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Have you ever had a situation happen where you should have received some sort of consequence, but you didn't?

Maybe you got pulled over for speeding, but the officer gave you a warning instead of a ticket.

Maybe you misunderstood some instructions from a teacher and did the wrong problems on an assignment, but he gave you credit anyway.

These situations are tangible experiences of grace in everyday life.

Grace is where we deserve punishment but we get mercy instead. In fact, grace begins with God. We deserve eternity separated from God, but God's love and grace allow for us to spend eternity with Him. It's our choice to accept God's gift of grace...but it is just that--a free gift that is not dependent on anything we do.

Once we accept God's grace, He gives us the opportunity to learn to give grace ourselves. I've come to call this "grace space" when it takes place within our family.

"Grace space" is giving a family member mercy instead of our anger. It's about allowing each other to be human and to make mistakes without being raked over the coals for every little thing we do wrong.

What does it look like in everyday life?

- When your husband forgets to do something he promised he would do, you respond with, "It's ok, honey. I know I sometimes forget, too."
- When your child spills a glass of milk at dinner, you respond with, "It's just a glass of milk. Let's get a rag and clean it up together."
- When your teenager accidentally backs the car into the side of the garage, you respond with, "It's ok, we all make mistakes. I'm just glad you're ok."

"Grace space" makes home a safe place to be. It makes family a safe place to make mistakes.

Do you need to learn to give "grace space?" It doesn't always come easy to me...but I'm slowly learning to more often respond with grace rather than react with anger.

Give some grace today...it will revolutionize your family, your marriage, and your home.

Joining you in the journey,

Jill

Wife of Mark

Mom to Anne, Evan, Erica, Kolya, and Austin

Nana to 18-month-old Rilyn

Lessons from a Houseplant

By Laura Sackett

I lifted the drooping houseplant off the shelf and sighed. Leaves wilted, dirt cracked and dry, my struggling plant was a perfect picture of what I felt like on the inside.

Maybe you can relate. As moms, we spend our energy and strength caring for those we love. Most of us know we need to pay attention to our physical needs. But we may not recognize that our minds, like the soil of a plant, also affect how we grow and flourish.

The stuff inside our heads can drain us of life without our even realizing it. Here are some strategies to press the delete button on unhealthy thoughts and habits:

Unplug. If we're not careful, Facebook, texting, TV, and the internet can shift our focus and mess with our priorities. Go against the culture and take a media break.

Invest in relationships. Busy moms often feel like we don't have time to develop relationships, but connecting with people makes life richer and can even reduce stress. If you are married, be sure to put your husband at the top of that list!

Laugh. The average child laughs up to four hundred times in one day, while adults only laugh ten to fifteen times a day. Let's not take ourselves so seriously!

Silence your inner critic. Maybe part of the reason we don't laugh enough is that we're too busy listening to the negative voices inside of us. We all have strengths and weaknesses, but for some reason most of us tend to focus on our flaws. Don't do it.

Stop comparing. Allow yourself the freedom to be who God created you to be. That mom who seems like she has it all together is human just like you. In fact, if you open up and share your struggles with her, you just might be on your way to one of those meaningful relationships mentioned earlier.



Soak yourself in the Truth. Our culture offers endless options for refreshment, but we were created to drink the water of God's Word. It has all the nourishment a mom needs.

I finally gave my poor, neglected plant a drink. Water flowed through the roots and leaves, restoring life and beauty. In the same way, God's love can flood our dry places and renew our minds.



Then, we will truly thrive.

**Hearts
at Home's mission is
to encourage, educate, and equip
every mom in every season of motherhood
using Christian values to strengthen families.**



**It's time to start putting your group together for
the 2012 Hearts at Home conferences!**



Registration opens in early December!

Michelle Duggar, Dr. Julianna Slattery, the Fly Lady, and dozens of workshops will enrich, encourage, and equip you to be the best mom you can be!

God's "Mom Revolution" Truth for You

"Love cares more for others than for self. Love doesn't want what it doesn't have. Love doesn't strut, doesn't have a swelled head, doesn't force itself on others, and isn't always "me first." Love doesn't fly off the handle, doesn't keep score of the sins of others, and doesn't revel when others grovel. Love takes pleasure in the flowering of truth, puts up with anything, trusts God always, always looks for the best, never looks back, but keeps going to the end."

1 Corinthians 13:3-7, The Message

Job Opportunity

Do you love knowing what to do and how to get it done in the most efficient way possible?

Have you been told you are detail-oriented, multi-talented, and a take-charge get-it-done kind of person?

If you have a great attitude, can multi-task with good time-management, and are looking for a part-time job, we need to talk!

Hearts at Home is looking for a part-time administrative assistant in our Bloomington office.



Interested?

You can find the job description [here](#)
and the application process [here](#)!

Volunteer opportunities are available, too!
You can find our volunteer opportunities [here](#)!

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