

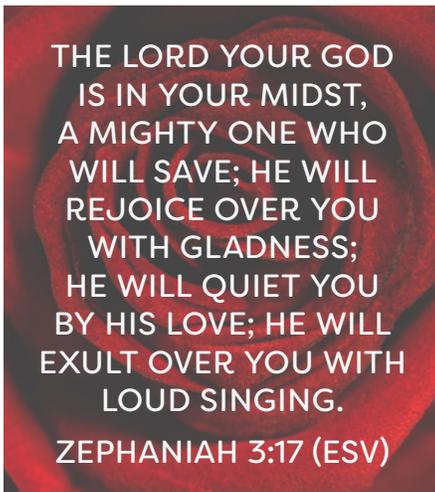
ParentPause

Encouragement for Parents of Preschoolers

February

GOD IS WITH YOU, AND HE LOVES YOU!

It's encouragement time for you, parent of a preschooler! Read these words from Scripture, and then let's unpack what they mean for you.



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God is with you, and He is mighty.

The day-to-day of raising children includes a thousand details and tasks that may not seem like they have significance, but the real reason they matter is that God is with you as you do them, extending love to you and your kids. Think about it — the all-powerful God who holds the universe — this is the same God who says He is with you every minute. Even the hardest parenting moment can soften a little when we remember that it is sacred because God is with us and our kids!

He will delight in you.

The lack of sleep and mental energy can make the days blend together. It may be mind-blowing to remember, though, that God delights in you. He is taking you through a process in your life of knowing Him. Though life no doubt has its bumps, remember God is delighting in you because you are His creation, and so are your kids! The gospel of salvation by grace means that God has granted grace, His unmerited favor, on you, His creation, and this allows Him to delight in you!

His love will quiet you, and He will rejoice over you with singing.

Does your mind race with a list of parenting worries and plans? Does the sheer amount of noise you hear in a day cause you to crave quiet? God's love offers you true quiet — the kind in your soul that sticks with you. Though it may seem strange, you can reach out to God in the middle of your parenting whirlwind, and listen to the Scripture that God is singing to you. See if you can grab a minute or two to thoughtfully read a verse from the Bible, whether it is Zephaniah 3:17, or your child's memory verse, or one from church. God is in the business of reaching into our hearts through His Word, and this is true for you too!

ABOUT YOUR CHILD



ENCOURAGEMENT

You probably do a lot to encourage your child already, but here's some additional insight on encouragement and children. Encouragement is really about celebrating individuals in a way that affects them positively, and that includes our preschoolers!

Give details

Be specific, because this shows that you (the adult) noticed what happened. For example, "I saw you go over to Katie and sit by her when she was crying. Then you got her a tissue!"

Individualize

Focus on your child as an individual, not comparing them to anyone else. For example, even if they did do more cleaning up than their sibling, you can still say, "Wow! You worked really hard to clean up!"

Highlight values

Point out how an action relates to a value you want your child to hold. For example, "When you did that, it seemed really kind, just like Jesus tells us to be!"



Challenge: Spend time with your child coloring this picture of Cubbie Bear in Africa. Use the opportunity to talk about this far away place that has many different kinds of animals. Share that though it may look different from where you live, there are many people everywhere who have never heard of Jesus and his love.

Bonus Challenge: Hang up this picture as a reminder for your family to pray for the children of Africa. Half of the continent's population is children. Awana is reaching over 1.7 million children in Africa with the gospel each week, however there are many more that need Jesus as their Savior.



CUBBIE BEAR GOES TO AFRICA

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