

ZION'S FAITH AT HOME MINISTRIES NEWSLETTER

theParentLinkSM

February 2010



Teach Children to Love All People

In today's diverse world, people have an assortment of physical abilities, skin colors, cultural backgrounds, and religious beliefs. And children notice these differences among individuals. Kids of all ages may be unsure how to act toward people who are different from them. For example, young children may be fearful, while preteens may resort to name-calling.

No matter a person's appearance or situation, we can be sure of one thing: Jesus loves and values him or her and calls us to do the same. This issue of "The Parent Link" explores ways you can focus on that important message during February, a season of love.

Acknowledge the differences that children notice in people. Answer children's questions honestly and factually. Brushing over such inquiries may send the message that there's something "wrong" with that person.

Encourage children to look for positive qualities in people. Focus on what makes each person special and unique. Children who feel secure in themselves are less likely to feel prejudice toward others.

Let children explore their differences. Allow them to interact with kids from other cultures. Talk about other religious beliefs, while acknowledging that there is only one true God.

Be a role model of love and acceptance. If you want your children to respect differences, you need that same approach to life yourself. As your role model, use Jesus, who not only spoke about compassion but also befriended society's outsiders and outcasts.



PowerSource

Ask God:

1. To give your children a loving spirit toward all people.
2. To help your children embrace and celebrate people's differences.
3. To help your children look beyond appearances and live out their compassion daily.

Saved To Serve!

February 14th
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



We are looking for a shepherd to substitute with the 2nd and 3rd graders in a shared position. Our current shepherd is going on maternity leave.

Helpers for the Annual Egg Hunt. This is a fun event for Zion and its youth. Help stuff eggs, hide eggs, serve lunch, and help hand out prizes.

Please contact Danielle Acay at dacay.zionkent@comcast.net or 253.631.0100.



**Sunday School
Offering**

**JANUARY/FEBRUARY
SUNDAY SCHOOL
OFFERING FOCUS**

CEREAL Drive!

Donations will go to the
Springwood Food Bank.

Please bring your offering to your
shepherd in the Great Hall.

Family Experience: Love One Another

Explore some ways to put love into action by using these ideas from Group's *Hands-on Bible*.

The #1 Command—Grab some pencils, markers, and big sheets of paper. Have family members take turns lying down on the paper. Use the pencil to trace around each body outline. Use markers to fill in facial features, hair, and clothing. Then read Mark 12:28-31 together. Around your shape outline, write ways you can love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength. On the bottom, write ways you can love your friend or family member as yourself. (If you're stuck, think how you'd like to be treated!)



God Is Love—As a family, cut a large heart out of white poster board. Mount it on a slightly bigger piece of colored poster board. Write the words of 1 John 4:7-8 around the heart. Hang it on a wall. Tear red construction paper into small pieces big enough to write on. Put the pieces in a bag or bowl near your poster. Every time a family member shows love, he or she should write it on a paper piece. Glue or tape the piece to the heart.

Parenting Insights

Even young children can learn that God loves people of all colors, shapes, and sizes. John Perkins, publisher of *Urban Family* magazine, offers these tips for overcoming racism:

- **Realize that love is every person's most basic need.** "The first step is to help children understand God's love and its power," Perkins says. "Our love for Jesus is to be demonstrated by the way we love each other."
- **Treat people equally.** By showing evenhandedness in your interactions, you model Jesus' acceptance and draw others to accept his love.
- **Become secure in God's love for you.** "Deal with your insecurities and help others deal with theirs," Perkins advises. "Insecurity causes one person to exploit another."

Help Teenagers Strive for Moral Purity



Thanks to pop singers, purity rings have become a hot trend. Many young people are publicly announcing their intentions to abstain from sex until marriage. For some kids, these rings mean even more. About his purity ring, Syracuse University freshman Stephen Chang says, "It also means that I won't drink, smoke, or date until I know I'm ready to date for marriage. It's a symbol of me saying that I want to live a life that's more pleasing to God."

Maintaining a pure, God-pleasing lifestyle in our sinful world is tough. Kids are tempted to enjoy immediate pleasure rather than wait for long-term rewards. As parents, you play a vital role in your teenagers' moral decision-making. Not only do kids look to you as examples, but they want you to listen and be available to talk. Surveys show that kids crave moral information from their parents. Research also shows that kids whose parents had talked with them about tough topics were more likely to turn to their parents first in difficult situations.

Kids crave control over their lives, and the quest for purity is one area they can control. It's also an area where kids can assert their individuality, think for themselves, and not follow the crowd. So encourage your teenagers to make a commitment to a morally pure lifestyle. Even if you don't give them a purity ring, you can let them know that Jesus, who died to make them pure, expects sexual integrity from his children. Just as importantly, when we mess up, Jesus offers forgiveness and the chance to renew our commitment to live for him.

The book *Guy Talk, Girl Talk*, a small-group resource from SimplyYouthMinistry.com, offers these three reasons why purity is more than not having sex:

It's about purity of your heart. Every commitment begins in the heart. Purity is about resisting the world's way of doing things. The challenge is to make a commitment that guards your heart, mind, and body from anything that would contaminate you with the sin of the world.

It's about purity of your mind. Our thoughts and what we put in our minds can be just as damaging as what we do with our bodies. Think about the magazines you read, the movies you watch, and the songs you listen to. What messages are they sending? Purity isn't about avoiding "the world" but about making daily decisions that maintain the purity of your mind and prevent it from being contaminated.

It's about purity of your motives. When your heart and mind are pure, the results are actions motivated by purity. Wrong motives are about fulfilling only your own selfish desires, such as instant gratification or approval from others.

Living Word

Sixth-Eighth Graders

During the month of February we will be learning more about the Apostles' Creed. Our focus will be on Jesus Christ- our Savior, Redeemer and Lord and The Holy Spirit.

Stuff to think about!

- ✝ **When was the last time someone sacrificed something for you? Why did they do it? How did you say thanks?**
- ✝ **Why did Jesus have to die?**
- ✝ **How would you respond to someone who said, "Jesus was just like every other religious leader who ever walked on the earth"?**

What's Coming?

February 21st: Lutherhaven Meeting for 6th-8th 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.

Great Questions to Ask Your Kids

Use these discussion starters to help kids open up about purity and sex:

1. What comes to mind when you hear the word "purity"? What are some ways, besides sexual abstinence, that people can stay pure?
2. How much control do you have over your own purity?
3. What are the biggest temptations that can thwart a pure lifestyle? What are some ways to resist them?
4. How do you think God views sex? How does your view compare to God's?
5. What are the pros and cons of making a public commitment to purity? Do you want to take that step? Why or why not?



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

February Topics:

7th of February Recap Giglio DVD series.
14th Service Project "Take it Home Event # 3."
21st Evening Worship



February 21st:
**Sunday EVENING
WORSHIP
SERVICE.** Dinner
starts at 5:30 pm with
the worship service

starting at 6:00 pm. Tis the season of Lent, come
worship our Lord in evening prayer, song and
scripture.



Come and join us on...

February 14th: Saved to Serve! Join us to show God's love to others from 9:45-10:45 in the Fellowship Hall.

February 17th: Ash Wednesday Worship at 7:00PM

February 21st: Middle School Lutherhaven Meeting at 12:15 in the Music Room and Evening Worship Service, dinner at 5:30 pm and service at 6 pm.

February 26th: Soup Supper and Taize Service

March 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th: Soup Suppers and Lenten Services