

# ZION'S FAITH AT HOME MINISTRIES NEWSLETTER

## theParentLink<sup>SM</sup>



September 2010

### Back-to-School Basics...

It's as predictable as paying taxes and as cyclical as the changing seasons. It's a time of celebration for some and a moment of mourning for others. It sets in motion the structure of education and brings to a halt the freedom of summer.

It's the start of school!

Psychologists say that major changes in life such as a job change, a birth of a child, or a death in the family can create stress that can take over a year to overcome. For many families the start of school can be added to the stress list. Rather than waiting for the end of the school year to overcome the stress, try these "Starting School- Stress Survival Strategies."

#### Strategy #1 – Organize an "End of Summer Celebration"

Wrap up summer vacation with a family night. Celebrate the end of summer by looking through vacation photos and souvenirs. Decorate a cake that symbolizes the summer's favorite memories.

#### Strategy #2 – Set "New School Year Resolutions"

Resolutions signal a fresh start. Help kids create realistic expectations for the new school year. Listen to what they want to accomplish as opposed to what you want them to accomplish. Remember school is about making friends, dealing with conflict, and managing behavior as well as making good grades.



#### Strategy #3 – Review the need for "Proper Spacing"

The proper spacing in math problems allows the problems to be seen more clearly and solved more easily. Life needs the proper spacing or it gets confusing and stressful as well. Commit to allowing extra time in the morning so there's no tension about getting to school on time. Consider giving the kids the privilege of making choices (clothes, breakfast, lunchbox) so they feel in control.

#### Strategy #4 – Add prayer to the "School Supply List"

A first grader without crayons will have a difficult time. Remind your kids you are praying for them by leaving prayer notes in backpacks and lunches.

#### Strategy #5 – Complete your own "Homework Assignments"

Proverbs 22:6 says, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it." The proverb reminds parents God designed each child uniquely, to be raised using their uniqueness as a foundation. Parents need to continually study their own kids in order to be sensitive to their physical, emotional, and spiritual needs.

PowerSource



#### Ask God:

1. To allow the beginning of school to be a positive and exciting time for you and your child.
2. To give you wisdom and discernment throughout the school year.
3. To help you set healthy boundaries with time management, social relationships, and extra-curricular activities as the school year begins.
4. To put your child in the class with the teacher and peers that He wants them to have.



Welcome to a new school year! We have many exciting programs planned and encourage you to take the opportunity to participate in as many as possible.

September 12th is Rally Day! Meet in the Sanctuary at 9:45 for music worship and to learn about Godly Play, LivingWord, as well as Senior High and Adult Education. Immediately following there will be an open house in the Education Building & Living Word House. After second service please join us for the Rally Day Carnival & BBQ!

## OpenTheBook

***"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight."***

***Proverbs 3:5-6 - (NIV)***

### **Teachable Moments:**

What a great verse to meditate on and share with your children as the new school year gets underway. So many new experiences for you and your child are happening and this is a good reminder of where our trust should be placed. Remember to teach your children this invaluable lesson this year!

- Have your child stand with his/her back toward your front.
- Tell them to keep their body straight and their feet planted in one spot.
- Now have them fall straight back, into your waiting arms. Encourage them to do this without looking. You can even blind fold them to increase the trust level.
- Repeat this and let them fall as far as they will allow.

Use this activity to teach them that our trust should be in God. Ask them if it got easier to trust you the more times they fell. Tell them that the more we trust God, the easier it gets to trust Him.

## Faith at Home

# Thank You's!

Thank you to everyone who helped make the Awesome God potluck events so memorable. For those of you who couldn't join us, look for other Faith at Home events through out the Sunday school year.

A special thank you to family for the super fun fire pit. For the individual that did great devotions, for those planning & the Praise Band for helping us to remember how Awesome our God is!



The Offering focus for September will be school supplies to help support needy children in the Kent school district. Items needed include:

Crayons, #2 wooden pencils, markers, school glue, glue sticks, supply boxes, children's scissors, 12" rulers, pink erasers, notebook paper, spiral notebooks, colored pencils, 3 ring binders (2" and smaller), compositions notebooks, folders with bottom pockets & dry erase markers.

## Verse of the month

**"Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil. And he still maintains his integrity, though you incited me against him to ruin him without any reason." Job 1:8 (NIV)**

Would it not be amazing to have God say these things about you? Job was stripped of his family, his possessions, and his health, and yet he still held on to his integrity. He could have given up, given in, or given out. He could have listened to his friends. In Job 1:9, his own wife said, "Are you still holding on to your integrity? Curse God and die!" What made Job hold on to his integrity through all of this heartache? He understood what it meant to fear God and to be in awe of His glory. He understood that God was in control. At what cost would you give up your integrity...for a better job, a better grade, or a "better" life? Praise God for Job's example he set for all of us. And may we be found "blameless, upright, fear God, and shun evil."

