



## POSSIBLE SPEAKING TOPICS FOR JILL

### ***For Parents***

#### ***How Come I Was So Nice Before I Had Kids?***

*Most requested topic! An exploration of the changes motherhood brings and the anger we never expected to erupt in our storybook lives. Are you the only one who feels like Mommie Dearest? Or is it normal? Can patterns change it before it's too late? An honest look at anger management for parents in the trenches.*

#### ***Happily Ever After***

*Recapturing our children's imagination in a video age. Are we losing that spark of creativity in this generation? What's bad about that? How can you combat the trend when everything around your child aims to turn him into a button pushing pint-sized zombie? Practical plans for fostering imagination.*

#### ***All Stressed Up and No Place to Go***

*Having a hospitable home at all times, even though Martha doesn't live there and your kids definitely do. What does it mean to be hospitable? Does it look like the cover of a magazine, or does it look like something far better? Especially requested during the holidays.*

#### ***Chicken, Soy, Rice, and Making Disciples***

*Can toddlers serve God? Why would we make the effort, given that just getting them to church is like training for Ironman? Serving with our children, at any age, isn't just about doing good. It's about creating little disciples who will love God and others naturally, daily. Jill outlines reasons, benefits, and practical how-to's for making serving with kids a priority.*

#### ***Don't Spank Your Kids in Canada (and Other Insights into Family Travel)***

*With experience in travel writing, I spend a lot of time planning and executing the perfect family vacation. Which doesn't exist. How to: travel with kids and sanity intact, plan for all ages, take the dream trip you didn't think you could afford, and volunteer together on vacation.*

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## **For Church Groups and Retreats**

### ***I've Got a Gun in My Garage, a Sword in My Car, and a Body in My Freezer-- Life Lessons from Community Theater***

*Life is full of improvising, creating something out of nothing, getting out there ready or not, and helping others take the lead. A humorous look at what I have learned through ten years leading community theater. **This topic has been expanded and used in three and four day retreats, specifically to teach about ministry adaptability in changing times.***

### ***Surrender Isn't for Sissies***

*Why is surrender a bad word in our society? How does that make it difficult for us to surrender everything to God? What does a surrendered life look like? While American culture tells us waving the white flag is for cowards, personal surrender to God's desires is the ultimate act of courage and rebellion. It makes us more peaceful, grace-filled, honest, and ready to take on anything. **This is a three or four part retreat series.***

### ***Perfect Is the Enemy of Good Enough***

*Are you exhausted by living amid the cult of excellence? Convinced that anything less than 110% is a failure? Scared that making mistakes means you are a failure? Or do you have the subversive suspicion that, sometimes, good enough really is good enough? What about the dangers our perfectionism deals to our kids? Follow me with steps to 'recovery' of your life. Tailored to meet the needs of individuals stressed by perfection or parents wanting to free their families from its cultural pressure.*

### ***The Little Engine that Can't***

*Do you believe God uses only the brightest and the best? If you don't, do you still act like you believe it? Have you ever said, "God won't use me because I'm not \_\_\_\_\_"? God's cast of useful characters includes some pretty shady ones, as well as some that seem totally insignificant. Do you dare to live the dream He has for you, too? **This talk can be crafted into a women's Christmas event featuring the women in Jesus' genealogy.***

### ***Is Grace Really Amazing?***

*What is grace--really? What does it look like with hands and feet? Does it extend to **anything** you've done? Can God help you extend it to others? Is it meant to be experienced only when we come to Christ? Grace is something we live in daily, allowing us to become free men and women ready to show our world that the Kingdom of God is here, now, in a way that attracts notice. Christianity is unique among world religions in its emphasis on grace. Why is that so important, and what difference does it make to you?*

## **Worship--a Hands (and Feet) on Experience**

*If you want to hear all about how to have a better children's church program, well, this isn't it. But--if you want to hear about the magic that happens when we worship with children, embrace them into the adult community, and give them the tools to worship in their ways, then get excited. How, and why, should we make our worship more intergenerational?*

## **Hobbits, Dragons, and Your Own Epic Kingdom Story**

*Based on Jill's book, Hobbits, You, and the Spiritual World of Middle-earth. What makes epic stories epic? What are people looking for when they pick up an epic fantasy, and how can we channel those longings into Kingdom purposes? How can we learn from the stories others tell how to make our own lives they story they were meant to be? **Suitable for youth group events.***

## **Writing**

### **So You Think You Can Write**

*Of course you can. Anyone can make his or her writing more interesting, fun, and, maybe, even publishable. What does it take to bring your creations from booring to A+? A hands-on look at some basic tools of good writing that anyone, age 10-110, can use to get to the head of the class.*

### **Writing with the Stars**

*How does a person go from writing down her thoughts in a journal or on a computer to seeing her name on the cover of a book? (Or in the credits for an e-book?) Jill's journey from procrastination to publication and the nuts and bolts of how you might take that journey as well.*

### **Writing Memories**

*Busy moms don't have time to write down family memories. Witness the empty baby books that come with every third child. That's what I thought, until I uncovered two tins of photos left by my mother, full of memories that died with her that I will never know. What time-friendly techniques can we use to make sure our families remember the little things that really matter?*

**What topic would you like to hear? What is your retreat theme?  
Jill is open to your ideas and hopes for your event.**





