



STORY FOCUS:

The Lord's Prayer
Jesus teaches us
how to pray
Matthew 6:9-13

MEMORY VERSE:

I will give thanks
to the Lord with
my whole heart
Psalm 111:1

KEY QUESTION:

Who can you thank
for everything?

BOTTOM LINE:

I can thank God
for everything!

BASIC TRUTH: GOD MADE ME.

DRIVE TIME:

As you drive, take turns with your child thanking
God for things you see out of the window. You can
thank God for the sun, clouds, birds, stores, stop
sign and everything you see, because we can thank
God for everything!

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A FEW WEEKS AGO, I WAS REMINDED OF JUST HOW MAGICAL/INSANE THIS TIME OF YEAR IS. I WANTED US TO BE FUN PARENTS AND TO CREATE MEMORIES. BUT WITH SO MUCH 'FUN' PLANNED, WE STARTED RUNNING ON LESS AND LESS UNTIL IT DIDN'T MATTER WHAT WE WERE DOING. WE WERE TOO EXHAUSTED TO ENJOY IT. THEN IT HIT ME. WHEN IT COMES TO MAKING MEMORIES, MY KIDS ARE CATALOGUING MORE THAN THE EXPERIENCE ITSELF. THEY ARE TAKING NOTE OF THE EMOTIONS THAT COME ALONG WITH THEM. I'M LEARNING IF I WANT TO CREATE GOOD MEMORIES THAT LAST A LIFETIME, THEN I HAVE TO DO MORE THAN JUST PLAN FOR THE FUN. WHAT THAT MEANS FOR MY FAMILY IS THAT SOMETIMES WE HAVE TO SAY "NO" TO SOME PARTIES, FESTIVALS AND FAIRS. NOT BECAUSE WE ARE BORING PARENTS, BUT BECAUSE WE KNOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF AN EXPERIENCE, WE HAVE TO BRING OUR BEST INTO IT. WHEN MY KIDS REMEMBER THEIR CHILDHOOD, I WANT THEM TO REMEMBER FUN EXPERIENCES. BUT I ALSO WANT THEM TO REMEMBER HAPPY PARENTS IN THOSE EXPERIENCES. A MOM AT PEACE AND A DAD WHO IS PRESENT, WHERE "STRESSED OUT" ISN'T THE NORM. EMOTIONS MAKE GREAT MEMORIES TOO. I WANT MY KIDS TO REMEMBER JOY, PEACE, GENEROSITY, AND GRATITUDE. THOSE ONLY COME WHEN YOU GIVE THEM SPACE. SO, WE ARE SOWING "NO'S" NOW SO WE CAN REAP THE KIND OF MEMORIES WE WANT TO HAVE LATER. FIGURE OUT WHAT MATTERS TO YOU. AND MAKE TIME FOR IT.