



Faith at Home Newsletter

This Month's

Memory Passages:

Proverbs 15: 13

John 15: 9-14

John 17: 13

(You have all month to memorize these)

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.

Joy

Joy - will allow us to enjoy His creation, others, and our circumstances with an expression of delight and real, authentic happiness in harmony with God and others.

Dear Parents,

There are certain things that every kid needs to hear. God knew this was true because he said things to his son Jesus and also to his chosen children the Israelites throughout the Bible. One of the things that God said to Jesus was in Matthew 3:17 where He said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." In this verse God was saying two very important things to Jesus: "I love You," and "I am well pleased with you." Another way of saying this is, "I believe in You." God said this to and about Jesus right after his baptism; Jesus hadn't done one miracle, he hadn't done anything impressive to warrant high praise, but God gave it without it being attached to a specific task or job.

Every child needs to hear over and over that they are loved and that we as their parents believe in them. These are two huge areas of safety and security for our children. Without these two areas of affirmation children struggle to know who they are and what is the meaning

of their life. I have heard and talked to many adult men and women who never heard these words from their parents and they long to hear these words even today. As adults they still long to hear from their parents that they are loved and that they have the blessing of their parents. We can give our kids a wonderful gift by telling them and showing them that we love them just like Christ loved us. We can give them another wonderful gift by telling them over and over that we are proud of them.

As I work with young people and have asked them if they hear these words on a regular basis, I get several responses. "My dad never tells me he loves me but I know he does," but then they go on to tell me all the things that they are doing to try to please their dad. They believe they have to work very hard to get the love of their dad. Dads, we need to not let our kids wonder about our love for them, we must tell them so that they are not fighting and



wondering if we love them. The other response I get is "I'm not sure my mom is ever going to be pleased with anything I do, she never tells me that she is proud of me," and they go on to tell me all the things that they are doing to try to make their mom proud of them.

As parents, one of our greatest gifts to our kids can be the words of love and affirmation that come out of our mouths. I am learning that some kids need to hear them more often than others but all kids need to be reaffirmed on a constant basis with these two things in particular. Hopefully this is encouragement to all of us as parents to keep on passing the faith to the next generation.

Sincerely, Jeff Neher



“The Bible talks a great deal about love. Read the following passages throughout the month of November and talk about what God is trying to teach us about loving each other.

Please read the book of Job this month.

Why did he continue to follow God in the midst of his circumstances?

The Lord is my strength and shield. I trust him with all my heart. He helps me, and my heart is filled with joy. I burst out in songs of thanksgiving.

Psalm 28: 7

I will be filled with joy because of you. I will sing praises to your name, O Most High.

Psalm 9: 2

Spiritual Activity

Search for those who have displayed joy in their lives. It can be people in the Bible like Job, or people in real life like Nick Vujicic. Check out his story at: www.lifewithoutlimbs.org, It is an amazing story. As you find people that have lived out the joy of the Lord despite life’s circumstances, please pass them on so that I can include them in future family plans on the theme of Joy.

Family History Experience

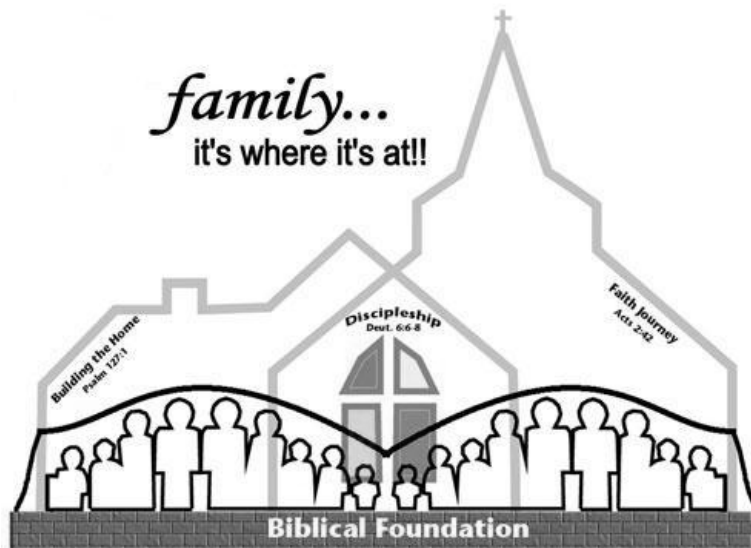
Talk about your family history concerning life’s difficulties. Is there someone in your family who has experienced painful experiences? How did they handle the difficulty or circumstance? Did they become bitter and angry or did they live out the joy of the Lord?



Random Acts of Kindness

Inform your family the night before that the next day will be “random acts of kindness” day at your house. Everyone should seek to do secret and thoughtful things for each other. Someone should definitely volunteer to make dinner for Mom and clean the garage for Dad. While you are eating supper, discuss your day and how each one felt receiving kindness and giving it back to each other.

“Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.”
Matthew 6: 6



Church Family Involvement

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

Ideas: Can you help with the church Thanksgiving meal?

Can you make a box for Operation Christmas Child?

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

Battleship Date Night – Borrow or buy the game Battleship and play a couple of games. Then spend the rest of the evening laughing about past battles that were stupid and talk about how you can avoid future battles. Also talk about the fun and rewarding things that have been a part of your relationship. Ask each other how you can be more helpful to them, avoiding some of the stress in the home. Pick at least two things that you will try to consistently do to help alleviate some of the stress in the other person's life. Living in a war zone is not fun for either of you or your kids. The goal of this date is to play together and talk about how to help each other avoid those battles. Spend some time on this date praying for your kids' future spouses and that they would choose well and that they would have great marriages free from warfare.



Mission Activity

Talk about how your family is fulfilling God's mission and work in your own community. Is there someone who is going through a difficult circumstance? How can your family play a role in experiencing the joy of the Lord?

If you are not currently interacting as a family with the rest of what God is doing in the world, here are some ideas for getting involved as a family.

*Sponsor a child through Compassion International. www.compassion.com

*Buy an animal through the Heifer Project, you might be planning ahead for Christmas www.heifer.org

**A great book that I would recommend implementing as part of your family reading plan is *Window on the World* by Daphne Spraggett. It will help your family get in tune with what God is doing in the world and how your family can pray for other countries.



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

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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

Do you think there will be animals in heaven? Why or why not?

Etchings

What piece of music says something about your faith? In what way?

Actions

The Ten Commandments describe a life style associated with the Christian life. Which one seems to be ignored most today? What prompts your choice?

Memories

What is something you dislike about church?



- 3:00 – 3:30 p.m. snack and game time
- 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. 6th grade CIA
- 5:15 – 6:00 p.m. Supper for 6-7-8th graders and their parents ***Please RSVP**
- 6:00 – 7:20 p.m. 7th & 8th grade CIA
- 7:20 – 7:40 p.m. CIA/Lifeguard combined worship
- 7:40 -- 9:00 p.m. Lifeguard