



WEEK FOUR

JOSHUA 6:1-20

God is with Joshua.

**SAY
THIS**

WHO IS ALWAYS WITH YOU?

GOD IS ALWAYS WITH ME.

**DO
THIS**



BATH TIME

Ask your child which toy he/she would like to be with him/her during bath time. As you bathe your child, ask a few times, "Where's your [name of toy]? Is it with you?" As you dry your child off tell him/her, "God is always with you, because He loves you!"

REMEMBER THIS

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid...for the Lord your God goes with you."
Deuteronomy 31:6, NIV

**BASIC
TRUTH**

GOD LOVES ME

FIGHT FOR THEIR HEARTS

by Reggie Joiner

I wanted to give my kids really great names. We have smart friends who named their son Asher because it means "happy" or Emri because it means "honorable." I think that's great. I love those names. But since our friends already stole those, I was stuck looking through meaningful names that sounded like a 1920's glee club or a really bizarre biblical prophet.

So we named our first son Sawyer. Why? Well if you want my church answer, it's because it means "wood-worker" . . . just like Jesus. If you want my literary answer, it's because I love the adventurous spirit of a kid named Tom. But if you were to hang out with my son, most days you might say he's really closer to the con artist on a formerly popular TV drama.

But even if I missed the super-meaningful name boat, I actually have the opportunity as a parent to name my kids in a meaningful way every week. In psychology there's a principle sometimes called "self-fulfilling prophecy" that's gained widespread cultural acceptance. It's simply the idea that our expectations about people have the power to shape their outcomes.

Every day, we communicate our expectations about our children with words.

The same kid can be:

"Chatty" or "bubbly"

"Disruptive" or "energetic"

"shy" or "thoughtful"

"slow" or "thorough"

The words that we use to describe our kids also have prescriptive power. They don't just explain what is already true about our kids, our words can ultimately affect how our kids view themselves and can determine who they become

So give it a try. Create a list of words for your kids and become more intentional about the way you call your kids by name.

What are 5 words you want to be true about your kids? Pray over these words. Use these words to talk about your kids. Hang these words in your kid's bedroom so they can see them as they grow up.

These words won't always be descriptive. There will be days when "compassionate" won't really be the particular characteristic they are demonstrating most. But over time these words have the potential to become prescriptive and will help define how your child views himself. What a pretty incredible way to name a child.