

CHRISTIAN MONEY \$ENSE

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Switching Places

Lisa Konzelman

The Walt Disney movie, “Freaky Friday,” is the story of a mother and daughter who are switched with each other for two days after eating a “special” fortune cookie. The mother has the teenage daughter’s personality, habits, speech, etc., and the daughter now acts, talks, and thinks like her mother. While this is a scary prospect for most parents and teenagers, the life lessons learned through the experience give the mother and her daughter a greater appreciation for each other. One of the funniest and most revealing moments is to watch how each of them spends money!

As the mother of two daughters (one a teenager and one approaching her mid-twenties), I see very readily how each of my daughter’s spends her money. If I were to begin to wonder about that, “What if each of them were to switch places with me for two days,” I’d have to ask, “What would they learn about my heart and my thought processes as it relates to how I choose to spend my money?”

Actually, our children don’t have to switch places with us to know where our priorities are. We tell them every day through the choices we make! Sometimes parents feel conflicted about how much personal financial information they should share with their children. When you share with your children the joy of giving, and they see you giving of your resources faithfully, you have sent them a powerful message about your financial priorities. You’ve told them about your compassion and your desire to further the

kingdom of Christ through ministries that align with your heart and passions. The next time you write a check to your church, a Christian ministry or organization, or to a Christian college, share with your children why you give and about the joy of giving. You’re passing on to them a rich legacy that they will want to emulate in their adult lives. This lives out before them the truth of Acts 20:35, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.”

There will always be material things our children will watch us purchase and enjoy. But, they shouldn’t have to switch places with us to figure out our eternal values as we spend our money. Some of the best conversations I’ve had with my children have been about finances and the joy of tithing, supporting missionaries, readily giving to friends in need, and giving to our alma mater—Baptist Bible College. Enjoy the blessing of these conversations and be relieved—switching places with your teenager is really not a possibility!

BBC Foundation has been ministering to churches and individuals regarding biblical stewardship since 1992. Send your questions on finances and stewardship to: BBC Foundation, 538 Venard Rd., Clarks Summit, PA 18411. Phone: (800) 451-8668, website: bbcfoundation.org; e-mail: info@bbcfoundation.org