

ZION'S FAITH AT HOME MINISTRIES NEWSLETTER

theParentLinkSM

March 2010



Evening Worship Service



Thank you for all who helped with the meal and the Evening Worship Service February 21st! Where two or more are praying ...God hears.

Parenting Insights

In *Children's Ministry Magazine*, author Lisa Stadler offers a questionnaire for discerning your children's gifts and strengths.

1. I feel great when people notice how well I
2. My friends would say one of my best qualities is.....
3. I get annoyed when I have to
4. If I could volunteer, I'd really like to
5. The two happiest times in my life are
6. If I could change one thing about myself, it would be ...
7. People would be surprised to know this about me.....
8. I'd like God to help me in this area.....

Nurture Your Children's Gifts

One joy of parenthood is watching for signs of children's developing talents. Children gain confidence when they become competent at something they enjoy. That's why many parents seek out a range of activities for their budding athletes, musicians, and artists.

Children are blessed with other "talents" that need nurturing as well. All Christians, regardless of age, have spiritual gifts. God gives us certain abilities to serve him and others. Children don't need to wait until they're older to use their spiritual gifts. Like some grown-ups, though, they may need help discovering their gifts.

Use these guidelines as you begin the journey:

- † **Observe your children as they interact with people, activities, and objects.** Note how they learn best and what emotional and behavioral traits they display. Keep track of what excites them. Talk to your children about their thoughts and feelings after a new experience.
- † **Dive into the Bible to learn about spiritual gifts.** Check out passages such as Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12, Ephesians 4, and 1 Peter 4. Share special Bible verses with your children and let them know that God has a plan for their lives.
- † **Provide varied opportunities for children to grow passionate about God and service.** Encourage children to take an active role in children's ministry programs. Try serving together as a family in a range of roles. Then evaluate what your children liked best and why.

What Are the Spiritual Gifts?

There are different opinions about the number and categorization of spiritual gifts. In Romans 12, the apostle Paul lists these seven:

- † **Prophecy**—Boldly speaking out about your faith.
- † **Serving**—Working to meet the needs of other people.
- † **Teaching**—Helping other people understand Scripture.
- † **Encouraging**—Building up and motivating others.
- † **Giving**—Being generous to others in need.
- † **Leading**—Showing organizational and directing skills.
- † **Mercy**—Showing kindness and compassion to others

Elementary Youth

MARCH SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFERING FOCUS

individually wrapped tooth
brushes, bar soap (not Irish Spring)
+ nail clippers

Items donated will be used by
Naomi Circle to make Health Kits
for Lutheran World Relief + the
people of Haiti.

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



Preschool
through fifth
grade
students join
us March 28th
following 2nd

service for an Easter
devotion, lunch and the
annual egg hunt.
Don't forget your basket.



Mark your calendars!

**Habitat Landscaping! 6th-8th
Graders** will be landscaping the
Habitat houses on **March 20th**.

We will be leaving the church at
8:15am and return at 4:00pm.
Please sign-up in the Living Word
House or call Kelly Mullin at
kmullin.zionkent@comcast.net.

Living Word

Sixth-Eighth Graders

- ✠ **During the month of March the Confirmation youth will be studying the Lord's Prayer with Mrs. Mullin and your Guides. As we enter the season of Lent this is a great time to reflect on what Christ has done for us and how to thank God for this gift.**
- ✠ **Do you love that feeling of being filled with The Word when you leave church on Sunday? Now you can feel like that on Wednesdays too! You are invited to attend Lenten services on Wednesday nights at 7:00 starting March 3rd. When you come remember to sign-in for worship service credit and take sermon notes.**

Lutherhaven Fundraiser!

Living Word students will be putting together baskets to raise money for Camp Lutherhaven. Please bring an item to donate to for your basket.

Regge-Warneke Small Group: Tool box: hammer, tape measure, nails, work gloves, ruler, screwdrivers and pliers.

Skinner-Gish Small Group: Garden basket: seeds, gloves, bulbs, trowels, garden decorations, kneeling pad, pots and soil.

McDermott small group: Spa basket: lotion, body wash, pedicure gift certificate, nail polish, scrubs, aloe gloves or socks, loofah and shower mits.

Warneke Small Group: Fun & Games basket: movies, popcorn, board games, card games, treats and soda.

Newman Small Group: BBQ basket: BBQ sauce, spatulas, tongs, meat gift certificates, hot pads, kitchen towels, apron, paper plates, cups and napkins.

McCurdy Small Group: Art basket: markers, crayons, paint, construction paper, stickers, die cuts, paint brushes, glitter, glue, scissors and ruler.

Beliveau-Hanson Small Group: Baking Madness basket: cookie cutters, sprinkles, muffin cups, cookie scoops, cookie trays, parchment paper and dry ingredients.

Living Word students please turn your donation in by March 28 to your small group leader.

Positive Doubting Is Essential for Faith Growth

Many Christians think (or fear) that if they question fundamentals of the faith, they're "flawed" as believers. But as the Bible shows, the people of God have always included the doubtful. Sarah laughed, Peter started sinking, and Thomas insisted on seeing and touching the risen Christ.

