

## JULIE'S STORY-GLIMPSES OF GOD IN EVERYDAY LIFE

# Wanderlust



### SCRIPTURE STUDY

Proverbs 17:24  
Proverbs 15:20  
Proverbs 4:1-6

### WALKING ON THE WILD SIDE

Shortly after two sweltering summers of diaper rash, the cool breezes of autumn began to blow. Brightly colored leaves crunched beneath my chubby toes and wisps of fireplace smoke filled the air. The fall of my second year brought with it an insatiable curiosity and a profound lack of good judgment. I contracted a severe case of wanderlust.

I no longer was content to remain sequestered indoors. Oh no! The world and all therein was mine for the taking. My toddler years were not easy for my parents. I discovered early-on that Clorox bleach was not a good chaser for orange juice, and that sticking my fist down the throat of a large Dalmatian was not a brilliant idea. Electrical outlets and bobby pins also held a strange allure.

One fall day, I was feeling particularly feisty. After pulling the grape jelly jar off the breakfast table, using Mommy's lipstick as a paint brush to decorate the bathtub and filling Daddy's shoes with toilet paper, my sainted mother went on strike. She retreated to the sanctuary of her bedroom and phoned my Daddy to commiserate.

Unbeknownst to her, I smelled the scent of snickerdoodles wafting from the kitchen window across the street. I vaguely recalled meeting the cookie lady before, and she always offered me goodies to munch.

Throwing caution to the wind, I tiptoed out the front door, (I was very clever with locks), and made a beeline to cross the street. Never mind that there were two lanes of traffic whizzing by. I was led by my nose toward that glorious aroma.

### PRAYER FOCUS

Dear Jesus,  
Help me to follow wise counsel  
and listen to those who are more  
mature in the faith. Give me  
discernment and patience.  
In Jesus' Name,  
Amen

In the twinkling of an eye, yea, in a nano-second, I heard a blood-curdling scream from my Mom. She raced to my side, shoved me under her arm like a football and marched me to jail. Parents called them playpens, but we toddlers knew the truth. I had been sentenced to solitary confinement with a ball and a rattle. No cookies for me!

My venture toward the precipice of a concrete cusp was one of my earliest recollections, and one of my most important life lessons. Pushing the envelope, living on the edge has a price. When you throw caution to the wind, you can easily become road-kill.

And, by the way, Mommy knows best.  
And so does your Heavenly Father.

“A discerning man keeps wisdom in view, but a fool's eyes wander to the ends of the earth.” Proverbs 17:24

“Sensible children bring joy to their father; foolish children despise their mother.” Proverbs 15:20

“Listen, my sons, to a father's instruction; pay attention and gain understanding.

I give you sound learning, so do not forsake my teaching. When I was a child in my father's house, still tender, and an only child of my mother, he taught me and said, ‘Lay hold of my words with all your heart; keep my commands and you will live. Get wisdom, get understanding; do not forget my words or swerve from them.

Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you; love her, and she will watch over you.’” Proverbs 4:1-6

- When we are spiritual children, young in the faith, we can make many foolish choices. What are some ways we can place ourselves in harm's way?
  
- What good advice did you receive from your earthly parents? How has it impacted you?
  
- Proverbs 17:24 describes the foolish person as having “wandering eyes.” How can wandering eyes get us into trouble. How would you define discernment? What would that look like in your life?
  
- Read Proverbs 15:20 carefully. Contrast sensible and foolish children. How do sensible and foolish children interact with their parents? How do our sensible or foolish attitudes and choices impact our relationship with our Heavenly Father?
  
- Read Proverbs 4:1-6. Circle all the verbs in these verses. How would you define each one, and how would obeying Solomon's counsel bless your life?