



WEEK TWO

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REMEMBER THIS:

"Your teachings are worth more to me than thousands of pieces of gold and silver."

PSALM 119:72, NCV



SAY THIS:

What is better than gold?
THE BIBLE IS BETTER THAN GOLD.



DO THIS:



As you drive, take turns finishing the sentence, "The Bible is better than ____." End with, "The Bible is better than gold, because it teaches us that God made us, God loves us, and Jesus wants to be our friend forever!"



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BASIC TRUTH:

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HOW TO RAISE OBEDIENT KIDS FOR ALL THE WRONG REASONS

By Carey Nieuwhof

When you're trying to gain some semblance of control in the home, every parent is driven to try to elicit obedience from our kids.

And you know what? You can get pretty good at it. I did. Our kids rarely acted up in public when they were young. They said please and thank you. They were quite well-behaved.

Obedience is something we can want *from* our kids.

Let's face it. Well-behaved children can . . . boost our self esteem, make us look good in front of our friends, impress the grandparents, reduce our stress, make us feel like we've won.

But do we win? Scratch that. Here's a better question: Do **they** win?

Or do we just end up raising performance addicts? Children who behave . . . to impress, to placate, to calm things down . . . because they don't think they have any other options.

I admit, there were moments when I disciplined for those reasons. But then I realized how shallow and selfish that motivation really was.

Think about it. What if you reversed that? What if instead of wanting obedience *from* your kids, we wanted obedience *for* your kids?

A shift in motivation takes the focus off the needs of the **parent** and places the focus

back on best interests of the **child**.

After all, our kids grow up.

If you discipline with the motivation of wanting obedience for your child, you parent with the end in mind. You realize that one day (soon) you're not going to be there. Your control will be non-existent, and they'll have to make all the decisions for themselves.

Make the shift from "from" to "for" and you'll see some changes:

Obedience will no longer be something you want from them to get rid of problem they're causing you, it will be something you want for them to learn how to solve the problems they're causing themselves and others.

Obedience will no longer be something you want *from* them to make you look good in front of others, it will be something you want for them to learn how to navigate relationships skillfully and humbly.

The list could go on. But do you see the shift?

So what if you decided to be clear on your motivation when you discipline your child? It might make a small difference today, but I promise you it will make a huge difference tomorrow. Not only in you, but especially in them.



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