation with that person unless they turn from, you know, they turn from that sin, they repent and then receive our forgiveness. And so I think that can be a really helpful tool. thing for our kids to understand, you know, again, if we're working with a child, you know, who might, who might have, have difficulty with some auditory processing, we're not just going to sit there and explain those two types of forgiveness. We can actually show it to them, whether we like draw pictures or we can actually, if they're younger, we can have them,

you know, act it out with two stuffed animals, you know, and have one stuffed animal. They're like, okay, we're going to, we're going to open the animal's arms up. And that's showing that we're, we're giving this hurt to God and we're trusting him. with that person and we're offering forgiveness, but then say these two stuffed animals, they're not going to get together and have a hug unless this stuffed animal turns around and says, I am sorry, will you forgive me? And so you can, you know, play act that out with stuffed animals. You can drop pictures just to give children a word picture. And now it's easy for me to sit here and, you know, explain this because it's all

theoretical when I'm explaining this, where when someone sins against us and hurts us in a deep way, it's, it's really difficult. It's really difficult. Yeah. It's actually really a supernatural gift that God, you know, the ability to forgive someone. And so for any parents, you know, if your child has been bullied and this is a situation that they've just been deeply wounded, you know, maybe they've been physically wounded, but they've definitely been emotionally wounded and you know, potentially psychologically wounded, this is something that you can walk them through every day. You know, if you're,

if you're tucking them in at bed at night, you know, you can pray, you know, God, please help us. You know, we, we forgive this person. Please help us to continue forgiving them. We do ask that maybe one day they would repent and we would be reconciled. but just to continue walking our child through this, not only for forgiving that other person, but for our child's sake, As well, they're holding on to that hurt, you know, and that hurt turns into resentment or bitterness that's ultimately going to harm. our child. So those, that's what I will walk them through those two different steps and differentiating between the two.



tips as far as parents who are walking through this process with a child who's been deeply wounded and trying to come to terms with that forgiveness, but also that there may not be reconciliation or the hope of reconciliation? How do we help them, especially at a young age, be able to process that on a regular basis? Yeah, I think two specific things. One is making sure that they have a biblical understanding of the world around them. You know, anytime something goes wrong that we can just say, Oh, why is, you know, like it stinks. We're supposed to go on a picnic today.

It's raining.

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You know,
why is it that picnics get
canceled because of the rain?
You know,
it's because the ground has been
cursed because it's,
Adam and Eve rebelled against God,
you know,
or when they have the stomach bug, like,
I'm so sorry, you're feeling sick.
You know,
I'm going to give you some Gatorade.
I'm going to rub your back.
Doesn't it stink that
because Adam and Eve sinned,
there are germs in the world, you know,
or when they get into
agreement with a sibling, like, yeah.
you know what?
We saw this in Genesis three, Adam and Eve,
they ate the fruit of the
tree and immediately they
started blaming one another.
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And we still have disagreements today. So just to, so that it's not just that we're thinking about the biblical story involving sin when there's this huge thing, but just in the everyday, you know, little disappointments. This is why sometimes life just stinks because of, you know, and then bringing in the full picture of, of what it will be like when Jesus returns, you know, what it talks about in revelation, of the new heaven and the new earth. And sometimes you can even just imagine with your kids, you know, if you have an artistic child, you can, um, you know, give them some paints and a sheet of paper, or you can just take out some markers and say, okay,

I want you to draw a

picture of one thing that

you're going to look

forward to doing in the new

heaven and the new earth.

Like this might sound like a

silly thing because I'm, I'm strange.

I'm not a huge animal person,

but one thing that just

excites me about thinking

about the new heaven and

the new earth is that

humans and animals will not be at odds.

Like I won't be in any

danger of being eaten by a cheetah.

And so I think amazing

wouldn't be to ride a cheetah or a tiger.

Like I could probably do that, you know,

in the new heaven and the new earth.

So just giving them that perspective.

I know when my nephews were,

were now they're six and seven,

but when they were two and three,

they were obsessed with Komodo dragons and it just broke their hearts that you couldn't touch a Komodo dragon because I don't know if this is true, but they told me like their spit was poisonous. And so my sister-in-law would always be like, but in the new heaven and the new earth, we'll get to touch Komodo dragons. And so Just making sure in the everyday experience of our kids' lives, we're teaching them this gospel story so that then when something big happens, they're already so used to. understanding like yes life here is hard and this is why but god didn't just leave it stuck here and

this isn't the end of the

story so if they already

have that narrative flowing

throughout the rest of

their lives it's going to

be harder to believe that

in a big situation like

this but if they're so used

to thinking about this in

the day in and day out of

the little things it's

going to be much more

natural to understand that

in the big hurts or the

things that are really hard

So that's that's what I

recommend primarily,

that we're just constantly

talking them through this gospel story.

