FREE SAMPLER

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Don't Miss It

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PARENT EVERY WEEK LIKE IT COUNTS.
We hope you enjoy this complimentary sample of *Don’t Miss It: Parent Like Every Week Counts*, by Reggie Joiner and Kristen Ivy.

This sample contains the introduction, a portion of the first section of the book, and information about the book, the authors, and its contributors.

Available at OrangeStore.org and Amazon.

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Don't Miss It

Parent every week like it counts.
If you are a parent, and you want influence with your kid, take an hour and read this book. Then you can say you read a book today. Or if you are in a hurry, like most parents, at least read the left pages. That should take about five minutes. So you can probably finish while you're in the carpool line. Either way, you will be reminded that you have a limited amount of time before your son or daughter grows up. That's why we wrote these pages. We just want to make sure you don't miss it.
If you are a parent with kids or teenagers, you have probably heard an older parent say something like . . .

“They grow up so fast.”
“You better enjoy them while you can.”
“They will be gone before you know it.”

More than likely they say this because that’s what someone said to them when their kids were young. So they feel like they are responsible to pass it along.

Maybe there are times you’d like to respond with . . .
“Actually, I wish they would grow up a little faster.” Or, “No. I haven’t enjoyed them at all today.”
Or, “That’s sad. Why can’t they go somewhere now?”

Okay, so no parent would dare say that. Out loud at least. But what is a parent supposed to Feel
Do
Say
when someone makes them feel like time is running out with their kids.
THE AVERAGE PARENT HAS LESS THAN 1,000 WEEKS FROM THE TIME THEIR KIDS ARE BORN UNTIL THEY MOVE OUT OF THE HOUSE.

THAT CAN FEEL LIKE A LOT OF PRESSURE.

And it may seem like you could sum up most parenting advice in the following statement:

“The future of your children is coming like a freight train. You better get your act together as a parent because you’re running out of time. If you’re not careful, you will miss out on what’s important and mess them up for the rest of their lives.”

Maybe the next time someone reminds you that kids grow up fast, you should grab them by the collar, look them directly in the eye and say, “So tell me. Exactly what are you suggesting I should do about that?”

Okay, that may be a little too dramatic. But time is moving faster than many of us realize.

There is a clock that started ticking the day your child was born. In fact, there are less than a thousand weeks from the time a child is born until they graduate from high school.
WHEN YOU BREAK IT DOWN, IT GOES REALLY FAST.

For example, this could be the story of a typical daughter told in weeks.

Week  1     she cried all night
Week  10    she cooed and smiled
Week  40    she stood up
Week  50    she said “uh-oh”
Week  70    she flushed your keys down the potty
Week  130   she went to the potty
Week  140   she used your wall as a coloring book
Week  182   she rolled her eyes at you
Week  206   she made you a macaroni necklace
Week  234   she only answered to “Princess Jasmine”
Week  260   she began kindergarten
Week  295   she wrote a story about you
Week  315   she spoke in “Pig Latin” for two days
Week  338   she got her first visit from the Tooth Fairy
Week  364   she stopped believing in the Tooth Fairy
Week  364   she also stopped believing in Santa
Week  387   she charged you for a painted rock
Week  403   she got braces
Week  416   she had homework that confused you
Week  438   she made up a dance for the talent show
Week  459   she went to her first slumber party
Week  478   she shaved her legs
Week  494   she outgrew the kid’s menu
Week 513 she beat you at Monopoly®
Week 522 she put on make-up
Week 550 she asked for a smart phone
Week 551 she begged for a smart phone
Week 572 she entered middle school
Week 573 she decided she was smarter than you
Week 597 she got her braces taken off
Week 600 she started her period
Week 624 she got a smart phone
Week 645 she decided she was a vegetarian
Week 646 she only ate hamburgers
Week 676 she legally posted on Instagram
Week 728 she attended her first high school class
Week 735 she asked when she could officially date
Week 780 she got her driver’s learning permit
Week 784 she backed into the garage door
Week 806 she got her first paycheck
Week 819 she was grounded for a month
Week 820 she started unofficially dating
Week 832 she got her driver’s license
Week 858 she took the SAT
Week 861 she took Harvard off her list of colleges
Week 884 she broke up with her boyfriend
Week 895 she went to her last summer camp
Week 900 she started her senior year
Week 928 she went to prom
Week 936 she graduated from high school
YOUR SON OR DAUGHTER IS SPEEDING THROUGH EACH PHASE OF LIFE FASTER AND FASTER, AND IF YOU’RE NOT CAREFUL, IT’S EASY TO MISS.

Think about it this way . . .
You will only get 365 days to know your three-year-old as a three-year-old, and then they will be four. And you will never know them again as a three-year-old.

You will only get 52 weeks to know your eight-year-old as an eight-year-old, and then they will be nine. And you will never know them again as an eight-year-old.

You will only get twelve months to know your thirteen-year-old as a thirteen-year-old, and then they will be fourteen. And you may never want to know them again as a thirteen-year-old.

So don’t hurry through the present phase of your kid’s life just so you can move on to whatever is next. Don’t embrace an attitude that says, “This is just a phase I need to get through as soon as possible.” Instead, inspire your family to believe, “This is just a phase, and I don’t want to miss it.”
The fact is you have a limited number of weeks with your son or daughter.

Try creating a visual countdown clock.

Start with a jar of 936 marbles. Why 936? Because that is the estimated number of weeks between birth and high school graduation.

Then reduce the number of marbles in your jar to match the actual number of weeks you have left with each child.

Then start a simple ritual:
Remove one marble every week.

Over time, the practice of losing marbles can have a meaningful effect.

It will remind you to value your time.
It will make each week matter a little more.
It will reinforce a simple principle:

When you see how much time you have left, you tend to do more with the time you have now.
THIS BOOK WAS

Because the phases are, too.
When life gets busy—and it will—
Remember these simple truths:

What you do as a parent
every week matters.

When you count your weeks,
you tend to make your
weeks count.

If you want to influence
your child’s future, get to
know who they are today.

The clock is ticking. Time keeps
moving, but you get the choice to
make history as a family
every week.

It’s just a phase, don’t miss it.
You will have approximately 936 weeks from the time your child is born until he or she graduates from High School.

It goes by fast.

The responsibility to shape a child’s faith and character can seem overwhelming.

If you are a parent you have probably realized by now that you . . .
  can’t make a toddler share.
  can’t force a child to have faith.
  can’t compel a teenager to make smart decisions.

But there is something you can do.

You can make this week count.
And then do it again, and again.

What you understand about your kids now, has the potential to change their future.

So don’t miss it.

If you don’t miss what’s happening during this phase. Then maybe they won’t miss some important things they need to know about life.

That’s why what you do this week matters.

**It’s Just A Phase, So Don’t Miss It**

“If you are a parent, don’t miss reading this book. It will change how you see the potential of your kids forever. It could also change how you parent this week.”

**Jon Acuff**
The goal of the Phase Project is to summarize and simplify an overwhelming amount of research related to child development so the average leader and parent can understand kids better.

IT’S JUST A PHASE
SO DON’T MISS IT

To join the conversation or learn more about the Phase Project, visit JustAPhase.com