

BIBLE STORY

EXODUS 1:21–2:10; 12:31-42

Moses' mom hides him in the reeds along a river bank in order to protect him from Pharaoh.

SAY THIS

WHO'S GOT IT?
GOD'S GOT IT.

DO THIS



MORNING TIME

When you go into your child's room this month, say, "Good morning! Is my sweet [boy/girl] ready for a great day? It's going to be great because God's got it!"



DRIVE TIME

As you drive, talk about where you are going and what you will do when you get there. When you get where you're going, say, "God is with us when we go to the [place name]. God is with us wherever we go!"



CUDDLE TIME

Cuddle up with your child this month and pray, "Dear God, I love [child's name] so much! Please help me trust that You've got it, especially when it comes to [his/her] future. I am so thankful You are with us wherever we go. You are our comfort and hope. We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."



BATH TIME

While bathing your child, add several floating objects to the bath water. Hide one of the objects in one of your closed hands. Hold both closed fists in front of your child and tell them to guess which hand's got it. When they find the object, say, "Yes! This hand's got it!" Continue playing. Talk about how God has everything. God's got it!

COMPARISON IS THE THIEF OF CONTENTMENT

By Liz Hansen

Before becoming a parent, I was continually tempted to compare myself to others: My writing, my run times, my interior decorating (or lack thereof), my homemade pizza. I could always find a quick shortcut to discontentment.

Now, as a parent, I face a whole new set of temptations to engage in comparison.

Child Development

MILESTONES: Those stony, immovable pillars of speech, motor skills, and pretend play. Stop eating those wood chips, kid. Don't you see the other toddlers climbing the slide on their own? I mean, you're deep-sixing a full-ride scholarship to college right now.

Musical Talent

If you're going to be a musical prodigy, you should be able to pick out tunes on the piano by now. Your cousin was singing do-re-mi-fa-sol-la-ti-do at 18 months. And please, don't stand on the keys!

Self-confidence

This is the church toddler room, not Alcatraz. See all the fun toys? And look at the other babies. They're all happy and smiling because they love Jesus. And they aren't howling and clinging to anyone's leg.

My son starts preschool in a few months. While I know it's important for him to spend time learning to get along

with other kids, I'm painfully aware it will open up many new avenues for comparison.

Comparison is the moving sidewalk you wander onto, the one that whisks you 50 yards away to a bad place before you take a step. It's always right there, just one tiny thought away, ready to slide you silently, deeply into a mire of discontent.

Contentment, simply speaking, is choosing to be happy with what you've got. It's relying on God to give you the power to control your thoughts. To recognize comparison when it creeps in and to rip it up by the roots before it can grow. It's learning to live in a state of gratitude for even the smallest things.

I still want my son to be an early and avid reader, a musical prodigy, an enthusiastic young hiker, an independent spirit. But aside from teaching him to love God and love others, the greatest gift I can give him is to model contentment. If he can learn to see and find joy in even the smallest, simplest things God has given him, he's found something of far more value than performing a cello recital by age three.

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