The second thing is, you know, as parents,

we can't we can't smooth

the road out for our

children as much as we would like to.

You know, we have to walk them through these bumps. But I think we can also be really wise parents. about how often are we, how often are we having them walk through these bumps? You know, if there is like a bully and our child is, you know, at this point in our lives, they're not being homeschooled and they're in a classroom setting, maybe being in the classroom with that bully for eight hours a day might not be the healthiest thing for our child. And so it's okay to think through that, you know, not that we say, we're never going to talk to anybody who doesn't say that you're the most

amazing person in the world.

You know, that's not realistic.

That's not really right.

exactly just to consider

what is healthy for my

child in this time and in

this season and sometimes

it might be you might have

to pull back in certain

areas or just you know make

things a little bit

different so that your

child isn't overwhelmed you

know if absolutely if

possible in that season you

know sometimes if your

child is like seventeen

eighteen you know twenty

two it's not it's not

possible quite as much you

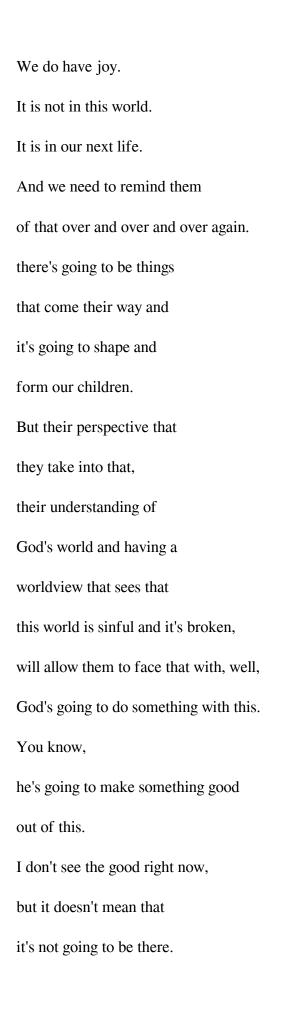
know to be able to guide

those situations but

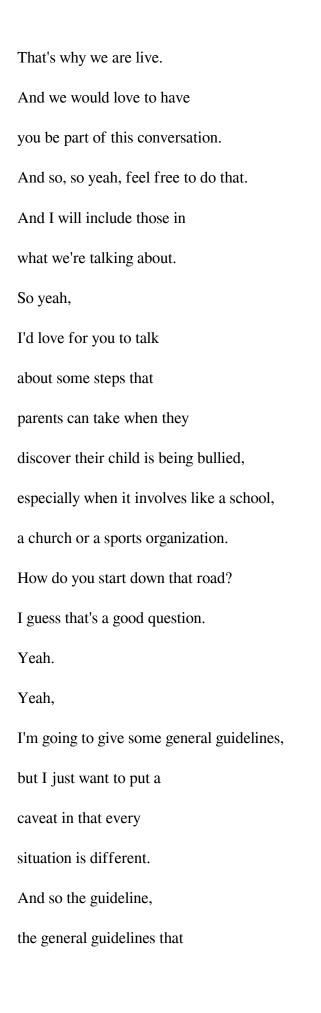
especially when children

are twelve and younger, it's a lot easier to say, you know what? I don't know that this is the best situation for you right now. So I think we're going to change this. You know, we're going to do X, Y or Z differently. So those would be my two recommendations. You know, we have that gospel story throughout all of life. And then just wisely consider and pray through. Is this the best situation for my child? Yes, I love, love those answers. You made me remember the time when I was reading the book Heaven. There's a children's version of that. And I can't remember the author's name. But I remember my kids just dreaming of what heaven would be like. And just, you know, that projection of,

you know, we do have hope.



And that's huge because we live in a world where it's just, if this doesn't happen this way, then, you know, I'm sorry, but you're just, you know, doomed. Yeah. You don't want your kids to have that perspective that that's what life is all about. If you don't do it right, you lose out. But that's not the way it is. So, yeah. Awesome. Awesome advice for all of us on how to approach those things. I see we have quite a few viewers joining us live. If you have a question or a comment, if this happens to be a topic that... you're struggling within your own home and you want some answers, please feel free to put comments, questions in the feed.



