



WEEK ONE

**JAMES 1:17**

God has given us so many good things, including His Son, Jesus, and when we follow Jesus He gives us the power to give good things too.

SAY  
THIS

**WHO GIVES YOU THE POWER  
TO DO EVERYTHING?  
JESUS GIVES ME THE POWER  
TO DO EVERYTHING.**



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DO  
THIS



MORNING TIME

When you go into your child's room this month, say, "Good morning! Where's my [child's name]? There he/she is! It's time to eat breakfast so we can power up our bodies for the day! But first, who gives us the power to do everything? Jesus gives us the power to do everything!"

DO  
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REMEMBER THIS

"I can do everything by the power of Christ."  
Philippians 4:13, NIV

BASIC  
TRUTH

JESUS WANTS TO BE MY FRIEND FOREVER

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## THE IMPORTANCE OF CLARITY

By Jon Acuff

A year ago, we moved to a new house in the center of our neighborhood. Located on one of the main roads, it's a perfect spot to watch the world go by. In addition to offering dozens of opportunities to connect with neighbors, it's also a really interesting place to learn about the importance of clarity.

Our house is near the neighborhood pool, which means we get to see kids ride their bikes as they head for a summer swim. A few weeks ago, I realized something about the gangs of riders that were passing my house—most of them didn't have helmets on. That's not surprising at all, kids often don't wear their helmets all the time. What was surprising is how many of them had the helmets with them.

The kids haven't forgotten their helmets at home. They haven't left them at a friend's house. They haven't lost them. No, the helmets are usually in a basket behind their seat or in their arms. Why? Because clarity matters.

The reason the kids are carrying but not wearing their helmets is that back at home, a mom said, "Make sure you bring your helmet if you go to the pool!" She meant "wear" but "bring"

isn't exactly wear. It can also mean carry or possess or simply "have." Bring is too fuzzy, too poorly defined, too unclear.

Is that a huge act of disobedience? Not really. Did anyone in my generation ever wear a helmet growing up? Not really. Does it matter though? It does.

As a parent, it's your job to speak with clarity. Not because your kids will take advantage of you all the time, but because it helps set boundaries. It helps clearly communicate expectations. It makes obeying a lot easier. Clarity is a gift you give your kids and yourself.

"Wear and buckle your helmet." That's not a complicated sentence, but it is a clear one. Note that I added "buckle" because just wearing it loosely doesn't really do it either.

Kids are amazing, but they're also natural lawyers. If you leave a loophole, they'll find it. Aim for clarity as often as you can.

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WEEK TWO

**ACTS 12:1-19**

Peter's friends faithfully pray for him when he is put in jail for telling people about Jesus.

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DRIVE TIME

When you get in the car, ask your child, "What gives the car power?" As you drive, continue asking your child what gives things power (radio, cell phone, street lights, anything you see along the way). Tell your child, "When Jesus is our friend, He gives us the power to love people the way He loves us. Jesus gives us the power to do everything!"

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## DO AS I SAY, NOT AS I DO

By Doug and Cathy Fields

Excerpted from *Intentional Parenting*

Have the words “Because I said so” ever come out of your mouth? This “quick fix” answer we sometimes give our kids when they ask “Why?” can ultimately undermine our authority as parents. “Because I said so” was never a satisfying answer when you were a kid; it’s no different now that you’re the parent. When it comes to guiding and teaching our kids, “do as I do” is far more effective than “do as I say.”

Whether we admit it or not, our lives are on display 24/7. Our children are always watching and learning from us—from both our positive and negative characteristics and behaviors. Intentional parents understand this reality and think about the messages their actions are sending. Actions always speak louder than words.

This isn’t to say that intentional parents don’t mess up. Even intentional parents are imperfect, and our actions sometimes reflect that reality. But those imperfections speak volumes, too. Because your kids don’t need you to be a perfect parent. The perception that we need to be perfect or overly spiritual is intimidating and can create

insecurity. The fact is, kids most need to see their parents genuinely trying to follow Jesus. We can tell them all day long to believe in Jesus, but our kids need to actually see it lived out in our own lives.

And the really good news? Your kids are picking up some great qualities from you. It’s easy to focus on our negative characteristics and forget about the positive things we’re passing on. Let’s be honest: we’re all a bundle of strengths and weaknesses, and our children see both. It can only help your parenting to take some time to reflect on the messages that are being communicated by your life to ensure that the positives create more vivid pictures than the negative.

The reality that your kids are watching isn’t meant to scare you or make you feel defeated. Instead, it is a reminder to think about the most important things you want to pass on to your kids, and then to consider whether your actions in those areas of your own life are the ones you want on display.

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