

HomeFront

a spiritual parenting resource



AUTUMN SHOWS
US HOW BEAUTIFUL
IT IS TO
LET THINGS GO.

SERVING

“SERVING ASKS THE QUESTION, ‘WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE?’”

LOVE & RESPECT

“GOD FILLS ME WITH HIS LOVE SO I CAN GIVE IT AWAY.”



DISCIPLESHIP STEPS AT NEW LIFE CHURCH

Parents are the spiritual nurturers of their children's faith and are the main disciplers in their lives. We are committed to engaging, empowering, and resourcing our parents and families to succeed in their God-given role. Time and resources make this role challenging in our busy world. At New Life Church, we have created a clear path of discipleship for our parents with convenient times and locations. We hope to see you there!

PARENT ORIENTATION A first step toward engaging in our ministry. Hear philosophy, meet staff, and learn how to get involved.

SPIRITUAL PARENTING A six-week class that dives deep into what God's Word says about parenting.

PARENTING CONVERSATIONS An every-other-month evening for parents to discuss tough topics with other parents and hear from leading experts.

HOMEFRONT MAGAZINE A magazine designed to help you have a successful family night in your home.

FAMILY NIGHT An intergenerational family night as the body of Christ.

PARENT CURRICULUM A weekly or series handout that shares biblical information, discussion questions, and activities.

HomeFront

HOW TO USE

- 1** Start by deciding on a day and time that works well for your entire family. It can be an evening around a meal, breakfast on a Saturday, or a break between sporting events. Just commit to "family time" once a week.
- 2** Utilize this magazine as a workbook to plan your family time. The calendar pages are designed to help you plan ahead. Pick a God's Word devotional, recipe, and one of the other activities titled Create, Game Time, Worship Response, or Serve. At the end of your time together, speak a blessing over your family members.
- 3** There are four weeks of devotionals and activities. When you have a fifth week in the month, let the kids plan the family night. Remember to HAVE FUN! Family night does not have to be perfect. If you spent time with God and with one another, it was a great family night.

Our Mission

INSPIRE

parents with ideas to create fun, spiritually forming times in the normal rhythm of everyday life.

EQUIP

parents to become the spiritual leaders of God's truth in their own households.

SUPPORT

families to engage their communities and change the culture around them.



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A Note from Michelle

HomeFront magazine is designed to help parents and grandparents disciple their children and grandchildren by creating environments in their homes that put God on display. Each issue gives practical ways to develop family nights or experiences in your home based on the 10 environments in my book *Spiritual Parenting*. It is vital for our children's and grandchildren's spiritual growth to set aside time on a regular basis to engage in spiritual conversations and activities that are both fun and developmental.



In this issue you will be focusing on the environments of **SERVING** and **LOVE & RESPECT**.

- The environment of **SERVING** asks the question, "What needs to be done?" This is a question from the heart and is asking God to give discernment and wisdom for a need or situation. When we ask, "What needs to be done?" versus "What do I want to do or feel like doing?" we are entering into the life of a servant. Jesus showed us true servanthood by becoming the ultimate sacrifice because what was needed was salvation from our sins and relationship with the heavenly Father.

The short statement for this environment is: "Serving asks the question, 'What needs to be done?'"

- The environment of **LOVE & RESPECT** recognizes that children need an environment of love and respect in order to be free to both receive and give God's grace. Innate in this environment is the value that children are respected because they embody the image of God. We must speak to them, not at them, and we must commit to an environment where love and acceptance are never withheld due to one's behavior.

The short statement for this environment is: "God fills me with His love so I can give it away."

I pray you grow together as a family and faithfully engage in the contents of this resource over the next two months.

Dr. Michelle Anthony

Michelle is the Executive Pastor of Family Ministries at New Life Church in Colorado Springs, CO. Michelle has graduate degrees in Christian education, theology, and leadership and more than 30 years of church ministry experience as a children's and family pastor. She is also the author of *Spiritual Parenting*, *The Big God Story*, *Becoming a Spiritually Healthy Family*, and *7 Family Ministry Essentials*. Michelle loves a good book and a cup of coffee.

@TruInspiration



Editor's Note

Holly Newman

Holly is the Editor in Chief of HomeFront magazine and Pastor of Parents and Families at New Life Church in Colorado Springs, CO. She has pastored in family ministry for nearly 20 years and written curricula for other authors as well as developed her own tween and teen curriculum on identity called *Girltime*. Her passion is for families to create influential, faith-building moments with their children. She has been married to her high school sweetheart, Jared, for 18 years. They have four children. In her spare time she loves to get outdoors with her family.

This issue of HomeFront is filled with the beauty of fall. Who doesn't enjoy observing the leaves slowly falling from the trees and plants changing into orange, yellow, and red bursts of color? The quote on the front of the magazine is one of my favorites: "Autumn shows how beautiful it is to let things go" (unknown). The cooler temperatures, beautiful sunsets, and crisp air inspire personal change by settling into routines or letting go of unrealistic expectations. Enjoy the contents within these pages that highlight the *Spiritual Parenting* environments of **SERVING** and **LOVE & RESPECT** as you sip a pumpkin spice latte.

For the month of September, God's Word unpacks the environment of **SERVING** through two different Bible stories—one that highlights acts of service and the other that focuses on the heart behind serving. The Create, Game Time, and Serve articles focus on using our manners to serve others through kindness and love. The fall recipes offer quick comfort-food dinners to make for your family on a busy school night.

Because the leaves are changing in October, we focused on seasons in our lives. God's Word looks at the life of Abraham as God helped him navigate significant seasons of change. It is easy to respond harshly to those closest to us during a stressful or uncertain season of change. This month, we look at how to navigate seasons of change while treating our loved ones with love and respect.

Finally, the resource section has a great story on sea turtles to read to your younger children, a devotion for the older students, and an inspiring article to navigate different seasons of life with your spouse. As you plan your family nights, think of additional ways to reflect the season of fall and inspire a feeling of comfort and coziness.

May you know that your heavenly Father is a strong tower who generously gives you wisdom, patience, and guidance as you trust in Him.

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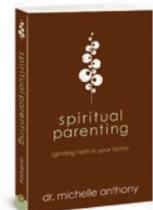
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

DID YOU KNOW

It is our prayer that homes and churches would create these environments for children to live in so their faith will grow in a community of consistency, common language, and practice. To learn more about how these environments can ignite a transforming faith in your family, we suggest you read:



*SPIRITUAL PARENTING:
An Awakening for Today's Families*

BY MICHELLE ANTHONY

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10

ENVIRONMENTS

The order of the 10 Environments listed coincides with the monthly distribution of this resource.

2

“God transforms me when I step out in faith.”

OUT OF THE COMFORT ZONE

As children and students are challenged to step out of their comfort zone from an early age, they learn to experience a dependence on the Holy Spirit to equip and strengthen them beyond their natural abilities and desires. We believe this environment will cultivate a generation that, instead of seeking comfort, seeks a radical life of faith in Christ.

1

“God has entrusted me with the things and people He created around me.”

RESPONSIBILITY

This environment captures the ability to take ownership for one’s life, gifts, and resources before God. A child must be challenged to take responsibility for his or her brothers and sisters in Christ, as well as for those who are spiritually lost. Our hope is that the Holy Spirit will use this environment to allow each child to understand that God has entrusted His world to us.

3

“Asks the question, ‘What needs to be done?’”

SERVING

This posture of the heart asks the question, “What needs to be done?” It allows the Holy Spirit to cultivate a sensitivity to others and focuses on a cause bigger than one individual life. It helps fulfill the mandate that as Christ-followers we are to view our lives as living sacrifices that we generously give away!

4

“God fills me with His love so I can give it away.”

LOVE & RESPECT

Without love, our faith becomes futile. This environment recognizes that children need an environment of love and respect in order to be free to both receive and give God’s grace. Innate to this environment is the value that children are respected because they embody the image of God. We must speak to them, not at them, and we must commit to an environment where love and acceptance are never withheld due to one’s behavior.

5

“God has a big story, and I can be a part of it!”

STORYTELLING

The power of The Big God Story impacts our lives by giving us an accurate and awe-inspiring perspective into how God has been moving throughout history. It is the story of redemption, salvation, and hope and tells how I have been grafted into it by grace. It further compels us to see how God is using every person’s life and is creating a unique story that deserves to be told for God’s glory.

6

“God knows me, and I can know Him.”

KNOWING

Nothing could be more important than knowing and being known by God. We live in a world that denies absolute truth, and yet God’s Word offers just that. As we create an environment that upholds and displays God’s truth, we give children a foundation based on knowing God, knowing His Word, and a relationship with Him through Christ. God is holy, mighty, and awesome, and yet He has chosen to make Himself known to us!

7

“I belong to God, and He loves me!”

IDENTITY

This environment highlights who we are in Christ. According to Ephesians 1, we have been chosen, adopted, redeemed, sealed, and given an inheritance in Christ ... all of which we did nothing to earn. This conviction allows children to stand firm against the destructive counter-identities the world will offer.

8

“When I get off track, God offers me a path of healing.”

COURSE CORRECTION

This environment flows out of Hebrews 12:11-13 and is the direct opposite of punishment. Instead, biblical discipline for a child encompasses a season of pain, the building up in love, and a vision of a corrected path for the individual with the purpose of healing at its core.

9

“God’s family cares for each other and worships God together.”

FAITH COMMUNITY

God designed us to live in community and to experience Him in ways that can only happen in proximity to one another. The faith community serves to create an environment to equip and disciple parents, to celebrate God’s faithfulness, and to bring a richness of worship through tradition and rituals, which offer children an identity. Our love for each other reflects the love we have received from God.

10

“I see Christ in others, and they can see Him in me.”

MODELING

Biblical content needs a practical living expression in order for it to be spiritually impacting. This environment serves as a hands-on example of what it means for children to put their faith into action. Modeling puts flesh on faith and reminds us that others are watching to see if we live what we believe.



26

In the same way,
let your light shine



before others,

that they may see

your good deeds and

glorify your Father

in heaven.



Matthew 5:16

GOD'S WORD WEEK 1

GOD STATEMENT: GOD IS LOVE
SCRIPTURE: LUKE 10:25-37

The meaning of the parable Jesus told about the Good Samaritan is simple: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

Before Jesus told the story of the Samaritan, an expert in the law asked Him, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" (v. 25). Jesus answered, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind"; and, "Love your neighbor as yourself" (v. 27).

The parable of the Good Samaritan illustrates how we love our neighbors as ourselves. When other people need our help the most, like the man on the road, our love for our neighbor is truly tested. Jesus tells us to be like the Good Samaritan—helping others in times of need—and not like the priest or the Levite who ignored their neighbor. And like the Good Samaritan, we also must not forget about the people we help but continuously pray for and connect with them.

DISCUSSION

In what ways has God called you to be a reflection of His love by helping those in need? If He hasn't, pray that God will open your eyes to opportunities this week.



by Caleb Shirin, sophomore at College Pathways

GOD'S WORD WEEK 2

GOD STATEMENT:
GOD HELPS UNEXPECTEDLY
SCRIPTURE: LUKE 10:25-37

In the parable of the Good Samaritan, a man is beaten to near death on the side of a road. A priest and a Levite, who are supposed to be the people of God, pass him by. Instead, a Samaritan helps the man, which is completely unexpected. Jesus, a Jew, is telling this story. Jews and Samaritans do not like each other. Both groups believe the other is evil, which is why it's surprising that a Samaritan would help a Jew. Why would the Samaritan help a man he hates?

It's not expected. But neither was Jesus. Jesus was the most unexpected Messiah anyone could have ever asked for. The people thought He would come on a horse, that He would take His throne in one fell swoop. The Jews thought He would come and help them by raising them up among the nations, that they would take their rightful place as God's chosen people. But what did He do? He came as a baby in a manger, humbly and subtly. He was unexpected but still helped us.

