

*Don't
Miss
It*

MAY 27 & 28

DON'T MISS
THIS WEEK

CHIP
UHRMACHER,
CEDAR FALLS
CAMPUS
PASTOR

Introduction

Parents have about 936 weeks from when their child is born until he or she turns 18. This is illustrated by a jar of marbles in our current *Don't Miss It* parenting series. Blogger Autumn Ward reflects, "Looking back, I can't even begin to tell you where all of my 936 marbles went. Some were spent sitting in a rocking chair just staring at our son's infant face. Others looking for Blue's Clues, putting Transformers together, listening to him read his first book to me, eating lunch with him at school, going on all those field trips, shopping for cool shirts, talking about girls, talking about God, helping him recover from his first broken heart, letting him chauffeur me around, taking selfies together, getting ready for prom..." Like Autumn, many of us will need to focus on building a better history with our kids. It doesn't matter how good or how poorly we've done in the past. It can all change this week when we incorporate reading, praying and listening into our daily rhythms.

Discussion

Read **Deuteronomy 6:1-9**. Then discuss the following.

1. Because of this series, Brent has been convicted to have more spiritual conversations with his 13-year-old son, Evan, and wants to discuss how he tries to live out his faith by being an example to his circle of influence. However, he knows his son has heard stories of his "wild" high school days. How should Brent handle the situation?
2. Troy and Heather came from very different spiritual backgrounds before marrying five years ago. Now raising two toddlers, Heather wants to join a church with contemporary worship service and a "lively" preaching style. Troy insists that they should raise their children in a quieter, traditional form of worship that's "not showy." What counsel would you provide this couple?
3. Martha will be babysitting her two young grandchildren this coming weekend. Her daughter and son-in-law, Lisa and Robert, have instructed her not to "proselytize" their children with Bible stories, prayers or church. Lisa punctuates her point with a text, "Mother, we respect your tradition, but we want our children to be open and tolerant to all beliefs!" What Christian advice can you offer Martha?

Think About It

A PLC father relates this story of how he used his driving time to strengthen a father-son relationship. "When my college-bound son informed us he would need a ride to and from Iowa State every weekend, I dreaded the tedious drive. Then a co-worker told me how he enjoyed the personal time he'd spent with his son while doing the same thing a few years earlier. My attitude changed. Over the next two years, I relished those times chatting and reflecting with my son as we cruised the Iowa landscape. These trips morphed into sight-seeing adventures after we began taking detours to explore obscure and abandoned places. After we gave our son a car for his junior year, I came to miss those weekly adventures. Who could have imagined chauffeuring would be so much fun?"

Do Something

1. Nature is a great tool for teaching children about God. If you have children or grandchildren, schedule some time to explore nature together this week and use the occasion to point out God's creativity.
2. If you have adult children, consider scheduling a weekly Skype call with them to study the Bible together. Use a printed or online devotional guide to discuss Bible applications for everyday life. Regardless of how you raised them, it's not too late to lead your children in devotional study.