



Child Dedication

Our Vision

Read the excerpt from “Parenting Beyond Your Capacity” by Reggie Joiner and Carey Nieuwhof.

Most parents can’t give their children a lavish inheritance, but every parent will leave a **personal legacy**. Too often, parents believe the end goal is to make their kids happy. There are moments when I will buy anything, do anything, and go anywhere if it will just make my kids happy. Parents don’t like it when their kids are in a bad mood. Things are just easier when everybody is happy. You are happy when they are happy, so you’ll watch a blue dog on television, eat McNuggets, buy pet turtles, listen to the Wiggles, and mortgage your house if their happiness is at stake. You don’t want them to be spoiled; **you just want them to be happy.**

I have learned that some things are beyond my capacity. I have lived through several stages of parenting. I learned to lean on a principle we refer to as “**imagine the end.**” The fog usually begins to lift when I mentally fast-forward to the final chapter of my children’s lives and ask a pointed question: **Who do I really want them to become?** I know that in the middle of that answer is an understanding of who God is. Then I imagine the end and remember that God is writing His narrative.

When it comes to my children, the most **difficult** thing I have ever done is to admit my limited capacity and trust God to show up and do what only He can do. Some days I just need to be reminded that my family is a bigger picture and that **God desires to demonstrate His redemptive power through us.**



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Take a moment and list the top 5 things you hope to be true about your son or daughter when they turn 30.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Based off of what we have discussed today, take some time later today to write a letter to your child. Share with them your hopes and dreams for their life, and the role you hope that God is able to play. Maybe even pick a verse to share with them as their life verse. Hold on to this letter and share it with them when they are 12 years old.

"TRAIN UP A CHILD IN THE WAY HE SHOULD GO; EVEN WHEN HE IS OLD HE WILL NOT DEPART FROM IT."
PROVERBS 22:6 ESV