When we have doubts about something, we examine its truthfulness, we weigh and evaluate it, and we consider how much of ourselves we wish to invest in it. In other words, if we're ever going to truly own our beliefs, we must critically examine them first.

As Frederick Buechner wrote, "Doubts are the ants in the pants of faith. They keep it awake and moving." One of the greatest concepts you can convey to your teenagers is how to deal positively with doubts. "Positive doubting" isn't so much the opposite of faith as it is an element of faith, according to theologian Paul Tillich. Professor Dean Hardy, analyzing statistics in the "Pulse" section below, wrote, "When the doubts get ignored, it could eventually result in serious skepticism of one's worldview and personal faith."

In the book *The Dangers of Growing Up in a Christian Home* (Thomas Nelson), psychologist Donald Sloat writes, "Each of us is different and has to come to grips with his own faith and make it real through personal experience." For that to happen, he notes, teenagers need "supportive environments that provide freedom for struggle so that their faith suits their unique personalities." Use the information in this issue of "The Parent Link" to help you provide an environment that makes it safe for your teenagers to doubt.

News about the



ANNUAL
Faith at Home
SILENT AUCTION
Sunday April 25, 2010

Beginning April 11th look for the auction table in the Fellowship Hall.

Students will be selling chairs for the auction dinner at \$10.00 each. You can be sure to sit with friends and family this way.

Raffle tickets will also be on sale for the seven baskets listed on page 2.

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



HOLDEN YOUTH WEEKEND:

Two dates to choose from May 15-17 or May 22-24. Do you want to go? We need to know now...don't miss the ferry! Contact: Berit Wright 253-631-0100 or bwright.zionkent@comcast.net.

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

*reading/ understanding /thinking /
remembering*



July 9-17, 2010

The manuals are in! Bring in your \$50 deposit and get your "Mission Prep Workbook".

We are using the book of Acts

as a springboard to guide our summer experience. The key characters in the Bible have their story and you will discover "your" story. These men and women shaped the church years ago, see how God developed their character and how this might mirror your life today! Contact: Berit Wright at 253-631-0100 or bwright.zionkent@comcast.net.

Great Questions to Ask Your Kids

Here are some avenues for nurturing healthy doubting in your teenagers:

A “safe” family—Foster attitudes that say it’s okay to question and doubt. That way, kids will feel free to think critically and explore honestly.

A challenging youth group—Help your teenagers find a youth group or Bible study that encourages them to evaluate and internalize biblical truths.

Media opportunities—Watch for movie clips and listen for song lyrics that center around doubt or questioning. Then discuss them with your teenagers.

Share your personal doubts—Don’t act as though you’ve “got it all together.” If your kids are going to grow through positive doubting, they need you to be an example.

Verse of the Month

Jesus said to Thomas, “Don’t be faithless any longer. Believe! You believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who believe without seeing me.” (John 20:27, 29)

When the risen Christ first appeared to his disciples in the flesh, Thomas wasn’t present. He adamantly refused to believe unless he could touch Jesus’ wounds. We, too, often waver and demand evidence to support our unsteady faith. But God assures us that all the proof and answers we need are available in his holy and unchanging Word, the Bible.

What’s Up With Kids

Wondering how you can discover your teenagers’ doubts, questions, fears, and feelings? Youth minister Doug Fields, writing at SimplyYouthMinistry.com, says great questions are key:

1. The key to asking great questions is to LISTEN.

Silence is golden. Many times I’ll walk away from a conversation and say, “I’m an idiot, I talked too much.” Listening is the best way to communicate care. Try to refrain from thinking ahead and trying to solve someone’s problem with a verbal bandage. Listen for someone’s needs. What does their body language tell you? Begin the process of identifying needs even before you start to ask questions.

2. Ask questions without a question mark. For example, instead of asking, “Did you have a good day today?” say, “Tell me what you did today.”

3. Don't give up; push with follow-up questions.

The second question is often the most difficult one to ask. Hang in there. Keep asking questions (go for six to 10 before you give up). Asking good questions can be the key to opening the door to dialogue (superficial, basic questions), which leads to connection (deeper questions), which leads to growth (challenging, faith-building questions).

4. Use your questions as a way to teach. Telling someone exactly what they need to know is ineffective for at least two reasons: The learner is passive and isn’t convinced he or she needs the truth. The eternal truths of God and wisdom for everyday living are simply too important (and complex) to reduce to a lecture of platitudes and clichés. A good question puts the “ball in the court” of the other person. Aside from generating verbal interaction, everyone can answer the question in their own thoughts.



- ✠ **March 7th:** Applications due for Summer Mission trip.
- ✠ **March 20th:** Living Word will be landscaping at the Habitat Houses.
- ✠ **March 28th:** Lunch & Egg Hunt following 2nd service for preschool – fifth grade. Don’t forget your Easter basket.
- ✠ **March 28th:** Auction basket items due for Living Word Students.
- ✠ **April 16th -17th :** Friday and Saturday retreat for Mission Trip Students
- ✠ **April 25th:** Faith at Home Auction. If you are a mission trip participant, you must bring two items to be auctioned off at the auction!

