



WEEK THREE

1 TIMOTHY 4:12
Timothy

SAY
THIS

God made me to
make a difference.



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God made me to
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DO
THIS



BED TIME

Read Luke 15: 1-7. Who do you think the lost sheep in Jesus' story is supposed to be? The lost sheep could be any one of us! No matter how "good" we are, we've all made mistakes. But no matter what you've done or how far you stray, God is always quick to find you. He will forgive anything the moment you ask. Pray that you will remember each day that God loves you so much—no matter how you feel or what you've done.

Monthly Theme Verse: "How you made me is amazing and wonderful. I praise you for that. What you have done is wonderful. I know that very well." Psalm 139:14, NlrV

Week 3 Memory Verse: We are God's creation. He created us to belong to Christ Jesus. Now we can do good works. Long ago God prepared these works for us to do. Ephesians 2:10, NlrV

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HOW TO COMMUNICATE IN A WAY THAT VALUES YOUR RELATIONSHIPS

By Carey Nieuwhof

I think it's kind of fun that God puts families into a little box called a home—where they bump into each other daily for years on end—and tells them to love each other. Nice experiment.

It's always amazed me that many of us have a tendency to communicate least graciously with the people who are closest to us. When you are in close quarters, small irritants often become large issues, and we end up speaking to our family in a way we would never communicate with anyone else. And who are we often most kind toward? Perfect strangers. Go figure.

How we communicate is as or more important than what we communicate. I'm not saying truth doesn't matter (it does), but isn't it true that sometimes you can say exactly the right thing in precisely the wrong way?

Ironically, when we do that, we often accomplish the opposite of what we intended. It strains the relationship and provokes resistance. Be honest, when someone tells you what to do in an ungracious way, doesn't it make you want to do the opposite? And we wonder why our kids resist us.

One of the best things a parent can do is communicate in a way that

gives the relationship value. Over the next few days, monitor not what you communicate, but *how* you communicate with your family.

In the meantime, think about what your biggest trigger is. In what ways do you struggle with communicating with each other at home?

For me, it's often when things aren't picked up, cleaned up, or in order. A little bomb goes off inside of me, and the shrapnel has a way of leaking out. I may be right in principle, but how I communicate it is all wrong. Thinking about how I want to respond in those moments before they happen helps me pause and respond in a better way.

But the truth remains that we're going to get it wrong sometimes. We're imperfect humans.

Fortunately, one of the best ways you can communicate you value the relationship in those moments is to be ready and armed with some of the most powerful relationship-building words you could say: "I'm sorry."

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