

ZION'S FAITH AT HOME MINISTRIES NEWSLETTER

theParentLinkSM

APRIL 2010



Instill a Deep Love for God's Word

During Jesus' earthly ministry, he encouraged people to bring their children to him, and he praised the qualities of childlike faith. More than 50% of Christians choose to follow Jesus between ages 5 and 9. So it's never too early to nurture this most important relationship. And you don't need a theology degree to help your children love the Bible. Here are some easy steps to spark a passion for Scripture:

Provide age-appropriate resources. Look for books and materials that encourage spiritual development. Take advantage of your local and church libraries, as well as experts at Christian bookstores.

Read to children and let them see you reading the Bible. Reading aloud is one of the best things parents can do for their children's development. So why not use that one-on-one time to read from God's Word? Also, model a love for Scripture by letting children see you read (and live) it regularly.

Partner with your local church. Parents and churches can work together to help children discover God's message of love and salvation. Talk to your pastor or children's pastor for ideas about nurturing your children's relationship with God.

Adapt as your children grow. Watch for cues that children have outgrown Bible storybooks. After reading with your older children, ask questions that encourage them to dig deeper into God's Word.

The Good Book

In national surveys of adults, the Barna Group found:

- Most Christian adults rated themselves as strong in relationships but below average in Bible knowledge.
- Two-thirds of adults said they accept six well-known Bible accounts as literal truth. These include God creating the world in six days, Moses parting the Red Sea, Daniel surviving in the lions' den, David slaying Goliath, Jesus walking on water, and Jesus rising from the dead.

PowerSource

Ask God:

1. To give your children a hunger for his Word.
2. To help your children hide his Word in their hearts (see Psalm 119:11).
3. To help family members apply the Bible to their daily lives.

Parenting Insights

Use these age-appropriate ideas from *Children's Ministry Magazine* to help tailor the Bible's message to your children's learning skills:

Ages 2 to 5

Preschoolers' attention span is only two to 10 minutes. They learn by touching objects and by repetition. Paraphrase Bible stories and highlight only main points.

Ages 6 to 9

By this age, children's attention span is 10 to 20 minutes. They think concretely and focus on people's actions. Provide more details and then let children share the passage in their own words.

Ages 10 to 12

By this age, most children have heard many Bible stories a lot. They need to know, "So what?" Offer modern-day applications because children learn more when they see how God's Word applies to them personally.

Elementary Youth



The second grade students will be preparing for **First Communion**. Classes will be April 11th and April 18th during the Sunday school hour. Parents and godparents are invited to join their children as they prepare to receive this Sacrament.



April 25th during the Sunday school hour join us in the sanctuary for pictures and final instruction. First Communion will be at the **11:00 am worship service** with a reception following.

Living Word

Sixth-Eighth Graders

During the month of April the Living Word youth will be studying the two sacraments- Baptism and Communion with Mrs. Sleezer, Mr. Belmondo and your Guides.



WHAT IS A SACRAMENT?

A sacrament is a sacred act that has been instituted by God, in which God himself joined His Word of promise to a visible element and by which He offers, gives and seals the forgiveness of sins earned by Christ. (The Small Catechism with Explanation)

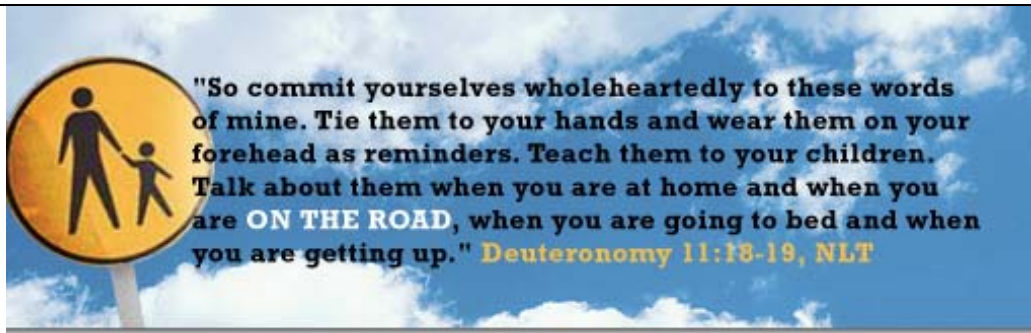
Lutherhaven Fundraiser!



Living Word students have put together fabulous baskets that you could win! Please purchase tickets in the fellowship hall Sunday, April 11, 18th, or 25th after all Sunday worship services. Tickets can also be purchased April 25th, **Auction Day!**

You just might win -a full tool box, garden basket, spa basket, fun and games basket, BBQ baskets, art basket, or baking madness basket!

Thank you for supporting our kids going to a great Lutheran Camp!



