

# Zion's Faith at Home Ministries Newsletter theParentLink<sup>SM</sup>



June 2011

## Grow Kids' Faith This Summer

The warm, relaxing summer months are perfect for reconnecting as a family. They're also ideal for helping your children stay connected to God and boosting their faith in him.

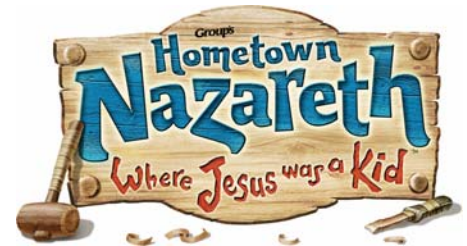
For starters, participate in faith-building opportunities available in your community. These include vacation Bible school (Zion's VBS is June 27<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>!) church camps, mission projects, and more. But realize that faith growth can occur in unstructured, day-to-day settings, too. By talking to your children often about God—and your relationship with him—you model faith in action for young Christians.

Use these ideas as a springboard for summer faith growth:

**Take it all in.** Admire God's handiwork as you travel and sight-see. Acknowledge and thank our Creator. Use simple object lessons; for example, draw a line of chalk in front of some ants and notice that most of them won't cross it. Then talk about what it means to follow and obey God.

**Take out the "trash."** Together, clean up a park or street. Then discuss what God wants us to fill our minds and hearts with (see Philippians 4:8).

**Take it outside.** For variety, conduct your family devotions outside in the shade. Use a book-club format to go through a book of the Bible or a children's Bible storybook. Encourage questions and have children put themselves in the people's shoes. Then apply the lessons to situations we face each day as we walk with God.



Please join us June 27<sup>th</sup> – June 30<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 am – 11:30 am for VBS! We will begin each day in the Sanctuary with an opening celebration, then we will visit hometown Nazareth where we will learn about Jesus. At the end of each day we will come together again, in the Sanctuary where we invite families to join us in celebrating Jesus!

To register for VBS please complete a registration form, attach your \$10 per child or \$25 per family fee and drop it by the church office no later than June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Space is limited so please register early!



### June Offering Focus

Did you know that water covers more than 70% of the earth's surface but only one percent is available as fresh water? Let's create clean water and join Lutheran World Relief in "Fill the Well". Donate your pennies to help the poorest people in our world.



We will be kicking off VBS June 26<sup>th</sup> at Henry Moses' Aquatic Center in Renton from 12:00pm – 3:00pm. We would love to have you join us for some fun. Please register in the church office. The cost is \$8.00 per person!



Would you like to help with VBS? We are recruiting teens and adults to help with all the aspects of VBS. If you are interested please sign up on the board in the narthex or contact Danielle Acay or Kelly Mullin.

## Family Experience: **God's Wonderful World**

Learn about God's creation—and our role in it—by doing these summertime activities together.

- **Shine**—To make your own "planetariums," place oatmeal containers on scrap wood to protect floors. Help kids use a hammer and nail to gently punch holes in the bottoms of the containers. Turn out the lights. Put flashlights inside the containers and enjoy the light show on a ceiling or wall.



Say: "Stars are large balls of gas that produce color, heat, and light. A star changes over time, but it takes millions—even billions—of years to live out its life span. The eye can typically see 2,000 stars on a clear night." Then ask: "What would night be like without stars?" Read aloud Matthew 5: 14-16. Ask: "Why do you think God wants us to be lights on earth? How can you shine for God?"

- **Grow**—Plant seeds close enough to the sides of clear plastic cups to be visible. Care for the seeds by giving them water and sunlight. After about a week, roots will be visible.

Read aloud 1 Corinthians 3:7. Ask: "How did your seed form roots? What role did you, the potting soil, and the water play? What role did God play? Could the plant have sprouted without God?" Talk about ways we rely on God for our spiritual and physical growth. Close in prayer, thanking God for making all things possible.



THANK YOU to the 2010-2011 Sunday School year volunteers. We are thankful for your hours of dedication to our children, God's Word and Zion!

**June 12th is the last day of Sunday School! Students will rotate through each classroom for 15 minutes to have the opportunity to thank their teachers and reflect on the past year!**

## Help your teenagers stay connected to God

A close relationship with God is both the core of our Christian life and our highest end as human beings. As we learn about God and develop intimacy with him, our faith morphs from a "practice" to a lifestyle. Worship and Bible study not only help us experience God, they strengthen us for life's daily challenges.