I'm giving here in your particular situation, they may not be what's best. So take this as a general word of advice, but, you know, be prayerful and intentional and including others, you know, in in your decision on how to move forward. So I think the first thing, when you realize your child's in a situation where they're being bullied, to try to get some more information to determine the depth of this. If this is a child who's had a bad attitude towards your child for maybe a few weeks, and it's kind of like, on the border of being bullying, that's probably a good

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opportunity to coach your
child through how to have a
conversation with that person, you know,
just to start off.
And if you're taught, you know, again,
if your child is able to
have this conversation of,
did I do something to make you mad?
You know,
because maybe your child steps in
front of, you know,
they were doing a soccer
drill and your child
accidentally cut in front
of this person and they're
just holding a grudge for three weeks,
you know?
So ask that question,
did I do anything wrong to make you mad,
you know, or to say, you know,
I noticed that.
that you've been kind of upset with me,
you know,
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is there a reason why you're upset with me? So if it's kind of on that borderline or not really intense bullying, I think, it's wise to train our children to start to have some of these conversations because ultimately we want to train them to love others and also be a good advocate for themselves, you know, in a God honoring way. If it's a situation that seems like it's a little bit more intense, like either, um, this person has been this child has been threatening your child or maybe they have other people involved in it like maybe it's a classroom situation and they've included other

students in on this my

recommendation would be to

go to another person in

authority like maybe this

um the child who's you know

leading the bullying

against your child maybe

you know the parent you

know and you can have a

conversation with the

parent um in that situation

you know,

it's really easy for us to become

very defensive for our children.

So I would recommend if you

start that conversation

with another parent, you not say,

you know,

like your child has been

bullying mine or just say, you know,

like it's John and Matthew, you know,

like I've noticed,

I've noticed that John and

Matthew have had some like

conflict in their relationship recently.

Like,

you know, is there anything like, you know,

you think would be wise for us to do,

you know, just to talk through it,

kind of like partnering in it.

That can be a wise way to start.

If you're friends with the parent,

if you don't know the other parents and,

or you've never even met them,

it can be wise then to go

to the coach or to the

teacher and just say, Hey,

here's what's been going on.

What do you think are wise steps forward?

And maybe the coach or the

teacher would be able to be involved.

I know myself as a classroom teacher,

most of the time, if there was any

or bullying going on,

I usually was aware of it

and was able to take care of it.

But sometimes students would be perfectly fine in the classroom and then stuff would happen out on the recess playground and I wasn't a recess monitor. And so it would completely go over my head. And so there were some times where parents would come to me and they'd tell me about a situation and be like, oh, okay, you know what? Let me... Let me take care of this and then we'll check back in in another week or two and we'll see how this is going. So that would be my recommendation there. If it's not wisest for your child to go to the other child, then go to the adult who can make a difference.

And then if stuff still doesn't get cleared up after that, go back to that adult to try to have a game plan for moving forward. What can you do to actually make... a difference here because sometimes things are cleared up easily and sometimes they're not, you know, sometimes they're not. And so I would recommend that. That's what I would, in general, the first steps that I would recommend. And then, you know, if there's, you know, I mean, I hope that, that no parent watching or listening is in this situation, but it could happen, you know, if your child is in a situation and no one else who's an authority is you know,

making any change or listening to you, that's a situation where you might have to pull your child out of that situation. You know, it might be joining another soccer league or it might be saying, well, you know what? I actually need my child pulled from this classroom, you know, in school and put in another classroom. Or if it's, you know, a Sunday school situation, it might be like, well, you know what? You're just going to come with me to Sunday school for, you know, a few weeks until we get this worked out. So those are the steps I would recommend taking. Yeah. Yeah, yeah, that's good. Because yes, they're, most of the time, you're going to find an

adult in authority who is going to want to, you know, intervene or help or, you know, do whatever they can. But yes, in those situations that you don't find that support, then you've we'll have to do something. But if we want to protect our kids too, we don't want to just leave them in that situation and say, well, work it out. Because a lot of times they're just not equipped to be able to handle all of that right away. And it takes some time to be able to navigate. And there's just so many situations out there. We talk about bullying. We're not just talking about classroom settings anymore, are we?

We're talking about a variety of different places that our kids can be bullied. Can you talk about that a little bit? I think sometimes parents are very ill aware of the many places that could be affecting their child and they could be bullied in. Yeah. Like you said, we typically think of the classroom setting, which, you know, in a classroom setting that can and still does happen. But I mean, it can be playing on the playground, you know, in the park. It can be in the library. As our kids get older, it can be cyber bullying online, you know, through a social media platform. platform, or it can even just be, you know,

even if our children are

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not on social media,
and even if they don't, you know,
have smartphones, it can be somebody else,
you know,
taking a video of them at an
embarrassing moment, you know,
and then posting it or sending it around,
you know, and those,
especially like the cyber
forms of bullying are so
much more pervasive.
And it's not just limited to
one classroom or one child or one school,
you know, it can get out
all over.
So that's a really,
I think that's a really
important conversation to
have with our children,
just like with our little ones,
we want to have a conversation, you know,
about, well,
if somebody is constantly picking on you,
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you know, and they're,

and they're mean to you all the time,

that's something when you need,

where you need to tell me, you know,

or you need to tell another adult,

but just, you know,

as our children enter the

middle school years and, and

And they're going to be potentially,

you know,

cyber bullied just even to let

them know what to look out for.

You know,

if there's any parents here saying, well,

I don't even want my child

on social media.

