

ZION'S FAITH AT HOME MINISTRIES NEWSLETTER

theParentLinkSM

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Offer Children Positive Discipline

Parents use a variety of discipline methods, with varying degrees of success. But the goal is the same: obedient, safe children who can internalize right from wrong. Experts say that no matter children's age, development, or behavior, the key to disciplining them is understanding their heart and finding out what makes them "tick." If you can look beyond the symptoms of misbehavior and ask "Why is this child behaving this way?" then you can make a positive change.

Creating a clear discipline policy is vital to shepherding your family. Here are some tips to get started:

Keep It Simple. If you set too many rules, no one can keep them straight. Ensure that children understand by having them act out each rule (for example, "Hang up your coat when you come home").

Keep It Consistent. Consistency makes it easier for children to remember expectations for the long haul. Don't ignore misbehavior just because you're too tired to deal with it at the time.

Keep It Fair. You can still tailor consequences to a child's age or personality. For example, a guideline for "timeouts" is one minute for every year of a child's age. Just be sure to apply rules to everyone.

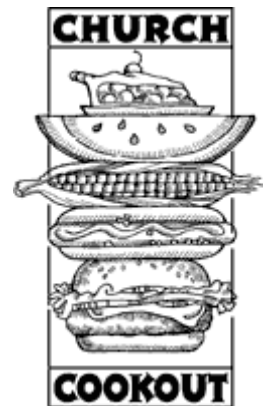


Keep It Fresh. Post expectations where everyone can see them. Take the time to review rules regularly with children, but also equip kids to follow them. Adapt discipline methods as children develop.

Awesome God!

Our Last
Awesome God
Event will be
August 25th
from 6:00-
7:30 PM.

Come meet
new people,
visit with
friends and
have fun!



RALLY DAY! September 12th



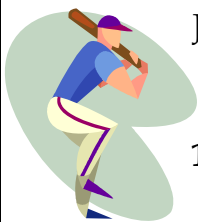
**Open House: 9:45-10:45 to
kick off a whole new year!**

**Rally Day Carnival: Noon
Lunch, snow cones, bouncy
houses and face painting!**

Elementary Youth



Godly Play is in need of a few loving adults or teens to help during the Sunday school hour. Available positions include preschool teacher, The Word – story teller, Shepherd for 1st and 2nd grade group and a video camera operator for Hollywood. Please contact Danielle Acay at dacay.zionkent@comcast.net or 253-631-0100 if you can help.



Join the Faith at Home staff
Sunday August 15th at 1:30pm 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 in the church narthex or see Danielle Acay with questions.

Family Experience: Cook Up the Right Recipe

Spend time together in the kitchen exploring what the Bible says about loving obedience.

Taste Test—Bake three variations of a simple biscuit recipe. For the first batch, follow the instructions correctly. For the other two batches, leave out a different key ingredient. Have family members taste a biscuit from each batch. Ask: “How did the biscuits taste different from one another? Which one tasted best?” Identify the ingredients missing from each batch, and talk about the effects. For example, biscuits made without baking powder are flat and dense.

Read 2 Peter 1:2-7. Ask: “What are the ingredients God wants us to have? What’s a person like who has all these ingredients?”

Read verse 8. Say: “God has a recipe for each of us. Which ingredient do you need to add to your life this week?”



Eggstra Soft Hearts—You’ll need six hard-boiled eggs and six raw eggs in an egg carton, as well as a clear bowl. Have family members take turns selecting and cracking an egg into the bowl. Continue until at least one raw and one hard-boiled egg have been cracked. Say: “When you boil an egg, a change happens inside to make it harden. We couldn’t make cookies with the hard-boiled eggs.” Read Hebrews 3:7-12. Say: “When we read the Bible but ignore what God says, our hearts harden. We turn away from God. But when we listen to God, he can do sweet things through us.” Close by praying for God to make all your hearts soft and obedient.

Parenting Insights

It’s tempting to use rewards or bribes to make children behave. But Larry Shallenberger, writing in *Children’s Ministry Magazine*, says rewards are actually harmful to children’s emotional and spiritual development.

- 1. Rewards distort children’s values.** When prizes are the focus, children’s interest in the desired behavior is diminished. We send the message that obedience is unnatural.
- 2. Rewards distort character development.** Promises of prizes get children focused on “working the system.” They also promote dependence and lead to “me-focused” kids.
- 3. Rewards create a faulty image of God.** When you bribe children to attend church or learn Bible verses, they’re less likely to build a friendship with God. They may view him as an impersonal dispenser and withholder of rewards.

