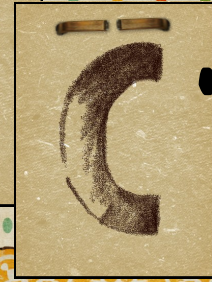
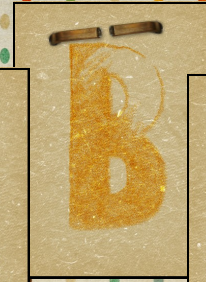




The



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"A must read and follow!"

-USA Today

"Praise for taking a slow-moving, realistic approach to intimate relationships."

-New York Post

"The timing is flawless"

-People

of



a primer for  
human relationships

Dedicated to  
Virtuous young women  
everywhere,  
especially you



"Give me a young woman who is virtuous  
and who has maintained her personal  
purity, who will not settle for anything  
less than a temple marriage, and I will  
give you a young woman who will perform miracles  
for the Lord now and throughout eternity."

—President Ezra Taft Benson

"To be entrusted with the power  
to create life carries with it the greatest  
of joys and dangerous temptations. The  
gift of mortal life and the capacity to kindle other  
lives is a supernal blessing. Through the righteous ex-  
ercise of this power, as in nothing else, we may come  
close to our Father in Heaven and experience a full-  
ness of joy. This power is not an incidental part of  
the plan of happiness. It is the key—

the very key"

—Boyd K. Packer






"In a media-saturated world, we sometimes give too much heed to the outward appearances and the outward signs of happiness. By so doing, we think we will be happy and confident. But to follow the Savior's example of virtue is happiness. It is freedom, it is strength and it is power. And the only sure confidence comes when we let virtue, meaning chastity and sexual purity, garnish our thoughts unceasingly.

Then we are promised the guidance and constant companionship of the Holy Ghost. With this companionship and guidance we can go forward with strength and confidence and power derived from the Source of all power. We become confident and have the assurance that we are doing the right thing. Our personal virtue enables us to receive the ordinances and make the covenants in the temple. In so doing, we are "endowed with power from on high." This strength, power, and confidence are something the world does not yet comprehend." -Elaine S. Dalton



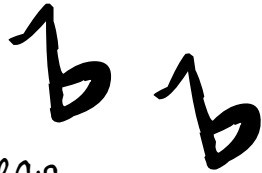
**Physical  
relationships  
are like  
learning to  
sing the  
ABC's**





Remember how exciting it was when you learned to sing your ABC's? Learning each new letter all by itself was hard enough. Trying to put them all together into one beautiful harmony seemed almost impossible. But you did it! you started with a little "A-B-C" and practiced until you had that down pat. And when the time was right, you moved on to more complicated letters like the whole "L-m-N-O-P" thing. Finally, that magical day came when you reached "x-y-z", the perfect ending to this delightful song.

Physical relationships are much like the process of singing the ABC's. There is an awkward beginning, a confusing middle and a beautiful ending. Learning to correctly sing the ABC's of human intimacy will be an accomplishment you will be forever proud of.



"After high school (and a mission, for a young man), if young adults become emotionally intimate and naturally desire physical intimacy, they are in a position to do something about it: they could get married. But if teens become emotionally intimate and naturally desire physical intimacy, they can't do anything about it. They're not in a position to marry, so they either break the law of chastity or break one another's hearts by ending the relationship."

"We, the First Presidency and the Council of the Twelve Apostles of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, solemnly proclaim that marriage between a man and a woman is ordained of God and that the family is central to the Creator's plan for the eternal destiny of His children."

-The Family: A Proclamation  
to the World



"How wonderful and beautiful physical intimacy can be when it happens within the bounds the Lord has set, including temple covenants and commitments of eternal marriage." —m Russell Ballard

"When you are young, do not get involved in steady dating. When you reach an age where you think of marriage, then is the time to become so involved. But you boys who are in high school don't need this, and neither do the girls."

