

## **Video Script:**

### **Topic: What do I do when my child is being bullied?**

Topic: What do I do when my child always wants more?

Thanks parents for joining us with this month's online parenting class here at ParentMinistry.Net for Kids! This month we are asking a question that I bet all of us have had to ask at some time. What do I do when my child always wants more? What do I do when it seems to never be enough and the demands get bigger and bigger? At the same time how do we avoid turning into those "when I was a kid" speech kind of parents and help our kids discover the profound but hard truth that they will not always be able to get what they want!

I remember when Kozbi my oldest daughter discovered that magical place in WalMart called the toy section. In her little three year old mind those few isles held all the treasures that could bring her joy and happiness. As soon as we walked into the store she wanted to know if we could go "look" at the toys. I was a slow learner so the first few times I gave in and "looking" turned into "I want this daddy" and my no brought tears of sadness and tantrums of despair. Kozbi did not really enjoy learning that her dad was not daddy warbucks with millions in the bank. I had to tell her no. Kozbi is not a preschooler anymore rather a 5th grader and still there are many days she does not like hearing no from her mom and dad.

Our parents called kids who always wanted more by a term we are pretty familiar with. They called these kids spoiled. Problem is that every generation tries to make life better for their kids than what they had it. For our generation spoiled is the new normal because even as parents we always seem to fighting for next new toy. New car, new house, new dress, new job, new vacation...you name it we go after it and our kids have caught on to our obsession. That may not be you but I can promise you that your kids are seeing other kids become addicted to the obsession of more. Kids watch those commercials and believe just like we did with the Sears Catalog that if we could just have that new toy their lives would be perfect.

If your child is stuck always wanting more your temptation will be to just ignore it. You might try to believe that this will go away with age but truth is that an addiction to more really never goes away. Studies show that kids that display tendencies of being spoiled don't function well in the real world, don't understand the value of money, don't see the value of hard work, and struggle with teamwork.

We all want our kids to be people that understand the world does not revolve around them and have a passion to help others in this life. In the Bible God calls his people over and over to slow down, look around, and be thankful. Psalm 138:1 says...

I give you thanks, O Lord , with all my heart; I will sing your praises...

God understood that all of us need to embrace a thankful and not selfish heart in this life. Helping our kids not be addicted to more helps them see value in what they have good in their life.

So where to begin! Here are the big 3 for de-spoiling your child

1. Set limits: kids function better and have a better chance of understanding the importance of being thankful when they have limits. When something is limited we value it more. Chocolate

cake is great but eating a whole cake will be disaster. Setting limits for kids shapes their perspective of life. You are the parent so help them have healthy limits with not just food but stuff and fun also. It's ok to say no.

2. Be consistent: consistency is the key to building trust with your children. Choose what matters to you and be consistent with your kids. Being consistent allows kids to know they can trust you. They actually get to know what you think is important. They will in time value what you value if you are consistent.
3. Provide choices: when you give kids choices you begin to teach them an important life lesson. They will spend the rest of their days on earth making choices. The Rolling Stones were right, you can't always get what you want! Give them the shot to make choices. We want to teach our kids to choose more of the right things.

Thanks for watching today. In our next Online parenting class email we will help you discover some other practical steps to help your kids break free of their "want-more" addiction!