

## Backgrounder

### **Memphis Mom Writes about Timeless Truths for Parenting in an Ever-Changing Culture**

The Story Idea: Today's mothers struggle to rear children of compassion and integrity in a culture of addiction and celebrity worship. Moms rely on "expert" advice that seems to change every few years. Jean Stockdale recognizes the need for consistent, timeless truths we can apply to our parenting skills. Therefore, she wrote the recently released Bible studies for moms, *“Proverbs and Principles for Parenting Practically Perfect Progeny,” “Run Well, Finish Strong: Passing the Baton of Faith to the Next Generation,”* and her newest study, *“Mirror, Mirror on the Wall. Jesus, Fairest of Them All.”*

Background: Jean felt called to start the Moms Ministry at Bellevue Baptist Church in Cordova, TN, 19 years ago when she encountered a mother who felt alienated and overwhelmed with the task of motherhood. Jean's desire to disciple women--in particular, mothers--led to a weekly Bible study that has now grown to more than 250 women. She writes her own curriculum and even provides curriculum and DVDs for churches wanting to lead similar studies but lack the teachers or resources needed. Her newly released Bible studies, *“Proverbs and Principles for Parenting Practically Perfect Progeny,” “Run Well, Finish Strong: Passing the Baton of Faith to the Next Generation,”* and *“Mirror, Mirror on the Wall. Jesus, Fairest of Them All,”* result from many years of teaching and ministering to moms of all ages and stages.

Spokesperson: Jean Stockdale has devoted her life to her husband, Craig, her two sons, Jason and Dawson, and her lay ministry at Bellevue Baptist Church in the Memphis suburb of Cordova, TN. After accepting Christ almost 30 years ago, she committed her life to serving others through the church. She and her husband co-teach a couples' Bible study fellowship class. She has served as leader of the Moms Ministry for 19 years. She leads weekly Bible studies for more than 250 moms who long for practical mothering tips and spiritual encouragement. Jean also travels and speaks at conferences, retreats and banquets. For more information on Jean Stockdale, go to [www.jeanstockdale.com](http://www.jeanstockdale.com).

## Topical Issues

1. Our words have an irrevocable impact on our children. Too often we use sarcasm, humiliation or hurtful words to discipline our children and don't realize the damaging effects. In her new

Bible studies for moms, Jean Stockdale teaches women to cultivate the child's spirit through encouraging and edifying speech.

2. Jean addresses many moms' struggle with anger. She recognizes the overwhelming stress of motherhood – family, home, careers, activities – that leads to anger and frustration. She helps moms explore the dangerous effect of anger on their children, but she also gives them an alternative to anger. She encourages mothers to renew their minds. If our minds are devoted to Christ, we concentrate less on anger and more on grace.

3. Discipline is a hot topic in our society. To spank or not to spank? Time out? For how long? Families divide over the issue. Many parents wonder what is the more effective approach. Jean offers biblical support for her views on spanking. She also dives into more complex topics such as remorse and repentance. Stopping a behavior is not enough – she recommends teaching children to evaluate their behavior and make decisions that reflect their heart condition.

4. Children learn integrity through watching others. If we speed on the way to church, they assume speeding is legal in certain situations. If we lie to the telemarketer on the phone, they perceive that "little white lies" are acceptable. These Bible studies explore the issue of integrity that begins with the parents. If the parent lacks integrity, the child will never learn this virtue. Next, the author teaches parents how to instill integrity and a sense of work ethic into their children.

5. The final chapter of *“Proverbs and Principles for Parenting Practically Perfect Progeny”* explores the deepest desire of most women – how to transform into a godly wife and mother. The author uses Proverbs 31 as her basis for a virtuous woman. She illustrates how this woman of the Old Testament looks in our modern-day culture, which gives women a model of virtue, purity, and practical application. Most mothers long to emulate the Proverbs 31 woman. Jean Stockdale encourages readers that with God, anything is possible.

6. Families spend much time mulling over inheritances and what physical objects family members will pass to the next generation. In *“Run Well, Finish Strong,”* Jean Stockdale contends that a mother has profound influence over her children; she is to use this influence to pass her faith on to them. Jean can explain the specifics of how a mother can do this.

7. When you look into mirror what reflection do you see? Through Jean's most recent study, "*Mirror, Mirror on the Wall. Jesus, Fairest of Them All,*" women will see what areas of their lives need to be addressed to conform them to the image of Jesus Christ.

Jean's Bible studies are available at [www.jeanstockdale.com](http://www.jeanstockdale.com) along with the accompanying DVDs and CDs. Her books are also available at Christian and secular bookstores throughout the country, as well as through online bookstores. CrossHouse Publishing also offers the books through [www.hannibalbooks.com](http://www.hannibalbooks.com), or by calling 800-747-0738. ISBN: 0-929292-79-0, 0-929292-90-1, and 978-1-934749-10-4.