I think that, you know,

especially in the middle school years,

it's a very, very wise decision.

But to even explain to them, like,

this is why I don't want you on this.

It's not that I'm just

trying to say no to everything,

but this is what happens. And I don't want you right now. have to worry about that. Like your heart and your mind and your body is still developing. And I want to protect you from that, even if it doesn't feel like you're being protected. So to have that conversation and then, you know, as their friends start to get on social media or get smartphones to have conversations about what that looks like. Well, if somebody sends you a text or a picture and that picture is inappropriate, like somebody is not wearing enough clothes, you need to immediately close that text and you need to come to me to let me know because that is not appropriate.

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You know,
so just to let them know some of
the things can happen so
that they're not surprised.
By it,
they know how to respond or even
just to walk through with
them situations because our children.
they might be in a
situation where they might
be tempted to bully others, you know,
or to treat them kindly, you know,
so to talk through like,
what does that look like to
enter in to the bullying of
another person?
You know.
even just talking through how our
body language or laughing
at certain things that that
could be entering into that.
So we want to prepare them
for that ahead of time.
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So I think just basically any space where we humans can be together, whether it's in a house, in a neighborhood, in a school, in a church, online, any of those spaces are spaces where we can sin against one another in big ways, including bullying. And so we wanna think through those things, not for the purpose, of sparing our children all possible pain. Like, would it be amazing if we could like, yes, that would be, that would be amazing, but that's what they need. But they wouldn't learn all those hard lessons either. No, they wouldn't. And then they would go into the world completely unprepared. So what we said, what we want to do is we want the best type of

preparation or sorry, the best type of protection is preparation is preparing them for what they're going to face. Absolutely. I love when you talk about, you know, having those conversations and bringing up those things, helping them to process through ahead of time before they've even thought it or encountered it. And so that when it does come about that, they're like, oh, I remember this. I remember mom saying something about this or dad saying something about this. And that is their frame of reference then for how they deal with that topic was because you spoke into it before anybody else did. And so it's really,

really important to have those conversations, to have them when they're young, to kind of build them into your general vocabulary. as a family, especially, you know, for families that are living very counter-culturally. As Christians, we are finding more and more that we're becoming a counter-cultural society in ourselves and how we think and how we just view life and view the world. So, you know, that can lead to bullying in itself. How do you help kids stand strong in what they know to be right, what they've been taught is truth, when others around them are, you know, just saying, oh, just give that stuff up and

just agree with us and do

what everybody else does.

Yeah,

I think there's a couple really

important things to do.

And

The first one is something

I'm sure parents watching

and watching and listening

are already doing,

but just really giving our

children appropriate

affection and encouragement

at home of grounding them

in a biblical understanding

of who they are, you know,

that they have been made in

God's image and that God

loves them so much that he sent Jesus.

for them to reconcile them to himself,

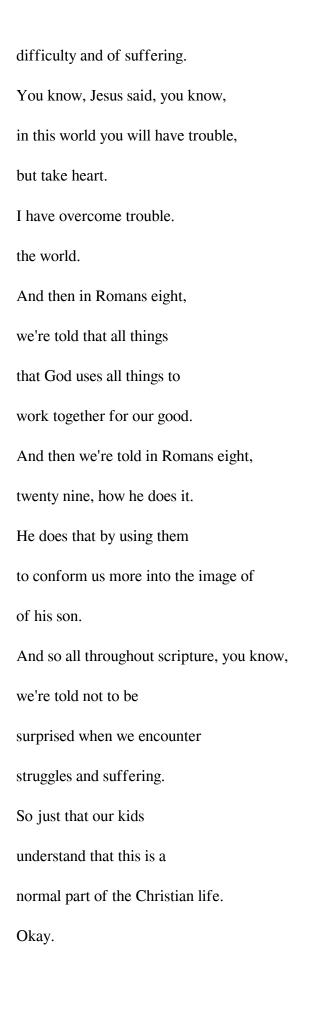
that God has gifted them.

You know,

Ephesians two tens says for we

are his workmanship created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them, that. that their personality and their giftings, you know, even their physical stature and, and, and height and everything like that, you know, is perfect. purposely crafted by God for his intentional design for them. And then in Psalm one thirty nine, you know, it says that all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. And so in the moment when our children are facing peer pressure, when they're facing you know, a culture that views anything that is biblically sound as

evil and oppressive. They're not going to, they might not be feeling all of the truth, you know, that we have tried to instill in them. But we need to start off with that, you know, of helping them know that they are beloved and that God has designed them with a purpose. So I think that is so important. The second thing, I think, again, from a biblical perspective is, That, you know, not that we walk around with a martyr complex like, oh, everyone's against me and everybody's out to get me. You know, that's not what we want for our children. Right. We do want them to have a biblical understanding of



Again, not, we're not going to walk around, you know, woe is me and everybody's out to get me, but just surprised when these things happen. And then I think the third thing it's really important to to ground them in an understanding of why we believe what we believe, because, you know, just seeing out one hot topic right now, you know, gender is a really hot topic as, as we're recording this. And the narrative is, you know, if you don't just celebrate anyone's chosen gender and you're just hateful. How could you hate someone so much? I mean, who wants to feel hateful? None of us want to feel hateful or oppressive.

