



WEEK FOUR

PSALM 23

God takes care of us like a shepherd takes care of his sheep.

SAY
THIS

WHO CAN YOU THANK
FOR EVERYTHING?

I CAN THANK GOD
FOR EVERYTHING.

DO
THIS



BATH TIME

Encourage your child to look around at things in the bath area and thank God for them. For example, "Thank You, God, for water. Thank You, God, for soap. Thank You, God, for [bath toy]. Thank You, God, for Mommy/Daddy."

REMEMBER THIS

"I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart."

Psalm 111:1

BASIC
TRUTH

GOD MADE ME

CHILD-CENTERED PARENTING

by Carey Nieuwhof

Child-centered parenting maybe isn't the best approach to parenting. Primarily because it produces self-centered adults as he or she matures. A child who grows up to believe she is the center of the universe will have a far more difficult life than one who grows up to understand she has a place among many in the universe.

My wife and I saw the pitfalls of child-centered parenting early on. When our first son was born, we had to make decisions about how to child-proof our home. Beyond health and safety child proofing, we decided to simply set boundaries by telling him what he could play with (toys) and what he couldn't touch (our stuff). To our surprise, it worked. One of the very first words he learned was "no."

That's actually an important key to breaking the child-centered mindset. Kids need to learn to live in this world with respect for their boundaries and respect for others.

Here are five strategies that can help resist the pull toward self-centered parenting:

Make God the center. You and your children were created to worship something bigger than yourself or each other. When there is a natural refocusing of our wants and needs within the framework of a loving Heavenly Father, our lives realize function so much better.

Stop rescuing. Your child needs to feel the consequences of his actions. When you step in to solve every conflict (with siblings, friends, or school), you rob him of the learning that comes from dealing with his own shortcomings and mistakes. You don't want to let him get harmed, but you should be willing to let him get hurt.

Say no. Our kids are adults now, and I don't think they've ever broken a picture frame or piece of furniture in the house. A few bones . . . sure, but that was playing sports . . .

Set and enforce limits. Your children need to know there are limits to what they can and should do. Ironically, it's within limits that we find the ultimate freedom.

Help them serve others. When your child serves others, she realizes that there are greater needs than hers in the world. Serving changes the heart to be less self-centered and more others-centered.

What have you found helpful in stopping the drift toward child-centered parenting in your home?

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