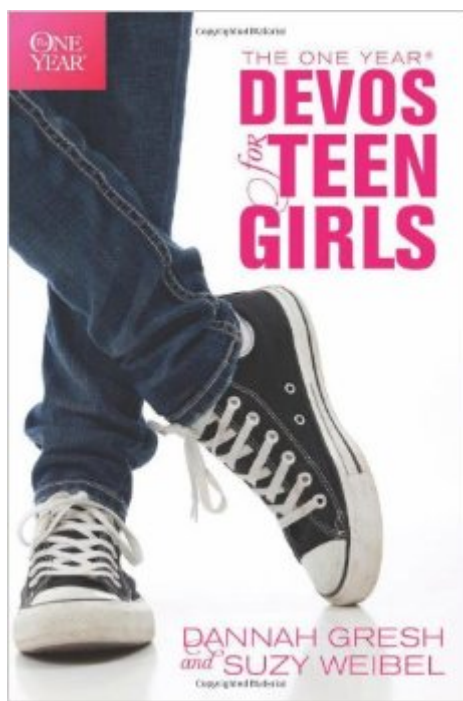


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The One Year Devos For Teen Girls



Synopsis

The One Year Devos for Teen Girls is a fresh new devotional just for teen girls by popular author Dannah Gresh. The subject matter is current and includes modern topics. The devotions often utilize social media such as viewing YouTube videos and dealing with Facebook. While the subject matter is modern, Gresh, in her solid big-sister fashion, points girls to the unchanging Word of God. She meets girls where they are and simply explains what God's Word says about the issue. The devotional reads like a handbook on living as a teen girl in today's society. Gresh doesn't shy away from controversial issues, but gives a biblical perspective on topics teens are sure to wonder about, such as sexuality, bullying, self-worth, church issues, hypocrisy, and Facebook. Gresh writes the devotional with Suzy Weibel, the wife of her pastor.

Book Information

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Age Range: 12 - 18 years

Grade Level: 7 - 12

Customer Reviews

I chose to review "The One Year Devos for Teen Girls" by Dannah Gresh and Suzy Weibel for a couple of reasons. First, I work with a pre-teen/teen girls discipleship group called Bright Lights. At the moment I am responsible for mentoring around 30 girls and I thought that I'd love to be able to recommend a good devotional to them. Though I have never read Dannah Gresh's work I know it is well recognized and praised within the Christian community and I wanted to see what she had to

offer. Additionally, I hoped to be able to use this devo as a jumping off point or for illustrations in my BL lessons. Each devotional is set up on a single page and includes a header, single scripture verse, and a large several paragraphed section of commentary followed by a small "Action Point" for the girl to put into practice what she learned that day. The format is easy to follow and is easily read and finished in 5-10 minutes depending on the reader. As stated in the title of the book this is a One Year devotional and thus there are entries for every day of the year (excluding leap year). As I began reading through this book I soon grabbed a pad of sticky note flags and started marking up my book! I had pink flags for excellent, Biblically sound, entries; purple for ones that I would use with my BL girls; and yellow for ones that set off cautions in my mind. I did not mark every passage- just the ones that really stood out to me as I read. By the time I was done I took a look at what I had and thought it really was a mixed bag. In this devotional there are some really great spiritual insights, and entries that are great teaching tools. However, there are also some things that shocked me! Especially as this book is aimed at 12 years old and up! (Per). Perhaps I shouldn't be shocked, after all the introduction does tell you that the topics were gleaned from 100 college girls that they contacted and asked what as younger teens did they most want/need to know or have addressed. The thing is that they have ended up with numerous entries discussing topics that I would never find appropriate to discuss with the girls I mentor. In these discussions I really felt like the authors missed the mark. I felt like they were trying to answer the World and throw a Christian 'spin' on something instead of showing from Scripture the Biblical standard and encouraging girls to rise to meet it. Some of the most objectionable entries are found in the May and July portions of the book and include topics on how much touching is ok in a boyfriend/girlfriend relationship, oral sex (!), pornography, and an entry on homosexuality that I found truly troubling as it begins- and immediately ends- the discussion with 'science' and not the Bible. Another entry I had trouble with is from March 22 and discusses "Is Eating Meat Okay?" the authors argument is misleading as she uses 1 Corinthians 8 (which speaks on meat offered to idols) to give vegetarianism preference. The Action Point for this entry encourages girls to try a vegetarian diet for a month or more! Maybe I'm old fashioned but it is my opinion that a child living in their parent's home should not be dictating the menu or placing financial strains on the family budget but be thankful for whatever is served. On the flip side when the book is good it's really good! I enjoyed the entries on widows (3/15), where are the real men (7/24), lying in friendships (9/5), and even the entry on gendercide (9/25) that helps to expose the terrible and tragic realities of the world around us. In the end, every parent is responsible for the discipleship of their own daughter. If you pick this book up and give it to your girl as an easy check mark then you are doing your daughter a great disservice. If you pick it up and read

every passage before hand and believe that the topics contained therein are good for your daughter- and discussion that you are willing to keep on top of- then go ahead. For me the standard has to be drawn at 'could I hand this out to the girls I mentor?' For me the answer was an absolute no. While I can see myself using portions as lesson points, as a whole I know that it would not meet the standard of the parents that I partner with in the important task of drawing their girls to Christ.

