



KIDS

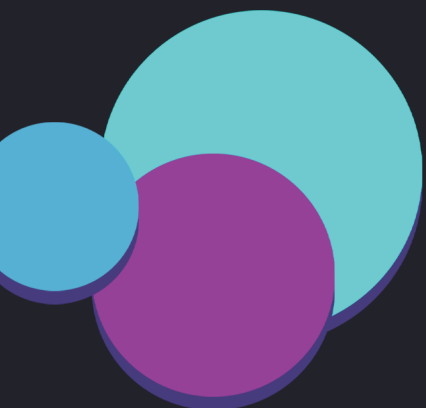
weekly devotional



verse

Proverbs 1:8

“My child, listen to when your father corrects you. Don’t neglect your mother’s instruction.”





"I am so tired of my dad and mom telling me what to do," said Matt. "I mean, they never lets me do anything I want to do."

"That's not true," said Jimmy. "You get to do all kinds of cool things."

Matt looked right at Jimmy and laughed. He didn't get to do anything he wanted to do. Never.

"What cool things," he asked. "What are you talking about?"

Jimmy started naming one thing after another that Matt got to do: skiing, go-cart racing, hiking in the woods, riding bikes on trails, baseball, basketball, football.

"Are you saying that you don't like those things," asked Jimmy. "Because you do them a lot. And your parents always let your friends do them with you."

"That's not what I'm talking about," said Matt. "They let me do those things, but not really cool things."

Jimmy thought all those things were pretty cool and couldn't understand why Matt was so upset with his dad and mom.

"So, what do you consider to be really cool things, Jimmy," he asked.

Jimmy began to count on his fingers, saying he didn't get to go to the movies or the mall by himself, or have a phone with all the fun apps, or drive in a car with his friend's older brother.

"Are talking about Benny's brother," asked Jimmy. "Because Benny's parents don't even let him drive with his brother very often either."

"But they let him do it sometimes," said Matt. "My parents won't ever let me do it."



point

As the boys continued to talk about Matt's problems, Jimmy's big sister, Amy, came walking up the driveway and asked what they were talking about.

"Boy, you guys look like something is really bothering you," said Amy, who just turned 16 a week ago. "What's going on?"

"Nothing with me," said Jimmy. "But Matt is having a bad day."


"I'm not having a bad day," he said. "I'm having a bad life. My parents are just being mean."

"What did they do," asked Amy. "I mean, I really like your parents. Everybody does. You have great parents."

Matt gave Amy the same list he'd just given Jimmy. Then talked about how his dad even grounded him from video games for a week because he tried to sneak out of the house and meet up with Benny and his brother.

"It's not fair," he yelled.

"What's not fair," she asked. "First, it's expensive to have a phone; second, there are a lot of bad apps out there. And, third, dude, you definitely should not have tried to sneak out. That's not cool. They are just protecting you."





point

"Right, Amy" Matt snorted. "If they would have let me hang out with Benny and his brother, I wouldn't have had to sneak out."

"Jimmy, you're 12 years old, and do your parents even know Benny and his brother," asked Amy. "They don't, do they? I wouldn't let you go either."

Amy told both the boys about a verse she learned in church from her youth pastor. A bunch of kids were mad at their parents, just like Matt, so the pastor taught them about what parents do.

Her pastor told the youth group that parents are supposed to take care of their kids and teach them right from wrong.

"He gave us this verse from Proverbs about how important it is for us to 'listen when our father corrects us' and to pay attention to our 'mother's instruction,'" she said. "Matt, your parent's love you and don't want anything bad to happen to you."

"Don't you get it, Matt," said Jimmy. "I don't get everything I want. Who does? But I don't get mad at my parents. I trust them. Don't you? Even a little?"

"Jimmy, you can be mad at your mom and dad," said Amy. "But just know they really love you and care about you."

"I know they love me, and I trust them," he said. "But, dang it . . . Oh, I'll think about it."
"You do that, Matt," said Amy. "Hey, I gotta go say hello to mom. See you guys later."



lesson



God gave kids parents to protect them and teach them. Sometimes that means they have to discipline their kids – like being grounded from something they really like. But moms and dad do it because they love their children. Parents know a lot more than their kids and they want to help them grow up to be loving, kind, generous, honest, humble, and caring. They want their kids to follow Jesus the way they do. So, the next time your parents tell you they do not want you to do something you want to do, listen to them. They are teaching you something important. And if you get grounded for doing something you shouldn't have done, know that they are teaching you a very important lesson.





prayer



God, you are so amazing and loving and kind. Please help me to trust You and to trust my parents. Help me to listen to them and to learn from them. Lord, help me to be a follower of Jesus by listening to my parents when they correct me and teach me. I love you, Lord, and pray in Your Son's name, amen.

