

A Ministry of Love

Jackie Hooks is the founder of Pruning Hooks Ministries

WITH LOVE AND COMPASSION, PRUNING HOOKS MINISTRIES PARTNERS WITH ORGANIZATIONS IN KATY TO FILL THE GAPS FOR THOSE IN NEED

*Written by Debbie McDaniel
Photography by Sara Isola*



Jody, Shelley, and Jackie help lead fellow women to Jesus

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When Jackie was 6 years old, her and her older sister were kidnapped by a stranger in their apartment complex. Jackie's family never spoke of what happened that day. Because of this, she turned to drugs, alcohol, and bad boyfriends to cover the pain.

DESPERATION TURNS TO HOPE

Jackie married husband Corey and became the mother of four wonderful children. They spent a lot of their time partying, seemingly carefree, until they found themselves on the verge of divorce.

It was in the middle of one fight that her husband broke down and began to cry. This took Jackie by surprise, but what surprised her more was that her husband said they needed to find a connection to Christ for help. "That decision changed our lives - it saved us, our marriage, and our family."

A few years into their new walk with Christ, Jackie realized she needed to bring light to the darkness of her past and share the story of God's redemption in her own life. Since that first calling to tell her story in 2010, God has given her a deep passion to share His love with others.

MINISTRY FROM A MINIVAN

As most moms can relate, life was very full for Jackie with children, home, and family needs, but she knew she was meant to do more. She had a heart to reach out to others who were hurting and desperate.

In 2012, in her minivan, she and friend Jody Cook, now vice president of Pruning Hooks, started a ministry that still offers help to many today. "We had just delivered the first free, healthy sack lunches to Generation One Academy and on the way home I asked Jody if it was crazy to think this might be a women's ministry. We wanted to be a women's ministry that helped women inside the body of Christ to serve in the places where Jesus commanded us all to serve - the poor, hungry, sick, oppressed, and orphaned."

And so the journey began, through big hearts to help, and with lots of prayers. "Our mission statement of Pruning Hooks Ministries is simple: 'Everyday ordinary women serving Jesus allowing our everyday ordinary lives to become extraordinary.' We believe we are meant to empower, encourage, and equip women to do just this," adds Jackie.

BUILDING BONDS AND SPREADING JOY

Since that time, Pruning Hooks Ministries has helped to serve teen moms in Katy ISD by meeting their needs from anything such as providing diapers or school supplies to scholarship money. "We also began a once a month dinner at The Ballard House, with not just food on plates. This was an actual dinner where we would come and sit down and eat and fellowship with the people who are in need of hope and healing," shares Jackie. "To serve was never enough. To build relationships and spread joy is always worth so much more," Cook believes.

"We also began a monthly phone bank alongside Rescue Houston to call girls who are trafficked on the internet. We ask girls to come share their story to Jesus because we

believe that every life that's been met with our Savior has a powerful story to tell," shares Jackie. One goal of Pruning Hooks Ministries is to establish these phone banks at different churches so that they can step in right where there is a huge need. "This area of human trafficking is the darkest darkness, and we need help and hands that are willing to step in and pull others out."

"All people have been, or will be, in a place of desperation at some point in life. When I see the faces of the girls we call, I see so much

more than a random photo. That is someone's daughter, sister, and friend- they could be my kids' friends! And I am reminded that God can use a small army of women to make a difference," adds Shelley Eastland, Pruning Hooks' board member.

HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

"Our goal is to partner with other ministries and step in to the places where Jesus would be helping the people He came to help. We want to help women start to experience life in Christ, by showing care to others," says Jackie.

You don't have to have a background filled with pain and anger, but Jackie says that if you do, God has given you that and He will show you how to use it for good. Pruning Hooks Ministries is here to not only help those who are in need on the outside, but to also help those who may be suffering within. Jackie's compassion to help is contagious, and offers awareness that we can all help in some small way. **KM**

DEBBIE MCDANIEL is a writer, pastor's wife, and mom to three. Her family shares Jackie's heart and passion to keep reaching out to those around us who are hurting.

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- Jackie Hooks

To find out more about getting involved with Pruning Hooks Ministries, visit pruninghooks.com.