

Speaker 1 ([00:17](#)):

Ladies. We're so excited that you're at the conference online and that you've joined us. My name is Laura Hill and this is my beautiful daughter, Lexi, and we both were born and raised in Texas. And in 2019, God called us to move to Richmond, Virginia because my husband, uh, took a pastor role at a deaf church called the Richmond's first Baptist church. And we have learned to be Virginia people, so to speak, but our hearts are still deeply rooted in Texas. And we're so excited to be with you all today.

Speaker 2 ([00:56](#)):

Hello. And like she said, my name is Lexi. This weekend is deaf woman conference 2021. And that's really exciting. Last year was awesome. And I've been looking forward to this year, but this weekend we're going to be studying Ephesians and this panel discussion. We're going to be talking about Ephesians chapter six, verses one through four. We're going to be talking about parents, raising up their children and the relationship between parents and children and raising them up in the way of the Lord and all of that. So that's going to be what we're going to be talking about, and we're gonna be talking about our relationship and how God's played a big part in that. Especially for me growing up, we have these two bowls right here, as you can see, and we're going to be asking each other questions. So it's gonna be

Speaker 1 ([01:48](#)):

That's right. So who should start

Speaker 2 ([01:53](#)):

Before we start? I want to go ahead and pray. Heavenly father. We thank you for this weekend. The chance for us to gather together, I know it's online, but we're still gathering. And we know that your spirit is with us as we study your word and how that impacts our lives, how it impacts who we are and our identity in Christ. We thank you for your mercy and your love every day. We know your mercies are new every morning, and I just pray that you help these women this weekend. Learn something about your love. I pray that our conversation and discussion as a reflection of you and thank you for everything. Thank you for sending your son to die on the cross for our sins. Let me thank you for that in your name. We pray. Amen. Amen. Okay. Who wants to go first?

Speaker 1 ([02:57](#)):

Sure. I'll go ahead and start. We'll see what question we have for her and see if she can answer the question.

Speaker 3 ([03:04](#)):

Hm.

Speaker 1 ([03:12](#)):

Your question. I know there were definitely times I had many defiant fits, copped an attitude as a child, and as I became a teenager was irritable when I was forced to go to church. And I want to know if that harmed you or hurt you and how you felt navigating that.

Speaker 2 ([03:36](#)):

So real life confession here. I think we actually make, so the bowls, that was my question for you, but honestly, that's

Speaker 3 ([03:50](#)):

Oops.

Speaker 1 ([03:59](#)):

As you were growing up, what do you remember in regards to Jesus and church and me and dad, and as you grew up, did you feel that it was important as a child compared to others?

Speaker 2 ([04:17](#)):

Really? For as long as I can remember. I remember going to Awanas Sunday school, Wednesday night Bible study. And that was the time that we lived in Dallas. Well, really Keller went to church in us and went around to different churches. Uh, we ha I went to Awanas with the interpreter and really every night I remember you and dad would share Bible stories at bedtime, like Noah's Ark, Adam and Eve, and the fruit and mostly old Testament stories. I know there were some new Testament stories sprinkled in there, but that really impacted me, um, seeing those Bible stories. And I remember you sharing Moses story and asking if that had actually happened and all of that. So that really started my foundation for when I was young, teaching me, uh, what happened in biblical times, the stories and just how beautiful and powerful the Lord's plan is through Paul and Moses and Noah and Abraham.

Speaker 1 ([05:23](#)):

Do you remember during Christmas season, we would celebrate the advent season every night. What was your favorite time?

