

ASK INA:



Responses to Your Most Heartfelt Questions

Dear Ina,

I am concerned about my children and especially my 12 year old daughter. She doesn't talk a lot when she comes to visit. Even on the phone, she seems in a hurry to get off. I believe she is holding in a lot of feelings. I have a two year sentence and feel so guilty that I can not be there for her as well as my younger children.. They need me. Is there anything I can do to help them while I am serving my time? I have rededicated my life to Jesus and feel a peace and have a hope for the future. I would love my children to know the hope Jesus will bring them.

A concerned Mom

Dear Concerned Mom,

It's so hard to be a way from our children especially when they are going through such a vulnerable time of their life. Your uneasy feeling is well founded and also a concern of many moms at our institution.

For those moms that are in communication with their children, God has given you a special responsibility. That's right. You have a chance to share the Word of God with

your children and the message of forgiveness, love and hope that Jesus died on the cross to give us..

Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to show you *creative and fun ways* to help.

Here are a few suggestions:

1. Do a Bible study together and discuss what it means to each of you.
2. Make up songs together from Scripture verses.
3. Pick out a Scripture verse together... pray and ask God to help both of you use the verse in your daily life that week. Then the next time you talk to each other, check in and see how you are doing.

If one or both of you didn't do

much, be gentle with one another.. building new, godly habits takes practice and time.

Do not blame it on the devil...

Keep striving to come up higher...

KEEP PRESSING ON TOWARD THE GOAL!

Verses to consider using:

Philippians 2:14, James 1:19, Romans 12:14, Romans 12:21 Luke 6:37, 38, Luke 22:46, Ecclesiastes 7:9, James 4:7,8

Dear Ina,

Can I be honest? I am struggling with obeying authority. My mouth keeps getting me into trouble. I see an officier treat a lady in my dorm unfairly and I find myself speaking to others about how

wrong this officier treated her. I spent a lot of time repeating, to as many who would listen, about the injustice. The next thing I know it, I am in "lock" for talking back. I am a believer in Jesus...why do these things keep happening to me?

Will things ever get better for me?

Feeling stuck

Dear Feeling Stuck,

Yes, we are all human and works in progress, even our Officers. But whether they are right or wrong in how they handle a situation, the Bible says we are to respect authority even when we disagree. In fact, we are to pray for those who we disagree with and wait on God to handle things. Our God judges righteously and will right the wrong.

Meanwhile, we all need to ask God to put a guard over our mouths. If you keep talking about the injustice instead of staying quiet and praying for the officier, it is only a matter of time when the wrong words and hostile attitude will automaticly pour out of your mouth. Be careful what you fill your mind with.

If you think on good things, more good will happen to you.

Make a decision to not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good. Keep asking God how you can help be an encourager. Stay humble and wait on God to handle things.

WANT TO ASK INA?

Send your questions to:

RTM - ASK INA

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Due to heavy mail volume, we may be unable to respond to every question. Your question, with an answer from Ina, may appear in future monthly mailings.