# Having Integrity in a World Without



There is a total disconnect today between the belief in integrity and the actions that reflect integrity. While 98% of teens think it is important to be a person of good character, 62% admit to cheating on a test and 82% admit to lying to their parents about something significant (parentmap.com). Reality shows and the "real lives" of the famous glamorize the importance of getting whatever you want, whether a million dollars or a date, no matter the cost. How in the world can parents fight for their teen's integrity? The answer to this question really begins with a question, "How did you learn

integrity?" God did not give us an "integrity" switch that turns on one day. It requires daily practice of doing the right things and making the right choices. **Daily practice begins by defining integrity.** A great definition of integrity is, "Who you are when no one else is looking." This definition is a constant lesson for your teen. It means many actions are wrong even if they don't get caught. **Daily practice continues by spending time with God.** The Bible chronicles many men and women and the joys and frustrations that came about from making the right or wrong choices. Stories about David, Job, and Esther are just a few of the stories your teen can read, learn from, and discuss in a family setting. **Daily practice is sustained with accountability.** Do you keep your teen accountable on where they go, who they hang out with, or what they watch? Is there someone in your teen's life who asks them the hard questions about their struggles and relationship with God? Accountability is a MUST in continuing the fight for your teen. Don't forget God uses your life as an example to your teen. You might be the only example of integrity they see all day

## Suite101.com has put together some great ideas on teaching your teen about integrity...

1. **Set an example.** If a store clerk gives you incorrect change, give it back. If you dent another car in a parking lot, leave a note to let the owner know. If you make a commitment, keep it, no matter how inconvenient it turns out to be. And let your teen see you doing these things.
2. **Walk them through the steps.** Insist they follow through with a date, a volunteer commitment, or an appointment, even when they find better things to do or just change their minds.
3. **Tell stories.** Tell your teens stories of people living with integrity. Don't be afraid to tell them mistakes you made and how integrity led you to make them right or not and what happened as a result. Talk about people in the Bible and the decisions that affected their lives.
4. **Discuss current events.** Find examples of community leaders acting with integrity and compare them with those who maybe aren't. Talk about how easy or hard it was for this person to keep his or her word.

## Sixth-Eighth Graders

# Living Word

is the place for you this fall!

Please pick up a registration letter in the narthex if you did not receive one in the mail and come to the fellowship hall on September 19th at 9:45 AM to hear more about the program.

The focus of Living Word is to make Jesus the center of our youth's life: **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.

We are so excited to introduce our new middle school curriculum: Here We Stand! Come check it out at -

<http://zionkent.herewestandconfirmation.org/users/register>. We are working on adding new information all of the time, so check back frequently.

## Great Questions to Ask Your Kids

Do you know what choice your teen makes when no one else is looking? Here are some questions to help you gain some valuable insight into the decision-making process of your teen:

1. Do you think it's OK to tell a little white lie? Why or why not?
2. How long does it take to build a good reputation? How long does it take to lose it? What kind of reputation do you think you have? Why do you think that? What kind of reputation do you think our family has? Why do you think that?
3. Is there anyone in your life who keeps you accountable for the decisions and choices you make? If so, who is it? If not, is there someone you would consider as an accountability partner?

## Pulse

- Eight in ten (81%) students who feel significant pressure to succeed, no matter the cost, think it's going to remain the same or get worse when they join the workforce. (ja.org)
- By the time teens reach their senior year in high school, over 65% will have had sexual intercourse. Almost 55% will have used some illicit drug. Over 70% of high school students and 54% of middle school students admit to cheating during the prior 12 months. (cpyu.org)
- Many (44%) say high school students behave unethically, placing them, in their eyes, below doctors, teachers, professional athletes, and business leaders. (ja.org)



## Focus on Prayer

### PRAY THAT:

1. God will help your teen make the right choice when faced with temptation.
2. God will remind your teen that while something can be hidden from a parent, nothing can be hidden from God.
3. Your teen will desire a high level of accountability in every area of his/her life.
4. Your teen will see the true value of integrity and will stop at nothing to protect his/her character.

## Senior High Youth

### Sunday School:

Each Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to the Faith Café during the education hour to hang out together, pray, and study Scripture. Be sure to visit the Faith Café on Rally Sunday, 9/12, to learn more about specific topics and speakers. Invite your friends!

### Small Groups:

High schoolers are welcome to become part of a Small Group. Small Groups are a time to grow deeper in relationships together, with adult leaders, and in God's Word. Applications are available on Zion's website, or the bulletin board outside the Faith Café, and can be turned into the office anytime through Rally Day.

Can you play the guitar? Sing? Play an instrument we can sing to? Please come and share your talents with us in the Faith Café on Sunday Mornings. We have the music! Contact any Faith at Home Ministry team member!

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



- ✠ **September 12<sup>th</sup>** : Rally Day & BBQ
- ✠ **September 19<sup>th</sup>**: Living Word Orientation
- ✠ **October 3<sup>rd</sup>** : CROP Walk
- ✠ **October 10<sup>th</sup>**: Mission Trip Presentation 9:45am – 10:45am
- ✠ **October 10<sup>th</sup>**: Faith at Home Swimming Party – Covington Aqua Center