—Gordon B. Hinckley



When you start out singing the ABC's the point is to get to "x-y-z". That's where you are supposed to go, the whole purpose of singing the song anyway. You never stop short and just end the song on "T-U-V-w....."! The suspense would almost kill you! And in the same sense, starting at "Q-R-S" seems just wrong! The only right and proper way to sing the alphabet is to start slowly at "A-B-C" and work your way through each of the letters until you reach "x-y-z" at the proper time and in the proper way. Human relationships are much the same. We start forming relationships at point "A" and there is a natural progression of our emotional and physical commitment. The ultimate culmination of our efforts is to land us at point "x" where we can exercise the God-given gift to create life. This is part of God's plan for us.

ABC →

Awareness, this is how it all starts. Remember when you first knew you liked a boy and he liked you? Take it slow and savor this moment. No need to move on too fast. Just being By him is enough. Just Chat!

EFG →

Learn to Express yourself. Talk, don't just text. Become Friends. Group dating is great!

LMNOP →

This is where emotions get complicated and things start moving quickly. Love, and Passion start emerging.

QRS →

Now is the time for Questions and Serious discussions about things that really matter. Are you ready to make an eternal commitment to this person?

TUV →

Temple covenants and solemn Vows are made sanctifying this Union which will last for eternity.

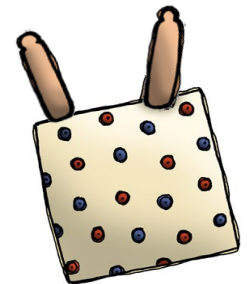
XYZ →

Within the bonds of marriage, the eXpression of the deepest of all human Yearnings brings sweet peace and great joy with Zero regrets.

never dream of. She knew she was valuable to the Master and this household.

And then one day, as she went about serving in her quiet and unassuming way, she met him—her other half. It was in a place and time when she hadn't even been looking for him...but it was right. Of that she was sure. Happily, they joined themselves together, never to be separated again. She found herself enjoying blessings unheard of as she took her rightful place on the highest of all clotheslines. Together they continued to serve the Master, caring for those things with which they had been entrusted. Gratitude for her Creator overwhelmed her as she enjoyed the full measure of her creation. She was, after all, a Clothespin of God.

THE END

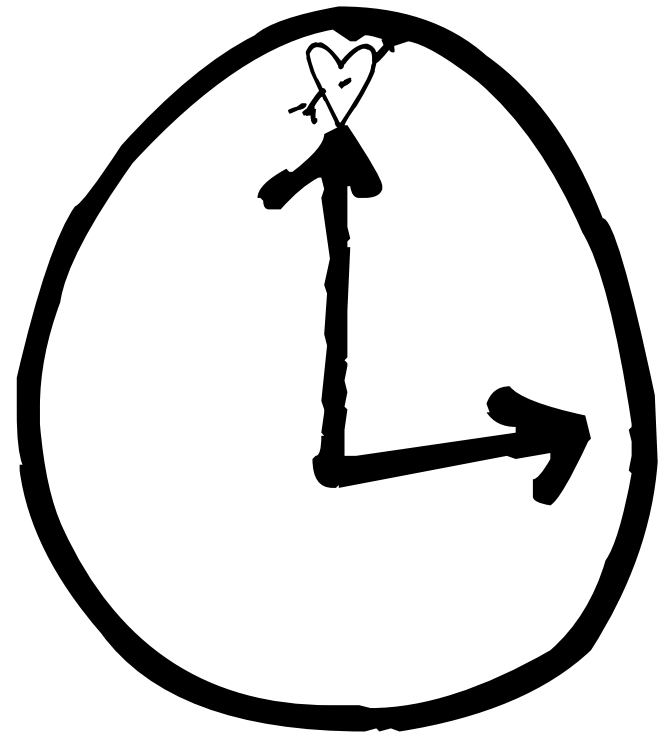


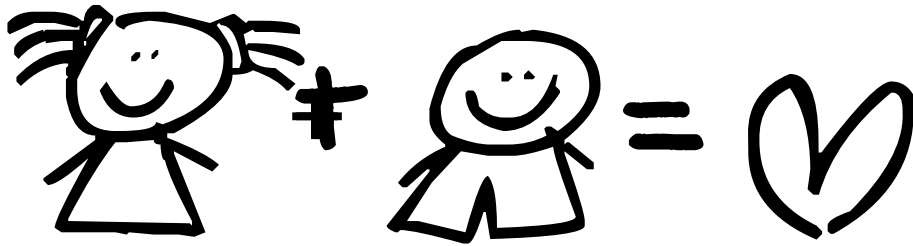
grow. She held them up, encouraging them, until the Master Gardner was able to provide a permanent support for the tender young plants. A lover of learning, she could often be found amongst the books lining the walls of the library. On one particular day, the Master Teacher reached for her to point out to his young students the lessons she taught. She proudly pointed the way for their young minds to develop, showing them the most important points and most fundamental truths. In the hands of the Master, she felt as though she could teach them all things, pointing the way and directing their learning.

