

ZION'S FAITH AT HOME MINISTRIES NEWSLETTER

theParentLinkSM



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Help Children Build Trust in God

Developing trust is a crucial task for children. Psalm 22:9 says, "[You] led me to trust you at my mother's breast." Trust sets the foundation for all other social and emotional tasks to come. When children realize that God, their environment, and the people around them are trustworthy, they feel secure, hopeful, and optimistic.

Trust is key for spiritual development. Early experiences with parents and the church impact children's perceptions of God. When kids feel safe and loved, they can trust that God loves them, too. From birth, you can help children develop trust through:

Trustworthy Relationships—Children need to learn to trust other adults. Expose kids to nurturing people, from grandparents to church nursery staff. Try to keep your promises.

Trust-Building Games—With younger children, play a rousing game of Peek-a-Boo and sing familiar songs. With kids of all ages, laugh often and give lots of reassuring hugs.

Trustworthy Environments—Safe, engaging surroundings allow children to trust that they're taken care of. But the most important environmental aspects aren't things; they're the people who offer consistency and comfort to children.

Faithful Foundations—As trust grows, you create a foundation for children to build trust in God. Bit by bit, you empower kids to trust in Someone who's so much bigger than they are.

Who Earns Your Trust?

- A recent USA Today/Gallup poll asked Americans to rate the trustworthiness of various professions. Nurses topped the list, with an 83% positive rating. Grade-school teachers (74%) and pharmacists (71%) followed. At the bottom were lobbyists and car salespeople (each at 5%).

In a poll at quibblo.com, a quiz site popular with preteens, respondents were asked, "Who do you trust?" The top answer was "yourself," followed by "friends," "God," "boyfriend or girlfriend," "parents," "animals," and "the church." In last place was "the media."



PowerSource

Ask God:

1. To help you be a trustworthy caregiver and an example of God's trustworthiness.
2. To reassure your children that God cares deeply for them and keeps all his promises.
3. To reveal his trustworthiness and goodness to your family.

Parenting Insights

These age-level insights from *Children's Ministry Magazine* show how children's view of God develops as they grow.

Ages 2 to 4

Preschoolers identify God as having a human form and characteristics. These traits most likely resemble those seen in significant adults in kids' lives.

Ages 5 to 8

Fear of the unknown prompts kids to want to believe in a God who's all-powerful, all-knowing, and everywhere all the time. Their understanding of God's love and tenderness depends on how adults express these qualities.

Ages 9 to 12

Older children's perception of God can range from a legendary superhero to a living, spiritual being. Kids often picture God the same way they view their own fathers.



Lutherhaven

June 20-25th:

Please keep these youth in your prayers as they meet new Christian friends, pray and worship God and have a great time in the sun.

Living Word

Sixth-Eighth Graders

Box-a-thon - June 5th:

Come "box" with us, raise money for the Lutherhaven trip and have fun! We will be playing games, doing projects and laughing a lot. You don't have to be going to Lutherhaven to come to this lock-in Please contact Kelly Mullin for more information



Would you like to learn about Faith through a child's eyes and how wonderful it can be to explore the Bible with other people?

Would you like to experience that teaching the Gospel can be as simple as saying "Jesus' loves you"?

Would you like to join the Faith at Home Ministry team and share God's love with Zion's Sunday School students?

We are looking for teachers and shepherds for preschool through adult. Please contact Berit Wright, Kelly Mullin or Danielle Acay if you feel called to share your gifts in this very special way!

What Impact Does Social Networking Have on Teens?



With the surging popularity of social-networking sites, chances are that your teenagers spend the bulk of their online time connecting and chatting with friends. (Chances are that you've jumped on the bandwagon, too.)

At Facebook, the most popular social-networking site, users make and keep in touch with friends, post pictures, and update their online "profiles." Other social-networking sites include MySpace, Friendster, and Xanga. Twitter, another fast-growing network, combines interconnectivity with "microblogging." Users write frequent, short bursts of information (also known as "tweets") to keep up-to-the-minute current with one another.

All this online friend-forming is affecting teenagers' development, according to experts. Researchers say social-networking sites are shortening attention spans, encouraging instant gratification, and making young people more self-focused. A British neurologist warns that extended use of the sites actually rewires the brain, causing teenagers to require constant reassurance that they exist. Other dangers are more subtle. Kids may no longer spend time completely alone, enjoying the benefits of reflection and solitude. Yet they may feel isolated because they're less likely to be communicating with the real humans in their homes, schools, and churches. Finally, teenagers may focus even more on all the worries that accompany adolescence. So instead of escaping from their problems, kids dwell on them even more.

