

# ZION'S FAITH AT HOME MINISTRIES NEWSLETTER

## theParentLink<sup>SM</sup>

February 2011



## ENCOURAGE KIDS TO LOVINGLY OBEY

February brings lots of talk about love, but love is more evident through our actions than through our words. Children show love and respect by obeying parents, and Christians show love and respect by obeying God's commands. God gave us his laws because he loves us, and following them helps mold us into his faithful followers.

Love is at the "heart" of all God's commandments, including his two greatest: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind" and "Love your neighbor as yourself" (Luke 10:27).



The problem is that love and obedience aren't as easy as they sound. That's because we're all sinners who put ourselves ahead of others. Having a loving relationship with Jesus Christ is the only way we can be equipped to obey God and other people. Only through knowing Jesus and his love does the law lose its sin-causing power over us. Here are some ways to share that message with your children:

- While sharing that disobedience is serious and has consequences, also emphasize that God offers us his forgiveness—and we should do the same for other people who hurt us.
- As you read and discuss the Bible with children, reflect the bulk of Scripture: God's relationship with his people, who are constantly breaking his rules but then being restored by a loving God.

PowerSource



### Ask God:

1. To help your children express their love for God by obeying his commands.
2. To strengthen your children's trust in God's goodness.
3. To give your children obedient attitudes toward authority.

## Saved To Serve!

February 20<sup>th</sup>

9:45-10:45



Come and serve others and show them God's love!  
We will be putting together kits for the troops, meal kits for the food bank, bead kits for Children's Hospital and other opportunities!  
Let us love one another!

# Elementary Youth



The Faith at Home team is looking for volunteers to donate Easter candy and small treats for the annual Egg Hunt. Please drop your donations off in the church office or contact Danielle Acay @ [dacay.zionkent.comcast.net](mailto:dacay.zionkent.comcast.net) or 253.631.0100 with any questions.



## February's offering focus is Cereal!

Let's provide families in need with breakfast. Last year we collected 129 boxes let's try to get 150 boxes in 2011! Donations will go to the Springwood Food Bank.

## Family Experience: **Awesome Obedience**

**"Oh, how I love your instructions! I think about them all day long. Your commands make me wiser than my enemies, for they are my constant guide."**

**Psalm 119:97-98**

We often think of rules and laws as necessary evils. But each of God's commands has a purpose, whether it's to keep us safe or to bring him glory. These laws guide our steps each day, like a trusted, well-worn road map.

### Teachable Moments

- 1. The Right Path**—Hide a Bible and make an easy map so your children can find the Bible in a few minutes. Give children the map and tell them to search for something special you've hidden. When children find the Bible, tell them that God's Word shows us what we need to do to follow him on the right path. Then read some "directions" and have children tell you if they're from the Bible or not. For example, "Love your enemies" (yes!); "Lie only if you have to" (no!).
- 2. Simon Says**—With younger children, play Simon Says, giving everyone a chance to be Simon. Then discuss what it's like to give directions and be "obeyed." Also talk about what makes following instructions easy or difficult.



### **Parenting Insights**

In *With All Their Heart*, Christine Yount Jones shares some of "the sweet rewards of saying yes to God" and lovingly obeying his commands.

- 1. The result of obedience is joy.** Obeying God isn't a burden. Instead, it's uplifting to work in harmony with God rather than fight against him.
- 2. Obedience brings a promise of blessings.** Although we don't obey just to gain God's favor, his Word promises blessings for our reverent obedience (for example, see Deuteronomy 11:13-15).
- 3. Obedience demonstrates our love.** Convey to children that consequences aren't the sole point of rules. Instead, we should obey as a loving response to God, who loves us each unconditionally—and forgives us when we disobey.

## Help kids love and value themselves as God's own

Self-esteem takes a big hit as kids approach and enter adolescence. As their bodies change, young people are constantly bombarded with unattainable standards in the media. Cornell University's Joan Brumberg says America has "a culture of kids who are being socialized to unrealistic images." These impressionable kids constantly come up short when they compare themselves to society's perceived ideals.