Speaker 2 ([05:31](#)):

We had the advent calendar and we would take out the ornaments for every day. I think they're 25, 24, how many? 25, 25 days. And there were always stories behind each ornaments, like for example, Jesus's birth, Mary and Joseph and all of that. And that was my favorite part of the year. The other, my other favorite was Easter. Every year we would do a resurrection roles as a tradition. We would have the, uh, we had the Pillsbury rolls and we would put butter and cinnamon, and then we would put a marshmallow in the center. We would bake them. And then once they came out of the oven and the marshmallows gone, and that was a good visual concept for me as a child. Um, but I think as I got older, that's when it got tougher, because I got out in the real world and started to see that not everyone shared the same beliefs as we do. And that was tough. Um, I mean, my parents continued to take me to church, even if I didn't want to, they were consistent. Um, and you know, they didn't just take me to church two or three times a year. Right. But they took me every Sunday.

Speaker 2 ([06:59](#)):

One thing that I want to do with my children is I want to continue to do the resurrection roles in that advent calendar. I think the other thing is something that my parents enforced, where it was whenever making decisions, whenever something happened, we would pray. And that stuck with me, the power of prayer is just, wow. Right. I also remember when we were living in Keller and then we moved to Tyler. Do you remember that story? Oh yeah. I remember it like it's yesterday. Yeah. Um, so you, you got a job at Tyler college and we were driving were on a weekend trip and she got the job and wasn't trying to try

to decide she wanted to accept the job or not. The data didn't have a job yet. And I told her to go ahead and keep the faith. And he got the job later that day, same day, it was really amazing. And she came up to us and said, see, I told you, where's your faith. We were speechless. I was eight at the time.

Speaker 2 ([08:03](#)):

So I think the fact that you and dad, of course he didn't tell me everything, but you guys were transparent with me and what was happening in your lives, not the details always, but you would tell me what was going on in your lives. And you would show us how God was working. And that really helped me a lot to see that, um, God, wasn't just a person in the clouds, but that he was actually doing work. That's amazing. And honestly, it's really important to communicate with your children. I think that helps big time. That's right. Okay. My turn. We'll see what my question is. Okay. If you look at scripture, Ephesians six, four, it talks about parents should avoid provoking their children to anger while raising them up in the way of the Lord. So you raised my brother and I, my brother's name is Dakota and was wondering, where were the boundaries? Um, instead of just shoving God down our throats, where was that line for you, between teaching and encouraging us without overdoing it

Speaker 1 ([09:32](#)):

As parents, it's hard, it's challenging raising children and the eyes of God in, in your home. We followed biblical values. It's so important, but at the same time, you need to see and understand how to be raised in a world full of sin. And sometimes we would tell them, you know, Hey, don't do that. But other kids are allowed to do that. And well, that's their pet parent's decision, even though we've decided what's okay in our home, we stuck with that. And over time, as you grew up, you were like, why are we even going into church? And it was hurtful to hear that, that they didn't want to go to church. And I think the hardest thing was for them because they're the pastor's kids, you know? Cause people think as a pastor's kid, they're going to be perfect. If they screw up, people go, Oh, this is a big deal.

Speaker 1 ([10:36](#)):

Why aren't those? The pastor's kids? Why the pastor's kids do that. But to them, you were just a normal kid, just like the other kids. And we didn't expect you to be perfect. We knew that you'd make mistakes, just like we make mistakes. And so as parents, some of you are parents that are in ministry and that can be tough, especially for me and my husband. There's such high standards and expectations that, you know, if your kids mess up, we're going to be looked down upon. And that's just not the way to see it. But to let the kids be kids and grow up, allowed to make mistakes, letting them know where the boundaries are and that we're going to stick with our boundaries and, um, give some choices. And if that's not followed, then there'll be some consequences. But the it's important to give them a love and show them that they're loved regardless of their mistakes.

