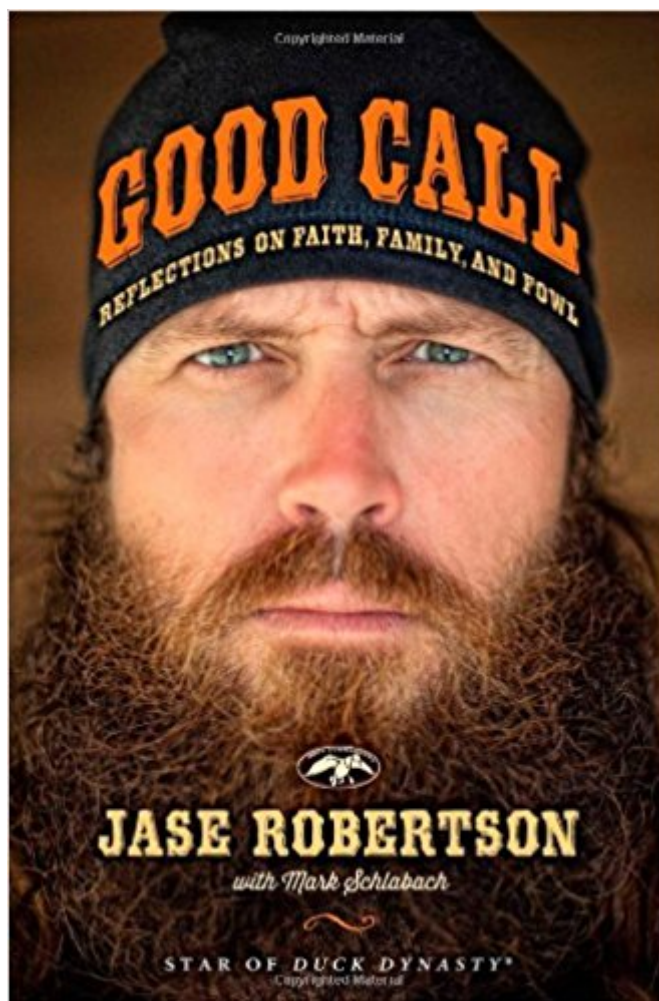


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Good Call: Reflections On Faith, Family, And Fowl



Synopsis

The straight-faced, funny man of Duck Dynasty has a real story to tell. Not a repeat of the previous Robertson family books, Jase surprises fans who love him for his dry humor and brotherly rivalry, as he opens up about his personal family life, his childhood days with a drunken father, and how he came to faith. The closer we look at the Robertson family, the more we discover the substance and authenticity below the surface of these well-known TV characters. In this enlightening book, Jase Robertson gives us a deep look behind his funnyman exterior. In addition to stories of life in the Robertson family and epic tales of hunting of all kinds, readers will get an inside look at Jase's personal faith in the Creator of the outdoors he so dearly loves: "My first thoughts about God came in a duck blind as I gazed upon the diversity and beauty of creation. There is nothing in nature that can be reproduced or equaled by humans. None of our computers, microchips, or cell phones can duplicate what God has put forth. Viewing the details of this magnificent earth is better than any sermon from any preacher I have heard about the evidence of God." More than a behind-the-scenes look at this beloved character, readers will be inspired and encouraged to implement Jase's "good call" reflections on faith, family, and fowl into their own lives.

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Customer Reviews

Jase Robertson is the second oldest Robertson son and one of the favorite stars of A&E's *Duck Dynasty*. Jase has been involved in the family business

making duck calls since he was a boy. He graduated from Bible college after high school and worked part-time in ministry for two years before becoming Duck Commander—his first paid employee in the mid 1990s. Now, family, hunting, and helping the family business succeed consume most of Jase's time. Jase runs the manufacturing part of Duck Commander, making sure that every call is hand-tuned to be the best possible call. He and his wife, Missy, live in West Monroe, Louisiana, with their children and the rest of the Robertson clan. Mark Schlabach is the coauthor of the New York Times bestselling books, *Happy, Happy, Happy*, *Sin-cology 1, 2, 3*, and *The Duck Commander Family*. He is one of the most respected and popular college football columnists in the country. He and his wife live in Madison, Georgia, with their three children.