Help Your Teenagers Find Purpose and Set Goals

“Purpose” is a buzzword in many churches these days, as Christians explore what it means to live intentionally. God has a purpose, or plan, for each of our lives. Teenagers also must discover their particular purpose and find ways to live it out.



Coming up with a mission statement is a helpful first step. You can even do this together as a family. For Christians, a mission statement will revolve around faith and service, but it also can include your passions and dreams. Brainstorm a sentence or two dealing with each of these areas: mind, body, heart, and spirit.

Another way to explore your purpose is asking, “What do you stand for?” Our culture encourages today’s teenagers to stand for riches and fame, but Jesus calls his followers to deny and humble themselves. He calls us to “produce lasting fruit” (John 15:16). Our lives should reflect the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23).

After teenagers discover their purpose, they can set goals for achieving it. If goals are to be meaningful, kids must set them themselves. Counselor Steve Merritt, writing in *Group Magazine*, defines goals as “good things we can bring about ourselves, as long as we do it without control or manipulation.” All parents desire good things for our teenagers, but we can’t always be involved in making them happen. Kids must be passionate about their own goals and self-motivated about reaching them. And for goals to be God-pleasing, we must reach them in ways that honor him.

FOCUS ON PRAYER

PRAY THAT:

1. Your teenagers realize that their true purpose comes from God.
2. God will reveal to your teenagers his special plan for their lives.
3. Your teenagers will set goals that honor God and will be motivated to work hard to meet those goals.
4. God will use your teenagers to reveal his purpose to other people.

**“I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.”
(Philippians 3:13-14)**

Living Word Sixth-Eighth Graders



Water Park Fun! August 25th
Meet at church at 11:30 to drive down to Henry Moses Water Park, coming back to church for a service project followed by dinner and an Awesome God Event! Please bring a sack lunch and \$10 for the water park.

You must sign-up by August 10th! Sign-up in the narthex or call Kelly Mullin at church, 253-631-0100.

Living Word Registration: Please check your mail box for your Living Word Registration and fill it out as soon as possible so that new groups can be formed. If you did not receive a form please pick up one in the narthex. We are also looking for a few more volunteers to help each Sunday, please consider how you can volunteer.

Senior High Youth

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

Mission Trip 2010 WE DID IT! Our God is an Awesome GOD!



Before we went on this mission trip, we studied scripture with the focus on the book of Acts. We started with the First Century believers and ended with the word of God continuing to increase and

spread throughout the land in Acts 12:24. Our mission was to strengthen our own faith, to share our faith, to live “out” our faith. We prayed, we laughed, we worked. Thank you Zion Lutheran for supporting us in prayer and financially! Thank you Mike Hatstrup for chaperoning!



Gearing up for High School Fall

Curriculum! Answering tough questions about our Savior. Why Jesus? What’s the big deal about Jesus? Was Jesus God, or just a good man? Join us this fall in a DVD Series, as David Nassar, (through Bluefish T.V.) leads us through the streets of Jerusalem, through

the Holy Land, answering tough questions.

High School Small Groups:

Looking for adults to lead and teenagers to join a High School Small Group! Why small group? You can delve deeper into God’s word. You can get to know more people, you can share more about your life! Stay connected! More information needed? Contact Berit Wright at bwright.zionkent@comcast.net.



What's Up With Kids

At SimplyYouthMinistry.com, youth minister Danny Bowers uses the acronym G.R.O.W. to explore healthy, growing ministries. His points apply to healthy, growing young people, as well.

G = GOALS

Teenagers need something they're working to accomplish. When we set goals, we need to know that they are attainable and reachable.

R = REALITY

Sometimes the reality check can be encouraging, frustrating, or scary. But remember, it just gives you a place to start, not a finish.

O = OPPORTUNITIES & OPTIONS

The “how do we get there?” is up in the air. I love allowing a “sky is the limit” type thinking because of the amount of excitement that can be built and used to move forward. Look at the resources or people available to help you reach your goals. Sometimes your options may seem inadequate or nonexistent, but remember that we do the possible; God takes care of the impossible.

W = WHAT'S NEXT?

Many of us can get stuck when we put our thoughts to the future. As we set goals, we have to think where we're ultimately going. What do we need to prepare ourselves for? Many times we may have to become flexible and make adjustments along the way. There's no steadfast rule that once a goal is set, it's set in stone. Flexibility and creativity are key.



Come and join us on...

August 15th: Tacoma Rainiers Game

August 22nd: Godly Play Teacher and Living Word Guide Training

August 25th: Middle School Water Park Fun

August 25th: Awesome God 6:00-7:30 PM

September 12th: Rally Day Open House and Carnival

