



WEEK THREE

JUDGES 13-16

Samson

ASK
THIS

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you trust yourself
more than God?



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DO
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DRIVE TIME

While in the car, ask the question, "How do you think God has created you to do big things?" If your preteen has a hard time answering this question, use this time to speak into them about the talents and gifts you see God gave them.

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REMEMBER THIS

"I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness
of the Lord in the land of the living."
Psalm 27:13, NIV

LIFE
APP

CONFIDENCE—Living like you believe
what God says is true

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WHAT I'VE LEARNED ABOUT BEING A DAD

By Geoff Surratt

Father's Day always reminds me of my first day as a father. It was a glorious moment, my wife glowing, the angels singing, my perfect little child, cooing and cradled in my arms. Except that is not at all how it happened. After an intense labor, the doctor handed me a screaming bundle of kicking arms and legs, an unfamiliar creature with a striking resemblance to Yoda. I loved the idea of a son, but I had no idea what to do with the squirming baby I was awkwardly holding and silently wondered if I could get my money back.

Though it has been a challenging ride, now that my kids are grown, I wouldn't trade being a father for anything. Here are a few things I've learned along the way:

The best you can do is the best you can do.

God chose you to parent your children. He knows you are goofy, clueless, and immature (maybe that's just me), but He chose you anyway. You can't be the perfect parent, or live up to the unrealistic expectations of others, all you can do is the best you can do. So do your best, and don't worry about what anyone else is doing.

You deserve less blame, or credit, for how your children turn out.

Unless you really go out of your way to

mess them up, there's nothing you can do that will guarantee how your kids will turn out. I have a friend who raised four boys all born within six years. They were raised in the same environment by the same parents; three of them turned out great, and one of them is a knucklehead. Kids will ultimately make their own choices despite how they are brought up.

Relax, laugh, and enjoy the ride.

One Sunday, my son and his cousin got into the church secretary's whiteout and used it to paint all over her desk, keyboard, and computer monitor. When we came in, it looked like a paint bomb had gone off. At times like that, you just have to laugh. Yes, I'm probably a terrible parent, but the world will not end because of it.

So this Father's Day, don't worry so much about all the ways you fall short as a dad, or mom. Spend a little time being thankful that of all the potential parents in the world, God chose you. You are exactly who they need.

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