Rating: 2 I received a copy of this book from the publisher in exchange for an honest review and opinion of the product.

My first qualm with this book is that I don't think there is enough focus on God. It's supposed to be a devotional, and while the entries begin with a Bible verse, and often refer to God, the focus of the book seems to be entirely on external behaviors such as how to act in boy-girl relationships, how to handle Facebook, how to handle problems at school, etc. There's certainly a place for that, but as a book aimed toward teen girls who are at a stage where they are hopefully maturing into a more adult relationship with God, coming into a better understanding of theology and/or questioning their faith, I would have hoped for something that dealt more with focusing on God and becoming better able to discern for yourself what is right and wrong. Instead, this just straight up tells girls they should do things like avoid cussing and making sure you don't watch the wrong movies or listen to the wrong music, which are rather superficial goals until they have a solid, personally thought through reasoning behind them.

One of my other major problems with this book is how it discusses romantic relationships and sex. I'm fine with the authors' basic assertion that young women should wait for marriage to have sex, but I really dislike the way they argue that point. They basically talk like girls are commodities that become used up, which is not all that unusual to hear about sex, but they even take it a step further by saying that this will happen just by dating. For example, in one entry the authors compare girls to pieces of cake and say "Every time you date someone, you offer a little piece of that cake to the guy you are entrusting with your heart." The tried and true "why buy the cow" cliché was also brought out at one point. I absolutely despise it when people talk like this. People are not commodities to be used up. There's a very solid argument to be made for waiting until marriage, but this isn't it. This kind of thinking causes all kinds of problems. Are girls really supposed to feel like they're being bad Christians because they went to the prom or out to dinner with a boy they liked? If so, you're going to have some rather innocent, sheltered girls feeling guilty and confused. Don't tell young women that they and/or people they know are "used goods" because they've dated, or even had sex. That's ridiculous, it's a horrible message, and for that reason alone I would never recommend this book.

Another qualm I have about the book is its stance toward

authority figures. This book comes close to saying that those in authority should never be challenged. I wish there had been at least a little bit of nuance to this. I would definitely say there needs to be an understanding that everyone, even those in positions of authority, are human and make mistakes, and that there will be many times you disagree with them when the gracious thing to do is let it slide. However, on occasions where it's truly warranted, there is something to be said for standing up for what's right. The tricky thing is figuring out when it's truly warranted. That's a difficult lesson to teach, but one of the most important ones young people need to learn. Telling teens that they should go along with authority no matter what is the easy way out, and it's potentially dangerous. One final caveat: It's a horrible reality of our world that many young women are taken advantage of and assaulted in their childhood, teenage and young adult years. What is a young girl to do when the person harming her is an authority figure (and it often is) and all she's heard all her life is to submit unquestioningly to authority, no caveats allowed? On a more minor point, the book hit on a personal pet peeve of mine when one of the authors said one of her favorite pieces of literature was Arthur Miller's "The Crucible" (it's one of mine too, incidentally), and then claimed it was basically historically accurate. It's not--Miller states explicitly in his preface to the play that it doesn't remain true to historical detail and wasn't meant to.

I was given a copy of this book from Tyndale House Publishers for review. All opinions are my own. Reading through the book myself, I was surprised at some of the topics discussed. I really feel like this book is geared toward older teens who are in the public school system. My children are homeschooled, and a lot of these issues we do not have to deal with, at least for the moment. My daughter is a younger teen, and I feel like some of these topics are over her head. I would not describe myself as a prude by any means, but I was really surprised at how bold the devotions about sex were. I did not allow my daughter to read those particular devotions, but I may later on. The age range says 12+, but I don't know any 12 year-olds who need to know this much about sex. It is very modern in terms of speech and easy to understand. If you're a more mainstream family, you'll probably like this devotional for your daughter. It really doesn't fit into our family dynamic at all.

Purchased as a gift for our great-niece as she approaches her Confirmation (my good wife is her sponsor). Selected by my wife after checking out several similar books (she always does her research), our niece seemed very happy with it. Arrived on-time and in perfect condition. Thank you.

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