

WATCH THIS

CUDDLE TIME

Cuddle up with your child and pray "Dear God, thank you for (child's name). He is so precious. Help me to trust that with you all things are possible. Help me to be the parent (child's name) needs. I love you, God. Amen."

KEY QUESTION

Who can do Anything?

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus can do Anything!

MEMORY VERSE

With God all things are possible.
Matthew 19:26

STORY FOCUS
WEEK THREE

Nothing is too hard for Jesus.
Mark 6:31-44
Jesus feeds 5000 people



A Faith of Their Own

by Autumn Ward

I was the mom with the schedule. Feeding schedule. Sleeping schedule. Reading and playtime schedule. I even had a written schedule on my refrigerator that I followed so I wouldn't forget anything. I was the schedule queen. I simply wanted what was best for my kids. I wanted to make sure they got what they needed. Somehow I got it in my head that if I did everything perfectly things would be, well, perfect.

The perfect playgroup. The perfect meal. The perfect bath time. The perfect toys. The perfect preschool.

The perfect life. We all know perfect is not possible. And yet we "good" parents try.

(And feel defeated when we realize we aren't) At some point, during those early preschool years, I began to see that no amount of micromanaging would ever protect my children from disappointment and hurt.

Pain and disappointment are inevitable. I came to the conclusion that rather than drive myself crazy trying to do the impossible, I needed to train my children to trust God no matter what, showing them ways to respond to pain and disappointment in ways that honor Him. I began focusing more on the heart, not the circumstance. When we focus on trying to control the circumstances in our kid's life, all in the name of "wanting what's best," we put ourselves where only God should be—in control.

Without meaning to, we teach our kids to look to us rather than to God. We teach our children to depend on us to fix everything, rather than trusting that God will allow, do, fix whatever is best. We teach our children that nothing bad should ever happen to them. And if that's not a set-up for disappointment down the road, I don't know what is!

I can honestly say, after 18 years of parenting, and three teenagers later, I experience more joy watching my children respond to trials with wisdom and faith than watching them live life trouble free. So, keep the sleeping schedule, and make sure you provide lots of great books to read and healthy things to eat, but when it comes to circumstances that God allows in our lives—into your kid's life—don't ask, "How can I change what is happening?" Train yourself and your kids to ask, "How can I respond to this in a way that will make God smile?"