

ZION'S CHRISTIAN YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES NEWSLETTER

theParentLinkSM

June 2009



Practice Your Family's 'Serve'

Most children are naturally eager to give and help, and parents are eager to develop those young servant hearts. Volunteering together is a great way for your family to show love for others and for God.

Despite our best intentions, it can be tough to fit in time for service projects during the school year. But summer, when schedules usually ease up a bit, can be an ideal time to explore some volunteer opportunities.



Zion has a great project that is ideal for family involvement! This year May through December we will be helping build a habitat house! Whether you're serving on your block or helping give a family a home, keep these suggestions in mind:

Start small. Your family can make an impact without going on a weeklong mission trip. Begin with a project that takes an hour or two a month, then grow from there. For example—you could come help one Saturday at the Habitat house or make lunch for the builders.

Make volunteering a regular part of your family's life. The excitement of helping others is contagious, so children won't want to stop when summer ends. Find ways to continue serving year-round.

The Many Benefits of Volunteering

Christians serve in response to God's love for us. But serving also helps children and teens learn responsibility, leadership, critical thinking, problem-solving, self-respect, self-discipline, self-motivation, and tolerance. When we teach children to serve, we're also teaching them to become servants for life because children who serve become adults who serve. Consider these statistics from

Engaging Youth in Lifelong Service (Independent Sector):

- Two-thirds of adult volunteers began serving as children.
- Adults who volunteered as children give more money and time than adults who began serving later in life.
- Across incomes and age groups, people who volunteered as children give and volunteer more than those who didn't.

PowerSource

Ask God:

1. To show your family some meaningful ways to serve.
2. To bless your work and the people you're helping.
3. To grow your children's desire to serve him and others.

How God brought Habitat to Zion

So how did God bring Habitat to Zion?! As only He could, through the back door. We were having an open house and wanted it to benefit someone else. We prayed and Habitat came to mind. We called Habitat and they suggested we seek tool donations. The tools were delivered and I offered my design services as well, mentioning our affiliation with Zion. They suggested I speak with our Pastors and staff. Debbie Boyce joined me on the return trip to Habitat and from then on the passion was contagious. CYFM bought on, Easter breakfast and auction funds were raised and people signed up to volunteer at the build site. As God would have it, there was a Thrivent home being built close to church with a ground breaking in March. His perfect timing...with blessings to follow...possibly for you and your family.

OpenTheBook

"Since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other's feet. I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you."

John 13:14-15

By dying on the cross to save us, Jesus was the ultimate example of service. Because of his sacrifice, we, too, can give of ourselves.

Teachable Moments

- 1. Charity begins at home.** When you assign household chores, let children know they're helping you. Thank them for their willingness to pitch in and for their positive attitude about serving.



- 2. Serve anonymously sometimes.** It's nice to be recognized for our service, but that shouldn't be our motivation. Remind children that everything we do is for Jesus, who knows our hearts and rewards our efforts.
- 3. Give a service challenge.** At the beginning of the week, challenge family members to complete one act of kindness for each family member during the next seven days. Afterward, celebrate all the good deeds and share ideas about more ways to serve one another.

Family Experience: Ready, Set, Serve!

Here are some ideas to spark your thoughts about the many areas where families can volunteer together:

- **In your neighborhood**—Plant flowers for a disabled neighbor, clean up trash at a park, show an elderly person how to use a computer, have a lemonade stand or garage sale and donate the proceeds to charity, offer occasional after-school or evening child-care for neighborhood parents, set up a lending library of Christian videos.
- **In your community**—Serve at a soup kitchen, cook a meal for HOME, collect gently used stuffed animals for hospitalized children, hand out free ice water at area functions, stuff envelopes for a charity that does regular mailings.
- **At church**—Wash toys in the nursery, wash windshields in the parking lot on a Sunday morning, arrange a workday just for families, visit shut-in members.
- **Across the miles**—Gather needed items during national or global crisis or donate items for the troop boxes that Naomi Circle puts together. Come to church to help pack these boxes that bring joy to so many soldiers.



How do you serve?

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). 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. 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.

The Parent POV (point of view)

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?
3. Is there anyone in your life who keeps you accountable for the decisions and choices you make?



Lutherhaven

June 28th-July 2nd

Please pray for our youth while they travel to and from Lutherhaven. May God use this time to build friendships, enjoy His creation and allow many opportunities to worship Him.



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.

Your teen will see the true value of integrity and will stop at nothing to protect his/her character.

Class of 2009

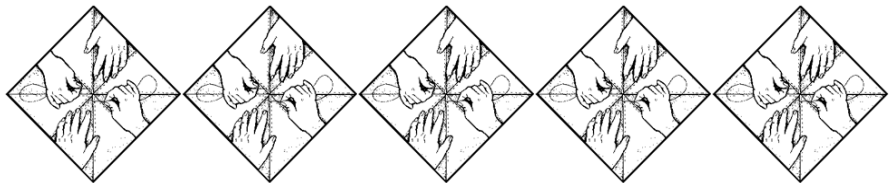


Please keep the class of 2009 in your prayers.

June 7th at second service, Zion's graduating high school seniors will be embraced by their church family!

ZION'S HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore. Psalm 121:8



Many thanks to the Patch Klatch group for sewing all the beautiful quilts for our high school seniors. Also, thanks to the Mission Quilters who tied the quilts and did other hand work. Your labors of love will gift these teens and warm their hearts! This gift was made possible by the ZLCW who provided all of the funds needed.

H A B I T A T



A T Z I O N

Join us for Habitat at Zion and be part of making a difference in the lives of others...and your own!

Elementary Youth and Families

Vacation Bible Service - July 29th – August 1st from 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm. Our focus for this week will be on serving others as Jesus did. Each afternoon we will begin in the Sanctuary with song, and the lesson of the day, then we will break out into groups to serve just as Jesus did. At 5:15 pm we will come together with our families & the Habitat work crew for dinner and an evening worship service that the students will lead. To register for VBS please complete the registration form, available in the narthex, attach your \$10 per child or \$25 per family fee and drop it by the church office no later than July 1st, 2009.

Middle School Youth



We have an amazing opportunity to help a family build a home! This summer many of the high school youth and adults from our church will be on site building the house and we will be here at Zion helping build too!

We are looking for youth who want to be helpers, worship leaders, and builders! Do any of these sound like you?

Please sign up to be part of Habitat at Zion by filling out a VBS registration form or contacting Kelly Mullin.

Calling Senior High Youth... Looking for rewarding service work this summer?

Be a part of Zion's summer mission work with Habitat for Humanity. Zion's emphasis week to work on site is July 29th-August 1st. There are Saturdays each month, too, if that works better for your schedule. Check out the CYFM bulletin board in the hallway outside the Fellowship Hall. You'll be a part of changing someone's life...and your own!

Opportunities for Adults

- † Saturday Work Days
- † Provide Lunch or Dinner
- † Work during the emphasis week with the High School students
- † Be a Part of VBS
 - † Be a Leader (story teller, music, recreation, craft, snack, nursery, worship)
 - † Assistant (story teller, music, recreation, craft, snack, nursery, worship)
 - † Shepherd (4-year-olds, kindergarten-1, 2-3, 4-5)
 - † Help with registration, set-up, take down, appreciation.

