



STORY FOCUS:

God takes care of us like a shepherd takes care of his sheep.

Psalm 23

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.

BATH TIME:

Encourage your child to look around at things in the bath area and thank God for them. Example:
"Thank you God for water. Thank you God for soap.
Thank you God for (toy). Thank you God for Mommy/Daddy!"

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CHILD-CENTERED PARENTING MAYBE ISN'T THE BEST APPROACH TO PARENTING. PRIMARILY BECAUSE IT PRODUCES SELF-CENTERED ADULTS AS THEY MATURE. A CHILD WHO GROWS UP TO BELIEVE THEY ARE THE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE WILL HAVE A FAR MORE DIFFICULT LIFE THAN ONE WHO GROWS UP TO UNDERSTAND HE HAS A PLACE AMONG MANY IN THE UNIVERSE. MY WIFE AND I SAW THE PITFALLS OF CHILD-CENTERED PARENTING EARLY ON. WHEN OUR FIRST SON WAS BORN, WE HAD TO MAKE DECISIONS ON HOW TO CHILD-PROOF OUR HOME. BEYOND HEALTH AND SAFETY CHILDPROOFING, WE DECIDED TO SIMPLY SET BOUNDARIES BY TELLING HIM WHAT HE COULD AND COULDN'T TOUCH. TO OUR SURPRISE, IT WORKED. ONE OF THE VERY FIRST WORDS HE LEARNED WAS "NO." IT WAS ACTUALLY AN IMPORTANT KEY TO BREAKING THE CHILD-CENTERED MINDSET. KIDS NEED TO LEARN TO LIVE IN THIS WORLD WITH RESPECT FOR THEIR BOUNDARIES AND FOR OTHERS. MAKE GOD THE CENTER. YOU AND YOUR CHILDREN WERE CREATED TO WORSHIP SOMETHING BIGGER THAN YOURSELF OR EACH OTHER. WHEN THERE IS A NATURAL REFOCUSING OF OUR WANTS AND NEEDS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF A LOVING HEAVENLY FATHER, OUR LIVES REALIZE FUNCTION SO MUCH BETTER. STOP RESCUING. YOUR CHILD NEEDS TO FEEL THE CONSEQUENCES OF HIS ACTIONS. WHEN YOU STEP IN TO SOLVE EVERY CONFLICT, YOU ROB HIM OF THE LEARNING THAT COMES FROM DEALING WITH HIS OWN SHORTCOMINGS AND MISTAKES. YOU DON'T WANT TO LET HIM GET HARMED, BUT YOU SHOULD BE WILLING TO LET HIM GET HURT. SAY NO. OUR KIDS ARE ADULTS NOW, AND I DON'T THINK THEY'VE EVER BROKEN A PICTURE FRAME OR PIECE OF FURNITURE. A FEW BONES... SURE BUT THAT WAS PLAYING SPORTS! SET AND ENFORCE LIMITS. YOUR CHILDREN NEED TO KNOW THERE ARE LIMITS TO WHAT THEY CAN AND SHOULD DO. IRONICALLY IT'S WITHIN LIMITS THAT WE FIND THE ULTIMATE FREEDOM. HELP THEM SERVE OTHERS. WHEN YOUR CHILD SERVES OTHERS, HE REALIZES THAT THERE ARE GREATER NEEDS THAN HIS IN THE WORLD. SERVING CHANGES THE HEART TO BECOME LESS SELF-CENTERED, AND MORE OTHERS-CENTERED.

CHILD-CENTERED PARENTING
BY CAREY NEWHOF