



**WEEK ONE**

**1 CORINTHIANS;  
JOHN 3:16; JOHN 13:34**

When Jesus is your friend,  
He gives you the power to love  
others the way He loves you.

**SAY  
THIS**

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

When you go into your child's room this month, say, "Good morning! Where's my sweet girl/boy that I love so much? Hmm." Look around their room like you don't see him/her. "There he/she is!" Excitedly sit on your child's bed and give him/her a big hug or tickle him/her.

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**REMEMBER THIS**

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

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**BASIC  
TRUTH**

**JESUS WANTS TO BE MY FRIEND FOREVER**

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## DON'T DO IT FOR YOUR KIDS

By Carey Nieuwhof

We do so much for our kids:

work late to ensure we keep climbing the ladder.  
enroll our kids in lessons and activities so they have every opportunity.  
drive them all over town and beyond so they can keep an active social life.  
buy them things they don't really need so they can have every 'advantage.'

But did you ever think that what you do with your kids is as important than what you do for your kids? It's an important distinction. Because often the things we do for our kids takes us away from the time we would could have spent with our kids. This tension exists in every home.

One of the things I treasured most as a kid was the time I spent with my grandparents. They were a like a second set of parents to me. They didn't have a lot of money, but what they did have was time. We did so many things together. Though we sometimes went on excursions, my favorites moments were those spent with them in the everyday, ordinary course of life. Some of my fondest memories include:

helping my grandfather build things in his garage.  
eating my grandmother's cooking, then helping my clean up after.

sitting in the backyard in the shade on a hot summer's day.  
helping them paint and clean up around the yard.  
seeing my grandparents read the Bible at meal times.

What they did with me was so powerful. I didn't care that they couldn't do much for me. They couldn't get me into the right school, help me with my homework, get me a good job, or enroll me in sports. They just hung out. But in doing so, they made a lasting contribution to my life. Ironically, by doing so much with me, they did an immeasurable amount for me.

I know as a parent, I have been tempted to justify my hard work, long hours or constant enrollment of my kids in 'programs' as a justification that I'm doing something good for my kids. But in the end, one of the best investments I can make as a parent is what I do with my kids.

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