PARENT CUE

JUNE 2019

ELEMENTARY

WEEK FOUR

LUKE 2:22-35

Simeon at the Temple

SAY THIS

When you need to wait, ask God for patience.

DO THIS

DRIVE TIME

As you drive around this month, you may find yourself stuck in traffic. At that moment, ask your preteen, "What do you do when you have to wait?" Think of ideas on how to pass the time while stuck in traffic.

REMEMBER THIS

"The fruit the Holy Spirit produces is love, joy and peace. It is being patient, kind and good. It is being faithful and gentle and having control of oneself."
Galatians 5:22-23a, NIrV

LIFE APP

LIFE APP—What God is doing in you to change the world around you

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ELEMENTARY

ADVICE I'D GIVE MYSELF IF I WERE STARTING OVER AS A DAD

By Reggie Joiner

I became a parent like a lot of you, while I was still trying to figure out who I was, build a career, manage a minimal income, establish a healthy marriage, etc. It seems like it would make more sense to find my identity, build a strong marriage, retire and then have kids. I really do wish I knew then what I know now. Not that I have all the answers . . . I just think I would be a smarter dad.

So here's some advice I would give to myself if I were starting over as a dad:

1. **Listen more, talk less.** I can't count the college students who tell me they don't feel like their parents ever really listened.
2. **Don't "send" your kids to bed, put them in bed.** You only have a short window of time when they are young enough to want you to tuck them in.
3. **Ask better questions.** Learn to shift from performance questions to heart questions.
4. **Guard Saturdays to create family traditions.** There are a little over 350 Saturdays between the time your kids are 1st grade and when they become teenagers, then Saturdays change forever.
5. **Don't sign up your kids for everything.** We tend to make our kids experientially rich, but relationally poor.
6. **Play games.** Have fun together, build memories playing board games, or card games, etc.
7. **Don't take things too serious.** What you think matters right now will probably not matter as much as you think it does later. What does matter is what you communicate during stressful or dramatic moments.
8. **Never punish anyone relationally.** Don't withdraw your relationship to make someone feel bad for something they have done wrong.
9. **Do chores together.** Kids who work with their parents have a better work ethic and tend to be more responsible.
10. **Say "I love you" every day.** It's just a healthy habit you can never start too early.
11. **Apologize often.** You might as well admit when you do something wrong, everyone knows it anyway.

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