

# ZION'S FAITH AT HOME MINISTRIES NEWSLETTER theParentLink<sup>SM</sup>



October 2010

## Teach Children About Stewardship

For many people, the word *stewardship* brings to mind church offerings and financial obligations. But it really just means managing someone else's resources. As Christians, we're stewards of God's creation and the talents and gifts he has given us, including money.

From a young age, children can learn not only how to manage their money well but also how to give generously. As you discuss decisions about giving, saving, and spending, children will learn to be caretakers of all our blessings from God. Use these ideas to instill in children a heart for stewardship.

**Set an example.** When parents worship the Lord in their giving, children can develop a sense of generosity themselves. The most important thing parents can do is practice giving so children can see. Feelings about money are contagious, so also model appropriate attitudes about paying bills, shopping, and delayed gratification.

**Give allowances.** Give children a weekly allowance that can be divided easily. Then make or use a three-compartment container to help kids divide their money into the categories of saving, spending, and giving.



**Have a heart for people in need.** Discuss tangible needs in your community, church, and the world. Together, come up with ways your family can chip in to offer assistance. Then help children see the results of how giving their money, time, and talents impacts others.

PowerSource

### Ask God:

1. To help your children be faithful stewards of all he has given to them.
2. To help your children put their trust in him, not in money or material things.
3. To transform your family members into cheerful and generous givers.

### Parenting Insights

The late Christian financial expert Larry Burkett emphasized the importance of giving our "first fruits" to God. Here are a few of his insights about money management for children:

- **Why we give**—Because God is the provider, we aren't really giving for his sake. "We give our money for our sakes, to remind ourselves we're God's stewards and everything is his."
- **How much to give**—Burkett recommended the following budgeting guidelines for children: give 10%, save 50%, and spend 40%.
- **How we give**—Returning resources to God should be a celebration. Burkett suggested making the act of giving seem like a "thanks party."



## Culture & Trends

What's happening right now that may affect your children and family:

- Contrary to popular belief, research shows that children with busy schedules thrive emotionally. Instead, it's their parents who are stressed by all the activities and driving. (msnbc.com)
- Kids of all ages enjoy "KenKen," which has been called the new Sudoku. Players add, subtract, multiply, and divide numbers to fill "cages." (kenken.com)

### Quick Stats

Most school districts now recommend 10 minutes of homework a night per grade level (10 minutes for first-graders, 20 minutes for second-graders, and so on). While 57% of parents say they spend the right amount of time helping their children with homework, almost nine in 10 teachers say parents don't set aside enough time to help.



## Covington Aquatic Center

October 10<sup>th</sup> from 2:00pm to 3:00pm

Cost is \$1.00 per person

Sign up on the Bulletin board outside the Fellowship hall

*Children under 6 must have an adult in the water*

## Family Experience: Thankful Giving

**Giving some money back to God is just the beginning. God wants all of us! Try these experiences from Group's *Hands-On Bible*.**

- **Give Yourself to God**—Read aloud Luke 21:1-4, about the poor widow who donated two small coins to the temple. Say: "Giving ourselves to God means trusting and obeying him with our whole lives." Then make some reminders to be like the widow. Have each family member tape two pennies to an index card. Then rub a crayon or pencil on the other side of the card, over the coins. Remove the pennies and write "Give Yourself to God" on the card. Then decorate it. Tape your cards to a mirror or a place where you'll see them every day. Encourage family members to give themselves to God daily.
- **Give God Your Best**—Read aloud 1 Corinthians 10:31: "So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." Have each family member share what he or she thinks this verse means. Then ask: "How can we give God glory with our family's income? with our personal earnings? What does it mean to honor God with our whole lives?" Then have a "Give God Your Best" dinner with your family. Use your best tablecloth, wear nice clothes, make favorite foods, and serve a fancy dessert. Ask each person to name one way to honor God this week with their words or actions.



## What's Up With Kids

On [SimplyYouthMinistry.com](http://SimplyYouthMinistry.com), youth minister Lane Palmer notes that a popular horror-movie theme is selling one's soul to the devil. No one can do that, he writes. That choice is yours.

Every time any of us gives in to temptation, we post a spiritual real estate sign that says: "Eternal Soul Available to Demonic Kingdom...Apply Within." The good news is that we also have the choice every day to keep our souls safe in the all-powerful and loving grip of our heavenly Father. John 10:29 promises that God "is more powerful than anyone else" and "No one can snatch [us] from the Father's hand."

Here's the amazing thing about the Christian life. If you have truly trusted in Jesus as your only hope of salvation, your eternal destiny is safe and secure. Yet every day in hundreds of little and big ways, you choose to listen to and obey the voice of life or the voice of death. The choice is yours.

