



Discussion Questions: “Parenting: Child Centered or Christ Centered”

By Paula Thompson – April 20, 2023

1. Which (if any) symptoms from the “Child Centered” list, do you notice in your parenting?
2. What practical action can you take to change these from child centered to Christ centered?
3. What are some habits, activities, or traditions you can begin to practice as a family which are Christ centered? Or share some you already are doing 😊
Example: At the end of a meal, tell funny stories, share memories, pray together.
4. Based on our discussion, list ways to include your child or children (age appropriately) in serving others with you in helps or hospitality (family, friends, neighbors, church, etc.).

SIGNS OF A CHILD-CENTERED HOME

1. Your children talk-back, or resist your attempts to parent, correct, or discipline them.
2. You avoid disciplining for fear of their behavior or hurting their feelings.
3. You are unable to have a conversation without kids interrupting.
4. You pay your children to do basic chores.
5. You cook different meals for child when it's time to eat as a family.
6. You "protect" your children from experiencing the consequences of their own actions. Or you sugarcoat or avoid having difficult conversations with them.
7. You avoid going out to eat or go places for fear that child won't behave.
8. You struggle to say "no" to your kids.
9. You repeatedly explain and reason with your kids so they'll agree to obey.
10. House is covered in toys & kids' things, to the point you avoid inviting people over.
11. Placing our kids before our marriage. (This should be first on the list!)

Put Your Kids to Work with these Age-Appropriate Chores

“It’s just easier to do it myself.”

Have you ever caught yourself saying this? When the house is a mess and you know the little ones will never do it *right*, and it will take longer—you decide to just do it yourself. But what’s the long-term cost of this strategy?

Refusing to give your children more responsibility deprives them of practical skills they need and the pride of a job well-done. Sure, the towels may not be folded perfectly, but the pay-off for everyone far outweighs the imperfections. Here are some ideas to teach our kids the important place they have in the family.

2 years:

- Getting diaper for self or new baby
- Picking up small items from floor
- Putting away toys

3 years:

- Pouring measured items into mixing bowl
- Help weed the yard

4 years:

- Help with dusting
- Sorting recyclables
- Put clothes away in their room
- Fold napkins for dinner

5 years:

- Dusting lower shelves
- Emptying small trash cans
- Helping set the table
- Making bed
- Feeding pets
- General straightening of rooms

6 years:

- Unload dishwasher
- Feeding baby
- Clearing table
- Weed on their own
- General folding laundry

7 years:

Vacuuming
Loading dishwasher
Sweeping floor
Unload groceries

8 years:

Washing pans
Cleaning bathrooms
Beginning cooking skills
Sewing buttons
Reading to younger siblings
Cleaning baseboards
Water the plants

9–10 years:

Changing baby's diapers
Washing car
Cleaning windows
Yard work—raking, planting
Taking out trash

11–12 years:

Yard work—mowing
Babysitting for short periods
Laundry

13–14 years:

Babysitting
Yard work—edging, trimming
Cooking on their own
Household maintenance—painting, repairs

At this age, the child should be able to learn any housekeeping skill, as long as you are willing to teach him. **Certain skills, such as ironing, mowing lawn, and babysitting for siblings depend on maturity level and/or family circumstances.** Parents know best.