And so if we can equip our

children to understand the truth,

And to be able to see

through some of that very

deceptive language, like we can ask them,

okay, let's think about our bodies.

You know, we can talk them,

what are all the amazing

things your hands can do, you know,

and talk about our fingers and what are,

how our fingers can hold a pencil.

They can hold a fork, you know,

to bring food to our mouth.

They can scratch our noses.

They can pat someone on the

back and talk about the

amazing design of our fingers.

You know, then you can do the same thing,

like with legs or arms or noses, you know,

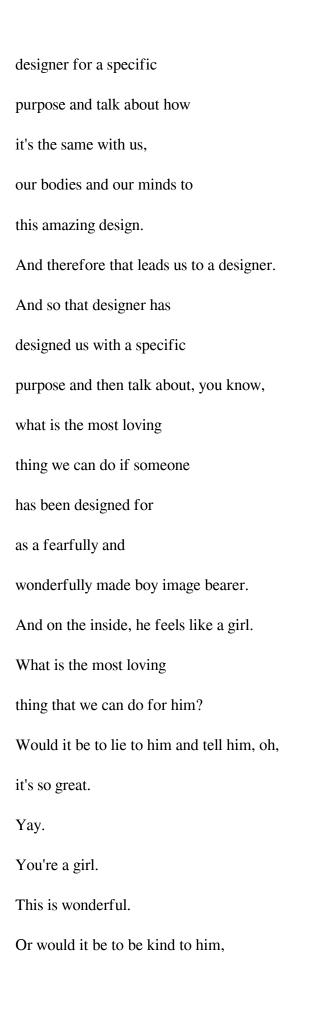
whatever, whatever it is.

we see something in the

world around us that was designed.

We know that that designed

object was made by a



to listen to him and to point him towards the truth of how he was We want to help our children understand this. For little kids, if you're working with your kids that are very visual, you can use a couple different examples. You know, if you have a kite, you can, you know, on a windy day, you know, go outside and fly the kite and talk about, wow, you know, what's all the amazing things about this kite and talk about how the kite, you know, has a tail, how it has, I'm not a kite expert, so I don't know what all the parts are. You know, it has the rods that go into the fabric. Right. Open it up so that it can fly high in the wind.

Then go on inside and say, you know what? Tonight, when I'm washing my hair, what if I take this kite and I wrap my hair up in the kite after I'm done showering to dry my hair? Is that going to work? Well, I mean, I could probably wrap it around my hair. Would it dry my hair? No, a kite wasn't meant to dry my hair. So my hair is still going to get wet. What's going to happen to the kite? The kite's going to be all soggy. Are we going to be able to go out and fly it tomorrow morning? No, because it's going to be super wet. And talk about how when we use an object, not according to the designer's design, we miss out on the amazing purpose that that object was created for. And then bring that talk about us. When we go against the designer's design,

we miss out in the amazing

purpose that God has created us for.

So just to help our children

see when there's a situation like this,

where they're going to have

to stand strong for what they believe.

To help them see through

that even if in that moment,

even if in the moment they fail,

even if in the moment they

just pat somebody on the back and say,

of course you're a girl

when they're really a boy,

even if that happens,

that they'll be able to

understand the truth underneath of that,

that this is not what is most loving.

It might be what makes this

person feel the best in the moment,

but it's not what's

ultimately best for them

because it is pointing this person away

from the truth of their creation.

So those are just some basic,

just basic little things we

can do with our children to

help them stand strong in those moments.

It's so good because yes, when,

when our kids are anchored and they,

they aren't just told,

this is what you have to believe.

And this, you know, just because,

but they truly understand.

I love the analogies you

used because kids understand that,

you know, they're like,

Oh, you know, it makes them kind of think,

contemplate.

Yeah, yeah, no, that's right.

And I teach kids in a classroom, well,

a gym setting.

And I have one student whose

parents will remain nameless,

but they send her to me,

even though they call them a them.