Speaker 1 ([11:34](#)):

And sometimes I'd get angry. Of course, that's totally normal to get angry, but I would just have to go, okay, hold on, time out here and take a seat, just get myself calmed down. And maybe she was angry too, and needs a moment to calm down. We tried not to have anger in the home, but that's normal. That's normal. We get frustrated as parents. And it's hard because we may expect them to be raised the same way we experienced being raised. But it's 2020, and it's a different time. And the compared to when I was raised,

Speaker 2 ([12:10](#)):

Yeah, you grew up in the seventies and eighties and church was like two times on Sundays. And then Wednesdays,

Speaker 1 ([12:18](#)):

Sunday morning, Sunday night, Wednesday night when we were kids, we started to live in the Dallas Fort worth area. So Sunday night, Wednesday night, all of that was a norm. But then we, we moved in 2010 to Tyler. It was a whole different story. We didn't have the Sunday night or Wednesday night options. And we had to shift and adapt for that. It was different for us.

Speaker 2 ([12:40](#)):

Yeah, for sure. One thing that I liked that you mentioned was parents and ministry and having high standards and everything. I feel like you handled balancing between. I think one thing that I struggled with was seeing the underbelly of ministry, seeing the hurts and everyone experiences that growing up, of course, you and dad tried to show me with that from that as much as possible. And from seeing that, but as parents, how do you raise your child through seeing all of those hurts and the gossip and everything in the church?

Speaker 1 ([13:20](#)):

Yeah, it was hard when my husband and I felt hurt. The kids would see that they would hurt with us and they would want more information and we would try to protect them from that. But at the same time, it's important to understand. There are certain things that you can't keep from your children. And if they saw someone cause harm to me or cause harm to my husband, they were very protective and it, they were angry too. And sometimes I would notice with them that that individual who caused harm to us, they would be resistant to them. They wouldn't want to talk or engage with that person because of the harm that was caused. And so the significance of forgiveness in ministry and the expectation of a pastor is that a pastor's wife, uh, was something that we went through, you know, a lot of frustration and hardship and, and they saw all of that in the same time we have to model love. And that's not easy sometimes, but the Bible says to love one another, regardless of what happens unconditionally. So many times Lexi and my son would feel like, how did you let that person hurt you? You know? And we had the opportunity to say that's part of being in ministry.

Speaker 2 ([14:34](#)):

Yeah. I think one thing that you guys did really well was you led by example, leading by example is not just a one-time thing. It's consistency. You have to do it over the years, again and again. Um, you were still doing ministry with that person, still sharing, um, the gospel still going to church and seeing that, that really stuck with me as a child.

Speaker 1 ([15:01](#)):

Yeah, that's right. I think it's your turn, the phrase honor. Your parents. What does that mean to you?

Speaker 2 ([15:19](#)):

I think like you mentioned before as a pastor's kid. Well really, honestly, not just pastors, kids, um, all children, we feel like our actions reflect on you, um, on our parents. And everyone just assumes that a child's actions, uh, reflect on parents if they're good or bad parents. And I feel like that's not always the case. Children are separate from their parents. That's not, but yes. Um, what does honor mean? Um, it's

just that you value someone and just do the best thing for the relationship. So if you tell me to do something and I do it, yes, that's a BDS is part of honoring, but it's just, yeah. I, I'm not sure. And that's my definition. Well,

Speaker 1 ([16:15](#)):

I'm going to share with you all, what the meaning of honor is determining to value something. So I have 10 points that I'd like to share with you, for children honoring their parents. First off, be thankful for them and show your gratitude. That's important. Parents do a lot for their kids. Secondly, communicate with your parents. Many times you see children not communicating with their parents and communication is key without communication. How would parents know how you're feeling, how the parents could be helpful to you? Thirdly, talk to your parents, treat them with respect, looking back. Of course, we, as children can get ugly with our mom or our dad or cop an attitude and say something and looking back, I, I was that way with my mother. But when I look back, I grieve that I was like that. You know, I think it's so important to show your parents that respect next, seek your parents advice and wisdom. Oftentimes kids think, Oh, you're old fashion. That was back in the day. Right?

