

Go Big in the Little Things

A few years ago (nearly eight to be specific) I wrote about cereal on my personal blog. At that time, my boys and I ate a lot of cereal. We still do – them more than me. You can read that story [here](#).

My middle son still eats cereal every day. He gets up in the morning, fixes a bowl of cereal, sits down on the couch, turns on the television ([WKRN – Channel 2 – in Nashville](#)), and gets caught up on the morning news, the weather, and the traffic. He is 13 and 75 all at the same time. He also eats a bowl of cereal most evenings as well, after we have finished supper. And occasionally, he gets a bowl for his afternoon snack. He eats a lot of cereal.

My oldest son eats just as much, if not more, simply because he just eats more in general than his younger brother. Between the two of them, plus whatever the rest of us in the family eat, we go through 6 or 7 boxes of cereal a week, give or take a box or two. And if you read the article I linked to above, you understand that is okay and part of the plan. My goal as a child was to have a pantry full of cereal boxes. Seinfeld levels of cereal boxes.



My dream has been realized for sure. I have passed along this dream to my children and I hope they pass it along to theirs in the future.

But this isn't about cereal – as awesome as it is. I don't think it would be in anyone's best interest for me to write another article about cereal. (We have a Top Ten Cereal List already published on REO. Read it [here](#).) No, cereal is not the point.

I am the one that handles grocery shopping for my family. My wife and I used to do it together but she doesn't enjoy it and I was willing to take on that responsibility. One of my great joys in life is to come home with the groceries and see my sons' reactions when they help unload all that food. Before they unpack anything else, they find the cereal. They are desperate to find out what cereal I brought home. Especially the middle one. I can make or break his day depending on my cereal selection. If I do well, he is bubbly and dancing and smiling. If I do poorly, he gets quiet and mopey. Because of this, though he is learning to not allow minor things like this to affect his emotions, I do my best to bring home at least a few kinds of cereal that I know he will enjoy. I do this because I love him and I enjoy seeing him happy. I realize it's a little thing, but I believe if we try hard in the little things, over time, they become building blocks for the big things.

My wife loves McDonald's Coke. She is a woman of virtually no vices, but she has a weakness for a cold Coca-Cola from McD's. (Their mix is the best around.) If I am on my game as a husband, I will remember to stop by a McDonald's on my way home and pick up a Coke for her. As with the cereal and my kids, this is not a big deal. In fact, it's such a tiny thing that it would be easy to overlook. But I think overlooking these little things is a good way to take things for granted, and trust me, I overlook these little things way too often. It's a learning experience for sure. But by doing the little

things, it helps me be aware of and attentive to the bigger things.

There are a million ways you can go big in the little things. I buy gum at the grocery store every so often because I know how much my youngest son loves it. My wife rubs my head when we are watching TV together because she knows it relaxes me. These little things take many forms. It could be anything really. The important part is that you are paying attention. And that "paying attention" is appreciated and will not go unnoticed. The big things will take way more time and energy and focus on your part but if you have been doing the little things, you've built the foundation for the big things already. You're ahead of the curve. None of this is to say that if you do the little things you will handle the big things well. I'm sure there are people who do all the little things but still mess up big time on the big things. (No pun intended.) Yet I am confident that if you don't do the little things well, you probably aren't knocking it out of the park on the big things either.

As silly as cereal, Coke, gum, and head rubs seem, if they are done out of love and genuine affection for others, then they are the least silly things you can do. In fact, overlooking them (and things like them) could be incredibly detrimental to your relationships. Do the little things. Get really good at them. It's worth it.

So what are the little things you do for your loved ones? What are the little things they do for you? We would love to read about it in the comment section below. We are here to learn as much as anything else.