When *Group Magazine* recently surveyed 20,000 Christian teenagers about their priorities, the top vote-getter was "praying and developing a relationship with God." But many youth ministers were surprised by those survey results. "Kids' actions communicate something different," noted one youth minister. "They're so busy...that it seems the first things to get dropped are the items listed as priorities." Another wrote, "My teens struggle with prayer, and many tell me a relationship with God is hard, confusing, and at times not relevant."

Taking time to "Be still, and know that I am God!" (Psalm 46:10) is challenging in our always-on-the-go culture. Kids are surrounded by noise—and have a lot of noise in their hearts. Distractions, worries, fears, and hurts often make a relationship with God more difficult, but they also make it more important.

Kids look to their parents as examples of how to stay connected to God. If you've kept this relationship private, let your teenagers in on ways you stay in touch with God. Also share ways it has sustained you through life's ups and downs, and assure your kids that the same will be true for them, too.

### Congratulations High School Seniors!



Our seniors will lead second service, on June 5th! They will receive a personalized quilt from Patch Klatch and an engraved Bible from our congregation!

Lord, 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.

ONO IGO  
Mission 51  
We are off on our  
Mission trip to IGO,  
California on July 30<sup>th</sup>



Join our blog!

[www.youthmark.com/zion\\_kent\\_2011](http://www.youthmark.com/zion_kent_2011)

## Senior High Youth

**Happenings in the Faith Café:  
9:45am to 10:45am**

Last two classes for the summer!

- Who Defines You? How does God see you? Discover Who You Really Are.
- Protect Your Identity: This lesson comes from the story of David and Goliath. David is the underdog, David triumphs over Goliath, but is there a deeper application to this triumph? Yes, his identity was under attack! Is yours?

**Thank You!**  
**THANK YOU!**

A HUGE Thank you to our instructors for leading our Senior High Sunday School Class!



## Focus on Prayer

### PRAY THAT:

1. Your teenagers will keep their relationship with God as a top priority.
2. Your teenagers develop a strong prayer life and dig into God's Word to grow closer to him.
3. The relationship your kids develop with God will help them persevere during difficulties and will encourage them to reach out to others.
4. Your own connection with God stays strong and that you set a positive example for your teenagers in this area.

## Great Questions to Ask Your Kids

Use these discussion starters to connect with your teenagers about connecting with God:

1. How close do you usually feel to God, and why? How do you view him: as a friend? a Savior? a judge? other?
2. What does it mean to "be still" before God? What makes that challenging?
3. What happens in your life when you don't keep in touch with God? What times and places are best for you to pray, and why?
4. How does reading the Bible make you feel about God? about yourself? What are your favorite verses?
5. How can we encourage others as we walk with God?

# Living Word

June 5<sup>th</sup>: Small Group! Our last class of the year!

June 12<sup>th</sup>: Living Word Breakfast and Games in the Parish House for all 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders.

June 12th : Affirmation Of Baptism Sunday

Please join me in praying for the youth who will be Affirming their Baptism.

Following second service there will be a reception to celebrate with these wonderful youth!

## What's Coming Up?

VBS! We need your help for VBS! You can be a shepherd, help a teacher, lead music or games. How would you like to help? Please contact Kelly Mullin or Danielle Acay about coming to VBS.

Minute to Win IT! Friday, July 1st from 9:30-11:30 we will be having breakfast at church and playing Minute to Win IT! This is an event for Middle School and High School.



Thank you to all of our amazing volunteers in Living Word !



- ✝ June 5<sup>th</sup>: High School Senior Sunday, Second Service
- ✝ June 11<sup>th</sup>: Affirmation of Baptism Dinner, 5pm
- ✝ June 12<sup>th</sup>: Affirmation of Baptism Sunday, 11am service with reception following
- ✝ June 12<sup>th</sup>: The Last Day of Sunday School
- ✝ June 26<sup>th</sup>: Henry Moses' Aquatic Center in Renton from 12:00pm – 3:00pm
- ✝ June 27<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>: Vacation Bible School 9:30 -11:30am
- ✝ July 1<sup>st</sup>: Minute to Win IT for Middle School and High School 9:30 -11:30am