

Growing Grateful Kids, by Susie Larson

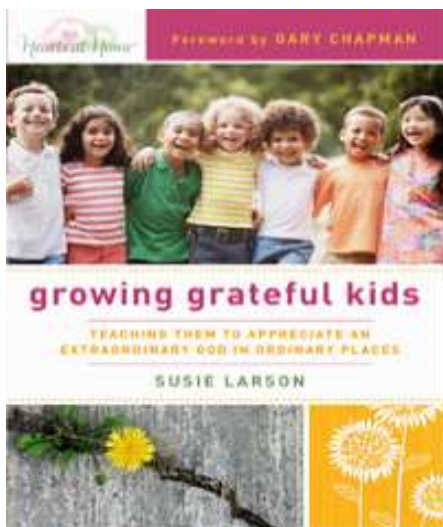
"If we lack self-control, we leave ourselves (and our kids) wide open to the influences of our culture!" Throughout her book, Growing Grateful Kids, Susie Larson reminds all moms, as well as grandmothers, that *it is impossible to teach kids what we don't possess ourselves whether it be faith, humility, or gratitude.*

Using examples from her life, as a mother of three active boys, Susie shares her **insight about raising grateful kids in today's materialistic society.** From her experiences, growing up in a household with seven children to dealing with a debilitating illness and the lack of money, Susie relates to mothers of all ages. Since she speaks from experience, her message is believable.

For instance, whenever she feels the urge to grab something for herself instead of waiting for God to provide it, she recalls the *Twinkie Incident*. One time when she and her older brother were sitting at the kitchen table, he unwrapped a Twinkie. Susie asked him if she could have it, but before he could respond, she grabbed for it just as he started to hand it to her. The Twinkie exploded as their hands collided. To make matters worse, her brother said, **"Susie, I really was going to give it to you. I have another one in my drawer."** To this day, Susie recalls that experience when she is tempted to act on her

own rather than wait for God to provide for her needs.

Susie also warns parents that by making things easy or overindulging children with **toys and other gadgets, "...we basically ruin our children."** To demonstrate to her sons that she **"wanted nothing to master her,"** not even seemingly harmless things, she decided to fast. She fasted from things such as Christian novels, TV, certain kinds of foods, etc., and used the fasting time to seek after God. To teach her sons self-control, she **persuaded them to "fast" from things that were becoming too important in their lives, such as video games.** She made it clear to **her sons that a week's "fast" from their electronic devices wasn't a punishment. Instead, the "fast" was to teach them that they could be happy without their gadgets. When the "fast" was over, she discovered that her sons expressed gratitude when their games, etc. were returned.**



In addition to challenging mothers to practice self-restraint, each chapter provides insight to help **confront life's difficulties** such as overcoming **pride, seeking God's wisdom, living humbly, instilling contentment and much more.** Concerning pride, Susie cautions moms about the emphasis on self-esteem or self-confidence so preva-



lent today. She tells parents, **"Pride isn't cute, and it's not a sign of inner strength. It is a horrible seed that creates distance between God and us."**

Finally, each chapter includes both a personal application and a parental application followed by a relevant prayer. Susie Larson, who also works as a freelance writer for *Focus on the Family*, has managed to **combine wit and God's wisdom to produce an indispensable book for anyone striving to grow grateful kids.**

Review by Beth Bonnell

BOOKS

ADULT

The Truth About Same-Sex Marriage by Erwin W. Lutzer- The author exposes the lie that **"same-sex" marriage is harmless. With great insight, Lutzer shows the high stakes that are involved if we do not challenge this evil.**

ADULT FICTION

Twelfth Prophecy by Bodie & Brock Thoene Life is fraught with danger in the life of Sychar in first-century A.D. But for Abigail, the Samaritan woman, the danger lies not as much from the ever-present Roman soldiers but from the rabbi and the people of Sychar. The Oak Leaves by Maureen Lang- Drawing from her own life, the author invites us to experience the honest disappointments and glorious discoveries that come from **mothering a son others may see as 'different', yet God sees only as His beloved child.**

DVD'S

ADULT

The Voyage of the Dawn Treader, #3 in the Chronicles of Narnia series - The courageous voyagers travel to mysterious islands, and reunite with the Great Lion Aslan on a mission that will determine the fate of Narnia itself.

CD'S

JUNIOR CHILDREN

The Basket of Flowers by Christoph von Schmid- Witness firsthand the beauty of a steadfast commitment to God and a humble love between a father and his daughter. Charlie's Choice by M.L. Nesbitt- Charlie faces dangers that not only threaten his life, they challenge his view of life and test his fortitude and his faith.

Sir Malcolm and the Missing Prince by Sidney Baldwin- Young Prince Hubert is incorrigible, unmanageable, and demanding. The selfish Prince learns valuable life lessons that will change him and help him in the future to rule the kingdom well.

The Captive by Christoph Von Schmid- Kidnapped by Algerian pirates, young Anselmo finds himself on the auction block in a foreign country. Listen as God unfolds a bounty of blessing simply because he has the courage to see the goodness of his Creator in every circumstance, both good and ill.

