



PART TWO: CENTER OF MY UNIVERSE

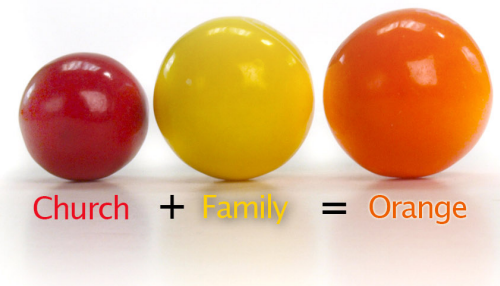
Somewhere along the line we picked up the idea that kids are supposed to be the focus of our lives. The problem with that line of thinking is that it causes problems for everyone, including kids. Could child-centered parenting produce self-centered children? We'll explore that this week.

BIG IDEA: Child-centered parenting produces self-centered children.

ORANGE FAMILY VALUE: Parent with the end in mind. Focus your priorities on what matters most.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Chris said we should *parent with the end in mind*. That means we need focus on *who we want our children to be when they reach adulthood*. So what do we want to be true about our children when they reach adulthood? What characteristics do we want them to have?



Who we are is far more important than what we do.

Chris said that the tendency as parents and schools is to focus on, “What do we want our children to do? What job will they eventually land? Will they be happy and make a good living in that career?” That is focused on *career*. But there are better questions—questions that focus on *character*. *Character* determines the person you are. You bring who you are into everything you do and everywhere you go.

2. Chris said, “Career is important. Skill set is important. But even bigger than that is the question of character.” Do you agree or disagree? Why or why not?
3. Have you seen parents ‘over-encourage’ or ‘over-focus’ on their kids? What impact do you think that can have on kids?
4. Do you agree that child-centered parenting produces self-centered children? Why or why not?
5. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read Philippians 2:3-5.*

Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.

Philippians 2:3-5 (NLT)

6. Why is that a hard message to accept in our culture?
7. Are you a Rescuer? Are you a parent who can't say, “No”? Or are you a parent who has a hard time enforcing limits? How might these behaviors contribute to raising self-centered children?
8. How would your children's lives be different (and better) if their lives were focused on knowing Jesus and on serving others? What could you do to encourage that?



MOVING FORWARD

This week, take some time to ask yourself who is really the center of your home. Is it the kids? The parents? (Parents can be selfish, too!) Or is it Jesus? Try at least one (maybe more) of the five ways to make your family less child-centered and more Jesus-centered.

1. Do something Christ-centered this week. Pray together as a family. Read the bible. Use the resources we send home with you at oneChurch.tv.
2. Stop rescuing your kids. Let them feel the consequences of their actions.
3. Say no. Every whim and desire is not a need.
4. Set and enforce limits.
5. Help them serve others.



CHANGING YOUR MIND

“Don’t be selfish; don’t try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves.” Philippians 2:3