Good Call > > > A man's wisdom gives him patience; it is to his glory to overlook an offense. —•PROVERBS 19:11 By now, you might know the story of my dad's life. If you haven't heard it or read about it, here's the most blunt way I can describe it: Phil Robertson wasn't a very nice person from about the age of seventeen until he turned twenty-eight. In a lot of ways, my dad was an outlaw. He had no regard for rules, authority, or what was right or wrong; his only focus at the time was getting drunk and killing as many ducks as possible. And anyone standing in his way, even his own family, ran the risk of getting hurt. Don't get me wrong; Phil Robertson eventually became a great husband, father, and businessman, and, most important, a disciple of Christ. After my dad's repentance, he became the biggest influence in my life because of his love for his Creator, hunting and fishing, and nurturing God's greatest creation. Once my dad turned from his wicked ways and submitted to Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior, he became a role model for people struggling to overcome their addictions and problems. It wasn't so much that he focused on their problems but that he offered them a solution. His life wasn't easy when he was drinking, partying, and committing other sins, and it certainly was difficult for the people who loved him most. But once my dad turned his life around, he made a profound impact on thousands of people by sharing God's story of healing and hope. He became a man of faith, perseverance, and courage. But the decade or so before his baptism wasn't easy for my mom or me and my brothers. My recollections of my childhood are kind of hazy, which might be a good thing, because I don't have many fond memories of growing up until my father was born again; his becoming a new man is the most drastic change in a person I have ever seen. I remember my family owning a bar in Junction City, Arkansas, for a couple of years, and it seemed like every night ended with men rolling around on the ground and fighting, followed by flashing lights from police

cars in the parking lot. It also seemed that no matter what, my dad usually won the fight. I remember one particular fight outside the bar, when an Asian-looking man grabbed a board. The man was doing all of these martial arts moves complete with sound effects, and all of a sudden he swung the board at my dad. In the blink of an eye, my dad grabbed the board out of his hands and popped him in the head with it! The guy fell like a sack of potatoes. My family lost the bar after my dad beat up the couple who owned the building after they'd had a dispute about rent. Phil hurt them pretty badly, and he fled into the swamp to avoid getting arrested. The people my dad beat up took about everything we had; in exchange they agreed not to press criminal charges against him. My mom moved our trailer near D'Arbonne Lake at Farmerville, Louisiana, and I was forced to change schools again. We moved a lot when I was a kid, and there never seemed to be much stability in our lives. After the fight at the bar, my dad was gone for several months. I remember going to visit him in the woods one time, and when we pulled up he was drinking beer with two of his buddies. They were living in a hut that didn't even have electricity or running water. There was a massive pile of empty beer cans and liquor bottles. There was also a big pile of animal carcasses. It was unbelievable. As a kid, I'd never seen anything like it before. I remember getting out of the vehicle thinking, How long has my dad been out here? He was walking around barefoot. Of course, as his impressionable son, I thought he was the toughest man in the world because he was living in those conditions. My dad walked up to me and asked, "How's it going?" We had a normal conversation right there in the middle of nowhere. This might sound crazy, but as I look back at the experience now, I think it taught me that a person is capable of living in the woods and surviving without the luxuries we have today. I probably realized then that I wanted to spend most of my life in the woods or on the water. My dad eventually moved back into the trailer with us, but he didn't stop drinking. In fact, it only got worse. He often took out his anger on my mom, my brothers, and me, and even though I was young, I understood that it was the beer and liquor making him so mean. I feared being around him. I think my dad tried to quit drinking more than a few times, but alcohol always seemed to get the best of him. One night, while Phil was driving home from a hunt, he threw a half-empty liquor bottle out the window of his truck. I guess he finally decided it was time to stop drinking. But a few hours later, my dad had my brothers and me on the side of the road in the dark, searching a ditch for his liquor bottle. What might seem like terrible parenting was actually one of my first adventures in hunting. I found my dad's bottle, so I figured I would one day make a pretty good tracker in the woods. In a lot of ways, my dad's behavior made me shy and introverted, which is something I struggled with until I was a teenager. I never said much as a kid around my dad. I was

