



Faith at Home Newsletter



Patience

Patience: is showing tolerance and fortitude to others and even accepting difficult situations from them and God without making demands and conditions.

Dear Parents,

Of all the fruits of the spirit that we are to model to our children, this patience one may be the hardest of all to live out on a consistent daily basis. This may be the hardest one to live out in the work place, school, and church and any where you are around people. (I sure am thankful for the patience that Kim and Lori show to me on a weekly basis; I was supposed to have this newsletter done five days ago!) It sure does feel good when we experience this patience endurance from other people. So how are you doing with showing patience with your kids and others?

We live in a “get ‘er done” society. We have so much to do and so little time to do it that we can quickly become impatient with others when they aren’t getting things done as quickly as we would like them to. This can be even more so in our own homes and we take it out on those we love the most. Sometimes I can be a very patient father and take time to explain things thoroughly to my kids, and at other times I can be very impatient and demand things be done right now with no explanation. I know this is confusing to young people. (Most of what I write is for my own benefit, things I am learning about myself that I need to work on in my life. I hope they can be of some benefit to you as well.) I am making it my goal this coming month to slow down and be more patient with people and situations, particularly in my own home.

Proverbs 22:6 tells us to train up a child in the way he should go. Training involves patiently explaining and showing our kids how and why things are to be done a certain way, otherwise they are just going to be doing them because they know they have to, not understanding why, but just because they have to. Let’s be better trainers instead of commanders! As we look at how Jesus trained His disciples, he did get on them at times -- particularly Peter -- but he went on to explain things to them about why He was doing what He was doing. Whether our kids are little or middle school or high school, let’s ask God to help us be a little more patient with them and train them to be mighty oaks of righteousness.

Sincerely, Jeff Neher

This Month's

Memory Passages:

Matthew 27:14

Romans 12:12

James 1:3-4, 12

(You have all month to memorize this)

The goal for this monthly family plan is to help your family and my family to become connected together as a unit that together is seeking to become mature believers in Christ Jesus. This is just a guide and resource, if you already have a spiritual plan for your family that is wonderful and I would ask that you share some of the things that are working in your family so that we can pass that on to other families. I would love to include those ideas in future months. A great time to do some of the activities listed are on Sunday evenings. Our church purposely plans very few events on Sunday night to leave this night open for the family.

Spiritual Activity

What are the values of our family? Spend some time writing a family value statement. Sit down with the kids and talk about what is most important to your family. What do you stand for and what are you wanting to pass on to future generations? If you are an artistic family you can draw up a family crest to hang on the wall to remind you of what your family is all about!

Our Parenting Journey

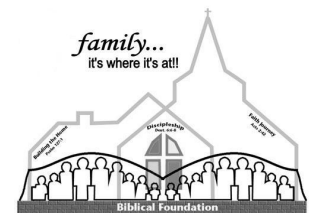
There will be a group of parents meeting the first Tuesday night of every month at 7:00pm at NOCC to encourage each other along in this journey called parenting. Is this a group that you might get involved in?

What is the biggest thing our kids are learning from us?

Our first meeting will be Tuesday, February 2 in Room 119. Childcare will be provided.



Church Family Involvement



How is your family serving in your church together this month?

Ideas: I would like to encourage us to start thinking ahead about how we can serve in the church. We always need help in the summer with VBS and teaching Sunday School classes. How could your family get involved in these ways? Also our church will be going to work with a church plant in Kansas City. Is this an opportunity you could participate in as a family? (More details about this opportunity will be coming soon!)

Parent Date Idea

Showing kids our love for each other as a couple is extremely important. Our relationship with God is first and kids need to see this. Second is our relationship with our spouse, and our kids need to see this. We are modeling the marriage relationship for them every day. I would encourage us to take at least one date night a month with our spouse. I would recommend a resource called "Simply Romantic Nights" published by FamilyLife. Check it out at www.familylife.com

Remembrance Date Night: Buy a notebook and find a quiet place to sit for several hours and talk and write down memories that you have up to this point in your family. You can start with your first date and make sure you write about your wedding day. Write about the day of each child's birth and then write special memories or things that have happened since that point. This will be a treasure for your kids to read some day!!!

Getting to Know God's World

Take this month to get to know another part of God's amazing world. Pick a country and research everything you can find out about this country. What is God doing in that country? You may decide to pick Haiti because of what has happened there or you might want to pick another country where you know a missionary. A great book that our family uses to learn about other countries is: Window on the World, student version by Daphne Spraggett and Jill Johnstone, and the adult version is Operation World by Patrick Johnstone and Jason Mandryk.

Missions Activity

We have just come through a season of amazing giving in our church!

To witness all of the giving to the Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes, the Advent Conspiracy water project, and the Liborio family giving has been amazing.

People have been so giving of their resources and time. And getting to observe all of the ways in which people have given has been so fun and encouraging.

How will your family continue to be on a mission with God? I am not talking about just the giving of money, but the giving of time and care for others.

What are ways that your family can continue to reach out and care for the needs of others?



G O D S M Y
LIFEGUARD
 For A Fresh Breath Of Life

**North Oak Community Church
 Youth Ministry**
 3000 Oak Street
 Hays, Kansas 67601

Phone (785) 628-8887
E-mail nocc@northoak.net

We're on the Web!
www.northoak.net

Mission:

To introduce students and families to a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.

Vision:

- Come see what a growing relationship with Christ has to offer you and your family.
- Follow me and make an “as for me and my household we will serve the Lord” decision to enter into this growing relationship with Christ.
- Go and be the light of Christ in your home, community and the world.



One of the missing links in family communication is faith talk, simple ways of incorporating your faith into your conversation. Studies show that only 12% of church students have a regular dialog with mom on issues of faith/life. That number is 5% of church student who have a regular dialog with dad on faith/life issues. The following questions are from a resource called “FaithTalk” which you can find at www.tyfi.org.



Values

What does your baptism mean to you?

Etchings

What has been the biggest loss you have experienced in your life?

Actions

Tell about a time when you really lost your patience. Tell about a time when you kept your patience. Why the different reactions?

Memories

Share about the most unique wedding service you have ever attended.

Mom & Dad Conversations:

- What are the values we want to pass on to our children? What is it that we really want our children to remember about us?
- Are we being intentional about passing the faith on to the next generation?
- Do we regularly bless each of our children?