At the end of the story, the Samaritan brings the Jewish man to a safe place and tells him he'll return to settle the account. Just like Jesus. He promises to come back and pay the price we aren't able to pay.

DISCUSSION

In what ways has God surprised you? What are some ways you can look out for the broken in your family and even outside of it?



by Ethan Arndt, sophomore at College Pathways

GOD'S WORD WEEK 3

GOD STATEMENT: GOD IS WITH US
SCRIPTURE: LUKE 10:38-42

Mary sits at the feet of Jesus, enthralled by every word He speaks. Jesus looks at her, His beloved friend, and smiles, so full of kindness and joy. Deep peace fills her heart. Her sister, Martha, interrupts. "Jesus, tell Mary to get up and help me!" Mary looks to Jesus. Has she chosen the wrong thing? Jesus smiles again and replies, "Mary has chosen the one thing that is essential for life and it won't be taken from her!" Mary sighs deeply and continues to focus on her Lord, amazed by all God has done and excited about all that is to come.

We too have a choice to sit with Jesus, to be still and listen to His voice, to hear what He values and the words of love He desires to speak over each of us. What does this look like practically, today, you ask? **How do I sit with Jesus, spend time in His presence, and listen to His voice?** God's Word is alive and active for us today! Second Timothy 3:16 tells us, "All Scripture is God-breathed and useful for teaching, rebuking,

correcting and training in righteousness." When we take time to be still and sit with Jesus, we demonstrate our recognition of who Jesus is—Creator, Lord, author, and perfecter of our lives. It also shows our belief that He is trustworthy when we intentionally spend our time listening and responding to His truth and guidance. Finally, as we sit at Jesus' feet and bask in His beauty, we become more like Him.

DISCUSSION



Can you remember a time when you stopped and just sat with Jesus? How can you make sitting at Jesus' feet part of your daily life? How does time with Jesus fill you up so you can overflow in service to others?

by Lori Welch, Family Care Coordinator

GOD'S WORD WEEK 4

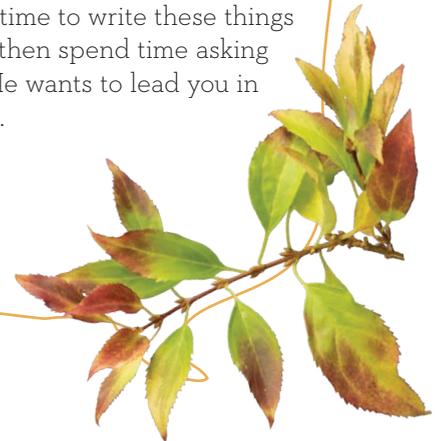
GOD STATEMENT: GOD IS ENOUGH
SCRIPTURE: LUKE 10:38-42

I found myself doing it again. All day long I'd been stressed and snappy. My mind was racing, my muscles were tight, and my spirit was anxious. My list of things that needed to be accomplished was long, but in my quest to get things done I had not sat with God or entrusted my list to Him. Often, I feel like Martha—with a list of "to-do's" and seemingly no time to sit at the feet of Jesus.

Is it wrong to be like Martha? Martha spent the morning making sure Jesus and the others were comfortable and well-fed. **Her heart was right to serve others. However, Jesus wanted Martha to spend time with Him first.** Jesus wants us to be filled up with His words and His love before we pour out to others. Thankfully, in my stress, God whispers to my heart to slow down and spend time with Him. Proverbs 3:5-6 says, "Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." When I sit with Jesus and allow Him to direct my steps, He leads me in how to accomplish all I have before me.

DISCUSSION

What areas of your life do you need to invite God into? Where are you carrying burdens not meant for you to carry or racing through your days without God's leading? Take some time to write these things down, and then spend time asking God how He wants to lead you in these areas.



by Jeni Mason, Family Care Pastor

Apple Cinnamon Oat Pancakes

Fluffy pancakes filled with apples and cinnamon make a delicious fall breakfast. While these pancakes are best served immediately with the warm, sweet apple topping, they can also be frozen and reheated on a busy morning.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

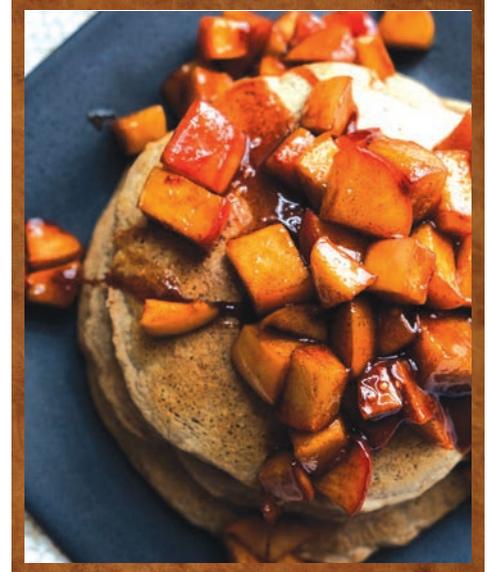
Pancakes

- 1 cup rolled oats
- ½ cup whole wheat flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- ¼ teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon ground nutmeg
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 1 large egg
- 1 ¼ cup seltzer or soda water

- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 small apple, grated (roughly 1 cup)

Apple Topping

- 1 teaspoon coconut oil
- 1 small apple, diced
- ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 tablespoon water
- 1-2 tablespoons maple syrup



WHAT YOU'LL DO

First, grind oats in food processor or blender until fine. Whisk the oats with the flour, baking powder, baking soda, and spices. Add the egg, vanilla, and soda water and whisk. Grate a small apple and gently fold it into the batter. While you cook the pancakes, make the apple topping. Heat oil in a small saucepan over low heat. Add diced apple, cinnamon, water, and maple syrup. Stir occasionally until soft, about 10 minutes. Pour topping on the finished pancakes. Serve warm.

Alphabet Snack Mix

What is better than playing with your food and learning at the same time? This fun, after-school snack can help older kids with spelling and younger kids with letter recognition. Because it's quick and easy to make, it is worth making large batches. Your kids will love it!

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- 1 cup Scrabble Cheez-It crackers
- 1 cup Alpha-Bits cereal
- 1 cup pretzel sticks
- 1 cup peanuts
- 1 cup M&Ms

WHAT YOU'LL DO

Mix all ingredients together in a large bowl. Serve.



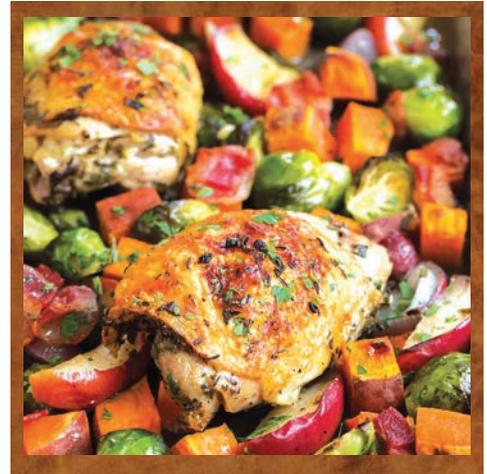
**+
Try
making
this as a
family!**

One-Pan Autumn Chicken

Sweet potatoes, brussels sprouts, and apples are a brilliant fall combination. This easy, delicious dinner is a healthy option for a busy family. Very little prep time and only one pan means easy clean up! This recipe makes dinner a breeze after those late-night sporting events and band competitions

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- 5 (6-7 ounce) bone-in, skin-on chicken thighs
- 4 tablespoons olive oil, divided
- 1 1/2 tablespoons red wine vinegar
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tablespoon each of minced thyme, sage, and rosemary
- 1 large sweet potato, unpeeled and chopped into 3/4-inch cubes
- 1 pound brussels sprouts, sliced into halves
- 2 medium Fuji apples, cored and sliced into 3/4-inch thick cubes
- 2 shallot bulbs, peeled and sliced about 1-inch thick
- 4 slices hickory-smoked bacon, chopped into 1-inch pieces
- 2 tablespoons chopped parsley, for garnish



WHAT YOU'LL DO

Preheat oven to 450° F. Pour 2 tablespoons olive oil, red wine vinegar, garlic, and herbs into a gallon-sized resealable bag. Add chicken, season with salt and pepper, and then seal bag and massage mixture over chicken while working to evenly distribute herbs. Set aside and let rest while chopping veggies. Place sweet potato, brussels sprouts, apples, and shallot on an 18- by 13-inch rimmed baking sheet. Drizzle with remaining 2 tablespoons olive oil and toss to evenly coat. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Spread into an even layer. Set chicken thighs over veggie/apple layer. Sprinkle bacon over mixture. Roast in preheated oven until chicken and veggies are golden brown, about 30-35 minutes. Broil last few minutes for a golden-brown crispy skin on chicken. Garnish with parsley. Serve immediately.

Brown Sugar Peach Cake

There is nothing like soft, juicy, sweet peaches baked into a dessert that hints at the aroma of fall. This moist brown sugar cake is a delightful dessert to take to a fall party. The yellow cake mix and canned peaches can be easily stored in the cupboard to whip up this dessert in no time for when an unexpected guest stops by.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

Cake Mix

- 1 (15 ounce) yellow cake mix
- 3 large eggs or the amount specified by your cake mix
- 1/3 cup vegetable oil
- 1/2 cup peach nectar
- 1 pound peeled and chopped peaches (about 3-4, fresh or canned)
- 1 drop orange food coloring (optional)

Brown Sugar Frosting

- 8 tablespoons unsalted butter, cut in pieces
- 1/2 cup heavy cream
- 1 cup packed brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 1/2 cups confectioners' sugar, sifted



WHAT YOU'LL DO

Preheat oven to 350° F. Blend together the cake mix, eggs, oil, nectar, and food coloring, if using, until well combined. Fold in the peaches and turn the batter into a lightly sprayed 9- by 13-inch pan. Bake for about 28 minutes or until done. Check that no batter comes out on a toothpick. Put the butter, cream, and brown sugar in a saucepan and bring to a boil, stirring constantly. Remove from the heat and add the vanilla and the sifted sugar. Whisk until well blended with no little lumps of sugar. Pour the frosting over the cake; work to get it evenly coated on the first try because it will set up quickly. Let the frosting harden at room temperature or in the refrigerator before cutting.

The Tree of Good Manners

First Corinthians 10:31 says, “So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.” Growing up, we were always taught how important manners are. No matter where my family was, my parents always reminded my brothers and me to be kind, treat others how we want to be treated, and show respect to adults. **Looking back I feel so blessed that my parents were teaching us ways to glorify God.** When we show the reputation of Jesus, our behavior begins to affect the way others see Him. Isn't it amazing how His light shines through our actions alone?

When we say, “Thank you,” we are growing a root of gratitude.

When we host dinner for loved ones, we are growing a root of hospitality.

When we say, “Please,” we are growing a root of respect.

Take some time this month to work on manners and explore what each manner can do in your children's lives.