afraid that if I did say something, I would get in trouble. It didn't take me long to figure out that as long as I was out of his sight and didn't say anything, I could pretty much stay out of harm's way. I kept my mouth shut to survive, and I went into a cocoon as a kid because of my circumstances. I was kind of antisocial until high school, but then I realized I would have to be more vocal if I wanted to share my faith or get a date. Perhaps the most vivid memory I have of my early childhood is the night my dad kicked us out of our trailer. I was about seven years old at the time. I remember seeing my dad stretched out on the couch with a tall can of beer between his legs as we gathered our belongings in the middle of the night. We headed out the front door, not knowing when or if we would ever see him again. My mother was in tears and pleaded with him to let us stay, but he wouldn't change his mind. He kept yelling at Kay to leave. I had no idea where she was taking my older brother, Alan; my younger brother, Willie; and me. We didn't have any money, so it wasn't like we were going to go stay in a hotel for a couple of weeks. We spent the night at my uncle Harold's house, and then we moved into a low-rent apartment in West Monroe, Louisiana. White's Ferry Road Church in West Monroe helped us get furniture and assisted my mother in paying the rent. Our move to the apartment complex is a foggy memory, but it seemed a lot more stable and safe than the place we left. My mom took a job at Howard Brothers Discount Stores, working in the corporate office, so Alan was left to take care of Willie and me when we weren't in school. I didn't see my father for a long time. I was bitter about it, too. No matter how mean your parents are or what they're doing to you, as a kid they're all you have, and that's the way it is, for better or worse. Even though my dad wasn't a nice person to be around, I couldn't understand why in the world he would abandon his family. My dad's reason for his path of ruin and misery during his first twenty-eight years on earth was that he just wanted to "be free." Apparently, that meant leaving his wife and children behind so he could hunt, fish, and drink whenever he wanted. About the time I finally stopped wondering where my dad was, he showed up in a cool green Jeep outside of our apartment building. Earlier that day, he had driven to my mom's office, and she found him crying in the parking lot. Phil begged her to take him back, and fortunately my mom found enough compassion and love in her heart to forgive him. She told him he had to stop drinking and disassociate himself from his unsavory friends. My dad met with William "Bill" Smith, the preacher at White's Ferry Road Church. My dad studied the Bible with him and was introduced to Jesus Christ for the first time. After a couple of studies and a lot of soul-searching, my dad made a decision to repent and claim Christ as Lord, and he was baptized. Romans 6:1-4 discusses baptism as a reenactment of Jesus's

death, burial, and resurrection. The burial of the old Phil Robertson and the rebirth of the new man who surfaced was one of the most powerful influences of my life. I'm sure there were still plenty of rough times for him as he battled temptations over the next couple of years, but my brothers and I were happy our dad was back in our lives. My dad really got my attention during our first Christmas back together as a family again. He participated in the giving of gifts, and, more important, played the games we had received with us. He was turning into the father we had always wanted him to be. Looking back, it's amazing that kids are so forgiving, because they really don't understand all the details of what's going on. They're so innocent and naive. Despite everything that had happened in the past, I was happy my dad was finally paying attention to my brothers and me. That's really the only thing we ever wanted from him. We were going to church a couple of times a week, and my mom seemed so happy that our family was together. I would love to say that my new church experience had a big impact on my life at the time, but it was uncomfortable for me to be around so many strangers. Honestly, it seemed like a bigger version of the honky-tonk bar, but without all of the hollering and fighting. After my dad got his life back in order, he took a teaching job at Ouachita Christian School in Monroe, Louisiana. He'd attended Louisiana Tech University on a football scholarship and earned a master's degree in education. Even though he wasn't drinking anymore, he still loved to hunt and fish and wanted to spend as much time as possible in the outdoors, so he decided to quit his teaching job and do something that allowed him to hunt and fish. We moved to a house on the banks of the Ouachita River, which is about twenty-five miles from downtown West Monroe. My dad started working as a commercial fisherman, and then he started building duck calls because he was convinced he could make a call sound more like a duck than anyone else in the world. He was right. Shortly after we moved closer to the river, my dad and a few of his friends started a church in Luna, Louisiana. It was a small church of about forty members, and I didn't really like going to services there because there weren't many kids my age. One Sunday morning, my dad went to the pulpit and gave his testimony. It was entitled, "The Good News and the Bad News." Of course, I was in attendance, but I wasn't really paying attention to what he was saying. I was astounded that he was acting nervous. I'd never seen the man nervous in my life! I always believed he was the most self-confident man in the world. One of my friends, Matt, who was a couple of years older than me, was sitting next to me in church. He apparently was very moved by my dad's sermon. My friend and I had a discussion about the Gospel, and it kind of broke the ice for faith in Christ being a reality in my life. Up until that time, I'd thought about what it meant to be a Christian, but I hadn't taken the step