When teenagers see themselves through the world's eyes, they'll fall short. Our job is to help them begin to see themselves through God's eyes. He not only made each young person in his image but also has a plan for each of their lives.



David R. Smith at theSource4YM.com says an effective strategy for boosting self-esteem is providing service opportunities. "When we put young people in situations where they help others who are worse off than themselves, it is not only a great opportunity to show love and compassion to the needy, it provides these young people with a larger world view than the 'plastic' exterior they see in the media and the shallow world around them." Read on for more ideas about boosting your teenagers' self-image in a God-centered way.

### Girls!

Living Word and Senior High girls mark your calendar now for a

### Pajama Party!

Come February 4th from 7:30-10:00 for pizza, crafts, cookies and lots of girl time! Please sign up on the Faith at Home bulletin board and feel free to bring friends!

The cost for this event is \$5.

### Boys!

Living Word and Senior High boys mark your calendars too! Come February 27th for a great day of

### Sky High!

Sign up on the Faith at Home board. The cost for this event is \$15.

## Living Word

### Sixth-Eighth Graders

During the month of February we will be learning more about Moses and his conversations with God.

✠ Moses had a burning bush to talk to. How do we find out what God wants us to do? While Moses had the burning bush, we have scriptures, prayer, and talking to one another. When we read the Bible and reflect on what we read, we are led to see what God wants us to do. We naturally think about those in need and begin to think about what we can do to help.

✠ Would God ever ask us to do something impossible? While God would never ask us to do something impossible, we have to remember that with God all things are possible. Moses must have thought what God was asking was impossible, and yet with God's help Moses accomplished it. God does not promise that it will be easy, only that it will be possible with God's help and the help of others. We are never in a situation all alone.

### What's Coming?

**March 20th: Lutherhaven Meeting for 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders and their parents!**

**This is an informational meeting to learn more about Lutherhaven and to sign up to attend with our church! Questions? Please call Kelly Mullin at 253-631-0100 or [kmullin.zionkent@comcast.net](mailto:kmullin.zionkent@comcast.net).**

## Great Questions to Ask Your Kids

Explore kids' self-image and God's image of them by asking:

1. What's your opinion of your body and yourself in general? Do you like what you see in the mirror? In your heart?
2. How accurate are your perceptions of yourself?
3. Can people have a too-high self-esteem?
4. What does it take to be satisfied with your looks and with yourself in general?
5. What do you think God sees when he looks at you? What, if anything, might God want to change about your character or attitude?



## Senior High Youth



Mission Trip meeting on February 6<sup>th</sup>, after second service. We had an incredible trip with Youthmark last summer! Come join the fun! Applications are on the web site, at [www.zionkent.org](http://www.zionkent.org). Tentative date for

travel is July 30<sup>th</sup> to August 6<sup>th</sup>.

### "Live Curriculum" starts in the Faith Café!

Group publishing has put together a 4 year "road map" of fabulous High School "conversational" curriculum, guiding teenagers toward a Jesus-centered life. We get to pick and choose topics like: Life Purpose, Well-rounded Faith, Character traits of a Leader, and End times! We are so excited! We can keep you connected with parent emails and text messages! 9:45 to 10:45 Sunday mornings!



April 16<sup>th</sup> at Overlake Church in Redmond, a concert! Chris Tomlin's Tour "And if our God is for us" comes to town! Do you want to go with us? We can get group tickets. Louie Giglio from "How great is our God" is a special guest! Contact Berit Wright for more information.



Come and join us on...

- February 4<sup>th</sup>: Girls Night for Middle School/High School! 7:30-10:00PM
- February 6<sup>th</sup>: High School Mission Trip Meeting after second service
- February 20<sup>th</sup>: Saved to Serve! Join us to show God's love to others from 9:45-10:45 in the Fellowship Hall.
- February 27<sup>th</sup>: Middle School/High School Boys Sky High Day!