PRAYER

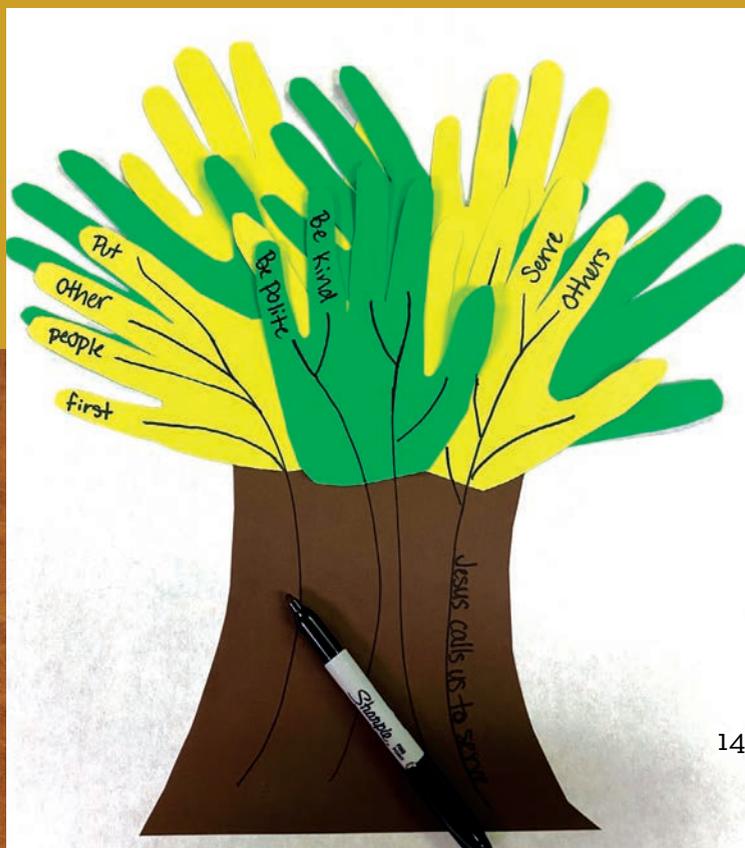
Lord, help us with our manners. Help us grow good roots through everything we do. We love You, and we seek to glorify You always. Thank You.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- glue stick
- scissors
- colored paper
- markers

WHAT YOU'LL DO

1. Cut a tree trunk from a brown piece of paper and glue it to a piece of construction paper.
2. Have each family member trace his or her hand on a colored sheet of paper.
3. Cut out the paper hand shapes and glue them above the tree trunk.
4. On the fingers of each hand, write a good manner we all should practice in daily life.
5. Going down from each hand, draw a root or vein into the trunk and write what biblical principle each manner is based on.



GAME TIME

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- 3 or more family members

BEFORE YOU START

An old-fashioned game of “Mother, May I” can be used to teach manners to your kids. This game works great with mixed age groups and can help you get some extra manners practice in before a family dinner. No matter the age, a little refresher on asking permission can't hurt!

HOW TO PLAY

Line up the players shoulder to shoulder about a foot apart. The player who is “Mother” stands in front of the other players. Mother will then call on a child by name and give her instructions so she can move forward. For instance, “Emma, take two giant steps forward.” The child who is called on must then say, “Mother, may I?” Mother then responds with either “Yes,” and the child takes the steps forward, or “No,” and the child doesn't move. If a child makes a move and forgets to ask, “Mother, may I?” then she must go back to the starting line. If another child takes the steps out of turn, he must also go back to the starting line. The first child to reach Mother wins.

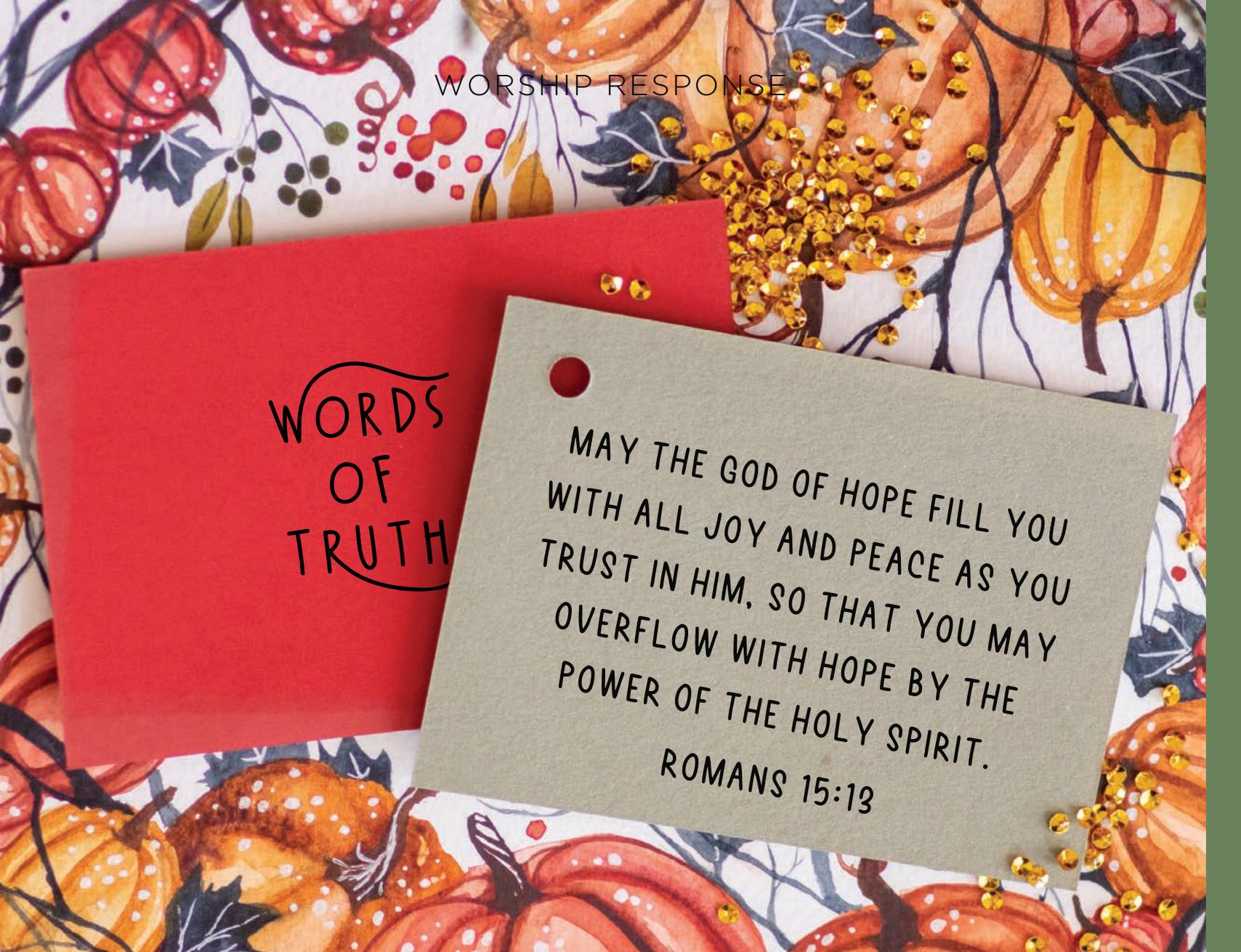
The real fun of “Mother, May I” is when kids add twists and even their own rules. For instance, instead of simple steps, Mother can ask that children waddle, bunny hop, jump, or scoot. And all the steps don't have to go forward—they can be backward too, which can help the game last longer.

by Holly Newman, Pastor of Parents and Families



The Manners Version — of —

“Mother, May I”



WORDS
OF
TRUTH

MAY THE GOD OF HOPE FILL YOU
WITH ALL JOY AND PEACE AS YOU
TRUST IN HIM, SO THAT YOU MAY
OVERFLOW WITH HOPE BY THE
POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.
ROMANS 15:13

Scripture Cards

Serving is a great way to show others the love of Jesus. However, if we do not spend time at Jesus' feet, allowing Him to fill our hearts and minds, then we risk serving out of our own strength rather than as a response to a God who fills us up and gives us the strength we need. We must allow time in our schedules to sit at the feet of the One who empowers us to do all things.

This month, as a way of responding in worship to God, who has perfectly modeled what serving others looks like, take some time as a family to be still in His presence. **Turn on some worship music and listen for His voice. Read Scripture over one another:** Psalm 23, Ephesians 3:16-19; Romans 15:13; John 4:14. Pray for one another and ask the Lord to fill you up with His power so you can serve those He puts in your path. Then, as a family, make a list of encouraging Scriptures. The Scriptures can be relevant to a certain topic or just Scriptures to confess. Write out your chosen passages on index cards and punch a hole in the top left-hand corner of each card. Run a loose-leaf ring through the cards to connect them. Make one stack of cards for your family and one to give to another family. Read through these cards each day as a reminder of God's love for you and as a reminder to pray these Scriptures over others.

Revealing the Love of Christ

Read
Matthew 5:16.

Jesus is the King. But instead of coming to earth and demanding the right to be served Himself, He chose to serve those around Him. In doing so, He displayed the Father's incredible love for them. He also showed us how to demonstrate God's love for others simply by respecting them and using our manners.

Using our manners doesn't only mean saying "Please" and "Thank you," although those are very good things to do. **But using our manners also refers to the way we behave, which can include our body language and our attitudes.**

When we choose to serve others with a joyful heart and a positive attitude, we model Jesus' kindness. Sometimes we may not feel like being kind or having a good attitude when we serve. But when we decide to respond to others in love, no matter what we're feeling, we're using our manners to display God's great love for them.

While you serve, think about how you can practice your manners. Ask yourself these questions:

- How can I put others before myself?
- Am I using my words to build them up?
- What kind of attitude do I have as I'm serving?

Work together as a family and use your manners through your body language, words, and attitude.

Let's worship at the feet of Jesus by serving those He loves.

by Annie Cribbs, Family Care Administrative Assistant

ACTION

September 12 is Grandparents Day. As a family, ask a grandparent or an elderly person in your neighborhood how you can serve him or her. You may even go to an assisted living center to be the hands and feet of Jesus. Serving could mean spending time with the person, making a phone call, sending a letter, mowing the lawn, walking the dog, etc. There are endless ways to serve others!



**+
Try picking
a bouquet
for an
elderly
neighbor**

BLESSING

Bless with Your Words



A BLESSING CAN BE A PRAYER OF COMMISSION, A BIBLE PASSAGE, OR WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT. BLESSINGS CAN BE SPOKEN OVER A CHILD FOR THE PURPOSE OF DECLARING GOD'S PROTECTION, JOY, AND WISDOM OVER HIM.

WEEK 1 SCRIPTURE: 1 John 4:7-21

(Child's name), may you know that you serve a God who is love. Out of His abundant love, He has put people in your life to show you acts of His perfect love. May you too show God's love to others as you live to honor and glorify Him.

WEEK 2 SCRIPTURE: Psalm 72:18-19; 1 Thessalonians 3:12; Luke 6:27-28; John 13:34

(Child's name), may God's unexpected blessings fill you with wonder and cause you to worship. May God's extravagant love toward you overflow to others—even to your enemies. May you love and serve others as Jesus Christ has loved you.

WEEK 3 SCRIPTURE: 1 John 3:16; Matthew 28:20; John 14:26; Matthew 5:1

(Child's name), may you know that God loves you and is always with you. May you choose to take time every day to sit at the feet of Jesus and listen to His voice. May the Holy Spirit teach you all things and remind you of everything that Jesus says to you. And may you shine the light of Jesus to be a blessing to others.

WEEK 4 SCRIPTURE: Psalm 46:1-3; 1 Corinthians 10:13

(Child's name), may you know that you serve a God who is bigger than anything you face. From your chore list to your busy schedule, God is with you always. He wants to walk with you through your whole life—best times and worst times. May you remember that you can trust God in all things.

by Mary Windebank, Director of North Elementary and Jill Nardini, North Elementary Teacher

Journal

remember and celebrate

prayer

thankfulness and praise

I will instruct you
and teach you in
the way you should go:
I will counsel you
with my loving eye
on you.