What's Up With Kids

At SimplyYouthMinistry.com, youth-culture expert Walt Mueller chats up social-networking sites.

Millions of teenagers now expose themselves, their feelings, and their thoughts in personal blogs (web logs) posted on one of the many social-networking websites. Public online journals have replaced hidden, locked private diaries. Today, both teenage girls and their male peers are openly sharing their "secrets" for anyone in the world with Internet access to see. Kids use blogs to vent and share commentary about every aspect of teenage life. They also post pictures of themselves, artwork, and personality profiles. Self-expression is encouraged, and the sites are highly interactive. Here are suggestions for dealing with this phenomenon:



First, know what your kids are doing online. Ask if they have their own blog page and if you can see it. Otherwise, spending some time online can usually get you to their online home. Register for free at the homepage of Facebook.com, Xanga.com, or MySpace.com. Then use the site's "search" capability to find your town or school. You'll be flying through a Web of local kids' sites with familiar names and faces. Eventually, you should find what you're looking for.

Second, read carefully without overreacting. You'll probably find some things on these sites that are surprising and alarming. While some of it might be marked by exaggeration and embellishment, most depicts what's going on in kids' lives. Look for clues that will help you discover their problems, challenges, concerns, and struggles. Remember, you're looking through a window into their world.

Third, carefully and prayerfully prepare your response. Warn teenagers about Internet predators. Discuss what you've read with your kids. Assure them that your concern is motivated solely by your love and care for them. Most importantly, bring the light of God's Word to bear on kids' issues and struggles.

Senior High Youth

Congratulations High School Seniors! Join the



ZION'S HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

seniors at second service on June 6th, where they will receive a quilt from Patch Klatch and a Bible from our congregation. We pray that God directs the students path, gives them faith to

go out with courage, not knowing all that lies ahead. But with assurance that God's hand is leading them and God's love is supporting them. May they glorify God in all they do. Amen



High School Mission retreat in Ravensdale (we didn't have to go far) was a blast! We sang, we prayed, we got into God's word.



Youth Group MISSION PROJECT

"Follow the Mission Trip" and not leave Kent! We have a blog and invite you to follow us on our path for the next 3 months! This is an easy way to see what we are doing:

1. Go to Youthmark.com.
2. Under the "Missions" tab, highlight and scroll down to "Mission Team Blogs" and click it.
3. Scroll down to Zion and click! That's it!

Any questions? Contact Berit Wright at bwright.zionkent@comcast.net.

Great Questions to Ask Your Kids

Start a conversation with your teenagers about their communication habits.

1. How much time are you online each week? How many online friends do you have?
2. How many genuine friends would you say you have? Is social interaction easier for you on-screen than in person? Why or why not?
3. Do you have friends who keep you accountable, and vice versa? How well does that work?
4. How up-to-date is God about your life? If you talked to God more, how might your relationship with him change

Verse of the Month

"Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches.... There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command." (John 15:5, 13-14)

Through faith in Jesus, we have the ultimate "connection" and the ultimate friend. Jesus showed friendship by giving his life for us. We, in turn, obey him out of love and share the good news of salvation with others. The best thing we can do for our friends is tell them about Jesus.



Focus on Prayer

PRAY THAT:

- ✝ God will protect your teenagers when they're interacting online.
- ✝ Your teenagers will be prudent about their online socialization and will reflect their faith in everything they do and say.
- ✝ Your teenagers will make authentic, meaningful friends who help them grow as people and as Christians.
- ✝ Your teenagers will stay connected to their families, a church, and other real-life support systems.



Here's a snapshot of online social activities:

- Teenagers spend an estimated 40 hours online each week (or 5.7 hours each day).
- 65% of online teenagers have profiles on social-networking sites.
- 31% of social-networking teenagers have "friends" on their profiles whom they haven't personally met.
- The average number of "friends" in a Facebook network is 120.



- ✝ **June 5th** : Box-a-thon for Living Word students
- ✝ **June 6th** : Graduate Sunday at 11:00am – reception following
- ✝ **June 20-25th**: Living Word students at Camp Lutherhaven.
- ✝ **June 30th, July 28th & August 25th**: **"Awesome God"**
6:00pm -7:30pm potluck, fellowship & fun for all ages.

✝ **July 9th – July 16th**: Senior High Mission Trip to Corvalis, Montana.