



Faith at Home Newsletter



Peace

Peace - is surrendering and yielding to the Lord's control, for He is our ultimate peace! It is allowing tranquility to be our tone and to control our serenity. This will be fueled by our harmonious relationship with God so we can hand over control of our heart, will, and mind to Him. Once we make real peace with God, we will be able to make and maintain peace with others.

Dear Parents,

Do you have a plan for passing the faith on to the next generation? When it comes to any business, they have a plan, a mission statement that everyone in the company knows and tries to accomplish. We have mission statements for businesses, sports teams, organizations, and our personal lives, but does your family have a mission statement for passing the faith on to the next generation? Does everyone in your family know what the goal is? Do your kids know what the bigger plan is for their lives and the life of your family? Do they have a purpose in serving God?

A spiritual family mission statement proclaims what your family believes God wants you to accomplish with your family. As you get started, be sure to stop and ask God to help you as you write out what you believe God wants to accomplish through your family. Second, identify your core values. What is it that is truly important to your family? Many values are vital, but choosing two or three you care most about will help make your mission statement specific enough to write goals for. Third, make your mission statement succinct and memorable. "To explore strange, new worlds, to seek out new life and new civilizations, to boldly go where no man has gone before." Now there's a mission statement that's hard to misunderstand or forget! Fourth, keep your statement before you. Post it in a prominent place for all to see and where it can be reviewed and referred to on a regular basis.

Along with the mission statement it is important to write down some values and goals and then specific action steps to help fulfill your goals and mission statement. Following is an example of the Jones Family Mission Statement & Covenant.

Mission: To experience the unconditional love of Christ, so we might love one another and make a radical impact on our family, community, and culture.

Values: Unconditional love, healthy and safe environment, quality time (just being, not doing), honesty, friends, community, food, fun

Goal 1: To be intentional about modeling our faith at home.

Action Step: (1) Pray together at least once each day (2) To read scripture together at least 4 times each week.

Goal 2: To reach out to our community.

Action Step: Plan a neighborhood get-together in October each year.

We as a family agree with God to fulfill the above by the means discussed in Ephesians 3:14-21.

If you would like more help in writing your own family mission statement please ask me about getting a copy of "The Process to Building a Family Mission Statement," or a resource you can purchase is "Your Family Journey: A Guide to Building Faith at Home," a resource of Focus on the Family.

I hope you found this encouraging as we become intentional about passing the faith on to the next generation.

Sincerely, Jeff Neher

This Month's

Memory Passages:

Matthew 5:9

Colossians 3:15

Philippians 4:7-8

(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

How does Biblical peace differ from the peace the world offers? Go back over your Peacemaker Series materials and review them as a family this month. There are small brochures in the gathering area if you need one. Check and see how your family is doing with a Biblical model of peacemaking.

Family History Experience

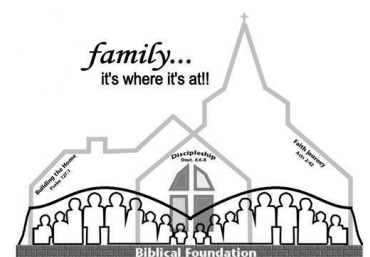
Talk about your family history with issues of peace. Has there been anyone in your family that has helped to bring peace in our world through military service? Has your family had a history of peace or conflict? Are there any unresolved issues within the extended family?



Church Family Involvement

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

Ideas: There will be a family Christmas Caroling event in which your family could join. Ask Jamie if there is a cleaning project of a certain area you could take on in the month of December. Or you could ask the buildings and grounds team if they have a project that your family could accomplish together. Seek out some way to serve the church family this month.



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.

Youth ministry expert Jim Burns offers memorable family Christmas traditions you can try:

- Watch favorite Christmas movies together or go to the movies on Christmas Day.
- Start traditions with meals; for example, eat chili or tamales before you go to Christmas Eve worship.
- Drive around and look at Christmas lights, possibly on your way home from church.
- Bake and decorate homemade cookies, allowing everyone to request their favorite kind.
- Read the Christmas story from Luke 2 before your family opens presents.
- Celebrate your family's ethnic heritage(s). Prepare a meal or try a tradition that honors your roots.
- Go caroling or, if weather permits, ice skating, sledding, or tubing.
- Keep a holiday memory journal or scrapbook. Have each family member contribute thoughts, drawings, or photos.
- Volunteer together. Serve at a food bank or visit a nursing home.
- Live out an annual family version of "The Twelve Days of Christmas." Designate a recipient, and then give him or her unique variations of all the "gifts." For example, five golden rings could be five glazed donuts.

Missions Activity

Talk about how your family is fulfilling God's mission and work in the world. You will have several opportunities during this month to help fund projects that will take the good news and love of Christ to other parts of the world! Our annual Soup Supper and basket auction raises funds for our church's mission trips. There will also be a Basket of Blessing which will be a great way to show others our care for them and to provide money for our church's clean water project.

This year the NOCC project will be to provide simple water filtration systems to families in sugarcane villages in the Dominican Republic. We will partner with SCORE and Hugo & Sarah Liborio to purchase filtration systems at \$40 apiece. They will be sent to the DR for SCORE missionaries to distribute and educate families on their use and maintenance. Anticipate learning much more about how clean, safe water will provide health and hope for the often neglected families working the fields in the Dominican countryside.

****A great book 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

**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

If someone asked you what your faith means to you, what would be your response?

Etchings

When you first see a newborn child, what goes through your mind?
 Parents: What memories do you have of your children being born?

Actions

Is your personality more of a peacemaker or a peace-breaker?

Memories

What is the biggest disagreement you have ever had? How was it resolved?

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?