

5

conversations
you **must** have with
your
daughter



THE BIBLE STUDY

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CONVERSATION BOOSTER

Once you get into 5 Conversations Bible study, you'll find several Conversation Boosters to help moms "boost" their talks with their daughters.

Here is a note to moms whose daughters do not have their biological fathers living in the home.

Ginny Olsen, author of *Teenage Girls: Exploring Issues Adolescent Girls Face and Strategies to Help Them*, notes that for a girl who is missing a primary role model for male-female relationships, it can be difficult for her to figure out how to build healthy relationships with men.

Olsen cites a landmark research study that looked at how girls who were raised in a variety of family contexts related to their fathers, especially where the father was absent. The study examined girls who were reared by married mothers, widowed mothers, and divorced mothers.

She found that, in comparison to girls raised by both parents in the home, "girls whose mothers were widowed were more guarded and reserved in their dealings with men. They set high standards for potential mates. And the girls who were raised by divorced mothers flirted more and began dating at a much earlier age than the girls from the other two groups."

Olsen suggests that fathers "need to be encouraged to pursue communication with their daughters. The more relational a dad is, asking questions and keeping the lines of communication open, the less likely it is that his daughter will become involved in risky behavior in her later teen years."¹

If this is not a possibility in your daughter's life, consider pointing out another male family member who is a positive example of a godly husband and father. It would also help to address the matter before she becomes

Conversation Booster

a teenager. Have an honest and frank conversation with her about her increased susceptibility to seek out male attention at an early age.

Perhaps you were the girl described earlier and experienced the same challenge. Tell her. Be honest with her and, more importantly, open the lines of communication so she will be comfortable discussing this matter with you in the years to come. Continue to talk even as she gets older.

Stay engaged and don't lighten up when it comes to drawing boundaries in dating. In addition, make a concentrated effort to speak highly of the institution of marriage and consider pointing out positive examples of godly Christian marriages in your church. If possible, expose her to those marriages so she will have an idea of what marriage should look like.

1. Ginny Olson, *Teenage Girls: Exploring Issues Adolescent Girls Face and Strategies to Help Them* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2006).

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