This Is Now: A Girl-to-Girl Devotional For Teens
Finally: Someone Who Gets It

Adults may mean well, but do they really get everything you're facing as a teenager? The pressure to drink and party, cheat on that test, or give in to that guy? How about the devastation of losing a friend, parents divorcing, or low self-esteem? Who can better relate than your peers? This Is Now is a devotional written by your peers across the country who face the exact same things you do. God wants you to find encouragement and support through one another — that they might be called trees of righteousness (Isaiah 61:3, KJV). Brief entries and rich Scripture verses are packed with hope and wisdom to guide you through these challenging years. This Is Life — the Real Deal

Nobody said these years would be easy. Or maybe someone did, but it was probably an adult who doesn't get it. Now, in this 365-day devotional, teens just like you come together from around the world to offer guidance through your toughest questions and situations. The entries are genuine — solidly built on the Word of God. "Why do we look at the girl next to us and wish we had her hair, nose, or thighs? Did God make a mistake when He made you or me? No way! We are expressions of His ingeniously creative mind."

"When I got older, I wasn't so sure of myself anymore. I wanted to grow up, have a career, get married, but I still wanted to climb trees, run, and play."

"Satan tells me things like, 'You don't look pretty' or 'Your friends don't really care about you.' I think these are lies that most girls face. So what do we do with them?"

"This wasn't the first time I had vomited a meal. It was just that, well, I ate too much. I wanted to take it back. I didn't think I was fat; I just wanted to be thinner than I was."

Story Behind the Book

The teen years make up one of the most challenging and exciting time periods in anyone's life. Teens are faced with temptations most adults either don't understand or have forgotten about. For the one committed to Christ, pressures are even greater. They look for encouragement, support, and belonging from their peers. Sadly, much of what is found is divisive and destructive. So I figured: If teens are intent on learning from their peers, why not give them incredible peer role models? A book written by teens for teens in devotional format will be an exciting tool for spurring spiritual growth among teens!

— Patti M. Hummel

From the Trade Paperback edition.
This isn't so much of a review, rather a commentary on why the marketing of this book led me to never buy it for my teens (in case the publishers or authors actually see these): "Adults may mean well, but do they really get everything you're facing as a teenager? The pressure to drink and party, cheat on that test, or give in to that guy? How about the devastation of losing a friend, parents divorcing, or low self-esteem? Who can better relate than your peers?" Really? This sentiment goes against everything taught in Titus 2 about older women teaching the younger women. It also paints parents and older mentors as out of touch and "uncool" and unable to relate, even though they very likely "get" exactly what their teen is going through because they've been there themselves and have learned from their mistakes. God works through families, and wisdom comes not from following our peers, but from looking to those older than ourselves. The devotionals in this book may be helpful in some capacity for teen girls to hear others' stories, but peers are not the best, nor Biblical source of wisdom and I absolutely hate the marketing attempt here. Teens are told through every outlet in our culture that their parents can't possibly relate or know what is going on in their lives or aren't cool enough to give the best advice and that the older generations are dull and offer nothing. That is antithetical to what the Bible teaches about families, mentors and getting wisdom and they should not be getting that message from a Bible devotional of all things.

I remember (way back when) being a teenager and feeling totally alone with all the conflicts the usual teenage girl goes through. I didn't feel like I could turn to my parents or teachers, and I didn't
always confide in my friends for fear of being thought a geek or nerd. I cannot tell you how much I wish I had this book back then. THIS IS NOW confronts, without fear, the real-life issues of a teenage girl. Many are quite appropriate for boys, too. The advice and help given is not from some parent or teacher (which is usually discounted immediately by teens) but by their peers who can relate first hand to life’s many confusing and frustrating situations. Uplifting, heartwarming, comforting and encouraging, these well-written daily devotionals are a must for every family with teenagers, or soon to be teenagers.

This book is top shelf. The girls really open up and tell you about their personal struggles and give inspiration that helps. It’s written by teenage girls, but should be read by all.

What a great concept! Teens writing to teens, yet I am 51 years old and I am inspired by its content. Keep these fresh ideas coming.

My granddaughter is 12 and can’t put the book down—she’s about a month ahead of the schedule and that is using her restraint—written by teens for teens.

Our family is thrilled with a Christian book that reaches teen girls, especially since our sons will most likely be dating and marrying at least 4 of them one day! Our ministry to families and children over the years confirms that most teens are interested in what other teens are thinking and feeling. A book that is written by teens from different backgrounds and at the same time points to Christ, is a unique contribution to teens around the world. Multnomah and Patti Hummel have done an outstanding job in putting together the teen devotional and using appropriate and relevant entries which honor Christ and His Word!

We know two of the wonderful girls who participated in this book. It’s been a great way to share the word of God with other girls. The many topics the devotional covers are important for both teens and their families. We have given quite a few of these books away to cousins and friends. The author, Patti Hummel, has put together a great collection from the young contributors.

This book touches on many of the difficult challenges and issues teenage girls face. It was written by teenage girls from all over the United States, who share their personal experiences from their Christian viewpoint, for teenage girls, with one devotion for each day of the year. Each devotion is
followed by a brief Scripture verse. I have given this lovely gift to each of my teenage nieces, neighbors, and my son's girlfriend. For those who might be a little too young for some of the topics, I gave it to their moms to give to their daughters when their moms feel they are ready. I wish someone had given me a book like this when I was a teenager!

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