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KURY Voices

Hi, I'm Jim Schultz, Pastor of Lighthouse Assembly of God.

When my wife, Kari, used to play with our youngest daughter, Daphne (back when she was 3), sometimes Kari would look right at her and playfully scream. Daphne's response was always to laugh and plug mommy's nose. She found that every time she did that, mommy stopped screaming.

One day, Kari and I got to thinking, what if *babies* worked that way too? When they scream, you just have to plug their noses and they'll stop. You could make it real easy and put a chip-clip on there. Then you'd be good to go for car trips, plane rides, shopping runs, and phone calls.

Today, our oldest daughter, Jamie, is turning 18. I will never forget what happened when she was born. Our doctor noticed that the umbilical cord was tied in a knot and seemed surprised. She explained to us that normally when that happens, the baby dies due to lack of circulation. She actually called Jamie a "miracle baby." In the minutes that followed, I sat there in a rocking chair holding Jamie, unable to hold back the flood of tears. I was overwhelmed with gratefulness to God for sparing our daughter's life. And now we have to make final preparations to release her and her sister into the wild.

As I look forward to this coming year, I am thinking of how to make the most of the time we still have with them. Which means cutting back on less important things like social media and sports. I want to live this year in such a way that I have no regrets. I want to pray for my children like their well-being depends on it. Maybe this strikes a chord within you as you think about 2018 and the most important things you can use the time you are given to do. Happy New Year everyone!

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