

FOREWORD BY KORIE ROBERTSON

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RAISING *Amazing*

**Bringing Up Kids Who Love God,
Like Their Family, and Do the Dishes**

WITHOUT BEING ASKED

MONICA SWANSON

A PDF COMPANION TO THE AUDIOBOOK

ZONDERVAN BOOKS

Raising Amazing

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CHAPTER 1

ALL-IN

Fully Embrace Your Role as Parent

Reflection Questions

1. How have I tended to parent out of emotion rather than out of commitment? How might I more consistently tap into the motivation to parent from a place of commitment?
2. What makes me lose perspective in my parenting, and what might I tap into to help remind me of the privilege and blessing of raising my child(ren)?
3. What's one way I might demonstrate my "all-in" commitment to my kids and family this week?



CHAPTER 2

WELCOME ABOARD

*Lead Your Family on an
Intentional Trajectory*

Reflection Questions

1. If I were to describe our current family life like an airplane flight, what kind of flight would that be?
2. What are some of the values I think we're currently building our family on? Would family members agree with me?
3. What values or direction would I like to bring into our family life to help us get on a trajectory that aligns with God's best for us?



CHAPTER 3

PARENTAMORPHOSIS

Model an Amazing Life

Reflection Questions

1. How much of my parenting is intentional, and how much might be patterns or habits I brought into my family from how I was raised?
2. What will my kids be like if they grow up to be just like me?
3. In what one area on the list above might I raise the bar for myself as I recognize that my kids are likely to model after me?



CHAPTER 4

THE VERY MOST IMPORTANT THING

Make Faith the Highest Priority

Reflection Questions

1. Are you able to communicate your own faith story (your “testimony”) and the basic gospel message to your kids and others? If not, what steps might you take to be able to talk about these things comfortably?
2. Which spiritual discipline do you need to work on most with your kids? Bible reading? Prayer? Being in church and fellowship with others? Serving?
3. What outside mentors are you pointing your kids toward to help them grow? If you don’t yet have a “village” of spiritual influences in your kids’ lives, where might you look to find some?



CHAPTER 5

FOCUS ON THE FOUNDATION

Give the Gift of a Healthy Marriage

Reflection Questions

1. When you reflect on your marriage, where can you see the Enemy targeting your relationship?
2. Which tip for tending to your marriage seems most needed currently?
3. What's one way you might give your kids the gift of security in communicating about your marriage (or their future marriage)?



CHAPTER 6

THE SECRET WEAPON OR THE GREATEST DANGER

Understand the Power of Influences

Reflection Questions

1. Who are the closest people to your children, and do you have any concerns about their influence on them?
2. Which peer or friend influences do you see building up your children? Which ones might be dragging them down?
3. What are some steps you might take to bring helpful influences into your children's lives in the season they're in?



CHAPTER 7

HOME BASE

Make Your Home the Hub

Reflection Questions

1. How often does your family gather around the table together? Is this or something else an area in which you might improve?
2. How does your living situation (neighborhood and so on) affect your family life? Where might you make adjustments so you regroup together at home more often?
3. Which rituals, traditions, and routines define your family the most? What are some you'd like to add to your family's rhythm?



CHAPTER 8

NOS AND YESES

*Parent with Your Kids'
Very Best in Mind*

Reflection Questions

1. As a parent, does it come easier to you to say yes or to say no? Think about why that is (how you were raised, your personality, and so on).
2. In which area of parenting do you think some healthy nos would benefit your child?
3. In which area of parenting do you think some healthy yeses would benefit your child?



CHAPTER 9

DISH DUTY

Make Character a Really Big Deal

Reflection Questions

1. Which area of character development is most on your mind with your child(ren) right now?
2. Which resource or approach to character development from this chapter do you imagine might be helpful to your family?
3. How would you describe your child's motivation to want to develop good, godly character? What kind of conversations do you think might inspire that motivation to grow?



CHAPTER 10

THE STRUGGLE IS REAL (AND ALSO GOOD)

Adversity Fuels Greatness

Reflection Questions

1. What are some hard things your child is facing?
2. What are some ways you might inspire your child to recognize the importance of doing hard things in order to grow?
3. Where might you offer some challenges or work responsibilities to help your child develop greater character?