Speaker 2 ([17:41](#)):

I still struggle with that. Sometimes I'm like it's 2021. So

Speaker 1 ([17:46](#)):

I would say Proverbs one verses eight, and talks about seeking the advice and wisdom of your parents and many children's, you know, you might say something to your children and they think, eh, but then later on they remember my mom told me that, and that's an important point that will help guide your children's future, giving them wisdom. And in counsel, even if they don't accept it, don't be hurt by that. You might think, Oh, I'm so offended. They didn't take my advice. But know that later on, they will realize, Oh, my mother told me,

Speaker 2 ([18:21](#)):

I think the important thing is to not say, I told you, so that

Speaker 1 ([18:27](#)):

That's my favorite word I told you.

Speaker 2 ([18:28](#)):

So as a child, I hated that. I think if you say, I told you, so it kind of ruins the lesson, you just have to, you know, like you used to do you'd show in your face and I could tell, and I know I'm like, you're right. It's just, it's important to have humility. And that goes both ways.

Speaker 1 ([18:56](#)):

That's right. The fifth thing I will say is to pray for your parents and with them, like Lexi said, you might see things happening like she did, and my husband and I's life. And it's important that children pray for us and pray with us. Oftentimes there were things happening in our lives and it's so nice when my son or Lexi would come and say, mom and dad, can we pray for you? It was such an encouragement to know that they care. Sometimes we may think my children don't even care about me, but no, listen, pray for your parents and pray with them next. Be an encouragement to your parents. Sometimes we feel like

we failed as parents. For example, in 2018, December of 2018. See, my mother had passed away unexpectedly in October of 2018. So in December of 2008, 18, I received the call that no parent ever wants to receive.

Speaker 1 ([20:00](#)):

My son earlier that day had texted me and said, Hey mom, you know that medication that I take for my add, how many milligrams is it? And I said, 54 milligrams. But I thought to myself, he stopped taking that medication. Why is he asking? But I didn't bother. I was busy with work. There were final exams and everything. So later when I got home and he FaceTimed, he said, I need to talk to dad. Well, I was like, okay, I hadn't seen my husband yet. He had taken off, uh, to head to Dallas. And my son turns out, had overdosed on his medication because he felt like he needed to take that medication in order to pass his math class. And that was the time, you know, my mother had died and uh, my mother was an important part of my children's lives. So was grieving. And I was feeling like I've failed as a parent, but at the same time, Lexi was there and was such an encouragement to me. It occurred to me. She said, it's not the end of the world. He's still alive. So it's so important that children aren't encouragement to their parents. And sometimes you might think, why should we need to encourage our parents? But your parents need the encouragement just as much as anyone else in the world. So coming from experience, be at a support and encouragement to your parents.

Speaker 2 ([21:18](#)):

One thing about encouragement. Yes, I was supporting you, but I was going through my own experience with anger. Obviously it wasn't the right time we had just lost someone. But at that time I was angry. I was disappointed because before that, I really looked up to my brother. He was, um, just like the perfect example of the perfect role model. And I still, I still see him that way, but that was just a reminder that we're humans. So I had to kind of deal with that anger. And my mom didn't pressure me or force me to do it, but encouraged me to let go of that anger and all those frustrations and everything. Um, and so that encouragement goes both ways. So if your child isn't the best at encouraging and encouraging you now just there's tidbits that you'll see of that. So for example, when I was, my first year at Gallaudet was not a smooth ride. There was a lot of tough days. So sometimes, you know, my mom would text me and say, I'm thinking about you, I'm praying for you. And you know, sometimes I'd see it. And I think, yeah, I know, I know you're my mom. You have to love me and pray for me. And, but the fact that she made that effort to text me and say that she was praying for me thinking about me, that was very heartwarming. There were little things that, um, are actually big things,

Speaker 1 ([22:53](#)):