for myself. I remember riding in the car with my mom going to school one morning. We stopped at a red light in front of the paper mill in West Monroe, and she asked me, "Are you going to be a Christian when you grow up?" Now, I'm not a morning person unless I'm going hunting, so I was kind of annoyed by her question. I don't like to be interrogated when I'm still waking up. I stared out the window and thought, Well, am I, or am I not?

"Yes, ma'am, I believe I am," I told her. Even though I waited a couple of years to do it, I think my mom's question planted the seed for my conversion. After my conversation with Matt, I went to my dad to talk about it. I told him what I had come to understand about Christ, and he said, "Well, that's what I heard. What you're thinking about doing is what changed my life."

"Well, sir," I said, "I'm ready to do it." We walked to the riverbank, and my dad baptized me in the Ouachita River, which is where we've baptized hundreds of people over the years. Right then and there, I decided I was going to forgive my father for everything that happened in the past. The past was history, and I was excited about our future together as Christian men. My father had given me the greatest gift in life. How could I not forgive him? As I reflect back on my dad's pre-Christ life, I realize that by embracing the Son of God, who died on a cross for his mistakes, my dad was given a second chance and a life of continual forgiveness. I came to realize that same cross is where I would find forgiveness. My life has never included drugs or drunkenness, mainly because I saw what they did to my dad and our family. But as my dad once said, "You're either a rank heathen like I was or just a heathen."

I have made my share of mistakes and realize that a life without forgiveness is a life filled with guilt, bitterness, and misery no matter how many sins you've committed or which ones they are. Once I became a Christian, I viewed being part of the forgiven as synonymous with being a forgiver. I learned to forgive my dad for his mistakes. It was a huge step for me, but it's impossible to find harmony in relationships when there is no forgiveness. After all, everyone makes mistakes and no one is perfect. Later in life, my wife, Missy, and I shared God's message of grace with a single mother who had a gut-wrenching story of a lifetime of physical, mental, and sexual abuse. If there was ever a person who had a reason to quit in life, or at least retaliate toward her abusers, this woman was it. Her tears flowed as Missy and I shared the story of Jesus. To my surprise, she was not only moved by God's love for her but she also even found a place for the sins committed by those people who abused her—a bloody cross. I was almost uncomfortable with her response because she was willing to forgive the people who had tormented her for so long. She became one of my heroes because of her grace and compassion. I have a special place in my heart for those who are

sinned against, and while I believe we should do everything in our power to protect the innocent and punish the guilty on earth, there is something special about the people who overcome atrocities through grace and forgiveness because of a loving God in heaven. I suppose the most common argument against the evidence for God is, “Why do bad things happen to good people?” It is a valid question, but it is a question the Gospel of Jesus’ life, death, burial, resurrection, and return answers for us. If we can obtain forgiveness in this life and eternity in the next, all other things really do not matter. The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant from Matthew 18:21-35 has always had a profound effect on me and taught me a lot about forgiveness: Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?” Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. “Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. “The servant fell on his knees before him. “Be patient with me,” he begged, “and I will pay back everything.” The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go. “But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began to choke him. “Pay back what you owe me!” he demanded. “His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, “Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.” “But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. When the other servants saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed and went and told their master everything that had happened. “Then the master called the servant in. “You wicked servant,” he said, “I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?” In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. “This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart.” What I’ve learned from this scripture is that we need to have mercy and forgive one another, as God is merciful in forgiving us. Forgiveness cannot be based on the quantity or consequences of sins. You’re either with or without sin, and our God-given conscience confirms our guilt. Christ is without sin and that is why His death was God’s justice, mercy, and forgiveness in action. When we have unforgiving hearts, we are like the unforgiving servant. God’s forgiveness of our sins should motivate us to forgive those who