Psalm 32:8



GOD'S WORD WEEK 1



GOD STATEMENT: GOD IS A PROMISE MAKER
SCRIPTURE: GENESIS 12:2-3

DISCUSSION

Abram was so convinced of God's great love for him that he stepped out in incredible faith. As God spoke His plan and promises to Abram, Abram trusted and obeyed what God said. God told Abram to leave the familiarity of all he had known—his country and his father's household—and journey to a foreign land he knew nothing about. God made incredible promises to Abram as he instructed him: "I'll make you a great nation and bless you. I'll make you famous, and you will be a blessing. I'll bless those who bless you. All the families of the earth will be blessed through you" (paraphrase).

It's likely that uncertainty, grief, and fear ran through Abram's mind as he

left the old and traveled to this new promised land, but something deep inside—faith and certainty—overcame his doubt, and he stepped out believing God as Promise Maker and Promise Keeper. We read about Abram's story again in the Hebrews 11 "Hall of Faith." "By faith, Abram said yes to God's call by an act of faith he obeyed and went, even though he didn't know where he was going" (paraphrase). What empowers this kind of faith? Being filled with God's love. Love leads to respect, love and respect lead to obedience, even in the unknowns, and obedience leads to discovering all of God's promises!

What are some promises God has made to us in the Bible? How can you step out in faith knowing that God loves you and will keep His promises?

by Lori Welch, Family Care Coordinator

GOD'S WORD WEEK 2



GOD STATEMENT: GOD IS FAITHFUL
SCRIPTURE: GENESIS 16

DISCUSSION

When my kids were little, and we promised them a trip to the ice cream store, they often fidgeted impatiently until we could go. As an adult, I can wait for ice cream a little better than I did as a child, but I still struggle to be patient and trust God for other areas of my life. Many things are so very painful to wait for—affecting our lives and the lives of those we love.

In Genesis 16, we find Abram and Sarai struggling to wait for a promised child. It can be hard to wait for something we long for! **It can cause us to question the Promise**

Giver and take things into our own hands. We might do that by whining and complaining, by questioning God, or by trying to figure out how to make the promise happen ourselves. Deuteronomy 7:9-11 says, "Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments." **God is faithful.** He will cause His promises to come to fruition, but they often are not in our timing or in the way we think

they will happen.

What promises are you waiting for God to fulfill in this season of your life? In what ways can you rest and trust in God's faithfulness?

by Jeni Mason, Family Care Pastor

GOD'S WORD WEEK 3



GOD STATEMENT: GOD FULFILLS HIS PROMISES SCRIPTURE: GENESIS 21

DISCUSSION

“Now the LORD was gracious to Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did for Sarah what he had promised. Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time God had promised him. Abraham gave the name Isaac to the son Sarah bore him” (Genesis 21:1-3).

When Adam and Eve first chose to disobey God, they broke their relationship with Him and deserved death. But God promised to send a Savior. This Savior, Jesus, would make the way for humanity to be in relationship with God once again—through the descendants of Abraham

and Sarah.

As we follow Abraham and Sarah's story, we find them in the season of God graciously fulfilling His promise to them. Despite their personal seasons of failures, doubts, and impatience, which caused them to take matters into their own hands, Sarah had the promised baby—Isaac—at the very time God had told Abraham she would. Not any sooner, not any later. Every promise of God is right on time—not our time, mind you, but His. Whether you are in a season of unbelief or full of faith, nothing can stop God's unwavering

commitment to fulfill His promises from generation to generation.

What promises have you seen God fulfill in your life? What promises are you still waiting for God to fulfill? How have you responded to God's fulfillment of His promise to send Jesus, the Savior?

by Laurie Bennett, Director of Early Childhood and Curriculum Development

GOD'S WORD WEEK 4



GOD STATEMENT: GOD PROVIDES SCRIPTURE: GENESIS 22

DISCUSSION

Seasons of change met Abraham around every corner. From God calling him to leave his country for a new land, to God's promised covenant to make him a great nation, to the fulfillment of a promise—the birth of Isaac in his old age.

These seasons offered Abraham a chance to respond to God with trust and faith. But his fears, unbelief, and impulse to protect himself kicked in quite often. God did not abandon Abraham in these seasons. Instead, He provided opportunities for Abraham to say yes to trusting Him.

Genesis 22 recounts the difficult story of God testing Abraham's loyalty by asking him to offer up Isaac as a

sacrifice. Abraham responded to this test with obedience. God provided a substitute to take Isaac's place. Abraham's obedience and trust put God's character on display—this is the Lord who provides. Later, God provided the ultimate substitute as a sacrifice for our sins: His only Son, Jesus (John 3:16).

Seasons of trusting what God says can quickly turn into seasons of taking matters into our own hands. Seasons of change can test our loyalty. Our obedience can put God on display for others to see His true character. Each moment offers a new season for you to respond with faith to God's provision and promises.

How have you seen God's provision this week? What tests presented themselves while you waited for His provision? How did you respond as you waited? How does this story help you understand God better?

by Laurie Bennett, Director of Early Childhood and Curriculum Development

WHIPPED PUMPKIN DIP

Simple but tasty after-school snacks can be hard to find. Whip up this recipe using a few simple ingredients for a snack your children will love. Serve with juicy apples, pears, grapes, or granola, or turn it into a dessert dip for cookies or wafers.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- 1 (8 ounce) container of whipped topping
- 1 (15 ounce) can pumpkin
- 1 (3.4 ounce) package instant vanilla pudding
- pinch of pumpkin spice, cinnamon, nutmeg, ginger, and allspice
- fruit, granola, or cookies

WHAT YOU'LL DO

Mix together pumpkin, vanilla pudding powder, and the spices in a medium-sized bowl. Once thoroughly mixed, fold in the whipped cream. Serve with your choices of fruit, granola, or cookies to dip.



SLOW COOKER POT ROAST

As games, meetings, classes, and obligations begin to fill your weekly schedule, prepping a meal in the morning that's ready to eat when you get home brings comfort after a long, busy day. This pot roast is easy to make and tastes gourmet. Serve with potatoes, carrots, and other veggies for a healthy dinner.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- 1 cup water, warm
- 1 tablespoon beef base
- 1/2 pound fresh mushrooms, sliced
- 1 large onion, coarsely chopped
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 boneless beef chuck roast (3 pounds)
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1/4 cup butter, cubed
- 1/3 cup flour
- 1/4 tablespoon salt

WHAT YOU'LL DO

In a 5- or 6-quart slow cooker, whisk water and beef base; add mushrooms, onion, and garlic. Sprinkle roast with pepper; transfer to slow cooker. Drizzle with Worcestershire sauce. Cook roast, covered, on LOW 6 to 8 hours or until meat is tender.

Remove roast to a serving platter; tent with foil. Strain cooking juices, reserving vegetables. Skim fat from cooking juices. In a large saucepan, melt butter over medium heat. Stir in flour and salt until smooth; gradually whisk in cooking juices. Bring to a boil, stirring constantly; cook and stir 1 to 2 minutes or until thickened. Stir in cooked vegetables. Serve with roast.



FAMILY TIME RECIPES

SKILLET LASAGNA

This easy lasagna recipe is a quick and simple version of the classic Italian comfort food. Loaded with cheese, herbs, and spices, this family-friendly meal is ready in 20 minutes with few dishes for speedy clean up. This is sure to be a new go-to for weeknight dinners.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- 2 pounds ground beef
- 2 teaspoons garlic powder, divided
- 3 teaspoons onion powder
- 1 jar (24 ounces) pasta sauce
- 12 ounces bowtie pasta, uncooked
- 2 cups water
- 1/2 cup ricotta cheese
- 1/2 cup fresh chopped basil
- 1/2 cup Parmesan cheese
- 2 tablespoons flour
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 8 oz. mozzarella cheese



WHAT YOU'LL DO

In a large pot of boiling salt water, cook the pasta to al dente. Meanwhile, in a large skillet over medium heat, add the olive oil. Once the oil is shimmering, add the chopped onion. Cook for 3 minutes. Add the ground beef, garlic powder, and diced garlic to the pan. Chop the beef up as it cooks until there is no longer any pink in the meat. Drain the pasta and add it to the skillet along with the pasta sauce and Parmesan cheese. Stir until everything is well combined. Stir in the ricotta cheese or drop dollops on top. Top with shredded mozzarella cheese and turn the heat to low. Cover and cook for 2 to 3 minutes or until cheese is melted.

CANDY CORN CHEESECAKES



Candy corn makes its debut on the grocery shelves right before leaves begin to turn. These sweet cheesecake treats mimic the look of the iconic fall candy but with the full, smooth taste of cheesecake. Welcome the fall season with this festive, delicious dessert!

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

Crust

- 1/4 cups Oreo crumbs
- 2 tablespoons butter, melted

Filling

- 12 ounces cream cheese, room temperature
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 2 tablespoons flour
- 1/2 cup sour cream

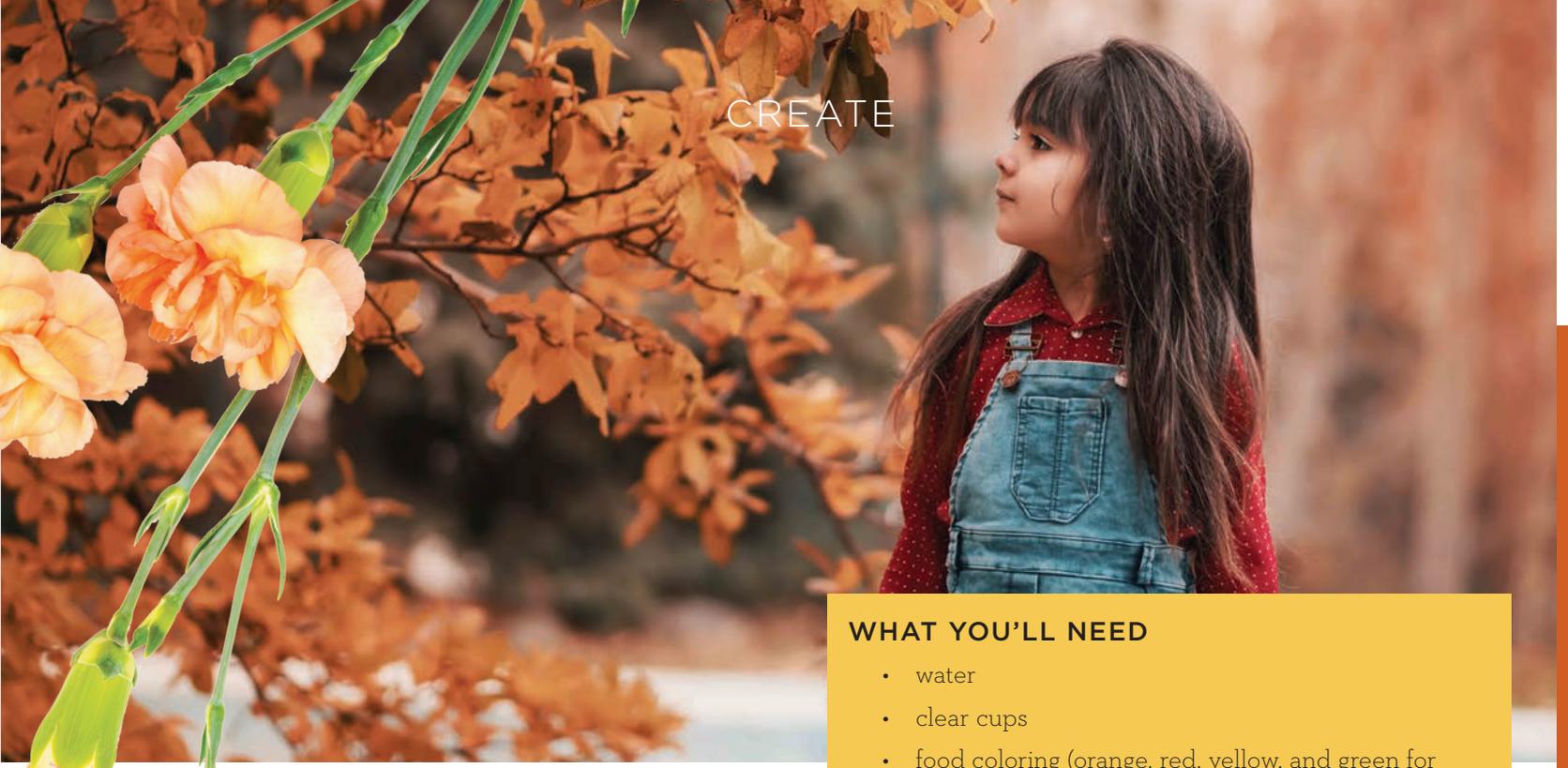
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 large eggs
- yellow icing gel color
- orange icing gel color

