

# **Parent Trap: The Happy Trap**

Bruce Wesley

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1. What things have you done with your kids that you don't enjoy just to make your kids happy – going to theme parks, soccer games, endless Candyland?
2. Do you believe that your life is basically supposed to be happy? Do you get angry with God when it's not? How does your belief in this area affect your relationships with God and other people?
3. Do your children believe that they are the center of the universe? How have you contributed to their belief? How can our parenting counter this belief?
4. What moral and spiritual compromises have you been willing to make in order to please your children? Are you susceptible to worshipping your children?
5. Read Isaiah 6:1-9. Is your view of the world man-centered or God-centered? How is this evident in your daily choices?
6. How do you respond when your life circumstances go unexpectedly bad? What does this demonstrate about your view of the world?
7. How has your relationship with God given you peace in the midst of trials?
8. Do you believe that God is in control of the universe, including your life? Why does this belief matter so much? How can we instill this belief in our kids?
9. Read Isaiah 53:5-6. How has an awareness of your need for God caused a shift in your worldview? Are your children aware of their (and your) need for God?
10. How has your relationship with God given you a different purpose in life? What "bigger story" are you creating in your kids' lives?
11. How are you challenging your kids to be a part of something bigger than themselves?
12. What must you do to worship God first? What changes and choices do you need to make in your schedule, spending, activities, priorities, and spiritual walk?
13. What are the barriers to a God-centered life?
14. What do you need to do to move toward a God-centered life (individually, as a family)?