

Parent Link *Faith@home*

A Parent Resource from the Children's Ministry of Faith Bible Church, DeSoto, TX

Love God by Loving Others

Jesus summed up the entire law in two commandments: "Love the Lord your God" and "Love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:37, 39). Followers of God express love and thanksgiving to Him by showing love to other people in practical ways.

No matter our age, we can live out this gratitude in a variety of ways—big and small. And service isn't limited to the holidays. Follow these tips to make service a year-round occurrence in your family:

Set a model of servanthood and responsibility. Don't use acts of

service to manipulate or "one up" each other. Instead, perform tasks out of humility, not expecting thanks in return.

Make serving fun. Spend an afternoon raking leaves for elderly neighbors or church members.

Offer age-appropriate ideas. Kids of all ages can pitch in to help others. Find ways for your children



to actively help by considering what they're able to do.

Share your adventures in serving.

Each week, challenge your family to perform acts of giving and kindness. Then each can report their activities during dinner or family devotions. More...p.2

ASK GOD:

1. To give your children loving, grateful hearts toward Him.
2. To help your family members put their love for God into action by serving other people and make service a joyful, regular habit in your home.

Upcoming Events

Special Service & Celebration Picnic

Sunday, Nov. 2 @ noon

There will be a clear gospel presentation so this is a great service to attend and to invite friends to. Then join us for a Cookout & the Grand Opening of our beautiful new preschool play area, refreshed big kid playground, and picnic area.

Plan to attend a brief Children's Sunday School Parent Meeting Sunday, Nov. 9, 8:30-9am with Pastor Jerry.

FBC Kids

Ultimate Adventure

Sundays, 9am
In The GOSPEL PROJECT we'll finish our study of Jesus' miracles, which demonstrated His divine authority, and learn how Jesus used parables to teach people that the kingdom of God had come.

Children's Church

Sundays, 10:30am
In November, we will be studying Philemon, Philippians, and the story of Timothy from I and II Timothy. The kids will also hear the life stories of Jim Elliot and Steve Saint.

Lil' FBC Kids

Nursery & Pre-K

Available during both Sunday services.

Mother's Day Out

Tu & Th, 9-2:30pm
Info at 972-223-0000 x136

mainly music

Mondays, 9:30am
Come enjoy music and movement for you and your little one.

Preschool Play Area & Landscape Remodel

project is nearing completion! Join us for a Celebration Picnic Nov. 2. Thanks to ALL who HELPED US GROW.

Awana

Sundays

4:30-6:30pm

Coming up at Awana...

- Nov. 2** BAF (That's Bring A Friend) Night
- Nov. 9** Store Night
- Nov. 16** Awana
- Nov. 23** Thankful Night
- Nov. 30** **NO AWANA** Thanksgiving Break
- Dec. 7** Store Night
- Dec. 14** BAF Nativity Night Parents invited too!

More info at
FaithBible.com



Living Out Our Gratitude

Like love, true thanksgiving is expressed through our actions; serving God by serving others. Opportunities abound in our homes, churches, schools, neighborhoods, and communities to meet other people's needs—and, by doing so, to show our love and gratitude to God. Children are pre-wired for service, so they'll be more eager to help out than you might expect. Just watch out: Your kids will begin to view the world from a whole new perspective. Coming face to face with human need is truly transformative! Use these ideas to start living out your gratitude as a family:

- With babies and toddlers, read aloud picture books about thankfulness. Then talk about ways we say thank you to God and other people.
- At home, provide Helper's Hints. On slips of paper, have kids write or draw a picture of a way to serve each family member. Then place the slips in a decorated shoebox. Examples include "Make Mom's bed," "Give a hug," or "Empty the dishwasher." Each morning, kids can choose a slip and use the hint to serve someone that day. Regularly add new ideas to the box.
- At church, volunteer as a family at a work day. Look for age-appropriate tasks for your kids, such as cleaning out pews, washing toys in the nursery, or pulling weeds.
- Be good neighbors! Older kids can help with lawn work, painting, and house- and pet-sitting. Younger children can provide company to elderly or homebound people, bringing flowers or cards during visits.
- Enlist children in the CSS: Christian Secret Service. Deploy kids for undercover operations by having them serve others covertly. They can leave sidewalk-chalk messages, deliver cards to a local nursing home, pick up trash at a favorite park, or wash windshields in the church parking lot.
- In the community, serve as volunteer readers at local schools and libraries. Older kids can tutor or be "buddies" to younger kids who need extra attention.
- Donate to food drives or help at a food bank. Discuss how God provides for us in amazing ways. (For example, read about the Israelites and manna in Exodus 16:11-18.)
- Participate in holiday toy drives. Or pack shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child.
- Stuff and label envelopes at a nonprofit or denominational organization. Ask what other immediate needs they have.

TEACHABLE MOMENTS

In Jesus' Steps

Have family members take off their shoes. Read aloud John 13:1-15, about Jesus washing his disciples' feet. Say: **In Bible times, servants washed the dirty feet of guests. It was a lowly job, but Jesus did it to show how we can serve other people.**

Take turns giving one another foot massages. Ask: **Why was Jesus willing to be a servant? How can we encourage each other to serve?**

Have family members use wet-erase markers to write the name of someone they'd like to serve on the bathroom mirror during the week. This will be a reminder to follow through on your service ideas.

Close in prayer: **Dear Jesus, thank you for coming to serve us. Help us love you by serving people around us. In your name we pray, amen.**

"Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous. And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God. So two good things will result from the ministry of giving—the needs of the believers in Jerusalem will be met, and they will joyfully express their thanks to God."

—2 Corinthians 9:11-12

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