

Grapple Parent Page

Grapple Question:

Is Being Right What Matters?

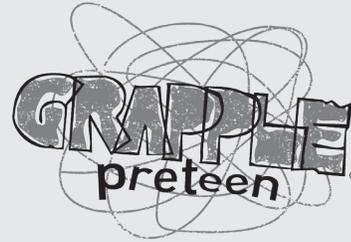
Kids Learn:

Being Kind

Dig Into the Bible:

2 Samuel 9:3-7; Jonah 3-4; Galatians 5:22-23; Colossians 3:12-13

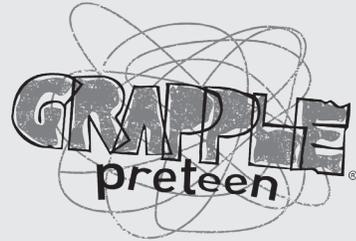
Do you have a know-it-all in your life? Maybe it's a co-worker who always offers advice you didn't ask for, a neighbor who points out every flaw in your landscaping, or even a child or spouse who always has to have the last word. Galatians 5:22-23 points out, "The Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." Sometimes, out of patience and kindness, we need to keep our opinions to ourselves. Talk to your son or daughter about a time you did just that, and encourage your preteen to always speak kind words to others—even when being honest.



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Grapple Question:

Is Being the Best What Matters?



Kids Learn:

Being Faithful

Dig Into the Bible:

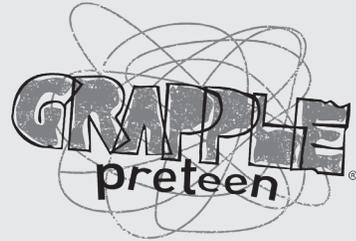
1 Samuel 16:1-13; Philippians 3:12-14; 1 Timothy 4:6-12; Hebrews 11

Preteens can get pretty competitive. Some kids vie for the attention of teachers, coaches, and parents by pointing out how they are the best at something or by trying to outdo their peers. Sometimes we, as parents, get caught up in comparing our child's talents and abilities to others, too. But God doesn't need your child to be the best athlete or student or musician or painter. God is just looking for kids who are faithful to him. There are lots of examples of people in the Bible who weren't the best—they were too weak, too old, or too young—but God still used them because they were faithful. This week, praise your kids for something they keep working at faithfully—even if they're not the best at it.

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Grapple Question:

Is Being Happy What Matters?



Kids Learn:

Being Content

Dig Into the Bible:

2 Corinthians 6:4-10; Philippians 4:11-14; Colossians 3:10-11

Companies pay big bucks to market to kids, mostly by sending the message that you can't be happy without their product. The Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood (commercialfreechildhood.org) reports that about \$17 billion is spent annually on marketing to children and that children under 14 spend \$40 billion each year.

Sit down to watch TV with your family tonight—but this time, don't mute the commercials. Instead, work together to make a list of all the products that are advertised during the commercial breaks of a normal 30-minute prime-time TV show. Talk about the difference between being happy and being content (read Philippians 4:11-14 to get you started). Remind your preteen that having everything shown on TV wouldn't make him or her happy—but it's still possible to be grateful and content!