The above passage from Deuteronomy is a command but also a wonderful privilege. As you teach your children about God and his Word, use these discussion-starters:

1. Why do you think God gave us the Bible? What makes it so special and important?
2. How do you know that everything in the Bible is true?
3. How can we use the Bible to get to know God better? How can we use the Bible to help us know how to live?

What are some of your favorite Bible verses or stories, and why? How can you share these with other people?



Faith at Home
SILENT AUCTION
 Sunday April 25, 2010
 Doors open: 4:30 pm
 Western BBQ begins at 5:00 pm

All sales (raffle baskets and dinner reserved seating) start: April 11, 18th & 25th. Look for the auction table in the Fellowship Hall between services.

Reserved seating for the auction dinner!



For only \$10.00 each, you can sit with who you choose to! Only 40 seats available! These are sure to sell out, only 5 tables of eight are available!

(See page 4 in the Horizon for more about the Auction.)



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:
 Sign up to help or bring a delicious dessert on the Faith at Home bulletin board.

Senior High Youth

Sunday School: 9:45 to 10:45 am
9th – 12th Graders!!!

Come to the Faith Café to:
G.P.S. Gather/Pray/Scripture
 Facilitators: Patti Petrut and Monica Champoux



PODS----- BLOGS?

✚ **Pod 1:** Focus is on Group Prayer. Acts 1:14 says: "They all joined together constantly in prayer".

✚ **BLOG?** We will have an internet blog set up, so that you may follow us this summer on our "mission" trip. Look for more information in the next Horizon.

Mission Trip Spring Retreat will be May 7 and 8th, in Ravensdale, WA.

Note to Mission Trip youth –

✚ Your help at the auction is expected and we look forward to 2 donated items from each of you.

✚ If you need help acquiring donations please contact either Tania Skinner or Kris Garner for ideas of businesses that might donate.

OpenTheBook

“Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path.... The teaching of your word gives light, so even the simple can understand.”

Psalm 119:105, 130

The Bible shows us the way to heaven, as well as the way to live here on earth. Use every opportunity to introduce your children to God's Word.

Teachable Moments

1. **“The B-I-B-L-E”**—Many children absorb new information quickly through music. Plus, it's fun! At home or in the car, sing songs about Bible people and events. Many praise lyrics come directly from Scripture verses.
2. **Hide God's Word in Your Hearts**—If you want your children to memorize Bible passages, start simple and keep it fun. For longer Bible passages, family members can each memorize a different section.
3. **Act It Out**—If your children enjoy playing pretend and dress up, encourage them to act out various Bible stories. Read directly from the Bible and then help children search for fun props (a stuffed whale for Jonah, building blocks for the wall of Jericho, a doll for the baby Jesus, and so on).

JOIN FAITH at HOME staff:

SUNDAY May 23 at 1:30 pm

For a Tacoma Rainiers
Game at Cheney
Stadium in Tacoma.

Cost is \$9.95 per person, includes hotdog, chips soda and a first baseline seat! Sign up on the bulletin board outside the 'new' church office in the Education Bldg.

Family Experience: Bible Exploration

During an evening together, dive into God's Word with these ideas from Group's Hands-On Bible.

- **The Ultimate Group Project**—The Bible was written by more than 40 people over 1,500 years in three different languages. Yet it fits together perfectly! What if your family decided to write a book and each person got a chapter? What would you each write about? It would be interesting, but it wouldn't fit together like a story. Ask family members to each write (or tell) a description of the same movie. Then compare what everybody wrote. How close or different are the descriptions? Now read examples of how different Bible writers presented the same event. Read Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; and Luke 3:21-22.
- **It's Knot a Problem**—Without the Bible, it's impossible to know how to live a life that pleases God. Together, read 2 Timothy 3:16 once or twice. Have everyone try writing (or saying) the verse in their own words. Next, take a one-foot length of rope or clothesline. Say, “I'm going to hold one end of the rope in each hand and tie a knot without letting go of the ends. It seems impossible, right?” Let family members try to come up with a solution. After a few minutes, lay the rope out straight on a table. Cross your arms over your chest, then lean over and pick up the ends of the rope with your arms still crossed. Then unfold your arms to reveal the tied knot. Say, “With God's guidance in the Bible, it's possible to make good decisions. The Bible teaches us to do what's right.”



- † **April 11th**: Auction Raffle Sales begin.
- † **April 25th**: Second Grade First Communion: 11:00 Am Worship Service.
- † **April 25th**: Faith at Home Auction. Opens at 4:30 for first bids, BBQ at 5:00pm. Come for a “Ropin Great Time”.
- † **May 7,8**: High School Mission trip retreat, 8 pm Ravensdale.
- † **May 23rd**: Tacoma Rainiers Game, 1:30 pm. Sign up by the Church Office.

