



Faith at Home Newsletter



Kindness

*Kindness: is practicing benevolence
and a loving attitude towards others.*

Dear Parents,

Ephesians 4:32 says, "Make a clean break with all cutting, backbiting, profane talk. Be gentle with one another, sensitive. Forgive one another as quickly and thoroughly as God in Christ forgave you." *The Message*

Kindness is one of the fruits of the spirit that I believe is increasingly more difficult to instill into the hearts and minds of our kids. Our world is not a kind place, and how things are said and what is said anymore is usually not in a kind manner. The things that are on TV and the games that kids play don't lead to kindness either. I was appalled as I watched students at the local library play computer games where they took a golf club and hit another guy in the head until they knocked his head off. As I walked around to all of the computers, every one that had a boy at it was playing this same game. The sarcasm that is used on all of the TV shows and how they make fun of each other might make for some good laughs but it doesn't help us treat each other with kindness and respect.

So how do we instill this in our kids? The Bible gives us great instruction on how we are to treat others and how we are to talk to others. All of us probably heard the phrase from a teacher at some point -- "If you don't have anything good to say, don't say anything at all." Well, that's actually Biblical and comes from Ephesians 4:29. "Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them." Wow, if we could live this verse out, what a difference it would make in our families and in our community!

Another of my favorite verses when it comes to kindness is Hebrews 3:13. "But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called 'Today' so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin." It seems to me that kindness and encouragement go hand in hand. In talking with students there is very little kindness shown simply because there is very little encouragement shared. One of the biggest lies ever said was the statement, "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me." Let's share some words of encouragement with our kids and see if we can't encourage each other to a new level of kindness in our words and actions. Let's take it up to the level that God calls us to!

This Month's

Memory Passages:

Ephesians 4:32

Hebrews 3:13

Ephesians 4:29

(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

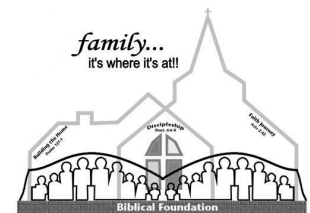
How did Jesus show kindness to others? Look up and read the different stories of Jesus showing kindness to people. How did people respond to His kindness? Did they thank Him right then or did they just expect it without going back to Him with their thanks? How did the disciples respond to Jesus' kindness to other people? What do we learn from these examples? Are we following the example of Jesus Christ? How can we live this out as a family?

Our Parenting Journey

We would like to invite you to join us on the first Tuesday night of each month from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. in the youth center as we talk about parenting issues and how to raise up a Deuteronomy 6 family. The next meeting is March 2 and we will be talking about the values that we want to pass on to our kids and practical ways that we go about doing this. If you have any questions please email us at d6families@eaglecom.net This is for all parents who have a desire to pass the faith on to the next generation.



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. Here are some ideas of ways for your family to serve together: Landscaping and outside care of church grounds, prayer time during one of the services in Room 114, Meals on Wheels in March (sign up in the gathering area), and VBS will be here before you know it. Find a way for your entire family to serve

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

Pass the Pigs Date Night: This a classic little dice game using little pigs that you can easily take to your favorite restaurant and play for an hour. Or you can take Farkle (kind of loud) or some other game and just enjoy having fun together. These are also great things to do with your kids on a date night with them.

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* by Daphne Spraggett and Jill Johnstone is the student version, and the adult version is *Operation World* by Patrick Johnstone and Jason Mandryk.

Missions Activity

This past week we gave students rice bowls to collect spare change in. This summer we will have a collection date where we gather up these bowls and the money will go to seven orphanages to help provide food for the kids that they take care of. I think we will be amazed at how far our spare change will go in help others. You can check it out at www.ricebowls.org

Another way that you can reach out is by helping provide items on the S.O.S. board in the gathering area. This is to help a lady in our church as she is getting a new start in life.

A couple of upcoming opportunities will be coming available to go on mission trips to Mexico and Kansas City this summer.

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 churched students have a regular dialog with mom on issues of faith/life. That number is 5% of churched 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 will heaven be like?

Describe a humorous idea you have regarding what heaven will be like.

Etchings

Talk about people who have influenced your faith life.

Actions

Tell about something someone did or said that helped you more than they'll ever know.

Memories

Tell about your favorite memory of church or Sunday school.

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?