



WEEK THREE

GENESIS 41

Joseph tells Pharaoh (the king) what his dream means. Pharaoh puts Joseph in charge of helping save the food.

SAY THIS

**WHO HAS A PLAN FOR YOU?
GOD HAS A PLAN FOR ME.**

DO THIS



CUDDLE TIME

Cuddle up with your child this month and pray, "Dear God, thank You that Your plan was for me to be [child's name]'s [mom/dad]. I love [him/her] so much! Help us to trust Your plan even when it's hard. We know Your plan is always best. We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."

REMEMBER THIS

"The plans of the Lord stand firm forever."
Psalm 33:11, NIV

BASIC TRUTH

GOD MADE ME.

ONE MARBLE AT A TIME

By Autumn Ward

I've been told there are 936 weeks in the life of a child from birth to 18. Parent Cue uses a visual of a jar filled with 936 marbles. The idea is that when you count the weeks you have left with a kid, you stand a better chance of making your weeks count. As you take one marble out of the jar each week, the marbles begin going down, you see what you have left . . . you get the idea.

I have three kids and the jar of my first-born has four marbles left in it.

One. Two. Three. Four.

Four marbles.

A cap and gown.

A prom tux.

Graduation announcements . . .

All reminders that there's not much time left before the infant that entered my home 18 years ago will soon be leaving as a man.

Looking back, I can't even begin to tell you where all of my 936 marbles went.

Some were spent sitting in a rocking chair just staring at his infant face.

Others looking for Blue's Clues, putting Transformers together, listening to him read his first book to me, eating lunch with him at school, going on all those field trips, shopping for cool shirts, talking about girls, talking about God,

helping him recover from his first broken heart, letting him chauffeur me around, taking selfies together, getting ready for prom . . .

It's worth pointing out that when I look back, it's not the "big" moments that I remember most. It's the smaller everyday moments that stand out. I truly believe the best way to spend your marbles is by simply making yourself available.

It's making the most of the drive to practice. Eating dinner together with no electronic devices. Helping with homework. Playing in the yard. Hosting sleepovers and listening to their stories.

The point is to be intentional about making the weeks you have with your child count. Because I'm telling you, it will feel like there's a hole in the bottom of your jar, but there's not. Time just really does go by that fast, and before you know it you'll look over and see four marbles sitting there.

Now, go be an amazing parent. You've got this! One marble at a time.

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