

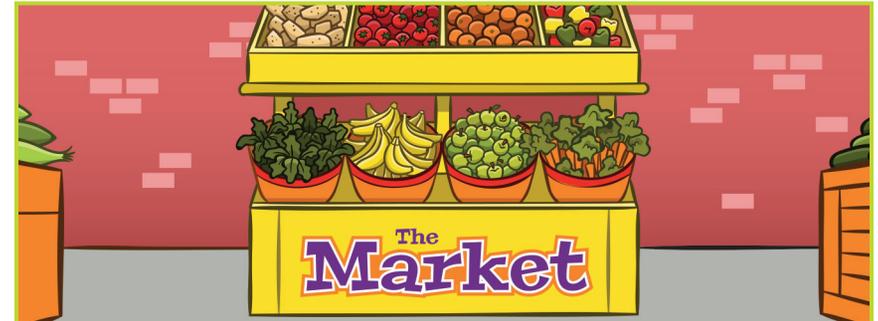
WEEK FOUR

MATTHEW 8:23-27

Jesus calms a storm after the disciples wake Him because they are afraid.

SAY
THIS

**WHO DO YOU NEED?
I NEED JESUS.**



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**WHO DO YOU NEED?
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DO
THIS



BATH TIME

As you bathe your child, play a game where you give a scenario and your child tells you what is needed in that scenario. Example: You want to build a block tower. What do you need? (blocks) You are hungry. What do you need? (food) You're walking outside and it starts raining. What do you need? (umbrella) You need someone to be your friend forever. Who do you need? (Jesus)

REMEMBER THIS

"You are everything I need."
Psalm 119:57, NIV

BASIC
TRUTH

JESUS WANTS TO BE MY FRIEND FOREVER.

DO
THIS



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As you bathe your child, play a game where you give a scenario and your child tells you what is needed in that scenario. Example: You want to build a block tower. What do you need? (blocks) You are hungry. What do you need? (food) You're walking outside and it starts raining. What do you need? (umbrella) You need someone to be your friend forever. Who do you need? (Jesus)

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WHAT PARENTING TAUGHT ME ABOUT LIFE

By Chajay Wise

As parents, we are tasked to train our children and prepare them for the world . . . but sometimes those roles are reversed. Sometimes our children become the teachers, exposing us to our own weaknesses, allowing us to grow alongside them as we navigate the unknown together.

Before I had children, I lived a very sheltered life. I was surrounded by strong individuals who set the pace and direction of my life. While this was good on one hand, it handicapped me on the other. You see the world around me that I was being "protected" from was the same world that I would need to face one day alone. My battles were fought for me, and I didn't have many opportunities to stand up for myself. I was lost in my own world, trapped in the bubble of a protective environment.

I matriculated through life as a peacemaker. The girl that could get along with everyone but no one at the same time. The student who was academically successful, but socially awkward. The woman who could get the job done at work, but was also used and walked over by her boss. Next, I became a mother and the responsibility of caring for a life that was not my own became motivation for me to grow up, be bold, and lead. I became an advocate . . .

Then something clicked here recently. One of our children dealt with bullying. Although, it was painful for me to not be there for her physically, I had the privilege of walking alongside her (step-by-step) teaching her how to advocate for herself. It wasn't easy by any means, but through teaching her, I was learning myself.

Now I am becoming . . .

A mother who **willingly ventures into the hard places** . . . understanding that it is in those places, we are formed.

A mother who **cares for her children** and empowers them to **care for themselves**.

A mother who **strives for excellence** and **supports the journey of struggle and mistakes** along the way.

Through parenting, I have become more intentional about how I live my life and the example I set for my children. This has changed the direction, pace, and purpose for me. Not because I wanted to be someone else to them, but because I wanted to be the best me for them.

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