Topping

- 1/2 cup heavy whipping cream, cold
- 5 tablespoons powdered sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- orange icing gel color

WHAT YOU'LL DO

Preheat oven to 325° F. Place 12 cupcake liners in a cupcake pan and spray with nonstick baking spray. Combine the Oreo crumbs and melted butter. Divide the mixture between the cupcake liners and press into the bottom. Bake the crust for 5 minutes then remove from oven. Reduce oven temperature to 300° F. To make the filling, in a large bowl, mix the cream cheese, sugar, and flour until combined. Add the sour cream and vanilla extract. Beat on low speed until well combined. Add the eggs one at a time, beating slowly and scraping down the sides of the bowl after each addition. Divide the batter evenly into three bowls. Leave one as is, color one bowl with orange icing gel, and color the last bowl with yellow icing gel. Layer the colored batter into the crusts, starting with a tablespoon of each. The cups should be mostly full. Bake the cheesecakes for about 15 minutes, then turn off the oven and leave the door closed for another 10 minutes. Crack the oven door to allow cheesecakes to cool for 15 to 20 minutes and then put in the fridge to finish cooling. When cheesecakes are cooled, remove them from the pan. To make the topping, whip the heavy whipping cream, powdered sugar, and vanilla extract in a large mixing bowl on high speed until stiff peaks form. Color the whipped cream with a little orange gel icing color. Pipe the whipped cream onto the tops of the cheesecakes and refrigerate until ready to serve.



The Beauty in Change

Change can be hard for some people while others thrive in the unknown. For me, change is hard. My dad was a military man, which meant every two to four years we moved to a new Air Force base. By the time I was in first grade, I had lived in Texas, Alaska, Louisiana, and Colorado.

Transitions—like packing up and moving to a new town, starting a new grade in school, or having a new baby brother or sister—can be hard. But they can also be wonderful! New homes, new friends, and new family members can be exciting and fun.

Fall is all about change. The weather changes. The leaves on the trees change. The foods we eat and the drinks we drink all change with the season. Change is inevitable and can be beautiful. God orchestrates these seasonal changes, and we can trust God with other changes as well. God is faithful!

One way to illustrate change with your children is to set up color-changing flowers. It's easy to do, and your kids will enjoy watching the flowers change from white to the colors you choose.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- water
- clear cups
- food coloring (orange, red, yellow, and green for fall)
- white carnations (or other white flower)
- scissors

WHAT YOU'LL DO

1. Use your scissors to trim the stems of your flowers. You don't want to leave the stems too long because it will take longer for the colored water to reach the petals. Ideally, trim the stems so just the flowers are showing over the top of the cup.
2. Next, place one cup for each color of food coloring in a place where your children will be able to observe them easily.
3. Fill each cup about halfway with water and invite your kids to add several drops of food coloring to each cup (only one color per cup).
4. Now you're ready to add your flowers. Invite your kids to take turns placing the cut flowers in the cups, making sure there is at least one flower in each cup.

Once you have watched the flowers change colors, prayerfully consider if there is someone in your family's life who may be experiencing a difficult change. If so, wrap some colorful tissue and a bow around these fall-colored beauties and deliver them along with a note of encouragement.

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another" (John 13:34).

by Patti Fenton, Associate Pastor of Family Ministries

Fall Family Game Night

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- bag of pumpkin-shaped marshmallows
- bucket
- marshmallow creme
- candy corn (multiple bags)
- cups
- spoons
- paper plates

BEFORE YOU START

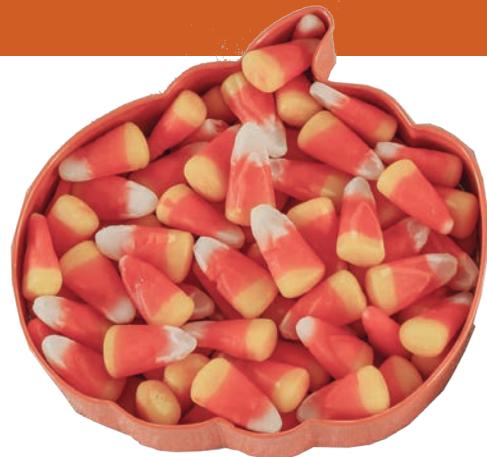
The fall season brings yummy treats, warm drinks, and cozy blankets. When the leaves change and the air turns crisp, fall festivals pop up in every city. The festivals offer delicious foods, creative games, and lots of laughter. Embrace the seasons of change in your home and throw your own fall festival! The concept of the fall festival game night is to:

1. Spend time together
2. Celebrate all things fall. As you play each one of the games, keep score and award the Fall Family Fun Champion.

HOW TO PLAY

+ GAME 1: PUMPKIN TOSS

Partner up to toss pumpkin marshmallows into one another's mouths. The couple that catches the most pumpkins wins. If you don't have enough people for teams, play individually by giving each player a bucket and some pumpkins. Stand 10 feet away from the bucket. Set a timer for 30 seconds and have each player toss as many pumpkins as possible into his bucket. The person with the most pumpkins in his bucket is the winner.



+ GAME 2: CANDY CORN SHUFFLE

Place cups full of candy corn on a table or counter. Partner up and have one member of each team hold an empty cup on the other side of the room. The other team members must remove candy corn from the cups with a spoon using only their mouths and carry it to the other cup, dumping it in without using their hands. If you don't have enough people for teams, play individually with one cup on one side of the room and another cup on the other side. The first player to shuffle all of her candy to the new cup is the winner.

+ GAME 3: CANDY TOWER

Each player gets a plate, marshmallow creme, and a pile of candy corn. The object of the game is to build the highest tower in the shortest amount of time. Each player has 2 minutes to build the tallest tower. The tallest, sturdiest tower wins.

A Prayer during Change

Fall leaves change color and float through the air as the breeze gently lifts and guides them to the ground below. But sometimes seasons of change in our own lives are not as lovely or warm as all the feels of autumn. Take some time as a family to share with one another any changes you are going through as a family. Some examples could be a new baby, job changes, a recent or upcoming move, or a new school for someone in your family.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- chalkboard or dry erase board
- chalk or dry erase markers

WHAT YOU'LL DO

Ask each family member for prayer requests. Write each family member's prayer request on the board. Then, take some time to pray for each other out loud. Read some of these Scriptures over one another: Hebrews 13:8; Psalm 57:10; Psalm 136. Be encouraged that God is faithful throughout every season of our lives!

PRAYER

Dear heavenly Father, thank You for Your goodness and faithfulness. Thank You that You are the same yesterday, today, and forever. Nothing surprises You or causes You to be anxious. You know the plans You have for me, and they are good. When things are uncertain or changing, I will trust in You. Help me to cast all my cares and concerns on You because You are faithful. Guide me in the direction You have for me. Amen.

by Christy Thomas, Nursery Coordinator



THE GIFT OF COMFORT FOOD



I have moved six times in the last six years. That's six different homes, six times packing and unpacking, and six times saying goodbye to old friends, making new ones, transitioning jobs, going through a family tragedy, getting married, and living through a global pandemic. I can confidently say change is hard; it takes a toll on you and the people around you. But I also have to say that without change there wouldn't be an opportunity for newness and growth. I love this quote by Savitha Nair: "Notice how the trees do not cling to their leaves. Fall is about releasing the old to make way for the new." If there were ever a time for change it would be now. God is our refuge and our strength; **He is a present Father who wants to teach us more about Himself and transform us into His likeness.** The only way to do that is to step into change, let go of the old, and cling to the new.

Take a look at the story of Abram in Genesis 12:1-3. God called Abram to leave his home and go to the land of Canaan where God promised to make him into a great nation. Abram had to leave the familiar and move to a new place, trusting that God was going to take care of him and provide for him. Why? This is a very important question we still ask today. I believe the answer God gave Abram thousands of years ago still rings true for us. God

said, "All peoples on earth will be blessed through you" (v. 3). Doesn't that excite you? Because we are spiritual descendants of Abram, we too get to bless those around us as we carry the presence of God with us through the Holy Spirit.

ACTION

With fall in full bloom, getting back into the swing of school, and adjusting to life with fewer COVID-19-related restrictions, we have a very special opportunity to bless the people around us through serving. **Your challenge for this month is to find someone experiencing a season of change—a new neighbor, a family with a new baby, a new friend at school—and make a meal for that person and his or her family.** Together, each family member must plan and help cook one part of the meal. Make a shopping list, gather the groceries, make the meal or dessert, and deliver it to their house. This will be a fun activity that engages the whole family, serves someone going through a season of change, and blesses that person by showing the love of God.

by Catherine Andersen, Student Ministry Coordinator



BLESSING

Bless with Your Words

A BLESSING CAN BE A PRAYER OF COMMISSION, A BIBLE PASSAGE, OR WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT. BLESSINGS CAN BE SPOKEN OVER A CHILD FOR THE PURPOSE OF DECLARING GOD'S PROTECTION, JOY, AND WISDOM OVER HIM.

Week 1

SCRIPTURE: Joshua 21:45; Romans 4:21

(Child's name), may you know that you serve a God who will always keep His promises. He is a covenant (promise) keeper. May you remember that God's promises for you can be found in His Word, the Bible. You can always go to the Bible and read the promises of God. May your faith be strengthened knowing that God will always do what He says He will do!

Week 2

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 27:14; 37:7

(Child's name), may you know that you serve a God who never fails. He is faithful to His plan; the Lord's timing is perfect. May you feel God's comfort as you wait for His promises to come to fruition.

Week 3

SCRIPTURE: 2 Corinthians 1:20; James 1:17

(Child's name), may you understand that every promise God has made is "Yes" in Christ Jesus. May you receive every good thing that God has for you. And may you continue to trust in the Lord's faithfulness, even when you must wait to see His promises fulfilled in your life.

Week 4

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 7:11; 2 Corinthians 9:10-12

(Child's name), may you know that God is a good heavenly Father who provides for you. May God enrich you in every way so you can be generous at every opportunity. And may your provision for others bring praise and thanksgiving to God, who richly provides us with all things.

