
Welcome to KINDNESS Matters!

From KIND Families <kari@kariabaker.com>

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To Kari Baker <kari@kariabaker.com>



KIND = Kids with Invisible Neurological Differences

"But our bodies have many parts, and God has put each part just where he wants it. In fact, some parts of the body that seem weakest and least important are actually the most necessary." 1 Corinthians 12:18,22 NLT

Welcome to the inaugural edition of ***KINDNESS Matters***, a new monthly magazine to keep you up to date on KIND Families impact and outreach!

The Why Behind *KINDNESS Matters*: The KIND Families vision is for KIND kids to believe they are fearfully and wonderfully made, for parents and families to be seen and supported, and for churches and schools to recognize God's Kingdom purpose in KINDness. This newsletter is intended to foster awareness, create connection, and equip you to help us realize our vision. I know your inbox is more crowded than the pickup line at school on a half day, so I promise to keep these messages short, with three key themes:

KIND REWIND: Happenings from the previous month or flashbacks to milestones.

KIND MASTERMIND: Tips and tools for those raising, teaching, and discipling KIND kids.

KIND FINDS: Introductions to people, products, or resources supporting the KIND vision.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY KIND FAMILIES!



Make a Difference as a KIND Partner!

This picture from March 31, 2023 marked the last day of my career as a financial advisor. The next day, KIND Families was officially born! The last three years have been the most rewarding of my professional life. By God's will I wrote and published *Finding KIND* (available [here](#)) recorded dozens of podcast episodes (listen [here](#)) and was honored to speak at many churches, schools, and conferences. I also took the honor (or dishonor) of becoming the shortest in my family.

Looking forward, KIND Families is pursuing several bigger, bolder, and more impactful initiatives to spread the KIND word to more families, schools and churches. 1. 🎧 Launch the ***Finding KIND*** audiobook to increase accessibility for busy special needs parents. 2. 📺 Develop a comprehensive digital curriculum for churches and Christian schools to better support KIND kids. 3. 📖 Publish a follow-up book, Bible study and devotional. 4. 🗣️ Expand national speaking and conference partnerships .

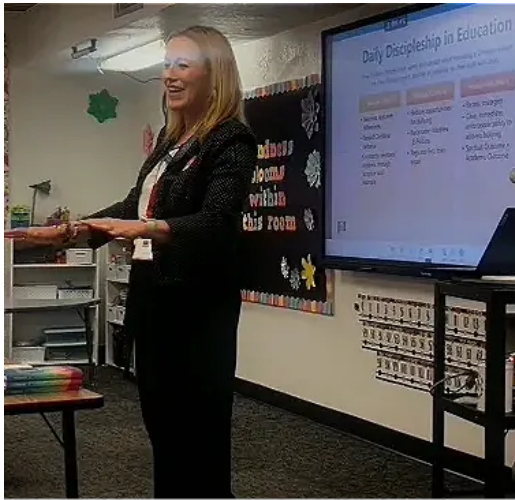
If you would like to partner with me in this important mission, check out this [investor slide deck](#) or reply to this email!

KIND IN THE CLASSROOM

In February, I was honored to host a breakout session at the Arizona Christian Schools Conference, where I challenged teachers and administrators to recognize that the experience KIND kids have in Christian education systems can positively or negatively impact their lifelong walk with Jesus. I shared my perspective on the importance of preparing kids not just for this life, but for eternity, and how to use scriptural foundations to reinforce a sense of identity and belonging.

In March, I had the exciting opportunity to address future teachers from the Grand Canyon University College of Education at the AZ Inclusion Conference. I advocated for a "Whole Child" approach to teaching, along with specific strategies to help nurture strengths and support challenges in the classroom.

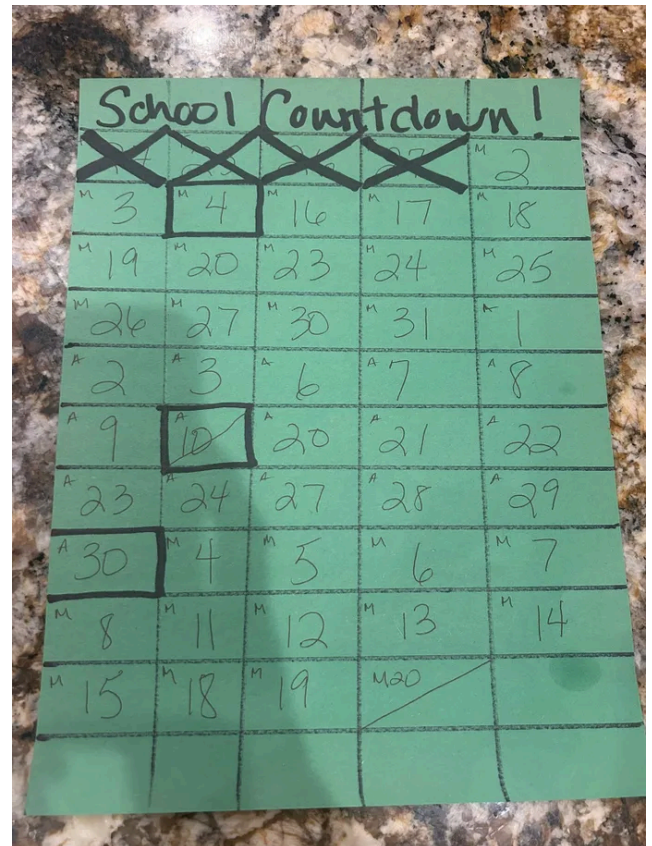
Do you know a school looking for some KIND direction? I'd love to help! Just reply to this email to start a conversation.



