

ELEVEN YEAR OLD BOY ASKS ABOUT VIRGINITY



Recently, a parent shared with me an amusing story about a conversation she had with her son in the car about sex... “During Barry MacDonald’s presentation to parents, he had recommended that we get comfortable talking about sex with boys and that we shouldn’t wait for our pubescent sons to ask questions because they typically don’t. He was adamant that in our hyper-charged-sex-is-used-to-sell-everything culture boys need some guidance.

Although hesitant, I jumped at the opportunity when my boy inquired about virgin mobiles. Driving down the road I was determined to lead him through today’s sexually charged world.

Assuming that he wasn’t referring to virgin figurines bravely balancing on a mobile, I explained that some virgins like to keep socially active through team sports to avoid sexual activity. I’d not seen his eyes that wide for years. “Be courageous” I heard Barry’s voice reminding me and I proceeded to ramble on about virginity.

My 9-year old son looked even more confused. Challenged and perplexed I decided to change tactics. I used another of Barry’s recommended strategies for communicating with boys: “Hey Tim, let’s reboot this conversation and start over. What was your question again?”

Tim sighed, rolled both eyes and blurted out, “What are you talking about Mom! I just wanted to know when I could get my own cell phone – a Virgin Mobile cell phone! They have a really sweet deal on right now!”

How was I to know that Virgin Mobile was a cellular phone company? I decided to remain courageous and replied, “Do you have any questions about sex?” He was quiet just as Barry predicted he would likely be.”

Thanks to Maribeth in Richmond, BC for her heartwarming story.

Have you got a story that you’d like to contribute about parenting or teaching boys?

Or, perhaps you have a **Dear Barry question?** While I am not able to respond to all questions I will comment on 2 or 3 in the next newsletter.

Please email it to boysmarts@mentoringboys.com

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