

November 2014

parenting CHRISTIAN kids



POWERSOURCE

ASK GOD:

1. To give your children loving, grateful hearts toward him.
2. To help your family members put their love for God into action by serving other people.
3. To help you make service a joyful, regular habit in your home.

Love God by Loving Others

Jesus summed up the entire law in two commandments: “Love the Lord your God” and “Love your neighbor as yourself” (Matthew 22:37, 39). Followers of God express love and thanksgiving to him by showing love to other people in practical ways.

No matter our age, we can live out this gratitude in a variety of ways—big and small. And service isn’t limited to the holidays. Follow these tips to make service a year-round occurrence in your family:

- Set a model of servanthood and responsibility. Don’t use acts of service to manipulate or “one up” each other. Instead, perform tasks out of humility, not expecting thanks in return.

- Make serving fun. Spend an afternoon raking leaves for elderly neighbors or church members. Afterward, gather leaves on your own lawn, and throw some individually wrapped candies into the pile. After kids search for the candy, discuss what makes helping others feel so “sweet.”

- Offer age-appropriate ideas. Kids of all ages can pitch in to help others. Find ways for your children to actively help by considering what they’re able to do.

- Share your adventures in serving. Each week, challenge family members to perform acts of giving and kindness. Then report the activities every night during dinner or family devotions. Examples include shoveling snow, delivering cookies, helping someone carry their books or packages, and so on.

Kids’ Adventure

Klub

Newsletter

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TEACHABLE MOMENTS

In Jesus' Steps

Have family members take off their shoes. Read aloud John 13:1-15, about Jesus washing his disciples' feet. Say: **In Bible times, servants washed the dirty feet of guests. It was a lowly job, but Jesus did it to show how we can serve other people.**

Take turns giving one another foot massages. Ask: **Why was Jesus willing to be a servant? How can we encourage each other to serve?**

Have family members use wet-erase markers to write the name of someone they'd like to serve on the bathroom mirror during the week. This will be a reminder to follow through on your service ideas.

Close in prayer: **Dear Jesus, thank you for coming to serve us. Help us love you by serving people around us. In your name we pray, amen.**

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Living Out Our Gratitude

Like love, true thanksgiving is expressed through our actions. Serving God by serving others doesn't necessarily mean you need to travel across the world on a mission trip, though. Opportunities abound in our homes, churches, schools, neighborhoods, and communities to meet other people's needs—and, by doing so, to show our love and gratitude to God. Children are pre-wired for service, so they'll be more eager to help out than you might expect. Just watch out: Your kids will begin to view the world from a whole new perspective. Coming face to face with human need is truly transformative! Use these ideas to start living out your gratitude as a family.

- **With babies and toddlers, read aloud picture books about thankfulness.** Then talk about ways we say thank you to God and other people.

- **At home, provide Helper's Hints.** On slips of paper, have kids write or draw a picture of a way to serve each family member. Then place the slips in a decorated shoebox. Examples include "Make Mom's bed," "Give a hug," or "Empty the dishwasher." Each morning, kids can choose a slip and use the hint to serve someone that day. Regularly add new ideas to the box.

- **At church, volunteer as a family at a work day.** Look for age-appropriate tasks for your kids, such as cleaning out pews, washing toys in the nursery, or pulling weeds.

- **Be good neighbors!** Older kids can help with lawn work, painting, and house- and pet-sitting. Younger children can provide company to elderly or homebound people, bringing flowers or cards during visits.

- **Enlist children in the CSS: Christian Secret Service.** Deploy kids for undercover operations by having them serve others covertly. They can leave sidewalk-chalk messages, deliver cards to a local nursing home, pick up trash at a favorite park, or wash windshields in the church parking lot.

- **In the community, serve as volunteer readers at local schools and libraries.** Older kids can tutor or be "buddies" to younger kids who need extra attention.

- **Donate to food drives or help at a food bank.** Discuss how God provides for us in amazing ways. (For example, read about the Israelites and manna in Exodus 16:11-18.)

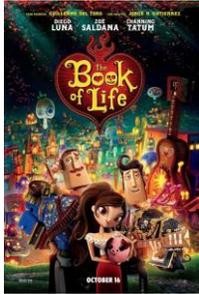
- **Participate in holiday toy drives.** Or pack shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child.

- **Stuff and label envelopes at a nonprofit or denominational organization.** Ask what other immediate needs they have.

"Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous. And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God. So two good things will result from the ministry of giving—the needs of the believers in Jerusalem will be met, and they will joyfully express their thanks to God."

—2 Corinthians 9:11-12

MEDIA MADNESS



MOVIE

Title: *The Book of Life*

Genre: Animation, Adventure, Comedy

Rating: PG (for mild action, rude humor, some thematic elements, and brief scary images)

Cast: Zoe Saldana, Channing Tatum, Diego Luna

Synopsis: A young man goes on an adventure spanning three fantastic worlds. He must decide between fulfilling family expectations and following his heart.

Our Take: This 3D computer-animated film has a unique visual style and offers a fresh take on pop-music favorites. Its “Day of the Dead” look features spirits and scary-looking characters. The plot also involves a love triangle.



MUSIC

Title: *1989*

Musician: Taylor Swift

Synopsis: The pop superstar’s fifth album is her self-declared first official pop project. The title refers to the year Swift, 24, was born. She says the sound was inspired by late-’80s pop. But the lyrics still reportedly contain lots of the personal, diary-like lines Swift has become known for.

Our Take: “Shake It Off,” the first single from the new album, has already topped the charts—and inspired numerous parodies. Although some people say Swift’s songs about “haters” are becoming cliché, others like the empowerment anthems about being yourself and shaking off criticism.



