

DAY ONE — KNOW YOUR WIN

What are you really trying to raise?

Scripture: “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)**

Parenting can feel like a never-ending checklist.

Did they do their homework?

Did they clean their room?

Did they behave?

Did they make good grades?

We can get so caught up in managing childhood that we forget something important:

We aren't just raising children. We're raising future adults.

So stop and ask yourself:

If someone asked what kind of person you want your child to become, what would you say?

Successful? Independent? Happy?

Those are good things. But what about **kind, honest, faithful, compassionate, responsible, forgiving and strong?**

Your source material asks us to complete the sentence, “**My goal is to raise children who...**” and then encourages us to “*chip away at everything that works against the goal.*”

That's parenting.

It's thousands of little moments—what you allow, what you correct, what you praise, what you model and what you refuse to compromise on.

If your goal is to raise an honest person, you teach honesty even when telling the truth is uncomfortable.

If you want to raise someone compassionate, teach them to notice people who are hurting.

If you want to raise someone responsible, don't always rescue them from the consequences of their choices.

And if you want to raise someone with faith, don't just tell them about God. **Let them see you trust Him.**

We can't control every decision our children will make. They'll stumble, make mistakes and eventually make choices of their own.

But while they're growing, we have an incredible opportunity to shape their character.

Because what we want most for our children usually doesn't happen by accident.

It has to be intentionally built into everyday life.

So today, finish this sentence:

“My goal is to raise a child who _____.”

Then ask yourself:

What am I doing that moves my child toward that goal?

And:

What might be working against it?

You don't have to fix everything today.

Just identify your win.

Your child doesn't need a perfect parent.

They need a parent who knows what matters.

The grades will change. The clothes will change. The interests will change.

But **character lasts.**

So don't just ask:

“How is my child doing?”

Ask:

“Who am I helping my child become?”

That answer might change everything.

Heavenly Father, help me see beyond grades, achievements, behavior and appearances and focus on the character You want to develop in my children. Give me wisdom to know what to encourage, what to correct and what to let go. Help me recognize what is working against the person I want my child to become, and give me humility when I get it wrong.

Most of all, remind me that I am not raising my children alone. Guide me as I guide them, and let the life I live in front of them point them toward You. In Jesus Name We Pray, Amen.