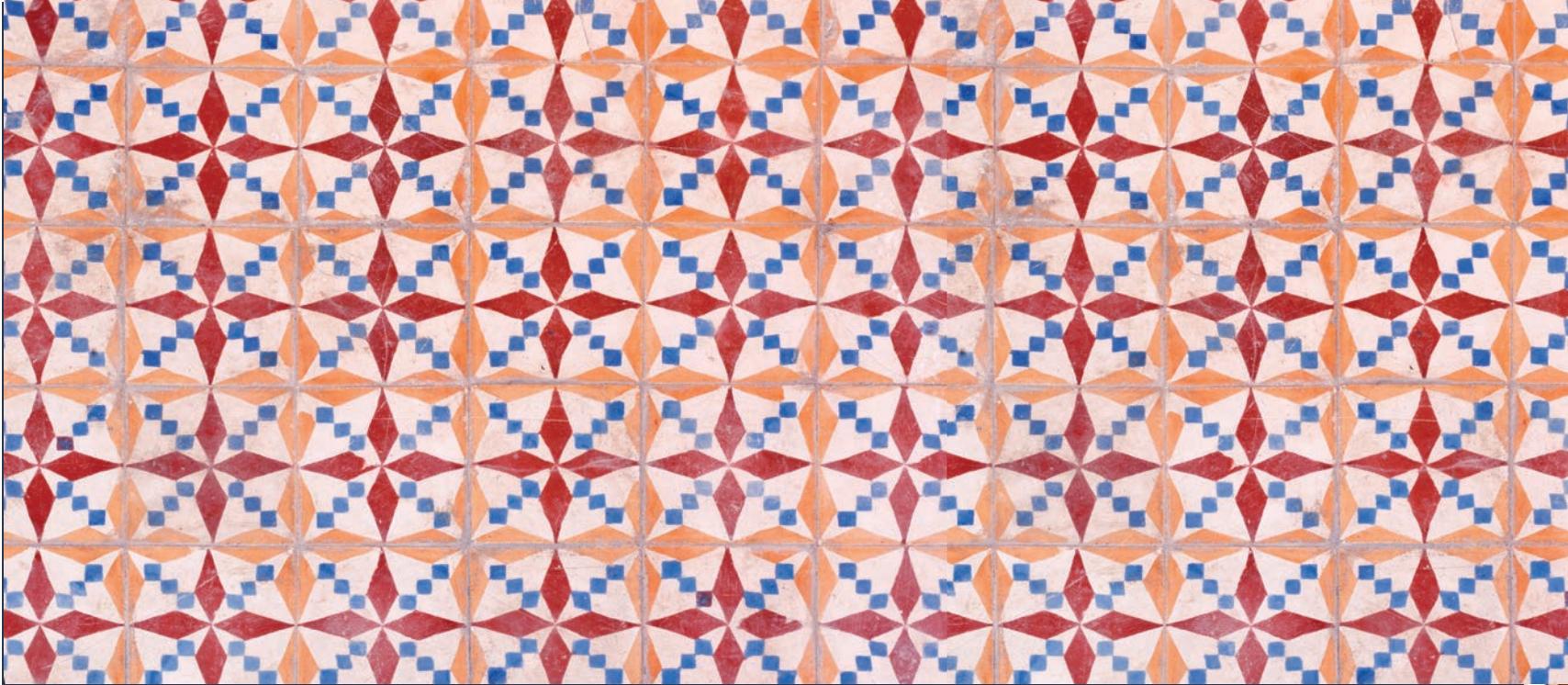
by Mary Windebank, Director of North Elementary, and Jill Nardini, North Elementary Teacher

Journal

remember and celebrate

prayer

thankfulness and praise



RESOURCES *and* SUPPORT

Prayers for Your Child's School Year

Heading back to school can be filled with uncertainty and mixed feelings. And with the growing uncertainty in our world, it is important to cover our families in prayer. We serve a BIG God who spoke the universe into existence with a word, and we can go to God to intercede for our children.

- Pray that your children will know God is with them. He is their strength! "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not be terrified nor dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9 NASB).
- Pray that your children will listen to God's voice and follow in His ways. "Your ears will hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it," whenever you turn to the right or to the left" (Isaiah 30:21 NASB).
- Pray that your children will be confident in Christ and set an example for others. "Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe" (1 Timothy 4:12 NASB).
- Pray that your children would be diligent and hardworking in their academics and in their study of God's Word. "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a worker who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15 NASB).
- Pray that your children will do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with the Lord. "He has told you, mortal one, what is good; And what does the Lord require of you But to do justice, to love kindness, And to walk humbly with your God?" (Micah 6:8 NASB).
- Pray that your children will do good to their teachers, fellow students, school staff, coaches,

teammates, church friends, and your family. "So then, while we have opportunity, let's do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith" (Galatians 6:10 NASB).

- Pray that your children will not choose to do wrong but instead will overcome evil with good. "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good" (Romans 12:21 NASB).
- Pray that your children will love God with all their heart, soul, and mind and that they will love others well. "And He said to him, "YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.' This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF'" (Matthew 22:37-39 NASB).
- Pray that the Lord would complete the work He is doing in your children and that you would be able to trust His timing. "For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work among you will complete it by the day of Christ Jesus" (Philippians 1:6 NASB).
- Pray that your children will know, through the power of the Holy Spirit, how wide, long, high, and deep is the love of Christ for them. "[I pray] that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner self, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled to all the fullness of God" (Ephesians 3:16-19 NASB).

by Help Club for Moms, helpclubformoms.com

TATER TOT'S SEASON OF CHANGE

The time has finally arrived. The little sea turtles are hatching—getting ready to start off on their first adventure.

The tiniest turtle's name is Tater Tot. He climbs from his nest and notices three things. The first is that the sand is really hot on his little flippers. The second is that the sky is very blue and the sun is very bright. And the third is his destination: the gleaming ocean that glints like distant diamonds in the summer sun.

That beautiful ocean—Tater Tot knows he is supposed to go there. He starts to move toward the water but nearly takes a tumble over his flippers. He pauses before trying to move again. And again, he finds it hard to move forward. How is he supposed to get to the ocean with these small flippers? He feels so awkward, and the ocean is so very far away.

Little Tater Tot thinks through his next steps. He could stay in his nest where it's safe. But something tells him that being in the ocean—that change—is a good thing and will help him grow.

But is he ready for this next season of his life?

Tater Tot uses his little flippers to push himself toward the sea. One push. That's all it takes for Tater Tot to know the truth. The change will be worth it. The ocean is where he is supposed to be. He has to get there.

He starts off at a slow pace. His flippers were made to propel him swiftly through the ocean, not the sand. Nevertheless, he keeps moving forward toward his new home.

A shrill squawk above him causes him to panic. He had anticipated the long journey with the heat and the

sand and the distance, but he hadn't seen the hungry seabirds flying overhead. His pace quickens, his flippers moving as fast as they can against the sand. The ocean draws closer, but a bird swoops down, barely missing Tater Tot, and the wind from its wing launches him into a giant mountain of sand.

He tries to move more quickly and pushes himself harder. Getting past the mountain of sand seems impossible, but he keeps moving. The hideous squawks follow him as he nears the ocean.

Soon those squawks diminish as the first small wave crashes over Tater Tot. Relief floods over him as he is gently swept into the ocean's embrace. The squawks are but an echo as Tater Tot feels a change come over him. His flippers help maneuver his tiny body through the water. His eyes adjust to his new surroundings and wonder rushes through him.

The change is beautiful—perfect.

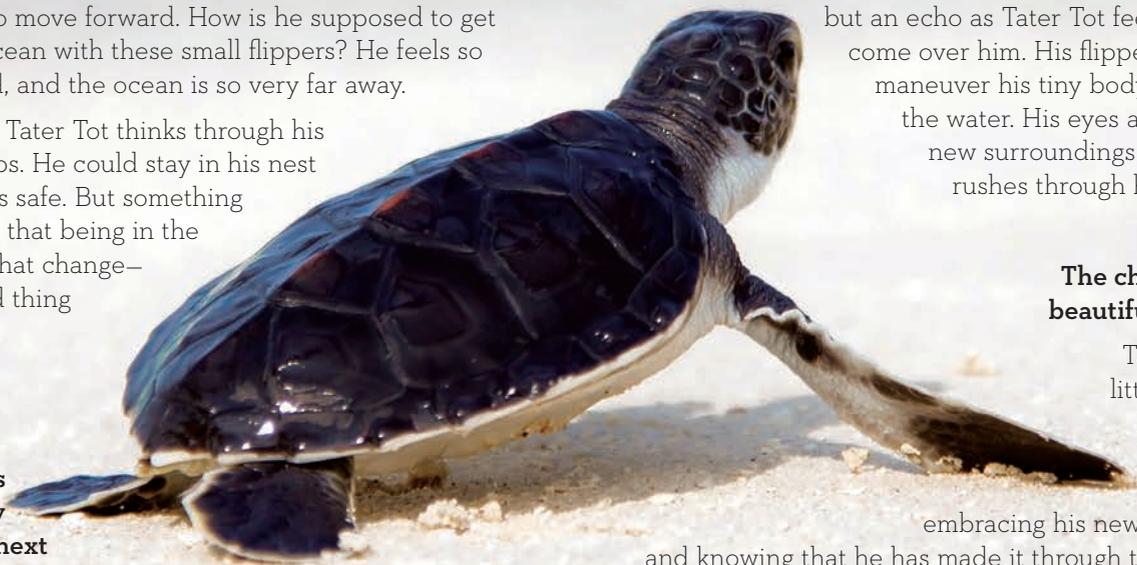
Tater Tot does little flips as he swims in the water,

embracing his new environment and knowing that he has made it through the toughest part of his journey. And little Tater Tot knows this is only the beginning of the adventure.

DISCUSSION

Have you or your family ever gone through a season of change? Was it frightening, exciting, or a little bit of both? How can you surrender to God in a season of change?

by Olivia Bennett, Midweek Curriculum and Ministry Assistant



RESOURCES AND SUPPORT

ELEMENTARY

No Junior-Sized Holy Spirit

Kids are capable of amazing things. One of the most profound things we learned as parents a few years ago was the truth that kids aren't given a "junior-sized Holy Spirit." The same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead dwells inside them! They can pray and see miracles happen, they can give encouraging, prophetic words, and they can learn to recognize the voice of the Lord. Savannah, my 11 year old, did these exact things on our recent trip to the Middle East. Savy has been joining us on trips since she was 18 months old. She has a tender heart for Jesus and His children all over the world.

My husband and I desire to see all of our kids grow up with a worldview bigger than themselves, to see and appreciate different cultures, and to understand how blessed they really are. The prayer we pray for our kids is that they would have their own encounters with God and for their faith to be made real to them, to see Jesus move, and to understand their own callings and identities.

"Mom, can I please go to **** with you? I just really love the refugees and want to help!" When Savannah asked to join me on this most recent outreach, how could I say no?

Savy and I headed out for two weeks to serve amazing people who had been devastated by war and violence. We helped in a kindergarten, reinforcing the idea that God knows each child's name and each one is special. We encouraged new believers and introduced others to the love and power of Jesus. We also blessed and served refugees.

However, a highlight was connecting with three women from the underground church in a neighboring nation who had come for a few days of intensive training. One of them had her nine-year-old son with her. He delivered a presentation of the gospel he had just learned. It was so simple and so beautiful that I was ready

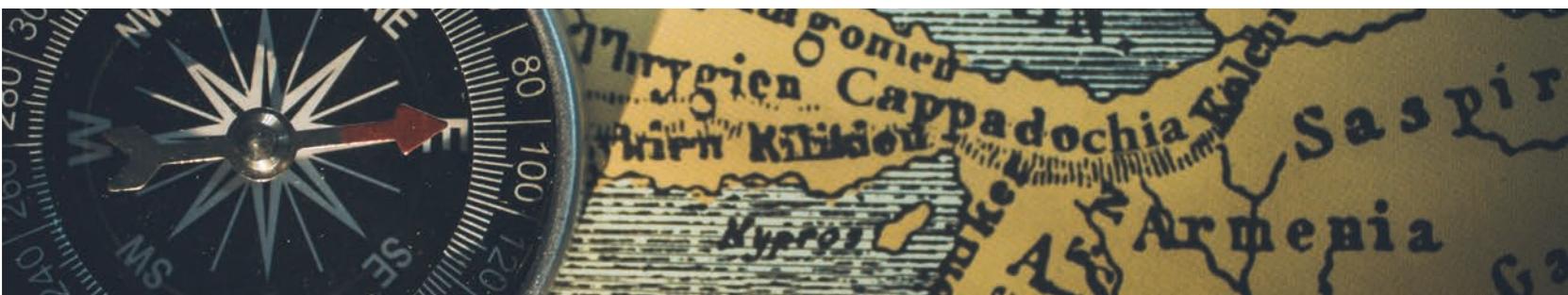
to get saved all over again! **This little boy is eager for everyone to hear the good news about Jesus.**

I was blown away at the faith of this mom to bring her son to another nation in order to know Jesus more and to learn how to make Him known in areas of their home nation where there are zero expressions of the church yet. Now as I write this, I'm humbled at the revelation of the similarities of our stories as it pertains to our kids. **We both said yes to releasing our children to the Lord and seeing His will carried out in their lives.** I watched in awe as these two young ones played together with no common language other than smiles. Though their lives are very different, their callings are the same: **to see "the knowledge of the glory of the LORD" to cover the earth "as the waters cover the sea" (Habbakuk 2:14).** I love how God's kingdom unites us all in a common love and purpose!