Satan would love nothing more than to see you depressed, deceived, and ultimately destroyed. He will trick you any way possible, but you can also be sure that God's plan is to treat you as his unique and eternally loved child from today through eternity.

As you go about each day, think about your choices. Ask: "Does this keep me safe in the Father's hands or sell my soul to the devil?" Don't underestimate Satan and his powerful army of demons. One of the best ways to avoid sin and pursue holiness is to remember that the Enemy of your soul is just around the corner, waiting to rip you to shreds. Consider what desires tempt you and drag you away. This week, make a plan to take radical action (see Matthew 5:29-30) so you can live the abundant life that Jesus has promised his children.

Dear friend,  
do not imitate  
what is evil  
but what is good.

3 John 1:11

**Discernment is an important life skill that kids can use to resist temptations such as evil supernatural beliefs. In Matthew 10:16 (NIV), Jesus instructs his followers to be "as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves." With God's guidance, shrewd snakes can send the Serpent slithering away.**

- 1. Snakes are cautious, patient, and sure.** They're grounded in prayer and use the Bible as the final test for right and wrong.
- 2. Snakes stay true to themselves.** They ask God to give us eyes to see situations as he does. They also approach non-Christian friends with love, not condemnation.
- 3. Snakes avoid danger.** They steer clear of questionable movies, music, TV programs, and Web sites. While they don't live in bunkers, they shrewdly critique all aspects of their culture from a Christian perspective.
- 4. Snakes are deadly accurate.** They evaluate all "facts" that come their way and engage in hard thinking and discussions with godly mentors who keep them on the narrow path.

## Sixth-Eighth Graders

# Living Word

The focus of *Living Word* is to make Jesus the center of your life.

We can do that through:

**inWord:** Digging deeper into God's Word,  
**upWord:** Living life in daily worship and prayer,  
**outWord:** Serving others in Christ's name and  
**forWord:** Sharing Jesus Christ with other people.

During the month of October we will be learning more about Reformation and meeting with our small groups in order to prepare to lead the Reformation classes for Godly Play. All of our small groups will be leading one of the Godly Play room on October 31st!

### Did you know?

✠ A single voice (Martin Luther!) protested and spoke up for God and truth, and a world was shaken. A man who desperately wanted to find peace with God searched the scriptures and discovered that it was faith in Christ—not faith in his own perfection—that brings peace with God.

*What do you risk when you stand up for God and truth? What do you risk when you remain silent?*

Kids of all ages  
join  
Faith at Home Ministry Team  
for



October 31<sup>st</sup>

from

12:00pm – 1:30pm

Lunch will be served,  
fun fellowship to be had and  
of course candy

**Adults!** We are looking for cars for the kids to get treats out of? Do you have a old classic car you would like to bring to church? Please contact Faith at Home to let us know!

### Verse of the Month

***“Put on all of God’s armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world.” (Ephesians 6:11-12)***

Thankfully, God doesn’t leave us defenseless. We can harness his mighty power by putting on armor that will strengthen us for all types of spiritual battles. God’s armor includes the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, shoes of peace, a shield of faith, a helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is God’s Word.



## Focus on Prayer

### PRAY THAT:

1. God will protect your teenagers from all evil forces and activities.
2. Your teenagers will rely on God’s Word and put on his armor each day as they live in our sinful world.
3. God will strengthen your teenagers to resist Satan’s whole range of tricks and temptations.
4. Your teenagers will be powerful Christian witnesses to other young people who are attracted to supernatural phenomena.

## Senior High Youth

Sunday School: G.P.S.

Why this? We gather, don't we. We meet and greet. We pray. We pray in the beginning, and pray when we end. There can never be enough prayer!

Scripture! Where would we be without the Word of God? How do you know who God is? Discover God in the Scriptures!

The October series is on Jesus. This great DVD series is set in Israel. Some hard questions are asked like: What's the big deal about Jesus? Virgin birth? Yeah right..Jesus is the only figure of any major religion whose birth, life and death was prophesied over a 4,000 year period by different people. Hmmm. Makes you think...Come.

**Any questions, please contact Berit Wright.**



**October 10<sup>th</sup>:** 9:45-10:45am Mission Trip 2010 Presentation-Fellowship Hall  
2:00pm – 3:00 pm Faith at Home Swimming Party

**October 31<sup>st</sup>:** Reformation Sunday, Affirmation of Baptism,  
Faith at Home Lunch & Trunk or Treating.

**November 5<sup>th</sup>:** Skeptic's Quest Rally at Showare with Josh McDowell. Adult donation is \$10, kids under 18 are free! MUST reserve tickets in advance.