2016 dotMOM Speaker Bios

Angela Thomas-Pharr
Platform/Breakout Leader

After 14 years, Angela's marriage ended. Through the wounds of divorce and the uncharted territory of life as a single mom, this ordinary woman learned how to rely on God for strength, hope, and comfort. Today Angela is a best-selling author and gifted teacher who speaks to thousands each year, sharing life experiences to draw her and others into a deeper passion for knowing God. Angela spends her time as a wife and mother in Greensboro, NC. She has a master's degree from Dallas Theological Seminary.

Lisa Harper
Platform/Breakout Leader

“Hilarious storyteller” and “theological scholar” are rarely used in the same sentence—but Lisa Harper is anything but stereotypical! A gifted communicator, she writes and speaks using colorful pop culture references that connect the dots between the Bible era and modern life. She was Focus on the Family's national women’s ministry director followed by six years as a women’s ministry director at a large Nashville church and is the author of eleven books. Her academic resume includes a master of theological studies with honors from Covenant Seminary in St. Louis. Now a sought-after Bible teacher and speaker, Lisa was on the Women of Faith national arena tour for eight years and speaks at many other large multi-denominational events as well as at hundreds of churches all over the world. She describes her greatest accomplishment to date as becoming Missy's mama because in April 2014, after a difficult two-year journey, Lisa got to bring her adopted daughter home from Haiti—and she hasn’t stopped grinning since.

Lisa-Jo Baker
Platform/Breakout Leader

Lisa-Jo has been the community manager for www.incourage.me, an online home for women all over the world, for nearly a decade. She is also the author of Surprised by Motherhood; and her writings have been syndicated from New Zealand to New York. She lives just outside Washington, DC, with her husband and three very loud kids, where she connects, encourages, and champions women in person and through her popular blog, lisajobaker.com.

Sophie Hudson
Emcee/Breakout Leader

Blogger and author Sophie chronicles her daily (sometimes weekly) life at BooMama.net. She has written three books: A Little Salty to Cut the Sweet, Home is Where My People Are, and her most recent, Giddy Up, Eunice. A graduate of Mississippi State University, Sophie lives with her husband and son in Birmingham, Alabama, where she serves as women's advisor at a local Christian high school.

Laura Story
Platform/Breakout Leader

The intersection of opportunity and a tragedy is what originally spawned her runaway hit “Blessings,” that took home a GRAMMY, a Billboard Music Award, and three Dove Awards. Laura’s unabashed conviction to write and sing truth about life’s ups and downs and heartache and joy, and everything in between, touched a heartstring that resonated around the world as others continue to see how God was present in their own circumstances and stories that just made no sense. Laura leads worship at Atlanta’s Perimeter Church. She and her husband Martin have welcomed their first child into their family. Laura says “Becoming a mom has been by far the greatest adventure Martin and I have embarked upon thus far in our lives.” “I play a good many roles in my life. Worship leader, songwriter, artist, mom, wife of a disabled husband. And often I find myself trying to play the extra role of God.” It’s more than eloquent words to an infinite, omnipotent, omnipresent God. More than another happy ending ... More than just another story. It's every story. http://laurastorymusic.com/

Dale & Jena Forehand
Platform/Breakout Leaders

Dale and Jena are the founders of Stained Glass Ministries. They are sought-after speakers and conference leaders. They have conducted national and local church conferences for over 15 years. The death, burial, and resurrection of their own marriage has been featured in Homelife Magazine, the 700 Club, Life Today with James Robinson, Family Talk Live with Focus on the Family, and much more. They have served as keynote speakers and workshop leaders for LifeWay's Festival of Marriage since 2001. They are the authors of 8 books including an 8-week couples DVD Study called Let's Get Real: Bringing Authenticity and Wholeness to Your Marriage. For more information on the Forehand's please visit their website: www.daleandjena.com
Chris Adams  
*Breakout Leader*

Chris is Senior Lead Women’s Ministry Specialist at LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville, Tennessee. Prior to her employment at LifeWay in December 1994, Chris was the special ministries coordinator at Green Acres Baptist Church in Tyler, Texas, coordinating women’s ministry and missions education. She is an adjunct professor at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary’s Women’s Certificate Program, where she received her undergraduate degree in Christian Ministry from the seminary’s Leavell College. Chris has been a consultant, speaker, and conference leader in a variety of church and denominational roles. She is Executive Editor of Journey, a women’s devotional magazine, and compiled *Women Reaching Women: Beginning and Building a Growing Women’s Ministry, Transformed Lives: Taking Women’s Ministry to the Next Level, and Women Reaching Women in Crisis*. In 2008, Chris received the Career of Excellence award at LifeWay. She is a wife, mother of twin daughters, and grandmother of 7, plus 7 bonus grands. She also loves reading, good coffee, and chocolate! Visit her blog at [http://LifeWay.com/womenreachingwomen](http://LifeWay.com/womenreachingwomen).

