

grace
KIDS

ELEMENTARY



WEEK FIVE

ROMANS 8:38-39

Nothing Can Separate Us
from God's Love

SAY
THIS

Live like you believe
what God says is true.

DO
THIS



MEAL TIME

Make up a family handshake or special high-five that you can use to encourage each other this month.

REMEMBER THIS

"Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."
Philippians 1:6, NIV

LIFE
APP

CONFIDENCE—Living like you believe
what God says is true

WHAT YOU SHOULD BE STRIVING FOR AS A PARENT

By Jeff Brodie

There are no perfect parents, and there are no perfect kids. So what is the ideal family? What should be our goal?

When I look at my family, there is a tension between what is real and what is ideal. While I should be a patient parent, I can find myself making mistakes and pulling my hair out every day. God sets out some great ideals for us as parents. The big question is:

Will I abandon ideals, or lower my standards, just to make me feel better about my parenting?

OR

Will I accept that even if I won't be the ideal parent, I need to parent toward ideals?

Here are three ways I find myself lowering my standards as a parent:

1. Quietly judging the parents around me. Sometimes pointing out the mistakes in others is motivated by a need to make us feel better about ourselves. We can find ourselves judging, gossiping, or critiquing the parents around us (or their kids) as an escape from focusing on our own need to improve how we lead our own children.

2. Blaming my own parent. At times, we can find ourselves blaming the past for our parenting mistakes today. We sometimes need to be reminded that the bad habits we inherit are meant to

be broken; not to be blamed. Our past shouldn't be an excuse to not parent towards an ideal, but a springboard towards something better.

3. Excusing ordinary situations by calling them extraordinary. So often my parenting excuses start with claiming that my current situation is an exception to the ideal: "The reason I don't spend time with my kids is because I'm so much busier than everyone else." By claiming our situation is extraordinary gives us an excuse to lower our standards.

So, how do we handle the tension between what's real and what's ideal?

The answer: We take our cues from God who models this for us. One of the mysteries of God is His ability to hold up ideals for me to aim towards, but to hold out His arms with grace because He knows I won't always meet them—all with the goal of seeing me grow in my faith as a person and a parent.

You'll never be a perfect parent, but you can strive for what's best, while understanding that God is ready to forgive and walk alongside you every step of the way.

For more blog posts
and parenting resources, visit:
ParentCue.org

READ 2 SAMUEL 7:28

DAY 1

Circle T if the statement is true, and F if it is false.

- T F** 1) The X Games are like the Olympics for extreme sports.
- T F** 2) Aniket Chindak from India holds the World Record for limbo skating under 57 cars.
- T F** 3) Volcano boarding is a real thing.
- T F** 4) Some people like to bungee jump over crocodile-infested waters.
- T F** 5) In zorbing, you climb inside a giant ball and someone rolls you down a huge hill.

Would you believe that all of those are actually true? It's hard to believe that people are willing to do such crazy things (and find it fun!).

Sometimes the promises God has made to us seem almost too good to be true, but they are! Over and over again, God has shown how He can be trusted. While that understandably may not give you the confidence to bungee jump over a crocodile's open jaws (nor should it!), if you live like you believe what God says is true, you WILL walk confidently through life!

KNOW that what God says is true!

READ PSALM 94:18-19

DAY 2

Put on some socks and head to the kitchen, or any room that doesn't have carpet on the floors. Do a little sock skating. Can you twirl like a figure skater?

It's fun to skate in your socks, but it's a bit slippery. If you've ever slipped, you've probably tried to grab on to something so you wouldn't fall. Here's what awesome about God: you don't have to grab on to Him if you feel like you're falling because He is holding on to you and won't let you fall! That doesn't mean you won't fall if you're skating in your socks or even just walking, but it does mean that whatever hard thing you're facing, God will hold you up and help you through.

THANK God for holding you up when life has you slipping.

READ DEUTERONOMY 7:9

DAY 3

God promises that everything He has said is true, and that we can trust Him no matter what. It's one way that He shows us His great love for us.

What are some other ways that God has shown you His love? Make a list.

Talk to God and thank Him for showing you His love in so many ways.

ASK God to help you remember His great love for you all day long.

READ DEUTERONOMY 31:6

DAY 4

Ask your mom or dad if you can use a little bit of salt and pepper and a sandwich bag. Sprinkle a lot of each into a bag, and then challenge your parent to separate the salt from the pepper. Perhaps if they worked very, very hard they could eventually separate SOME of the seasonings from each other, but it's not very likely.

Did you know that it's truly impossible for us to be separated from God's love? It doesn't matter what we do, He has promised He will never leave us. How does that make you feel? _____ Does that make you love God and want to obey him more or less? _____

KNOW that God's promises are true and that means you can live confidently!

LIVE LIKE YOU
BELIEVE WHAT
GOD
SAYS IS TRUE.