

# Helping Jesus Prepare Hearts for Harvesting

By Flo Hubbs,  
Director of PFOX

**W**hen I was a teenager, I would make extra money doing various things such as mowing lawns for people in my church.

My grandmother had a long-time farming friend. They'd cook together while the men worked in the fields. Later, they'd all eat at the same table. One year, the older husband asked my brother and me if we could clean up a bean field.

We had to cut thistles and lay them in the row. This placed them low enough to prevent the combine from getting clogged or sowing bad seed in the bean field.

When I think about this, Matthew 9:37 comes to mind: "The harvest is bountiful but the workers are few."

## Not an Easy Task

Our culture today has many weeds choking out the natural growth of God-ordained flourishing amid a field of souls that need liberating. As with thistles, weeding out lies from truth can be a very delicate process.

Parents have to convey truth in love. This isn't easy when children seek to disrupt the family's peace by being "out and loud." But it must be done. Love is the great solvent for any rusted-



closed relationship, and it doesn't mean ignoring what's right and wrong. Far from it.

Francis of Assisi gave this advice: "Preach the Gospel at all times. If necessary, use words." Sometimes, love is silent but quite evident. At other times, it must be spoken clearly and firmly.

God is more than able to transform our hearts, minds and behaviors. We are challenged to share the Gospel and to share our faith stories to proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord. Do the people who know you best know that Jesus is your Lord?

One of the leading questions we at PFOX hear is, "How can I fix my child,

who has bought into the whole pack of LGBTQ+ myths and lies?" The short answer is: Witness with your life.

When your child looks at you, what are they seeing? Here's a poem sent to PFOX years ago:

*YOUR LIFE is Jesus to someone,  
Though tattered and torn it may be.  
Though often times weak and unstable,  
You're all of God someone will see.*

*YOUR TONGUE is Jesus to someone.  
That idle, insensitive word  
Reflects to at least one searching heart  
An idle, insensitive Lord.*

*YOUR GOALS are Jesus to someone.  
What you put first, they believe  
Are the goals of God for the Christian.  
Your life is all they receive.*

*YOUR FAITHFULNESS . . .  
That's Jesus to someone.  
Their judgment of how God is true,  
Rests unquestionably in the faithfulness  
They see day by day in you.*

*YOUR LOVE is Jesus to someone,  
That someone who is seeking to know  
That Jesus will follow and guide and  
Befriend wherever in life they might go.*

*SO BEWARE lest others blaspheme  
God by what you say or do,  
For the only Jesus that someone knows  
Is the Jesus they see in you.*

~ Author Unknown

### **The Power of Truth**

Pretty convicting, eh? Jesus neither condemned nor condoned. He lovingly spoke truth into the situation. This can be hard. Trust that God is working even in bitterness your child displays toward you. Don't lose hope if your child wants nothing to do with you. They may shut you out of their lives but you don't have to surrender your household boundaries to your child's demands. Let your faith shine. God will help you do that!

Regina Griggs, our PFOX executive director who passed away in 2021, had a son in the lifestyle whom she never stopped loving. She wrote this:

"I knew I was not alone. I knew there must be thousands of parents and families like mine in need of support, whose lives had been affected by a loved one's SSA (Same sex Attraction). With support I began my personal healing. My husband and I have our feelings and past issues to work through. I learned I

cannot change anyone but myself. I had to learn to relinquish my son to God, for God is better equipped than I to take care of him."

Think of times God has been there in the past, even your own testimony of how you accepted Christ. Share this with your child. Over time he or she will



see the difference that God has made – the difference between what the world offers versus the incomparable love of Christ. He is the only one who can fill the empty hole in each of our hearts. When your child sees the difference in you, often he or she wants that peace and love that you have.

### **Patience Is Important**

Offer your child lots of genuine praise every chance you can. Remember, they

are extremely sensitive. Your comments can have a deep impact. Watch and be patient. It took your child time to develop SSA, so it may not go away in a week, month or year. Affirm steps along the way and daily turn your loved one over to God!

A good way to affirm your child is to write a letter sharing the things you most love about them. You can also spend time together, talking and listening and with appropriate physical touch, such as hugs. This may help your child gain a sense of value and belonging. Letting your child know they matter, are valuable, unique, accepted, cared for, enjoyed and loved is affirmation they need from you.

This is a spiritual battle. The enemy has a job – to kill, steal and destroy us. He has been at it for thousands of years. Keep praying for your loved one. Never give up. Don't buy into the "born gay" or "born in the wrong body" lie. God doesn't make mistakes.

### **Where to Get Help**

At PFOX, we know this can be a long, uncomfortable journey. You're by no means alone. Our website ([pfox.org](http://pfox.org)) has lots of helpful materials. And we offer a Parent Support Phone Conference call on the 2nd & 4th Mondays of each month and Zoom calls on the third Wednesday of each month. Email [info4pfox@gmail.com](mailto:info4pfox@gmail.com) for more info.

Thanks be to God for his patience and love for all of us.

And thanks for your support of PFOX.

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**Family & Friends Prayer List** | Joel, Lance, Mary Beth, Tom, Sean, Stan, Christopher, Lucas, Beth, Elaine, Joshua, Benjamin, Hampton, Cheryl, Stacy, Carol, Mattie, Nicole, David, Bob, Rose, Steve, Ronald, James, Madeline, Jesus, Rick, Gary, April, Maureen, Jen, Michael, Eric, Allen, Sara, Damon, Sam, Matthew, Deborah, Corey, James, Jeffery, Melanie, Stan, Brooke, Lisa, Emily, Tyler, Jim, Chad, Brett, Charles, Brian, Jerome, Pamela, Kelly, Tim, Roger, Gaetano, Christian, Judy, Michael, Monte, Gary, Karen, Hillary, Stephan, Brooke, Terri, Elise, Joseph, Vickie, Tricia, Paul, Bobby, Sandy, Brian, Larry, Alan, Christian Tom, Delores, Mark, Tara, Angela, Jessica, Dawn, Alicia, Jason, Frank, Paul, Edward, Maria, Mario, Michelle, Connor, Angela, Carl Jr., Marcus, Brandon, Gaylon, Edmond, Keshia, Shannon, Paige, Melissa, Donny, William, Wendall, Leno, Mandy, Andy, E., Erik, Lauren, Chris, Todd, Jayson, Carl III, Steve, Zachary, Kelly, Toby, Cody, Dylan, Wayne, Tom, Jeff, Walt, Cayce, Tim, David, Charles, Edward, Matt, Marc, Heather, Gary, Bill, John, Jeremy, Jen R, Cindy, Karen, Brian, Shellie, Pattie, Emily, Carrie, Alicia, Michelle, Bruce, Rebecca, Suhmin, Phil, Bryce, Ethan, Doug, Tom, Nick, Harold, Kent, Glenn, Rob and Heath, Angela, Julia, Wess, Christine, Catherine, Jeremy, Katie, David, Troy, Mike, Lisa, Bruce, James, Mary, Samantha, Victoria and Buddy, Christopher A., Jeramie C., Adam C., Christopher K., Perry N., Eric, Missy, Nathan, Michelle, Joe and Idario, Miranda Marie, Sarah, Seth and Rob, Kent, Tim.