CHAPTER 11

HELP SIBLINGS BECOME FRIENDS

*Cultivate Connections
That Last a Lifetime*

Reflection Questions

1. If you have more than one child, what is your greatest challenge in their current relationship?
2. How much time do your kids spend together in a typical day? Is there a way you might foster more quality (and perhaps quantity) time between them?
3. How would you like to see your kids getting along as they enter their older teen and adult years? Consider talking to them about their future and helping them recognize the value of working on developing a good friendship now.



CHAPTER 12

HOW THEY SPEND THEIR DAYS

*Navigate School, Sports,
Hobbies, and Free Time*

Reflection Questions

1. If you imagine your kids as young adults, which memories do you hope will stand out to them and you?
2. What do you hope your kids will get from their school experience? How are you planning their education so they're built up mentally, physically, and spiritually?
3. What interests or talents do your kids have that might point to an activity they could thrive in?
4. When you consider the years you have with your children, what do you think might be the best way to invest in the free time you currently have together?



CHAPTER 13

ALL THE SCREENS!

Make Good Choices about Technology

Reflection Questions

1. How would I describe each of my family members' current "relationship" with technology and screens?
2. What is an area where I might set new guidelines or limits for the health and safety of my children?
3. How would I describe my own relationship with technology (social media, screens in general), and which changes might I need to make to be a better example to and leader for my family?



CHAPTER 14

FIRST TRACKS

Talk to Your Kids about Everything

Reflection Questions

1. For what topics have you already “set the first tracks” with your kids?
2. For what topics do you still need to open up conversations?
3. What is a topic with truth that’s important to you to impress on your child(ren), and how do you plan to do that?

RESOURCES

Thanks for joining me on this journey! I'd love to hear how you and your kids are doing. Use hashtag #raisingamazing on social media to share your kids' shining moments of getting along, honoring God, and doing dishes (and other exceptional tasks) with a happy heart. Be sure to follow and tag @monica swanson_ on Instagram, and I will choose a few winners.

Below is a summary of all the resources mentioned. All links and downloads found at: www.monicaswanson.com/amazingresources.

Links:

Monica's website: www.monicaswanson.com

Monica on Instagram: @monicaswanson_

Character Training Course: www.monicaswanson.com/character-course

Raising Tech-Smart Kids Mini-Course:

www.monicaswanson.com/all-things-technology/

Chapter-by-Chapter Bonus Resources:

Chapter 1: 25 Ways to Show Your Kids You Are All-In

Chapter 2: Family Mission Statement Template

- Chapter 3:** Printable of 1 Corinthians 11:1
- Chapter 4:** Bonus chapter: “Amazing Armor: Preparing Your Kids to Face Spiritual Battles”
Steps to Lead Your Child into a Relationship with God
- Chapter 5:** 10 Amazing (and Simple!) Date Night Ideas
- Chapter 6:** Scripture-based prayer for our kids to be surrounded by good influences
- Chapter 7:** List of conversation starters for family meals
- Chapter 8:** Bonus chapter: “Motivating Change: A Guide for Using Consequences and Discipline in Parenting”
100 Things Kids Can Do Indoors without a Screen
- Chapter 9:** A list of books and Bible stories to inspire character
- Chapter 10:** A link to the Swanson chore system
Life Skills by Age List
- Chapter 11:** Bonus chapter: “Good and Pleasant: A Guide for Conflict Resolution and Peacemaking between Siblings”
- Chapter 12:** Link to *Truth for Youth Podcast*
Link to Josiah’s book, *Sub-marine*
15 Character-Inspiring Quotes from Great Athletes
- Chapter 13:** Technology Contract Template
List of filters and accountability software
Video game guidelines
Raising Tech-Smart Kids Mini-Course
- Chapter 14:** A list of my favorite books and curriculums to help give your kids a biblical worldview
20 Conversations to Have with Your Kids before They Launch
List of resources for navigating difficult cultural issues