And, and I just, I told the parents,

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I'm like,
I will call your student by the
name that you've given them.
And, and, you know,
I'm just gonna love on them.
And I love on her,
I'm gonna call her her
because that's who I know
her as and how God created her.
But, but it,
it is such a complicated world
for our kids now to
navigate with all these
gender things that are coming up and
And I see the conflict and, you know,
the other kids in the classroom, you know,
the gym and just how
they're dealing with that.
And so I try my best to help
navigate that.
But it's, it is,
it is hard because they don't really,
they haven't been taught
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how to respond and they don't know exactly what they believe. They're, they're thinking that, yeah, I go along with everybody or else I'm not loving. And so, And it's that's not true. We we love people from the perspective that Jesus loved us and and that he he gave us and everyone an incredible purpose. And if we miss out on that purpose, we miss out on life. And and so our kids need to know that they need to know that there's there's more there. Yeah. And I think even, you know, when you're just talking about, you know, talking with our kids about how to love one another. That's where I think even

talking about the definition of love can just be so powerful because we, for some reason, we as humans just seem to have this fault, like this faulty innate definition of love that if someone loves me, I'm going to feel positively, you know, I'm going to feel positively about this. Now, often love is accompanied by positive emotions. but not always and this is where we can even take our kids to scripture to show them this like I think a great example of this I might get the reference wrong but I think it's in john chapter four when jesus is talking to the woman at the well it's

somewhere early on in john

and jesus you know doesn't

just say like come to me

you know like I'm gonna you

know like I I want you to

come to me and I'm gonna

forgive all your sins what

does he say he says go and

get your husband

He knew that she had been

married multiple times and

was living with a man that

was not her husband in that moment.

It didn't Jesus loving her

did not feel very good.

Like, you know, she said,

I have no husband.

And Jesus doesn't let it stop there.

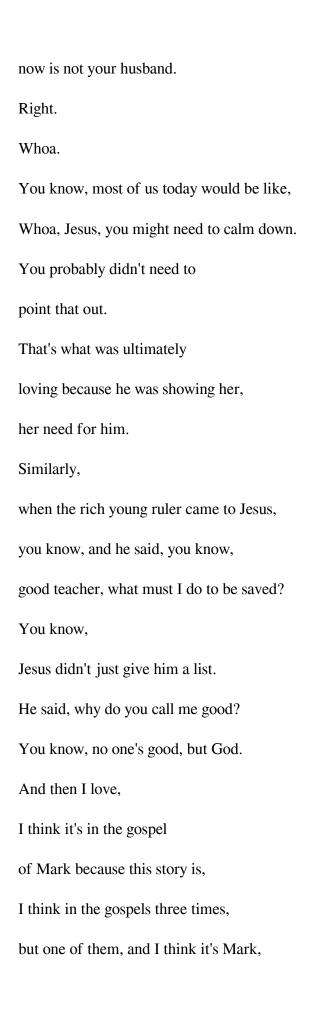
He says, you know, you are right.

You have when you say you

have no husband for you

have had five husbands and

the man you're living with



it says, and Jesus looking at him,

loved him and said, one thing you lack,

go and sell all that you

have to the poor and come follow me.

And then it says the young

man went away with a heavy

heart because he had great riches.

Jesus loved him.

And therefore he said the

one thing that he knew was

going to reveal this young man's sin.

Now that doesn't mean we

have our kids go around and

point out everybody's sin.

You know, we're not,

we can take our kids to

these examples and say,

did when Jesus was loving this person,

did he make them feel good

about themselves?

