

Family Matters



Volume 2, Issue 1
MARCH 2009

What are you doing this weekend?

I saw a graphic today that said from the time our children are born until the time they graduate high school we will have 940 weekends to influence them. If your child is already in kindergarten, you have just 637 more weekends. Don't blink, because by the time they get to third grade, you have just 468 more. In just two short years, your child will be in the fifth grade, just 364. We have just a short window of time before these precious little ones are teenagers.

So the question is: What are you doing this weekend? As partners in



raising up a godly generation, we as ministry workers and you as parents have just a few Sundays in the lifetime of a child to really impact them for Christ. So one of the best things you can do for your child is take advantage of everything that is available on Sunday mornings to encourage them to grow in their faith. That means getting them to church not just in time

for Children's Worship, but also for Sunday School.

But the most important thing you can do for your child is to realize that Sunday is just one day in the week out of seven. Don't allow those days just to run together without any spiritual influence in your child's life at home. YOU are the best strategy for raising a godly child. So what are you doing?

ADOPT-A-PUPPET



You can bring one of these yet-to-be-friends to Consolidated to teach our children about Jesus. If you want to adopt one of these loveable characters to serve in Children's Ministry, please pick up a brochure at the information counter near the elevator. You will be able to name the puppet, and receive an adoption certificate.

Volunteers also needed to serve in this area.

PowerSource



Ask God:

- ♥ To help your children be thankful for their many blessings.
- ♥ To give your children a desire to talk with God often.
- ♥ To help your family keep an attitude of gratitude all year.

WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?



Pop in a CD or burn one with a mix of different styles of music to help your kids stay on task. Most songs average about 3 minutes, so agree on how many songs per task. When the next song plays, they know it's time to move on to the next activity. With any new routine, allow time for it to become a habit.

PrayKids!



LISTEN TO YOUR KIDS

In Children's Worship we have been studying the components of prayer. "Praise"—bragging on God and "Confession"—agreeing with God about our sin. We will be teaching Thankfulness and Intercession next. Talk to your kids.

1. Ask them to recite the memory verses Psalm 9:1 and 1 John 1:9
2. What are some things about God that make Him so special and awesome?
3. How did God answer King Hezekiah's prayer? Why did the king need to confess?
4. What is the highest praise?
5. Ask them about "The Saintly Sisters."



Could your house be mistaken for a movie rental store? If so, we can help. Have your kids pick some of those gently used Christian DVDs and donate to Children's Ministry. We have lots of VHS tapes, but only a couple of DVDs. In particular we need DVDs for the 8 to 10 year olds. Thanks!



Feed the Need

Help feed our city's hungriest people

Please join us in collecting food for Lexington Rescue Mission. Items most needed include:

- Canned corn
- Canned green beans
- Pork and beans
- Canned fruit
- Pasta sauce
- Canned tuna
- Dry beans
- Dry cereal
- Egg noodles
- Instant mashed potatoes
- Lemonade mix
- Coffee
- Sugar
- Creamer
- Cake mix
- Cake icing
- Pancake mix & syrup

Lexington Rescue Mission serves more than 20,000 hot meals each year to the poor and homeless. The Mission relies on generous contributions from people in our community to make that possible.

Thank You!



MARCH Service Project

Every 4th Sunday is Service Sunday for Children's Worship. Our service Scripture is Matthew 25: 35-45, in short, "whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."

During each Sunday in March, children will be asked to bring in a canned good to help provide food for the needy through the Lexington Rescue Mission. They serve free hot lunches on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays to anyone in need of a nutritious meal. **Our service day will be March 14 from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Children are encouraged to come with their parents to take part in this service project.**

If you would like to volunteer to serve a meal at another time, contact James Clifford at james@lexingtonrescue.org or call (859) 381-9600, ext. 224.

March 1—canned corn or green beans

March 8—pork & beans, canned fruit

March 15—Dry cereal

March 22—Cake mix or cake icing

Kid WordSearch

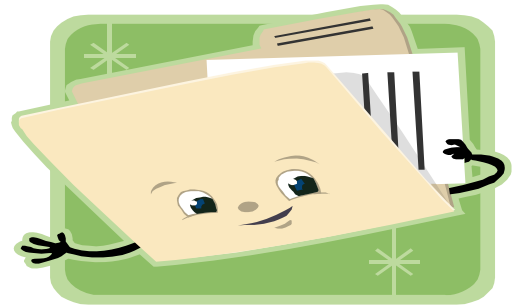
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FIND THESE WORDS: *Brag Confession David
 Hallelujah Hezekiah Praise Prayer Psalms RiceBowls*

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Please check your Child's Folder each week.



THE AFTER-CHURCH REPORT

Begin a new after-church tradition. On the way home, family members can take turns telling one thing they learned at church that day, one thing they enjoyed, and one thing they didn't understand or want to learn more about. This new tradition will help solidify lessons learned, give parents the opportunity to answer their kids' questions, and give families a chance to find out what everyone is experiencing at church.



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OpenTheBook

“Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart.”

Colossians 4:2

Prayer is a natural response to hearts that are overflowing with thankfulness. Talking to and praising God is the best way to express our gratitude for his endless love.

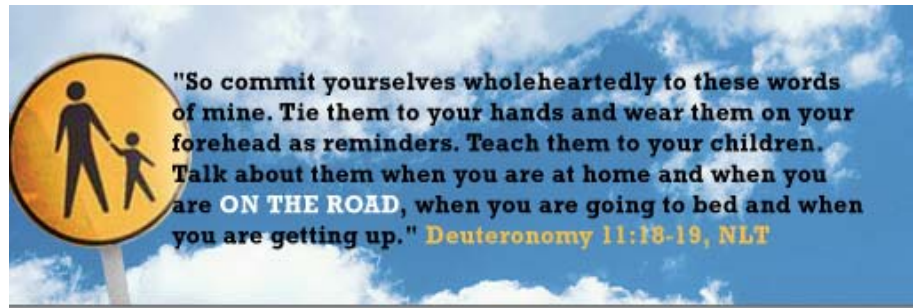
Teachable Moments

Prayer Prompts—To help children get started with prayers, write or say some sentence-starters. For example, “God, you are...” “I’m happy you made...” and “Please help...”

Prayer-and-Praise Journals—Use an inexpensive scrapbook to keep track of ways God answers your family’s prayers. Children also can color or paste in pictures of things they’re thankful for.

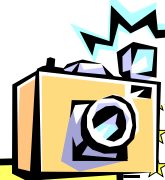
Popcorn Prayers—For a fun twist on prayer, have family members take turns saying one thing they’re thankful for or one person they want God to bless.

Pray Without Ceasing— Show children the value of prayer and gratitude during difficult times. Together, thank God for his constant care and for loving and forgiving us even when we mess up.



During these times there are many opportunities to have conversations about gratitude and prayer. Use these discussion-starters to explore the topics with your children:

1. What are some nice things people do for you? When you are treated kindly, what does that make you want to do?
2. What are all the things God has given you just today? Why do you think God does all that for us?
3. What are some good words we can use to show God that we appreciate his many blessings?
4. What are some ways besides praying that we can show God how thankful we are?



SAY CHEESE!

Don't forget to get photos taken for you, your children, and any adults who are authorized to pick them up. This helps us to keep your child safe. THANKS!

DO YOU KNOW YOUR FAMILY NOTIFICATION NUMBER?

Every child is assigned a family number that is used to notify parents in the sanctuary. If you do not know your number, please see a registration volunteer.

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