



## WEEK FOUR

**2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-7**

God Loves a Cheerful Giver

## SAY THIS

**Use your money wisely.**

## DO THIS



## DRIVE TIME

While driving around town, look for possible needs that you could meet. For example, you might see trash on a corner, someone sitting on the side of the road, or a nursing home asking for volunteers. As a family, pick a need you can meet and go do it together. This is a great time to encourage your child to steward their time and talents.

## REMEMBER THIS

“Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much.”  
Luke 16:10a, NIV

## LIFE APP

**STEWARDSHIP** – Taking care of what you have because it all belongs to God

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## WHAT TO DO WHEN YOUR FRIENDS ARE RAISING JERKS

by Jon Acuff

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Is there anything harder than making friends as an adult? If you're married, it becomes even harder. Either the wives get along, but the husbands don't. Or the husbands get along, but the wives don't.

But you struggle through, and you find friends you love hanging out with. Things seem perfect, right up to the moment when kids are added to the mix. Now, you have to worry if your kids will mix well. Worst of all is when your close friends are raising jerks.

"Raising jerks" is a strong phrase that I used mostly because "have different parenting styles than your own" is such a boring collection of words. But, I bet some of your friends have kids you don't want your kids to be around. Maybe they're loose with discipline. Maybe their kid swears like a sailor. Regardless of the reason, you're suddenly finding it hard to hang out with your friends because of their kids. How do you handle that? Here are a few ideas:

### 1. Get a babysitter.

Who says the kids always have to connect? Don't lose friends just because you think every time you hang out has to be a full family affair.

### 2. Make sure you're not overreacting.

People always say you shouldn't talk about religion or politics with people you don't know. Let's add "parenting styles" to that list. If you want to have the most awkward conversation in the history of mankind, try to force your personal parenting style on your friend. Make sure you're not overreacting to what might really amount to just a difference in preferences.

### 3. Talk with your friends.

If you have a real relationship, you can have a real conversation. If you don't, there's no amount of kid gloves you can use to broach the topic without a blow-up. But if the issues are bad enough that you're going to lose the friendship, be honest and be vulnerable.

Relationships aren't easy, but they're worth it. Do the work. Parenting is a tough job and you'll need other people who are on the journey with you.

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