



WEEK ONE

LUKE 5:1-7

Jesus catches a lot of fish after Peter couldn't catch any.

**SAY
THIS**

**WHO CAN DO ANYTHING?
JESUS CAN DO ANYTHING.**



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LUKE 5:1-7

Jesus catches a lot of fish after Peter couldn't catch any.

**SAY
THIS**

**WHO CAN DO ANYTHING?
JESUS CAN DO ANYTHING.**

**DO
THIS**



MORNING TIME

When you go into your child's room this month say, "Good morning, [child's name]!" Cuddle up beside him and say, "Jesus is your friend and I am too! Ready for a great day together?"

**DO
THIS**



MORNING TIME

When you go into your child's room this month say, "Good morning, [child's name]!" Cuddle up beside him and say, "Jesus is your friend and I am too! Ready for a great day together?"

REMEMBER THIS

"With God all things are possible."
Matthew 19:26 NIV

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**BASIC
TRUTH**

JESUS WANTS TO BE MY FRIEND FOREVER.

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PRACTICING FAITH SKILLS WITH YOUR PRESCHOOLER

by Holly Crawshaw

If you're a parent who is growing in your faith, chances are you want the same thing for your child. It may feel overwhelming to know where to start, but that's okay. The point is to start *somewhere*, keeping in mind that it's never too early to begin making deposits in their spiritual foundation. Helping your child develop a faith that will one day become their own means instilling faith-growing practices into their daily habits.

Take advantage of the time you already have with them in the natural rhythm of your day—during morning time, drive time, bath time, and cuddle time. Start developing these habits now by practicing these four faith skills when they are young:

HEAR: Practice hearing and doing what God says. *Repeat short scripture verses, read Bible story books, and sing simple songs like, "Jesus loves me."

PRAY: Practice praying to God. *Pray out loud with your child regularly. Encourage them to pray, too. Use simple, concrete language. For example, "God, thank you for our eyes. They help us to see!"

TALK: Practice talking about God. *Talk to your preschooler about how God created the earth and everything in it! Tell them God loves them and that Jesus wants to be their friend forever.

LIVE: Practice living for God. *Model God-honoring practices for your preschooler, sing praise and worship songs with them, prompt them to share and to help others.

These faith skills have the potential to create an incredible spiritual foundation in the life of your child, even during the preschool stage. The most important thing to remember is that when you model a daily pursuit of your own relationship with God, it accomplishes much more than your words ever could. If you want it to be in them, it has to be in you first.

Cue: Make your own spiritual growth a priority and practice demonstrating these faith skills with your child.

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WEEK TWO

MATTHEW 14:22-33

Jesus walks on water.

**SAY
THIS**

**WHO CAN DO ANYTHING?
JESUS CAN DO ANYTHING.**



WEEK TWO

MATTHEW 14:22-33

Jesus walks on water.

**SAY
THIS**

**WHO CAN DO ANYTHING?
JESUS CAN DO ANYTHING.**

**DO
THIS**



DRIVE TIME

As you drive along, point out people you see and ask your child, "Does Jesus want to be that person in the [color] [car/shirt/truck]'s friend forever?" Respond with, "Yes! Jesus wants to be everyone's friend forever!"

**DO
THIS**



DRIVE TIME

As you drive along, point out people you see and ask your child, "Does Jesus want to be that person in the [color] [car/shirt/truck]'s friend forever?" Respond with, "Yes! Jesus wants to be everyone's friend forever!"

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MAKE IT PERSONAL

This is an excerpt adapted from the *Parenting Beyond Your Capacity* by Reggie Joiner and Carey Nieuwhof

A crucial link exists between your ability to parent and your personal growth.

When it comes to character and faith, your kids are watching you in a way they might not watch you in other pursuits. Because it's so personal, you can't do faith and character for your kids. There's another factor at work. If it's not in you, they know it. When it comes to spiritual and character formation, your journey impacts them deeply. If you want it to be in them, it needs to be in you.

As you read this, your anxiety level is probably rising. You feel like you can't possibly measure up. If you were to level with your kids about your fears, your inconsistencies, or even how shaky your faith is on some days, you'd feel like you were admitting defeat.

But that's a perfect picture mindset. God is interested in writing a bigger story, and your personal growth is part of the plotline. In fact, your developing story may be more influential than you think. That's why parents need to let their kids see them struggle to grow. They need to see your authenticity and hear your transparency. Most of all, they need

to observe up close that your spiritual, moral, and relational growth is a priority in your life. This is not about a perfect model, just an honest one. Whatever you want your children to become, you should honestly strive to become as well.

Your kids already have a front-row seat to your life. The question is, what are they watching? Is it just show? Or is it a real-life adventure where they see courage and passion to overcome personal obstacles? What if your personal growth was a front-row seat to the bigger story God wants to write in your family?

If you want your children to have it in them, they have to see it in you.