Jeannie Cunnion  
*Breakout Leader*

Jeannie is a Jesus lover and a grace clinger. She is the author of *Parenting the Wholehearted Child*, holds a master’s degree in social work, is a contributor for *The Better Mom*, *The MOB Society*, and *Fox News*, and serves on the board of *Raising Boys Ministries*. Jeannie has loved traveling the country (48 states to be exact!) speaking about parenting and adoption and encouraging women to live from the freedom found in being fully known and fully loved by God (a message her own heart needs to hear daily). But her greatest joy is simply doing life alongside her husband Mike and the four boys God has graciously entrusted to them.

Michele Dyer  
*Breakout Leader*

Michele oversees the PLACE Ministry at Brentwood Baptist Church, which is a ministry that seeks to help others discover their God-given calling and design and fosters appreciation and understanding of others. As a mom of two sons, Michele has learned firsthand that every child is different yet intentionally created by God to fulfill a unique purpose in life. She enjoys walking alongside other parents, helping them better understand and appreciate each family member by using what she has learned as a Certified Temperament Professional and a Christian Leadership Coach. By studying and seeking to understand each child’s hard-wiring, Michele believes that parents can better affirm and encourage godly self-esteem and confidence in their children.

Amy-Jo Girardier  
*Breakout Leader*

Amy-Jo is the Girls Minister at Brentwood Baptist Church in Brentwood, TN. She has been serving in this role for 14 years and still can’t believe this is what she gets to do for a job! Originally from Springfield, Illinois, Amy-Jo graduated from Southwest Baptist University and attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary to pursue a Masters in Christian Education. She is the author of *Faithful One: A Study of 1&2 Thessalonians* for teen girls and serves on the LifeWay Girls Ministry leadership team. Amy-Jo is married to Darrel and they have a son, Scout.

Darrel Girardier  
*Breakout Leader*

Darrel is the Creative Director for Brentwood Baptist Church. He currently oversees the team that handles social media, web, design, and mobile presence for the church. Previously, Darrel was a creative director at LifeWay Christian Resources in Nashville, Tennessee, where he served for 12 years. He blogs at [www.darrelgirardier.com](http://www.darrelgirardier.com).

Sissy Goff, M.Ed., LPC-MHSP  
*Breakout Leader*

Sissy spends most of her days talking with girls and their families with the help of her counseling assistant/pet therapist, Lucy the Havanese. She has worked as the Director of Child and Adolescent Counseling at Daystar Counseling Ministries in Nashville, Tennessee, since 1993, with a Master’s degree from Vanderbilt University. A sought-after speaker for parenting and teacher training events such as dotMOM, LifeWay Kids Conference, and Heart of the Child, Sissy has spoken to thousands of parents, teachers, and girls across the country. Sissy is the author of a LifeWay video parenting curriculum called *Raising Boys and Girls*, as well as six books including parenting titles, *Intentional Parenting, The Back Door to Your Teen’s Heart, Raising Girls, and Modern Parents, Vintage Values*, as well as *Mirrors and Maps* for 11-14 year-old girls and *Growing Up Without Getting Lost* for 15-19 year-old girls. Sissy is also a frequent guest and contributor to media shows and publications such as Moody Midday Connection, *ParentLife* magazine, and The Chat with Priscilla Shirer. You can find her giving parenting tips on the blog at [raisingboysandgirls.com](http://raisingboysandgirls.com).
Wynter Pitts
Breakout Leader

Wynter Pitts is the author of *For Girls Like You Devotional for Tweens* and the founder of For Girls Like You, a ministry to girls and their parents, that includes a quarterly magazine and other print and web resources. She has a drive to introduce young girls to Christian values so they can walk passionately and boldly. A native of Baltimore, Wynter resides in Dallas, Texas, with her husband, Jonathan, and their four daughters.

Linc Taylor
Breakout Leader

Linc graduated from Carson-Newman College and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and is currently pursuing his Doctorate of Ministry in Leadership in the area of Family Ministry. As Associate Discipleship minister at Brentwood Baptist Church, Linc oversees the Next Generation and Family Ministries, supervising the vision of Preschool, Children, and Students.

David Thomas, L.M.S.W.
Breakout Leader

David is the Director of Family Counseling at Daystar Counseling in Nashville, TN, the coauthor of six books including the best-selling *Wild Things: The Art of Nurturing Boys* (Tyndale House Publishers), a frequent guest on national television and radio, and a regular contributor to *ParentLife* magazine. David speaks to parents, teachers, and leaders across the country at events and conferences such as MOPs, D6, dotMOM, and LifeWay Kids Conference. His first video curriculum, *Raising Boys and Girls: The Art of Understanding the Differences* (LifeWay), is currently available, as is his newest book, *Intentional Parenting* (Thomas Nelson). He and his wife, Connie, have a daughter and three Wild Things (twin sons and a feisty yellow lab puppy named Owen). You can find David giving parenting tips on the blog at raisingboysandgirls.com.

Selma Wilson
Breakout Leader

Selma Wilson is the vice president of Organizational Development at LifeWay Christian Resources. Prior to this, she served as vice president of B&H Publishing Group. She is married to Rodney who serves as Marriage and Family Counselor at LifePoint Church in Smyrna, TN. Selma and Rodney lead conferences and speak on marriage and family. They have been married for 38 years and have two married daughters, two sons-in-law, two grandsons, and one granddaughter.