So, dear friend reading this, what is it that the Lord has put on the children in your life? What are their strengths and gifts, and how can they use them for the glory of the Lord? It may not be flying halfway around the world to share the gospel (though it very well may be!), but I encourage you to ask God what He'd have them do in their own sphere of influence. How can they love their neighbors? Their friends? Etc. **Help your kids to learn more about the fruit and gifts of the Holy Spirit, and then give them an opportunity to use them.** See what happens when they begin to pray for the sick or tell someone an encouraging word. Imagine how much this world will reflect the kingdom of God if the younger generation operates in this way their whole lives! But don't leave it all to them. **Remember, the same Holy Spirit that dwells in them dwells in you too.**

*The specific location has been omitted for security reasons.

by R. Johnson. R. and her husband, E., have worked with a global missions movement in Colorado Springs since 2011.



New Seasons Mean NEW OPPORTUNITIES

A DEVOTION FOR STUDENTS

So school has begun yet again. How are you feeling about it? The school year can represent different things to different people. For some this is an exciting moment. A moment when you might be eager to connect with friends, get back into a daily routine, and seek new opportunities. For others, this can be a moment of dread. A moment where you feel isolated, alone, and constantly frustrated with the increasing demands of homework, teachers, and social pressure. No matter where you fall on the spectrum, like every other season in our lives, the start of the school year presents an opportunity—an opportunity to behold Jesus. In John 13, Jesus issues a new command to His disciples. He states, “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another” (John 13:34-35). What would it look like to be known by our love for one another?

About nine years ago, I took a public speaking class at a community college. The professor opened the course by informing us of the types of speeches that we would have to give in the semester, one of which was facing off with another person in a persuasive/argumentative speech. The objective of this speech was to convince the class why one viewpoint was correct and why the opposing viewpoint was incorrect. One of the topics up for debate was “Christianity versus Atheism.” Despite my desire to argue for the side of Christianity, the professor gave the topic to one of my classmates. Arguing for the side of atheism was a smart, funny, kind young man.

On the day of the speech, he came prepared to tell the class why Christianity is a useless belief system made up of hypocritical sinners who are unable to live the “perfect” life. He stated that Christians are always trying to “help” people but really are just judgmental and behave worse than people of most other religions. He then concluded by saying, “If you are a Christian and you really want to help me, give me 20 bucks for gas and quit judging my life!”

The sad part is that people often see Christians like this. Many believers are known NOT for their love and respect but for a critical and judgmental spirit. **However, what the enemy intends for evil God can use for good.** Instead of feeling discouraged, I decided to behold Jesus. After class I chased after the young man and told him that he had prepared well and delivered a well-rehearsed speech. I then proceeded to give him a \$20 bill to help him pay for gas. Then I informed him that he was RIGHT! That Christianity is made up of a bunch of sinners who are unable to live the “perfect” life ... and that’s why we need JESUS! That the gospel is not about a people but a Person. His speech opened the door for me to share the good news with him. He was in shock. He thanked me and headed home.

This year will be filled with many moments. **Moments when you can trust the Lord or lean on your own understanding.** Moments when you can choose to love and respect those whom God has placed in front of you or moments when you can degrade and tear down those around you. The majority will choose the latter, but following Jesus embraces the former.

Read John 13.

SCHOOL YEAR CHALLENGE

I challenge you to decide that you will be known this year by your love and respect for others and not by your hatred or insecurity. **When you do this, you radiate the person and power of Jesus Christ!**

by Tim Shepard, Student Ministry Pastor

RESOURCES AND SUPPORT
GRANDPARENTING

SEASONS OF CHANGE IN OUR GRANDCHILDREN

I've only been a grandmother for one year. I allowed my daughter to "name" me because this was my first grandchild. So, ever since my granddaughter's birth in September of 2020, I have been "Mumsie." It may not be the first word my little grand will say, but when she does say it, I'm certain my heart will melt.

Becoming a grandmother has changed my perspective on time.

How are my children old enough to have children of their own? How am I old enough to be a grandmother? My mind, heart, and soul all feel as though I'm still in my 20s ... okay, maybe my 30s, if I'm honest. My body—well, that's another thing entirely, but I'm determined to keep up with the next generation no matter what I need to do!

Time is an odd thing because while we know it's passing (and quickly at that), there are aspects that mark its steps. Seasons, for example.

Within the past year, my Carter has lived through her first autumn, with pumpkin patch pictures, and enjoyed her first Thanksgiving with family members. She celebrated her first winter with Christmas at Mumsie and Grandad's home with the entire family in matching PJs (hers were the cutest) and adorable heart-clad outfits and Instagram stickers for Valentine's Day. Spring ushered in her first Easter and countless buggy outings. This summer, she was dedicated to the Lord on Father's Day, and her parents hosted a Fourth of July party in their newly purchased home. What a year!

Each season brought celebrations and growth. She physically grew and changed. She mentally develops each day. And she is growing socially and emotionally and adapting to new people and surroundings.

This year is vivid because it was a year of "firsts," but what about the years and seasons she has ahead of her?

My heart longs for her to know my thoughts, feelings, hopes, and prayers for her at each season of her life as she changes and develops into the woman God created her to be.



**TIME IS PRECIOUS.
SEASONS CHANGE. BUT
LOVE ENDURES FOREVER.**

As someone who is older, I understand the brevity of life. Someone once said, "**The days are long, but the years are short.**" How true! I understand that I am forgetful, and I don't want to waste any prayer, thought, or expression of love over the seasons of her changing life.

For Carter's birthday, I have decided to surprise her parents and extended family with a dedicated email address. **I simply went to Gmail.com and registered her a Gmail address.** I will invite her family, including her three living great-grandparents, to write notes to her about how they feel about her, the prayers they are saying for her, and the verses/wisdom that they want to pass along to her. **One day**

she will be able to read these emails and know about the seasons of life and love that preceded her—and also about the silly antics and fun memories we might otherwise forget.

If you are a grandparent reading this, **join me in this practical expression of love** to the next generation in hopes that they will pass on this legacy to the future generations in our absence.

by Dr. Michelle Anthony, Executive Pastor of Families, "Mumsie" to Carter, who celebrates her first birthday in September.



Are You More Like Mary or Martha?

I have a hard time being still. My mind is always thinking and my hands are always moving. There's always more work to be done than there is time in the day. People depend on me at my job. At home, the laundry and dishes pile up. There are always crumbs on the floor and hungry children to feed.

This is why the story of Mary and Martha has always bugged me (Luke 10:38-42). If you aren't familiar with the story, Jesus comes to the home of Mary and Martha. Martha is the one doing all the work and Mary is just sitting by Jesus. Martha asks Jesus to tell Mary to help her. Jesus tells Martha that MARY has chosen what is BETTER!!!!

I read this and think, "What?! Doesn't Jesus understand? Why does He say that Mary is making the better choice? Mary is just SITTING there, not doing anything productive."

I want to say, "Jesus, that's not nice or fair! You wouldn't have LUNCH if it weren't for Martha. The house wouldn't be clean and presentable if it weren't for Martha. How could a person just SIT in this situation? Tell Mary to get up and HELP!"

However, I'm *slowly* beginning to understand why Jesus said Mary made the better choice. She chose **relationships** over tasks. She chose people over projects.

I went from being irritated by this story to being so grateful that I follow a God who invites us to rest. To sit. To listen. Jesus doesn't need us to do anything for him. **He just wants a relationship with us.** Martha was doing so much—working so hard—for Him! Yet Jesus said that Mary chose what was better. Mary was sitting at His feet, listening. Growing in her relationship with Him.

This story always stung because I'm Martha. I choose to get work done when I could be connecting with my kids. My husband comes home from a long day at work and I continue to stay focused on a task (or hand him a list of things to do) rather than just stopping to connect—to make eye contact and ask about his day.

Ouch. Sorry, Ted.

I'm learning that it's good to be still. It's okay for the house to stay messy so I can invest in my kids. The dishes and laundry will eventually get done (or not?), but people are the only things that are eternal. My children need me to be present and engaged. My husband needs my heart and attention. Jesus wants me to sit at His feet so He can refresh my soul.

Mary chose what was better because she chose to stop, listen, and get to know Jesus.

Today I'm choosing to be more like Mary. **I will STOP what I'm doing, look my husband and children in the eyes, LISTEN to them, and TALK with them.** That is the better choice.

Today I choose Jesus. I choose relationships and connection over tasks.

I choose PEOPLE over projects.

Have you found yourself trying to just "get stuff done"? What have you found that helps you overcome this and just BE STILL?

by Kathryn Egly, mom to four busy boys and wife to one handsome husband. They currently call Minnesota home. Kathryn blogs about what she's learning about Jesus, motherhood, marriage, and life at kathrynegly.com.

Step Out of Safe

I felt helplessly expectant listening to the hospital monitors chirp and whine well into the night as my wife endured that awful labor of love. Neither of us wanted to wait another second to meet our baby boy—nine months was more than enough waiting!

At long last, the doctor called out, “Give me one last good push!” There he was, Easton William Windebank. One minute we were a family of two and the next, a family of three. My soul could barely contain my joy. My eyes welled with those once-in-a-lifetime tears, and my love for both son and bride multiplied tenfold. This moment, June 26 at 3:46 a.m., was 15 years in the making for me—I had desired to be a dad since I was 10 years old.

I felt like I was ready. Anticipating this moment for 15 years and vigorously preparing for months on end felt like enough training. (I can hear all the seasoned dads’ chuckles). I learned rather quickly that anticipation and preparation do not add up to qualification.

I’m not going to lie, the anticipation of being a dad was much cleaner cut and the preparation was easier to feel a sense of control over than the real-life transition. However, if I would have stayed in that perfect little space of anticipation or worked diligently to have everything “just right” without ever actually transitioning into the hard, unpredictable reality, I would have missed out on all the beauty of depending on Jesus.

All too often we stay in a place of safe anticipation of what *could be* without ever allowing the dream to transition into reality. Abraham must have exuberantly anticipated the blessings in the land God was leading him to, but he was not content with anticipation alone—he wanted to transition with God from where he was to where God had called him to go. Staying in his homeland was the safer option. Not going on a massive

trek across the wilderness was the more comfortable option. Daydreaming about finding the land and being obedient to God was the controllable option. **However, transitioning with God out into the unsafe unknown, enduring the pain of the trek, and letting go of control along the way was the only option that brought generational blessing.**

Dads, we like to get things right and have our ducks in a row. We like it when everything has its place, and everything is *in* its place. We are not naturally fans of needing to depend on anyone other than ourselves. But if we try to anticipate and prepare for every scenario fatherhood will throw at us, refusing to transition into dependence on Jesus along the way, we will miss out on the blessing He has for us.