offend us. My motivation to forgive is my own forgiveness. I can never repay God what I owe. Christ paid for our sins by dying on the cross, and we can never repay that debt. As I have observed my dad's post-Christ life, I have seen a man who has been open and honest about his past mistakes. His blunt speech about sin is a powerful testimony of the transformation that God's grace offers, but it also is a target of those who are uncomfortable with Bible-based faith. Fortunately, for my family and those in earshot of my dad's voice, he has almost forty years of righteous actions that show a humble walk with God and an unselfish love for all people regardless of their circumstances in life. To those in opposition to God's grace and a righteous lifestyle, Jesus said it best, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

Thank God for the Robertsons. Their books are an essential counterpoint to the Duck Dynasty television series. While the shows are entertainment with the smallest nod to their intelligence, integrity and generosity, the books reveal who they truly are. Having read almost all of them (I recently read Milton's *Paradise Lost* and Tolstoy's *Anna Karenina*, to keep things in perspective) I strongly recommend them. This family is wonderful.

Jase certainly has all of his screws down and tight. He and Missy are solid, decent, faithful to family and God, and it was good to get to know them a little better. We have had a relationship with the Duck Commander/Duck Dynasty family for about 3 years, spanning back to just before they became so popular on reality TV. Our Ridgecrest Outdoor Ministries Sportsman's Banquet has hosted Jase and Missy (2012); Phil, Si, and Miss Kay (2013); and John Godwin, Paula Godwin and Justin Martin (2014) and found them all to be solid, upright, and everything they appear to be.

Most folks are familiar with Duck Dynasty, but how many know much, if anything, about Jase Robertson, one of Phil's sons? I encourage you to find out for yourself in this GREAT READING BOOK all about him and his family. He's a Godly man who shares openly what is really important in life and it's not about just shooting ducks!!

One of the best books I've read in a long time. Of note, I read Phil's books (x2) last year. I enjoyed them very much. 'Good Call' is better. Jase is analytical, funny, and wise. He opens his heart and speaks w/ love and authority and authenticity. I HIGHLY recommend it to those interested in the Robertsons, DD, or DC. Another group I HIGHLY recommend it to: people just wanting to live good,

clean, simple lives in an evil, chaotic world. It will be an inspiration to them.

The book starts out good and goes down hill. The book skips 5-7 years in the middle and the writing seems very child like.

I bought this book while at the doctors office waiting for tests that would take 5 hours. I read the entire book while waiting between tests. It is very refreshing to read about a real American family, the good the bad and the beautiful. I know the Robertsons from watching TV but this book provided me an insight into Jase and Missy's life. It's a story of redemption, love and family and is full of Jase stories. When you finish the book you will feel like one of the family. The virtues of God, faith and family are what led to our countries greatness and I pray we will return to these beliefs. If you want to feel a part of the Robertson family and the greater family that being a believer in Christ offers you, buy this book !!

Of all the books from the Robertson so far, I like this one best. I like Jase's personality and way of thinking. This book provides a lot of insight into Jase's views and how he is in his faith. I think anyone who watches Duck Dynasty would learn more and also see a side of him that the network can't quite show in our politically correct world. They are the real deal. So nice to see Christians who live like it... they don't abide by religious rituals.. they just welcome anyone into their lives as long as they can show others about the loving transformation and salvation Christ shows.

This book, "Good Call: Reflections on Faith, Family, and Fowl" is a very beautifully and thoughtfully written book. Jase Robertson has much more depth than you would've guessed from his TV persona. If you've seen Jase and the Robertson family on the TV show, "Duck Dynasty" and if you've ever wondered if the members of the family actually get along as well as they do on TV, or if the children respect their elders as much as shown on TV, after reading this book you will realize that what you see is what you get. I'll keep my copy of this book, and I'll order a copies of this book to be given as gifts to family and friends.

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