You know, before my mother passed my mom and I would FaceTime or be on the video phone daily every day, there wasn't one day that we missed. I mean maybe when she was on vacation or whatever, but when she passed and was gone, I lost someone and it was Lexi who became my encouragement, my mother's death, even though my mom and Lexi and I, the three of us were like best friends. Like the three Musketeers. Yeah. The three Musketeers. We were close with each other. And when my mother was gone, it resulted in Lexi and I becoming even closer. I was an encouragement to her. She was an encouragement to me. So I can't encourage enough the value of being an encouragement to your parents. I was an encouragement or encourage her to my parents. And Lexi's been an encouragement to us. And that's just so important next, forgive your parents. It is hard to forgive because we don't want to admit that we're wrong. If you can't forgive, you can't move forward. You have to learn how to forgive. It's so important. Forgiveness parents, we do wrong or harm to our children. And we need to ask them

to forgive us. It's not just a one-way street that she has to ask me for forgiveness. It's a two way thing. So if I got angry with her and realized later I was in the wrong there, Hey, will you forgive me? Or maybe she gets mad at me and asked me for forgiveness. Forgiveness is key. It really is.

Speaker 2 ([24:31](#)):

I think for most of my childhood, we had a pretty good relationship, but it was a little Rocky at times. We're both very stubborn we're strong-willed so of course we would lash out at each other. And honestly, I didn't like to pray for forgiveness who likes to pray for forgiveness, but when she would remind me to do that, I would feel conviction and reminded me it was okay to pray for forgiveness. And that was a good, that was her leading by example. And, um, and reminded me to do it

Speaker 1 ([25:13](#)):

Next. Tell the truth. Children oftentimes feel like they have to lie to their parents. They don't want their parents to know what's really going on. And of course we're human. We all like growing up. I sure did. I did, but it's important to develop a strong relationship of trust and honor. And part of that is telling the truth. Parents may not like it at the time, but eventually you'll learn to like it because many times there's things that are hidden. Like I might hide something that's wrong with me and I'd say, Oh, nothing's wrong. I'm okay. But she knows it's okay to tell the truth. And as a mother, you know, we have the mother's intuition. Like there was a time I knew something was wrong with her. So I called and I asked her, are you okay? She said, yeah, I'm fine. Why do you ask? And I was like, well, as a mother, I'm trusting my gut here. And she finally broke down and told me the truth. It's important to communicate and tell the truth. Next number nine, take care of your parents. I took care of my parents and now Lexi and my children have the opportunity to take care of us. It's truly amazing. Take care of your parents, honor them, and finally talk positively about them in public and in private places. I'm sure I know my kids probably had plenty of negative things to say about us. That's obvious, but it's important to show your love and honor to your parents through the words that you say and speaking positively about them, both in public and private.

Speaker 2 ([27:08](#)):

Yeah, of course. For compression. I mean, I would text my friends and say, my mom did these things. She punished me. I'm not allowed to go out and do these things and thinking they're wrong for doing that. But at least, you know, they were right in doing those things. But that doesn't mean that we go tell the world about it and complain like Jesus, he has. Sometimes his answer is not yet or no. And we don't tell people, Jesus told me no and go and complain. He knows better. And so, so to our parents. And so, and it's a huge reflection of Christ doing that

Speaker 1 ([27:56](#)):

Mothers out there who might be watching today, or maybe watching later, it is okay to make mistakes as a mother. It's natural, it's normal. The important thing is that you have God in your home, God, in your relationships, your relationships with your children, even if your children say, I don't want to go to church, I struggle with that with my own two children. And yes, it hurts. But as they get older now, as adults, they're going to church and I can't control that, they know what we feel. And at the same time, we have shown them love consistently sharing verses with them or keeping a positive example of the value of our relationship. And you may feel like you failed as a mother, but listen, God made you a mother and he is the one who's teaching you and leading you to be an example to your kids. So if you want to have a more in-depth conversation, feel free to reach out to either of us. Because as a mother

and daughter who have a strong relationship with Jesus, our foundation is so strong and we've got a lot of love for each other and mutual respect as well, which is so important.

