

Don't Settle For Less Than Best

Our Heavenly Father wants us – His children by adoption through Jesus – to have the very best (Colossians 1:9-20). But experiencing His best is not automatic. It comes as Jesus alone is *preeminent* in our lives and not merely an add-on. What is best comes as Jesus, and He alone, is our way, truth, and life, when we seek first His kingdom and His righteousness. The degree to which Jesus is *preeminent* in our lives is the degree to which we truly believe that He desires to give us abundant life.

GETTING STARTED

What kind of sacrifices did your parent(s) or guardian(s) make to give you the best when you were growing up? If you are a parent, what kind of sacrifices have you made or would be willing to make? What are you not willing to sacrifice? What helps kids understand that the sacrifices of their parents are for their best?

GO DEEPER

1. From 2 Kings 20:19, why was Hezekiah's response to the word of the Lord unhealthy? What was missing in his attitude or perspective?
2. What deception did Adam and Eve embrace in Genesis 3:3-5? What did their willingness to listen to the serpent and actively sin reveal about what they truly believed concerning God and His promises?
3. In Colossians 1:16-18, what does it mean for Jesus to be *preeminent* in everything? If Jesus is *preeminent*, how should that affect our hearts, motives, choices, and the way we live? In contrast, what does it look like for Jesus to merely be an add-on in our lives?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. Is Jesus preeminent in your life, and how do you know (either way)? What needs to change in your heart or perspective for Him to be more preeminent?
2. To what degree do you believe God is for your best? How have you possibly settled for less than that best? What is God's best for you in this season?
3. What keeps you from fully believing that God wants the best for you?

PRACTICE IT NOW

Spend some time as a group in prayer, acknowledging and confessing the times and seasons when you wrestled to believe that God was absolutely for your best. Ask God to show you how to make Jesus more preeminent in your own heart, family, and spheres of influence. Ask Him for a fresh vision of what His best is for your life, to fully embrace the truth that He is for you and desires to bless you.