Through each of these experiences, and many more, she became refined; her rough edges were softened, her stiff-necked hinges became submissive and pliable through patient testing and use. And most importantly, she came to really know herself and all that she was capable of, things a young clothespin would



**It's all about  
the timing!**





you are meant to sing this song but it is all about the timing. It is very hard to sing the alphabet backwards and once you have experienced certain letters, it can be difficult to go back to "A-B-C" again. It is also hard to stay in the heat of "L-M-N-O-P" for very long without the ability to make serious commitments. This is why the Lord has set standards to ensure that you don't go too far, too fast. you shouldn't even start singing the song until you are 16. In your teenage years make sure you stay in the "E-F-G" range of the alphabet. Save the "L-M-N-O-P" for after high school and missions. Then, when you get to the "Q-R-S" stage you will be ready to enter the temple and make covenants that will make the "x-y-z" part rewarding instead of regrettable.

dering and caring for the fine linens and cherished belongings of her Maker. But without her other half, she was unable to fulfill this inherent and most sacred duty. All by herself, she could not even hold up a simple dishcloth, let alone the treasured belongings of her Master.

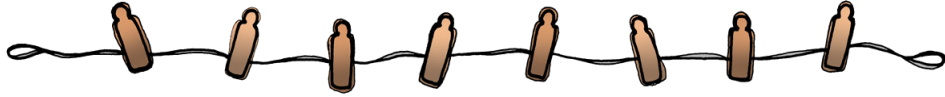
She did not let this get her down, however. She knew she was of worth all by herself, just as she was. She would simply need to find different ways to be of service until the time came for her to be united with her other half. She took advantage of the opportunities that came her way. Once, she wedged herself between the doorjamb and the heavy wooden door of the mansion to keep it open so others could enter and partake of the bounties within. In the early spring, she found herself in the garden where tender new vines were just emerging from the soil. She planted herself next to these most fragile of seedlings and provided a support for them as they began to





# The Parable of the CLOTHESPIN

By Diane R. Stumpf



Once upon a time, there was a clothespin, a very cute and adorable clothespin. She was well groomed and shapely but there was a part of her that was missing—in fact, her other half. Even though she was just a part of a clothespin, she knew she was born to be a clothespin. That was the way her Maker had designed her. She was shaped and molded to be the perfect half of a clothespin. It was her calling in life. She was made to uphold the laundry and keep it from being soiled by the dirt that filled the world. She was to help hold things together that otherwise might fall apart. She had a vital role to play in the important process of laun—



Learn to be  
thankful for  
every letter of  
this amazing  
alphabet!





The story is told of a little boy who was asked to pray in his Primary class. His sweet prayer started out with "Dear Heavenly Father...Thank you for the letter "A".....Thank you for the letter "B".....Thank you for the letter "C"....." At this point the teacher thought about intervening but decided to let the little boy carry on with his prayer. And continue he did, right through the entire alphabet, giving thanks for each and every letter. As you begin to sing the alphabet of love, remember to enjoy and be thankful for each and every letter as well. I know it can seem like some letters are way more exciting than others and sometimes you can be in a hurry to get past all those seemingly boring letters in the beginning and move on to the more exciting parts. But this will hinder and limit your ability to fully enjoy the wonders of some of those letters. Imagine trying to carry on a conversation with someone if the only letters you could use consisted of "w-x-y & z". It would get very boring, very fast. Instead, make your relationship vocabulary rich and varied, experiencing every letter to its fullest so that you can learn to appropriately and beautifully express yourself to the one you will come to love forever.



**Never forget  
your infinite  
worth as a  
daughter of  
God!**