Speaker 2 ([29:24](#)):

Yeah. I'm just thinking if not even 20 years and we already have so much, uh, so many memories, so many lessons, and I'm just trying to think if there's anything else I want to add,

Speaker 1 ([29:42](#)):

Hey, mothers, enjoy time with your daughters. Go have to get a pedicure or go shopping together. Even the littlest things are so important. If she needs to talk, make yourself available, sit down, be the shoulder to cry on, be the comforter. And at the same time, maybe I need somebody to talk to and she can be there for me. It's so important to have that communication for healthy relationships.

Speaker 2 ([30:11](#)):

Yeah. And it's important to keep that communication open. I know it's not always easy to communicate your feelings, but work on that. It really helps improve your relationships and it actually can affect your relationship with Christ as you're keeping that communication open with your mom. And then it builds that relationship with Christ, as you communicate with him and pray, and God gave his parents for a reason,

Speaker 1 ([30:49](#)):

You know, it's important that people know that God never leaves us. Sometimes people choose to leave God. But sometimes the relationship between a mother and daughter or parents and their children, children make choices to leave their parents to separate themselves from their parents. But parents still hang on and we may feel that responsibility because we raised them. And yes, we go through heart hurts and difficult times and frustrations. But the important thing is to show love. Regardless like with my son, he tried to kill himself and yes, it was hurtful. I'm a pastor's wife and my own child did something like that. But love is still there. Or when Lexi decided she didn't want to go to church anymore. Yes, she did stray away from the Lord, but the Lord was convicting her and leading her back closer to himself. And that makes a parent's heart so happy. So if you're struggling with your own children, don't give up show love and work through it. I'm just thankful that we have such a strong relationship

Speaker 2 ([32:05](#)):

And what you were talking about. Yes. I think we all go through that phase where we stray away from the ward. But I remember what's the one thing that you always told me every day when I was going through that phase,

Speaker 1 ([32:21](#)):

Praying, never stop praying. The Bible commands us to pray without ceasing. So even when she was stubborn and wouldn't go to church and she didn't want to talk about God, her relationship with God seemed to be severed. She'd walked away from even when she wasn't choosing God, he had never left her. So I just kept praying and I would tell her, I'm praying for you. She'd get so annoyed. And it made, it may have been bothersome to her, but I didn't stop and see where she is today.



Speaker 2 ([32:56](#)):

And honestly, I would not be here without my parents, especially her. Oh, sorry. So I think, um, it's important. Um, how to raise your child in the way of the award first lead by example, consistency, and be open about your weaknesses and mistakes. We are humans and, and remind your child that being a Christian doesn't automatically mean life is easy. It will be hard, but having that open communication with your child, showing them and leading them to Christ, uh, and showing them that and pray without ceasing really. I mean, and that's, you know, what I'm going to do is if, if God called me to be a parent one day to be patient,

Speaker 1 ([34:08](#)):

As parents remember frog F R O G fully relying on God, let him be the guide to lead you. You know, Proverbs three, verses five and six. They trust in the Lord and he will guide you acknowledge him and he will make your paths straight. That's what becoming parents is. And we really have this special relationship that I can't imagine not having this kind of relationship with her, just like I had with my mother. And now it's something that we have with each other. And I look forward to her future children, children, someday having that relationship with them.

Speaker 2 ([34:47](#)):

I think that's all we have for today.

Speaker 1 ([34:49](#)):

Time to wrap things up. I think we, might've gone a little bit over time, but thank you so much for joining us. God bless you. All sisters in Christ. We hope you have a great weekend

Speaker 2 ([35:00](#)):

And we'll be praying for all of you, ladies, you mothers, your daughters, and whether you're hearing or deaf. Amen. It doesn't matter. We just know that Christ created us in his image and he designed us to have mothers and he designed us as daughters as well. So hang in there and keep praying. We love you. Love you.

Speaker 1 ([35:26](#)):

We love you all.