KIND REMINDERS

As a KIND mom for nearly 12 years, you would think I would have all my parenting tools on speed recall, but sometimes I suffer from situational amnesia. For instance, this semester Brady is struggling at school and is desperate for summer vacation to arrive. I've been reminding him it's "only three months" away, or just "12 more weeks", but naming the time frame wasn't helping. Finally I remembered one of the lessons from our earliest parent training sessions: Brady can't conceptualize the amount of time between an unpreferred activity ending and the next preferred activity beginning. To him, this school year (an unpreferred activity for sure,) will last the rest of his life.

So, I went back to my autism mom's toolbox and created a visual schedule for him to see the progress he is making toward the goal. This simple countdown sheet has relieved much of his anxiety, and he enjoys crossing off each day in dramatic fashion when he gets home from school!



It was a KIND reminder to me that Brady may be older, but we can still use the strategies of yesterday to meet today's need.

NEW BLOG POST IS LIVE!

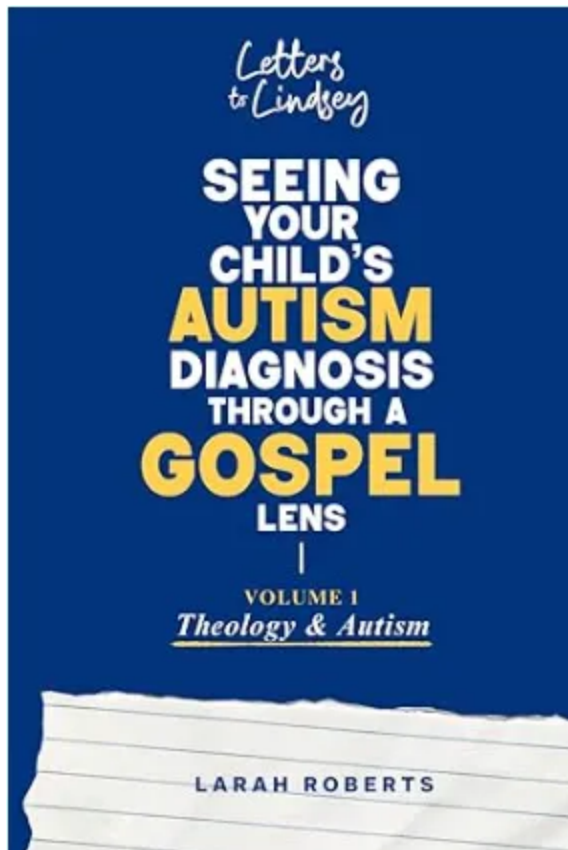
WANTING PURPOSE: As the mom of a child with autism and ADHD, I have spent hundreds of hours in waiting rooms. I usually pass the time talking to other parents or working (aka scrolling) on my iPhone, so I rarely pick up the magazines the therapists leave out. Recently, as I sat down outside my son's counselor's office, I noticed an issue of Psychology Today displayed on the top of a stack of periodicals on the coffee table in front of me.

The cover art showed a woman wearing a red backpack standing on a white raft shaped like a puzzle piece. She was floating in a rippling pool of blue water, gazing at the other puzzle-shaped rafts which were all disconnected and out of reach. In large, bold, black and yellow letters was the title of the featured article: *"Find Your Purpose: How to Figure Out What You Truly Want in Life."*

Something made me pause and reflect, as a wave of uneasiness covered me like a blanket. I quickly realized the source of my discomfort was the incongruency of the title and subtitle. The notion that purpose and wants are interchangeable, or even causational, troubled me.

Read the rest of the article [HERE!](#)





RAISING AUTISTIC DISCIPLES

My dear friend Larah Roberts is the founder of [@RaisingAutisticDisciples](#) on Instagram. She is not just a fellow autism mom, but she is also a seminary-trained Bible teacher, counselor, and a gifted communicator. Last fall she published the first volume in a series of must-read books for any family navigating a new autism diagnosis.

Letters to Lindsey: Seeing Your Child's Autism Diagnosis Through a Gospel Lens is rich in theological truths, but reads like you are sitting with a dear friend having coffee. If you or someone you know is just starting their KIND journey, this book will become an indispensable manual for keeping the faith, finding hope, and remembering that God is intentional, present, and full of grace.

By the way, Larah and I also co-host an online autism moms Bible Study! If you are interested in joining the next session, simply reply to this email and I will send you a link get you on the list for the Fall!

KIND Families Resources at Your Fingertips:

Purchase ***Finding KIND*** on Amazon [HERE!](#)

Visit the KIND Families website [HERE!](#)

Purchase KIND Merch [HERE!](#)

Want to contact Kari about one of the topics above? Simply reply to this email!



<https://kindfamilies.com/unsubscribe>