Your kids need to see you . . .
struggle with answers.
face your weaknesses.
deal with real problems.
admit when you are wrong.
fight for your marriage.
resolve personal conflict.

Your children need to see you make relational, emotional, and spiritual growth in your life a priority. If you don't make it personal for yourself, it may never be personal for them.

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WEEK THREE

MARK 6:31-44

Jesus feeds over 5,000 people with five loaves of bread and two fish.

**SAY
THIS**

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Jesus feeds over 5,000 people with five loaves of bread and two fish.

**SAY
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**DO
THIS**



CUDDLE TIME

Cuddle up with your child this month and pray, "Dear God, thank You for [child's name]. He is so precious. Help me to trust that with You all things are possible. Help me to be the parent [child's name] needs. I love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."

**DO
THIS**



CUDDLE TIME

Cuddle up with your child this month and pray, "Dear God, You gave us the best gift You could ever give when You gave us Your Son, Jesus. Thank You for giving us such a good friend. Help us to remember how special He is as we celebrate Christmas. We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."

REMEMBER THIS

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A FAITH OF THEIR OWN

by Autumn Ward

I was the mom with the schedule. Feeding schedule. Sleeping schedule. Reading and playtime schedule. I even had a written schedule on my refrigerator that I followed so I wouldn't forget anything. I was the schedule queen. I simply wanted what was best for my kids. I wanted to make sure they got what they needed. Somehow I got it in my head that if I did everything perfectly things would be, well, perfect.

Yes. Perfect.

The perfect playgroup. The perfect meal. The perfect bath time. The perfect toys. The perfect preschool. The perfect life.

We all know perfect is not possible. And yet we "good" parents try. (And feel defeated when we realize we aren't) At some point, during those early preschool years, I began to see that no amount of micromanaging would ever protect my children from disappointment and hurt.

Pain and disappointment are inevitable.

I came to the conclusion that rather than drive myself crazy trying to do the impossible, I needed to train my children to trust God no matter what, showing them ways to respond to pain and disappointment in ways that honor Him.

I began focusing more on the heart, not the circumstance. When we focus on trying to control the circumstances in

our kid's life, all in the name of "wanting what's best," we put ourselves where only God should be—in control.

Without meaning to, we teach our kids to look to us rather than to God. We teach our children to depend on us to fix everything, rather than trusting that God will allow, do, fix whatever is best. We teach our children that nothing bad should ever happen to them. And if that's not a set-up for disappointment down the road, I don't know what is!

I can honestly say, after 18 years of parenting, and three teenagers later, I experience more joy watching my children respond to trials with wisdom and faith than watching them live life trouble free.

So, keep the sleeping schedule, and make sure you provide lots of great books to read and healthy things to eat, but when it comes to circumstances that God allows in our lives—into your kid's life—don't ask, "How can I change what is happening?" Train yourself and your kids to ask, "How can I respond to this in a way that will make God smile?"

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WEEK FOUR

JOHN 2:1-11

Jesus turns water into wine.

**SAY
THIS**

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WEEK FOUR

JOHN 2:1-11

Jesus turns water into wine.

**SAY
THIS**

**WHO CAN DO ANYTHING?
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**DO
THIS**



BATH TIME

Add a several cups to bath time this week. As you scoop and pour, talk about how Jesus turned water into super fancy party drink at the wedding. Only Jesus could do that! Jesus can do anything!

REMEMBER THIS

"With God all things are possible."
Matthew 19:26 NIV

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LITTLE IS THE NEW BIG

by Jon Acuff

Every kid needs to have a little fun. No, they need a lot of fun. Kids are wired for fun. The truth is that giving your kids fun over time helps prove to a kid you like them.

The funny thing about having big fun with your kids is that it doesn't take a big moment. Have you ever noticed that? The times you planned something expensive and complicated with your kids, and they barely blinked an eye. The time you washed the car in your driveway, threw sponges at each other, and they talked about forever.

Why does that happen?

I think it's the "cardboard box" effect. Every parent has had one of those moments when your child ignores the present you got them and instead goes gaga for the box it comes in. "No," you think to yourself, "that's just a cardboard box. The actual toy lights up and has laser beam sounds and is amazing." But your toy protests go ignored as they chew on their new favorite object on the planet.

The cardboard box effect continues as they get older and starts to apply to experiences, not just presents. I have

forgotten week-long vacations as a child but still remember the night my dad put his hand in the Jello at dinner. My brothers and I lost our minds as he scooped out a big red handful of dessert as if it were the most normal thing in the world.

We had big fun because he did something little.

In your pursuit to have fun with your kids, don't put big pressure on yourselves.

Certainly there are moments that call for elaborate and detailed adventures, but little moments matter too.

A little trip to a bakery before school, a little water balloon fight, a little hand in the Jello—those are the fun kind of little moments that add up to big memories.

Cue: Do something little this week to have big fun with your kids, because fun over time proves to a kid you like them.

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