

ParentPause

Encouragement for Parents of Preschoolers

May



Have you ever wondered why God didn't give you more instructions in the Bible on how to handle a child throwing a temper tantrum in the grocery store?

Though it may not directly have to do with parenting as much as some other portions of Scripture, one great verse for parents to keep in mind is: *So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up (Galatians 6:9, NLT)*. Parenting is a walk of faith in God, being entrusted with these growing little people that we love so much. A lot of the work that we do goes unnoticed and may not bear immediate results in your child, but it isn't about results — it's about your faithfulness to follow God in how you love Him and love and shepherd the children in your care.

God has also given us the ultimate example of parenting — Himself. And if we keep in mind the way our heavenly Father handles the issues in our lives, we'll have a clearer idea of how to handle challenges with our children as well.

The Bible gives us a great perspective on how we can reflect this truth in our parenting. How does God respond when we sin? With grace rooted in love. He understands who we are and is immensely creative in helping us learn to see right from wrong. He doesn't tolerate our sin without moving us to change, because He loves us, He expects us to be growing into more of His likeness.

As a parent, we can respond the same way when our children sin — with grace rooted in love. Gently correct, discipline when necessary, and constantly show love and grace. We can remember how often we fall short of God's standard and how patient our heavenly Father is with us. This can help us have perspective as we treat our children (and ourselves) with a reflection of the patience and grace that God has shown us.

ABOUT YOUR CHILD



COMMON THINGS KIDS SAY

Have you heard a particular phrase from a child and wondered what they really mean when they say it?

Why?

When a child asks, "why," they sometimes don't want to know the intricate details of an explanation — they may just be trying to continue a conversation with you. If you don't feel up to explaining something, you can still encourage curiosity in your child. When they ask, "Why," turn this question back around to them, and ask them, "Why do you think it is this way"? This can lead to some interesting spiritual conversations as well!

I don't need to.

When a child says, "I don't need to do _____," it may mean something different than what you think. Because kids are such "all-or-nothing" thinkers, they may only feel like they *need* to do something when it is the most important thing to do next. One way around their insistence is to respond by saying, "Well, I need you to do this, so will you help me by doing it?"

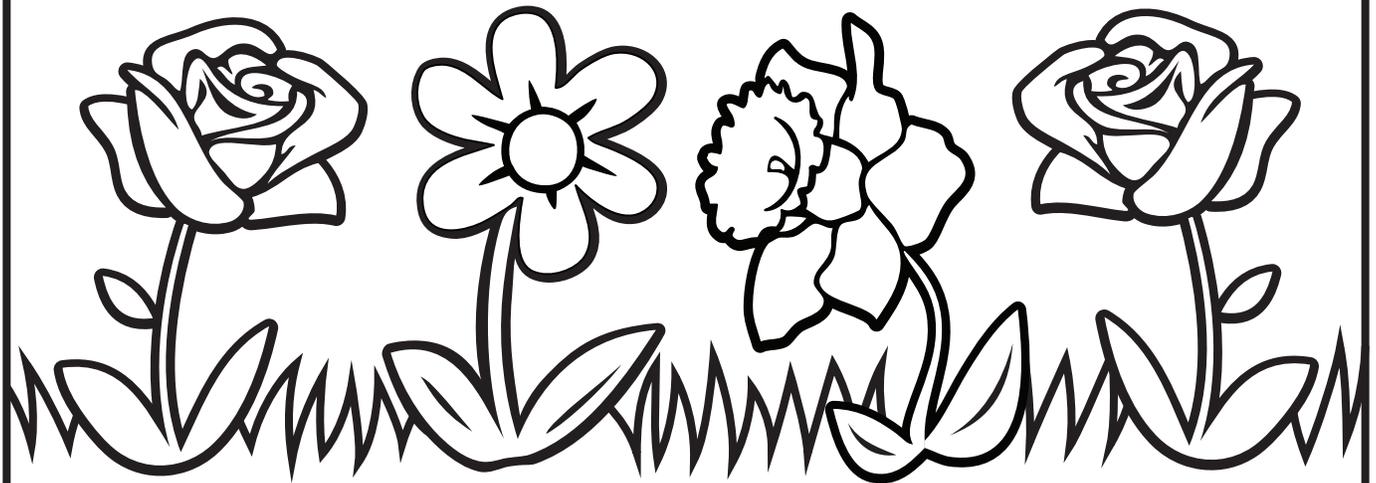
IT'S LEADER APPRECIATION TIME!

Challenge: Work with your child to color this thank-you note for his or her Awana leader. If possible, cut it out and glue it to a piece of colored paper. Have your child give this note to the leader before the end of the club year as a special way to say thank you!

Bonus Challenge: While you color, spend time with your child praying for his or her leaders. Then help him or her talk to their leaders and share that they prayed for them. This will help your child see that when he or she prays for someone it can be a gift to that person!

THANK YOU

for helping me grow this year!



My favorite thing about you is:

I'm so glad you were my leader!

FROM:

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OUR CLUB NEWS