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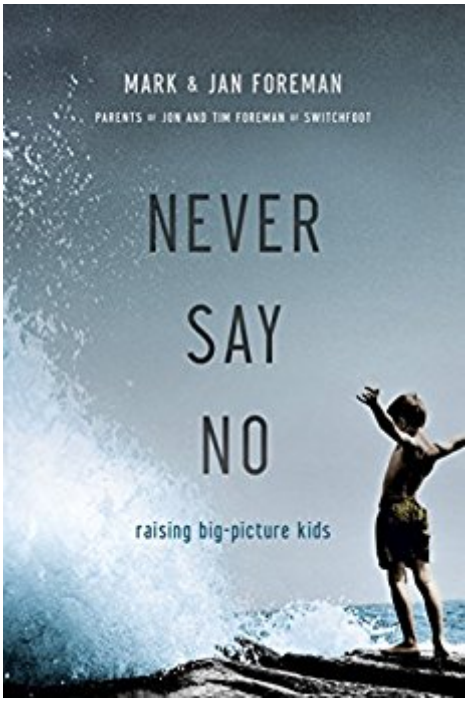
Never Say No: Raising Big-Picture Kids



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Synopsis

The question Mark and Jan Foreman are most often asked is: How did you raise your kids?Never Say No takes you on a personal journey to learn first-hand how they raised Jon and Tim of Switchfoot. They share practical advice for instilling wonder in a media-saturated culture, cultivating specific gifts, and balancing structure with individual choice. Our purpose as parents is the same as our childâ ™s: to live creatively beyond ourselves, bringing the love, beauty and nature of God to this world. Let the adventure begin.Jan and Mark Foreman live in the San Diego area, where Mark is lead pastor of North Coast Calvary Chapel. Mark is the author of Wholly Jesus, and holds advanced degrees in Theology, Education and a Ph.D. in Counseling and Pastoral Care. Jan is a gifted teacher, artist, and she also facilitates partnerships with underprivileged women and children both locally and in developing countries. Together they love surfing, sailing, travel and especially being with their family.

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Customer Reviews

I did receive a free sample of the product in exchange for my post.When I saw the title Never Say No: Raising Big Picture Kids, I thought, â œOh, great. A book about child-centered parenting, where the kids run the home.â • But then I saw it was written by Mark and Jan Foreman, who are parents of Jon and Tim Foreman, of the Christian band Switchfoot. I donâ ™t know if you know who they are, but they are the band behind the songs â œThis is Your Life,â • â œThis is Home,â • â œOnly Hope,â • â œDare You to Move,â • â œMeant to Liveâ • and more. Theyâ ™ve been one of my favorite groups for a few years. That had me interested, so I signed up for this blog tour.I have to say first of all that this isnâ ™t a â œfast foodâ • type of book. Itâ ™s more like a full 6 course meal! Thereâ ™s a lot of information to digest, so you shouldnâ ™t try to get through it in one quick sitting.You can really tell that they both love the Lord so much and they both love their boys fiercely. They donâ ™t claim to be perfect parents. Many mistakes were made in their parenting adventure. But the mistakes they made, as well as the successes they had, can help all other parents with their own child-raising.Thereâ ™s something neat about reading words from the parents of favorites. I have always admired Switchfootâ ™s use of weaving the relevant, the deep and the â œcoolâ • all at once. I see now where the guys get it from. :) The book is really well written. I like how they indclude stories of their boysâ ™ childhood, and stories of their own lives, in each chapter. The bookâ ™s like a mix of a parenting help book, a memoir and a devotional. There were so many parts that I had to highlight because they were so good, that I was unable to choose just a few for this review.

When a young dad asked pastor Mark Foreman for "one nugget of parenting advice," he didn’t expect this answer: "Never say no." In Never Say No: Raising Big-Picture Kids, Mark and Jan Foreman write about their experiences as parents of two boys. Not insignificantly, their boys Jon and Tim are the core of the successful band Switchfoot. Given their commercial success, their musical impact, and their active ministry, the Foremans must have done something right."Never say no" sounds like the flippant answer of a permissive or over-indulgent parent. But that’s not at all what the Foremans convey. They "hope to move beyond reactionary noes to proactive yeses. Behavior often takes care of itself when we focus on having a healthy relationship." Mark had a epiphany when he sensed God saying to him, "I enjoy you." That realization shaped his relationship with God and with his children. Enjoying children in play, communication, and shared experiences lays a foundation of relationship and character shaping.As parents, our modeling behavior and reactions to our children’s behavior communicate much more to our children than any spoken messages or verbal instruction and correction. The Foremans write that children are watching; the

easiest way to influence our children to live a particular lifestyle is to live that lifestyle ourselves.The Foremans also talk about creating an environment that fosters creative thinking, independence, and interaction with culture. With very little exposure to TV during their formative years, and lots of unstructured play, the Foreman boys explored their world.

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