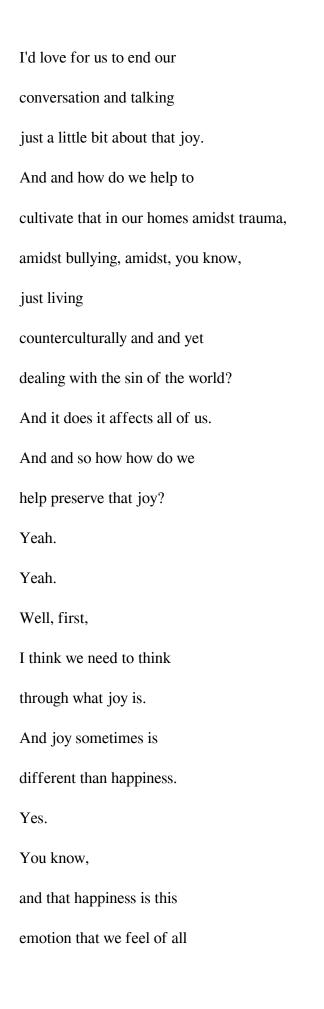
No,

actually he revealed what was true

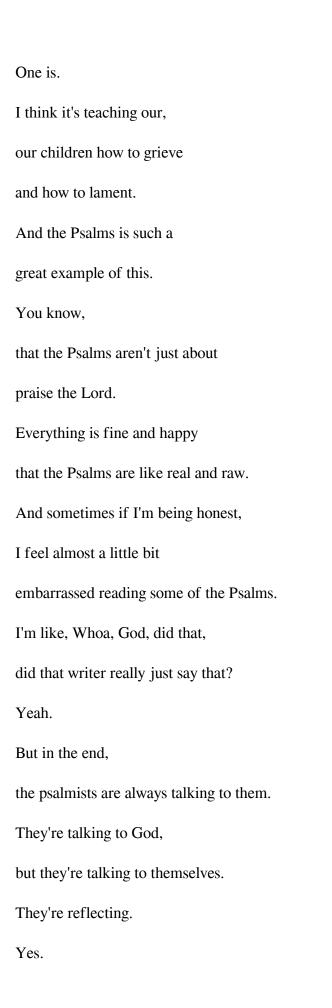
because love is doing what is best for

for another person where our culture thinks that love is making others feel good about themselves. Now, sometimes that might be what's the loving thing to do, but love is doing what is best for another person. So if we can help our kids understand that definition, that can be so helpful for the variety of situations they're going to encounter. It's so true, yes, because the responses that will come back at them is, you know, you're being stuck in your ways or, you know, why, yeah, why aren't you agreeing with us? And so, yeah, and being probably ostracized in some situations too, which is hard to deal with.

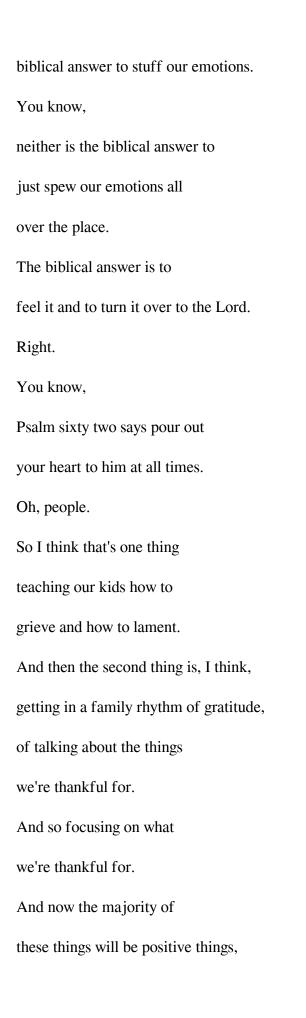
But if kids can understand that, you know, they're actually being loving and that the world is not filled with love, it's just... filled with people that just want to say one thing in front of somebody and another thing behind their back. I grew up in Minnesota and I always called it the Minnesota nice. And I was like, yeah, but only to your face. They turn around and they're talking about you behind your back now. And that's, you know, that is the way the world is. People can be super nice, but they're going to say and do things. And our kids need to know how to process that, how to heal from that, and especially how to restore joy in their lives.



is going right. You know, I'm, I love how things are going. I'm enjoying this joy. It can be accompanied by happiness, but I think that joy is deeper than just an emotion. That joy is a piece of knowing that, that God is in control and that I can be content where I am today because of that. And so I think as we're working to cultivate joy, that's what we want to help our children to see that we're not asking them, you know, to go around with a fake plastic smile, you know, an attitude of like, oh, the world is falling apart, but it's still okay. There's real difficult things that happen. And so I think two things are really important.



And bringing it back to what is true. And so I think teaching our children that, that it's okay. It's okay to be angry over an injustice that happens. It's okay to feel really sad, but what do we do with that sadness? And so even, you know, just reading through a psalm, at the dinner table or reading through a Psalm before bed, just so our children get in the habit of hearing that and hearing that language. And then we can walk them through that, you know, during times of difficulty or suffering, you know, we can walk them through a Psalm. And so, so that we're not like stuffing their emotions. Cause that's never the



you know, things,

things that we really think like,

This is something I'm very

grateful that God has allowed in my life.

But I think also expressing

gratitude over the difficult things,

because in scripture,

we're commanded not only to

give thanks in all circumstances,

but we're also, and this is so hard,

but we are also commanded

to give thanks for all circumstances.

And that's where that Romans eight,

twenty eight and twenty

nine comes in that we can

give thanks for.

