

STARVE THE MONSTER

PART THREE: LITTLE MONSTERS

So you're battling entitlement in you, but you're also trying to fight it in your kids. Nobody likes an entitled, ungrateful child. But practically, in a culture that has so much, how do you raise kids who are truly grateful? This week, we'll uncover an important principle from scripture and practically apply it to raising kids today.

BIG IDEA: Kids who feel entitled to everything will be grateful for nothing.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What bothers you most when you encounter kids who act like they are entitled to things?
2. What's the worst expression of entitlement you've seen in a child or teen? What do you think may have caused it?
3. Do you think your parenting approach has fueled any sense of entitlement in your kids? How?
4. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read Proverbs 16:25-26.*

"There is a path before each person that seems right, but it ends in death. It is good for workers to have an appetite; an empty stomach drives them on.

Proverbs 16:25-26 (NLT)

5. Chris said that despite the good intentions of many parents who want to give their kids 'everything', giving their kids everything often leaves them with little appetite to do much for themselves. Do you agree?
6. Of the five guidelines Chris offers for parents who want to battle entitlement (see the Moving Forward section below), which seems like it could provide the most immediate relief in your home?

MOVING FORWARD

To reduce the sense of entitlement your kids feel, spend some time with your spouse or co-parent this week to determine what your ground rules for handling money will be. You can use the five points Chris outlined in the message as a guide:

1. Determine what is a want and what is a need. Talk to your kids about the difference.
2. Reclaim special occasions. Keep most special purchases for birthdays, Christmas and other special occasions.
3. Set a budget and let them choose (if your child is old enough for this). When it comes to clothes purchases, back to school supplies and other purchases, instead of you buying it, establish a budget and let your kids do the shopping. They will become thrifter or quickly experience the consequences if they mis-prioritize.
4. Establish an allowance and expectations. If you set an allowance, explain what expectations come with it.
5. Be clear about what you will never pay your kids for. This will vary from house to house, but it's good to be clear on what your kids will never be paid for (picking up their room, cutting the grass, emptying the dishwasher to list a few examples. Some things are simply part of being a member of the family.)

CHANGING YOUR MIND

"It is good for workers to have an appetite; an empty stomach drives them on." Proverbs 16:26