Easton is four months old now and all the preparation and forethought in the world could not have prepared me for the joy and excitement of transitioning through life with him. **I don’t want to get stuck in so much anticipation of what life should look like in the coming years that I miss out on depending on Jesus in the coming years.** I don’t want to spend energy on planning how to make Easton’s life predictable. I want to help Easton live a life that leans so heavily on Jesus for direction and guidance that when Jesus transitions him to a new place or calling, he falls over if he doesn’t follow. Our children and our children’s children need us to transition from the mere anticipation of what God could do if we trusted Him into living a life of active dependence on Him for what He is doing every day.

by Chase Windebank, Student Leadership & Student Ministries Associate Pastor





Seasons of Change

Have you ever found yourself gazing back at what was, unable to accept what is? Military life can be an adventure with unexpected turns along the way—some leading down an exciting path while other turns can feel lonely, lackluster, and painful.

Twenty-six years ago, I married a first lieutenant in the Air Force. My husband and I met in Hawaii, and that was our first station as a military couple. Newly married and stationed in a beautiful tropical paradise, military life was not as hard as some say, so I thought.

It didn't take long before I started to feel the ebbs and flows of military life when we transitioned to a new location. I remember the struggle of coming to terms with being a stay-at-home mom. Our new station was so different from Hawaii. It was harder to make friends. With two children under the age of three and my husband away for work so often, life was not an adventure anymore. Was I the only one struggling with this transition? Complaints and disrespect flowed out of me quickly. With a growing bad attitude, life at home became tense. I was not happy.

Oftentimes God uses the pain of life situations to grow us spiritually. God began to show me the idols I had erected in my heart. I had placed my worth and value in my job, my friends, and my comforts in life. Life felt out of control because I was trying to hold on to those idols to make me happy. I was not loving and respectful to my husband because I was so self focused. Andrew Arndt, in his book *All Flame*, wrote, "God will strip us of our idols, burn away sin, and break our attachments to lesser things, in order to reshape our wayward love so that it finally rises into the Love that he is." I had choices to make.

I remember a particular season where I found myself depressed. It didn't help that our previous assignment had been one of the best experiences in our military journey. I was not looking forward to spending the next four years at this new place. I began to look back.

One day, I lamented to a guest speaker at our church, hoping to answer why I could not find joy and purpose in this new season. She said, "Don't be like Lot's wife. You are paralyzed." If you are not familiar with the story of Lot's wife, you can read it in Genesis 19.

I heard the Holy Spirit loud and clear through that comment. **I was paralyzed with discontentment and disappointment because I kept looking back at what was.** Don't get me wrong. It can be good to look back. God instructs us to remember and celebrate His goodness and to give thanks. However, if we are not careful, our hearts can be weighed down with fear, anxiety, disappointment, and discontentment when current circumstances are not ideal. **Proverbs 4:23 reminds us, "Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it."** For me, it was a heart issue. I had allowed my less-than-ideal circumstances to rob me of joy, peace, and purpose. I could not see the new opportunities God had placed before me, which affected how I treated my loved ones. Would I remain paralyzed in transition or move forward?

All of us will face transitions in life. **During seasons of change, we must pay attention to our hearts.** For an environment of love and respect to be cultivated in our homes, we must yield our emotions, attitudes, and desires to God. Navigating through changes with a surrendered heart that trusts the Lord will create opportunities for God to show Himself strong on our behalf. We get to experience His grace and power even when it's hard; we learn to grow up in Christ and to discover how much He truly loves us. God is at work in and through every transition. **New opportunities and God moments await. It's time to move forward!**

by Evie Swart, Director of Midweek

Practical Advice for Couples

For the first half of our marriage, my husband was blessed to have a job that allowed him to be home for dinner in the evening and attend the children's sporting events on the weekend. But life has a funny way of changing quickly without much time to adjust or plan. After years of a consistent rhythm, my husband took a job that required frequent travel. Our life ... my life ... suddenly looked different, and I must admit that I did not handle the change well at first. But after a few bumps and bruises, my husband and I learned a thing or two about navigating change while treating each other with love and respect.

Most couples experience a wide range of changes over the years of marriage. No one is immune to it. Whether you have been married for one month, a few years, or more than a decade, you can expect curves ahead. Thankfully, some changes make life exciting! We're having a baby! We bought a new house! But all changes require meeting them head-on and not making assumptions about how the other person is experiencing the change.

PRIORITIZE COMMUNICATION

Obviously, communication is important in all marriage situations. It seems in times of change, it is harder to have healthy communication. **All sorts of emotions can cloud the way we communicate with one another.** And as time in the relationship goes on, things get comfortable and we often neglect communication with our partner. We assume our spouse knows exactly what we are thinking and feeling. They don't! We have to prioritize and fight for healthy communication during these seasons. Carve out a consistent, scheduled time for communication to talk through schedules, feelings, and thoughts and to pray with one another. Share your thoughts, but also equally listen to your partner's needs. This time will help keep you united as you navigate seasons of uncertainty.

MAKE TIME FOR YOUR RELATIONSHIP

Life is filled with seasons where it is easier to spend time with your spouse and seasons where you and your spouse see each other for the first time that day as your head hits the pillow. Career changes, new babies, club sports, or a move to a new town can make life feel hurried and busy, and relationships can get lost or neglected. **And it is easy to find yourself simply going through the motions without remembering to love your spouse well.** But, it is crucial to care for your relationship, to date one another and laugh with one another. No matter how long you have been together, make time for a weeknight dinner, evening walk, bike ride, reading a book together, or back massages before bed. Never stop dating one another.

DO THE PRACTICAL STEPS

Take care of your partner and yourself in seasons of change. What brings you rest? What brings you joy? How can you care for your marriage physically, spiritually, emotionally, and financially? Are you getting enough sleep? Whatever self-care looks like for you and your spouse, choose to focus on those things. Seek out mentors and friends that can encourage and support you during this season. And above all else, pray with one another. (See Philippians 4:6-7.)

Finally, counseling is always a great option. Counseling is a useful tool in developing healthy communication skills, processing emotions and feelings, and working through decisions together. For some, there has been a negative stigma surrounding counseling that deters couples from seeking help. Seeking counseling does not mean that your marriage is doomed or is beyond help. It is quite the opposite; counseling is a great way to pour into the health of your marriage.

by Holly Newman, Pastor of Parents and Families

RESOURCES AND SUPPORT

TOUGH TOPICS

A Beautiful Approach to a Tough Conversation

TOUGH TOPICS ARE EXACTLY THAT: TOUGH.

When things get tough in your family, what can you say to the kids? Should you talk about it at all? Do you tell everything you know or hold back a little information? What about illness, dying, and death? What about long stays in the hospital? Did God cause the bad things to happen? Why do some people get healed and some don't?

These are tough topics. Each family will handle the discussion (or lack of discussion) differently, but there are a few things we can suggest.

Yes, talk about it. Each person has a capacity for what they can handle, and the age and personality of the child has a lot to do with that. With a very little person, you can talk about how Grandma or Cousin is in the hospital and is very sick. "Let's pray that she feels Jesus very near." And then actually pray that short sincere prayer. As the child grows, you can say something similar. You should be honest and age appropriate.

What if it is your own child going through an extended illness? You know your child and what he needs. Ask for help. Use the correct terminology for illnesses and disabilities. Allow your child to make as many decisions for himself as possible. Let him be as active and involved as possible. Talk about the ramifications for his future. Grieve with him. Talk about how Jesus never leaves or forsakes him. Give him hope—in healing, in heaven, in heartache. Find something to laugh about. Laughing can heal and bond. My son imitated the noises of the machines in the PCICU and created silly songs to go with the sounds to cut some stress.

Share your burdens with friends and family. Let them know what they can do to help. Give them specific prayer requests. Share God's answers with them. It is natural to think you don't want to worry the grandparents and other family members but they often want to know the details so they can participate and pray. They love you so much. Accept help graciously or have the hard conversation about how their help may be hurting. Start any conversation with love and acceptance of the other person. Don't steer away from tough topics. Dive in with prayer. Think through what you need and if this is the best time for the conversation. Ask God. He will help you.

I have learned some of this recently as my two-week-old grandson went into cardiac arrest and was hospitalized in the Pediatric Cardiac Intensive Care Unit for four weeks. There are easier cases and more difficult cases, but it was a very scary time for our family. It was life or death for a few weeks. We shared all the news and updates with family and friends for prayers. I was talking to my daughter, Liam's aunt, when she interrupted with, "Phillip would like to talk to you, Grandma." Of course, I wanted to talk to my grandboy, Phillip—Liam's five-year-old cousin. Phillip said in his sweet voice, "Grandma, is baby Liam getting better?" At that point things still looked rough, but instead of hiding the pain and fear, I answered, "Well, Phillip, Liam is not better yet. Let's keep praying for him."

Just a simple connection but short and honest and age appropriate. We are so thankful that Liam did get better and is moving quickly down the road to complete recovery.

I have other friends who have beautiful babies who are completely healed in heaven. Such a tough topic if we're honest. We want them to be healed on earth. I asked my friend how to pray for very sick kiddos. She answered that we don't always get the healing we expect and most desire—complete healing here on earth. She explained to me that we can pray, knowing God will answer. Requests such as: kind doctors and other staff, parents to know what questions to ask, and that they all would feel God's presence. You can discuss these tough topics with your kids and be honest with them. **You can ask God the tough questions.** You can tell God you don't understand. You can ask God to let you learn something new about His character and love through this situation.

Tough topics are exactly that: tough. God wants the best for you. With His help, you can move closer to Him and each other by being honest and upfront during the hard times.

by Mindy Harrington, Woodmen Valley Early Childhood Director. Mindy loves a good conversation, a good cup of hot chocolate, and time in her hammock.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

UPCOMING FAMILY MINISTRY EVENTS



Nlcfam.org



Nlcfamilies



NLC Family Min

JUNIOR HIGH RETREAT EXPERIENCE

When: September 17-18

Time: Friday 5-9 p.m. and all day Saturday

Where: New Life North (Friday night), Ponderosa Retreat and Conference Center (Saturday)

Contact: Chase Windebank,
cwindebank@newlifechurch.org

The 2021 6th-8th grade retreat is a place for worship, community, games, and time in the Word. We will gather at the New Life North campus Friday, September 17, for worship and a message. Then we will head home for the night and reconvene at Ponderosa Camp and Conference Center for all of Saturday. At the retreat center we will have worship, games, and a few messages. We will provide lunch, dinner, and snacks.

PRAYER FOR THE NATIONS

When: Wednesday, October 13

Time: 6-8 p.m.

Where: World Prayer Center Prayer Room

Contact: Breanna Hicks, bhicks@newlifechurch.org

Join us for an evening of prayer and worship as we focus on lifting up the nations and New Life's mission partners!

PARENT ORIENTATION

When: Sunday, November 7

Time: 9:00-10:15 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Where: Room 246, New Life Church North

Contact: Evie Swart, eswart@newlifechurch.org

At Parent Orientation we want to communicate our vision for New Life Kids and New Life Students, familiarize you with the curriculum we're using, and highlight ways for you to get involved. Join us for breakfast and meet our Family Ministries staff. Kids' ministry is offered during this time for families with children ages birth to 5th grade.

MILITARY MINISTRY: REBOOT COMBAT TRAUMA RECOVERY COURSE

When: August 31-November 16, 2021

Time: 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Thursday Evenings

Where: New Life Church North

Contact: Dave Arnold darnold@newlifechurch.org

REBOOT Combat Recovery is our 12-week faith-based course designed to specifically address military trauma. Veterans or active-duty service members of all eras are welcome to attend. Spouses and caregivers also benefit greatly and are encouraged to attend. The course is offered at no cost to the participants. Most locations offer meals and childcare to remove barriers for families who wish to attend.



family ministry

theGathering

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To discover more and to register, visit
www.GatheringConference.org