for all circumstances,

because we have the promise

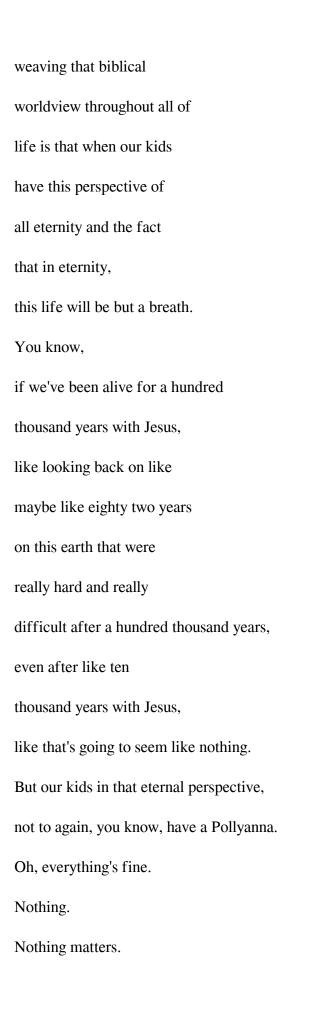
that God is working it

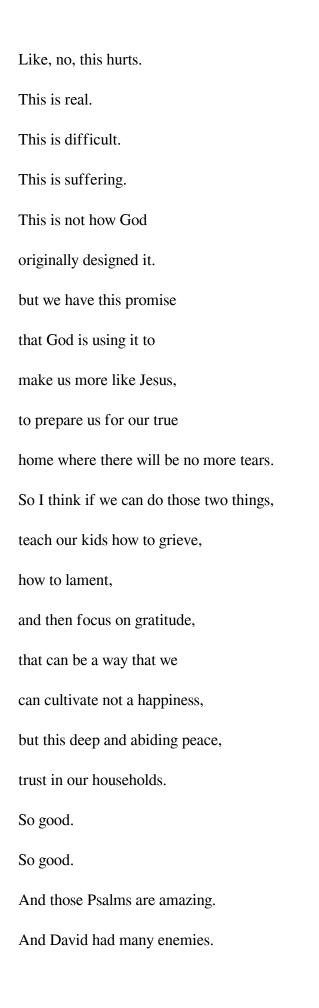
together for our good by

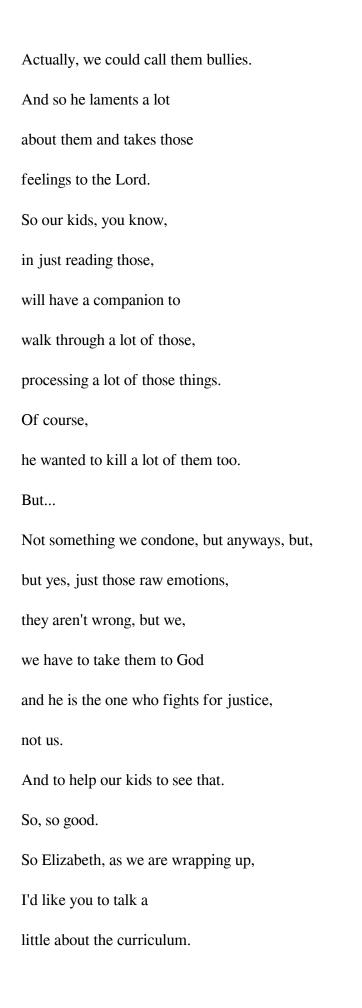
conforming us into the image of his son.

And then again,

what we talked about before, you know,







You have a website called foundationworldview.com. And we also have a code that you've given us to help families receive ten dollars off a license of any of your curriculum. So, yes. Tell us about that. So at foundationworldview.com, we're an organization kind of like we've been talking about throughout this podcast that we're trying to equip kids to view all of life through a biblical lens. You know. so whether it's a conversation like this about bullying, forgiveness, reconciliation, joy, or whether it's talking about what it means to be human or how do I figure

out what's right for wrong or, you know, like what does it mean to be male or female? We want our children to be able to view all of that through the lens of scripture and And to understand how scripture lines up with what we see in the world around us. So if you go to foundationworldview.com, you can find out about all of the resources that we have there. Awesome. And if you're listening, the code will be in the show notes as well as everywhere else that we put the code up. But if you want to just write it down right now, it's empowering ten. That is the code to get you ten dollars off that family license. So definitely check out

Foundation Worldview dot com. And also Elizabeth has a free lesson plan there. So if you're thinking. let's just try this out over Christmas. Download that lesson, try it out, and then see if that's something you want to include in your curriculum in the new year. So I know the podcast is going to come out the first week. You're probably still all kind of figuring out what you're doing. And so hopefully that's a good resource for you. So, yeah, well, thank you so much, Elizabeth. This has been just a wonderful conversation filled with so much hope, so much joy and so many practical applications on

how to help our kids to to process this as well as us. I mean, we can't forget that we all need help in this as well in forgiveness and forgiveness. And seeing the world is not our home. Um, it's just a good reminder and a good reminder why we're celebrating this season of Christmas that's coming up for those of you that are watching live. You know, this is the season that we remember Jesus coming to earth because he needed to do something we could not. And, um, so this is, um, It puts back in why we have joy. We talk about joy of the season. It's not about the presents. It's not about all the other things.

It's about the gift that we have been given. And like you said, Elizabeth, earlier, we have to receive. There will be many that won't. And it just grieves my heart that we've been given such a beautiful gift and many will oversee it in this life. And I hope that that is not... any of you listeners. So if that's something you haven't considered, I just want to put that out there that this is, it's a, it's, this is what life is really about. So, so take that to heart. So thank you so much, Elizabeth, for taking time and sharing with us today. It's been a true blessing. Oh, my pleasure. Thanks for having me on with you today,