CULTURE & TRENDS

Nutrition News—Mobile farmers markets are heading to “food deserts”—inner-city or low-income neighborhoods that lack access to fresh produce. An estimated 6.5 million U.S. children live in these food deserts, where fast-food chains often fill the void of grocery stores. Health experts hope that providing fresh produce in these areas will help reduce childhood obesity and obesity-related diseases.

Games, Sites & Apps

Monsters Ate My Birthday Cake

In this Cartoon Network game for the iPhone and iPad (\$4.99), a birthday boy must track down monsters and rescue his dog. It has received good reviews from puzzle fans. Note that there’s cartoony violence and some mild language.

Kideos

At kideos.com, children ages 10 and under can watch pre-approved, age-appropriate videos on a wide range of subjects. Some are educational while others are humorous. A Bible “channel” includes some animated accounts and musicals.

Kids Music Factory

With this free iOS app, children can place instruments, notes, and characters on a staff, then listen as the music and sounds are played back. Young composers (ages 4 to 8) will enjoy experimenting with patterns and scales. A \$2.99 upgrade is available.

QUICK STATS

Rock On!—When asked at what age they’d take their kids to a pop concert, 26% of parents said 5 or under, 13% said 5 or 6, 24% said between 7 and 9, and 50% said 10 or older. (parents.com)

Sports Spending—The more money parents spend on youth sports, the more likely their kids are to lose interest, according to researchers at Utah State University’s Families in Sport Lab. The more money parents spend, the more pressure kids feel, which leads to lower enjoyment and ultimately, lower motivation. (gazette.com)

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This page is designed to help educate parents and isn’t meant to endorse any movie, music, or product. Our prayer is that you’ll make informed decisions about what your children watch, read, listen to, and play.



November

"We believe that God has given the first responsibility of children to parents, and their home is the faith center for spiritual growth. Therefore, we see our role as the Children & Family Ministry to partner with parents in growing faithfully together."

We need your help to make our mission to *Welcome...* all children to experience the love of Jesus; ***Encourage...*** parents to be the faith center of their home; and ***Guide...*** families to shine the light of Christ in their daily lives, a reality. *Volunteers are ALWAYS welcome!* For more information, please stop by the Children's Check-in Desk.

Please remember to check in at the Welcome Center each week and pick up any important papers and your child's name tag.

Congratulations!

The mission of Family Ministry is to partner with the parents of children, birth through 5th grade, in their child's faith journey! One of the promises parents make at their child's baptism is that they will place a Bible into their child's hand. We had the honor and privilege to give 12 children their own Adventure Bible for young readers and truly partner with parents. These are incredible stepping stones for all members of God's family!

The children who received a Bible on September 28th are: Bo Bertola, Helena Cranmer, Bergen Femrite, Ryan Fuko, Kacy James, Joey Kafka, Amelia Lacroix, Brandy McGill, Connor Rosenow, Shelby Steggerda, Chloe Yoder, and Josh Yoder

I had the opportunity to highlight 5 verses in each child's Bible, 3 in the Old Testament and 2 in the New Testament. My challenge to both children and parents was to find those verses and show me these scriptures the following week and they would get a little gift from me. They are also encouraged to bring their Bible each week to Kids' Adventure Klub!

We had 8 families participate in the Bible challenge during the week after receiving their Bible in worship. How great to have our families in the Word together growing closer to Jesus!! Way to go!!! 😊

Save the date: We will be offering a Hands on Bible Class for Children in 1st through 5th grade on November 2nd, 11:45-1:00 pm. Parents and children together will dig into the Bible, spend a little time building relationships and eating lunch together!!! Sign up today at the children's check in desk or online under the children tab!!

“Angel Alert”
Christmas Family Worship Service
Sunday, December 14th at 9 & 10:30 am

Come be a part of this fun morning of worship and fellowship on Sunday Dec. 14th at both services. If you would like to be a part of this program in the adult choir, drama or children singing join us for lunch and practice on Sunday, November 9th from 11:45-1:30 pm. All ages are welcome from 5 years old through adult! There are speaking and non-speaking parts available. Dress Rehearsal is scheduled for Saturday, December 13th from 9-10:30 am. For more information contact Jen Marvin at marvin.jennifer@gmail.com about the adult choir or Stacey Van Zeyl 847-543-7259 or yecats71@hotmail.com.

As part of our core values at Joy! to build community through intentional relationships, we will offer breakfast following both services. If you would like to help with this event, please contact Cheryl.oneill@joylutheran.org.

Kids' Adventure Klub children will be learning songs during class time beginning 11/16 to participate in the Family Worship Service. Children should plan to attend the dress rehearsal, and participate in the service that they are registered for. Mark your calendars today!!!!!!

Kids' Adventure Klub

We are off to a great start and getting into the swing of the children's check in desk and worshipping together with our community of faith at the beginning of service. We have approximately 70 children registered and learning about being Jonah/Making Choices and Money & Time. Make sure you take time to check out our precious children in the Youth Zone hallway. We are so very blessed!

Treasure Chest: All children that get 5 stickers on their check-in log will have the opportunity to pick something out of the treasure chest the following Sunday after the completion of each rotation. Children get a sticker for going to class, bringing their Bible, completing an activity from the family activity guide and bringing a coloring sheet/activity sheet from the resource packet. **Next treasure chest Sunday is November 16th.**

Are you Hungry?

We feed you more than one way!

Join us for our next rotation workshop on November 9th, following the 10:30 am worship service for lunch. Kid's Adventure Klub feeds you the information, knowledge, and support that you need to be able to easily feed the word of God to you and to the children of Joy! Have any questions? Contact Cheryl O'Neill by phone 847.362.4569 or email Cheryl.oneill@joylutheran.org. **We need you & our kids need you!**