

Parent Link Faith@home

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

'Tis the Season to Give

Christmas is the season of giving. But let's be honest, it's also the season of getting. After all, the question everyone asks kids this time of year is "What do you want for Christmas?" So why wouldn't children think getting is the most important thing? Acts 20:35 says "it is more blessed to give than to receive."

But in our culture of "gimme, gimme, gimme," we have to work even harder as parents to help our children believe that it's more blessed to give than to receive. What can you do?

-Encourage your children to consider

the great gift that God has given us in the birth of our Savior.

-Remind them that God could've selfishly held onto His son. But instead, God gave lavishly to us.

-Share with your children the great joy you get in giving to others. Tell them about times you were more blessed to give than to receive. Your

personal example is a powerful teaching tool for your children.

-Edit your own "wants" list at this time of year. If your children perceive that you really value getting more than giving, no words will make up for your role model. Instead, search for ways you can lead your family to give to others and truly enjoy the blessing of giving. (Continued, p. 2)



ASK GOD:

1. To transform your hearts to be selfless instead of selfish.
2. To guide you into ways to lead your family to serve others.

Upcoming Events

Nativity Night at Awana but ALL are welcome!

Outdoor Live Nativity Event
Dec. 14

Performance times:
4:45pm & 5:30pm

Experience Mary and Joseph's journey to the manger as we bring the Christmas story to life!

We'll conclude with hot chocolate and treats, and friendly barn animals to pet.

***Please dress warm and wear shoes to be outside.**

Parents are always welcome!

FBC Kids

Ultimate Adventure

Sundays, 9am

In The GOSPEL PROJECT we honor the birth of Jesus, the Savior God had promised.

In January, we'll study the incredible power Jesus demonstrated over the brokenness of a fallen world.

Children's Church

Sundays, 10:30am

We are beginning our study of the Gospel of Luke. In Dec. we will cover Luke 1:1-4:13, ending the month with our annual in-class Christmas pageant. In Jan. we will cover Luke 4:14-7:50.

Lil' FBC Kids

Nursery & Pre-K

Available during all regular and Christmas services.

mainly music

Mondays, 9:20-10:30am
Resumes Jan. 5

Mother's Day Out

Tu & Th, 9-2:30pm
through Dec. 11.

MDO will start again Jan.6.
Info at 972-223-0000 x136

Have you seen our awesome new playground?

More info at
FaithBible.com

Awana

Sundays, 4:30-6:30pm

Dec. 7 Store Night

Dec. 14 BAF Nativity Night

Clubbers still come 4:30-6:30pm and will attend one of two performances: Cubbies & Sparks at 4:45pm Girls and Boys T&T at 5:30pm

***Please dress warm and wear shoes to be outside. Parents are always welcome!**

Club resumes on Jan. 11

ALSO, the Awana Grand Prix will be here in no time. Car kits are available for purchase in the Awana Store.

Serving Changes Kids

Children today want to serve others. Christian children have an added motivation to serve. They serve the same God and have the same spiritual gifts as the rest of us. And they've been given the same challenge and promise from God. For children, Acts 1:8 might sound something like this: "You'll be My witnesses, telling people about Me everywhere -- at home and school, throughout your town, across the country, and to the ends of the earth." As children serve others, they're a light for Jesus.

Kids benefit from serving others, according to Gordon and Becki West, founders of KidZ Kan!—a ministry of KidZ At Heart International. The Wests cite Children for Children, a nonprofit organization promoting hands-on volunteerism and giving for kids, that identifies several benefits children reap when they serve. They learn traits such as responsibility, leadership, critical thinking, problem-solving, self-respect, self-discipline, self-motivation, and tolerance.

When you teach your child to serve, you're also teaching that child to become a servant for life because children who serve become adults who serve. Consider these statistics from Engaging Youth in Lifelong Service (Independent Sector).

Adults who volunteered as children give more money and volunteer more time than adults who began serving later in life.

Two-thirds of adult volunteers began serving as children.

Across incomes and age groups, those who volunteered as children began serving as children.

Across incomes and age groups, those who volunteered as children give and volunteer more than those who didn't.

Use these ideas to cultivate a heart for service in your children.

Love Language Discuss with your kids how service is doing what someone else needs, not simply doing what we like to do for others. Then ask kids to identify meaningful ways they can show love to your family. Have kids create a service plan for the following week. Share reports at the end of the week.

Birthday Party for Jesus Have an "after Christmas" party where your children give their gently used toys to your church's children's ministry or a shelter in honor of Jesus.

Toy Wash Your family can help your church's nursery staff by washing toys. Preschoolers and preteens can work together to scrub plastic toys according to your church's nursery policies.

Prayer Aware When kids pray for other children, they make a deeper connection to those in need. Have kids choose a world region to learn about and pray for the children there regularly.



TEACHABLE MOMENTS

Opportunities to serve others abound at Christmastime—and many are quite easy. Try these ideas with your family.

Pay for the person's order in line behind you. Ask the cashier to tell the person it's a gift from God.

Lines, lines, lines. People are in such a hurry with Christmas shopping. Encourage your children to help spot someone you'll let go in front of you in line.

Volunteer to help an elderly neighbor or friend gift-wrap presents. Then deliver the wrapped packages to the person with a plate of baked goodies.

If your family drives around to look at Christmas lights on houses, choose one "winning" house to give a handmade certificate. Then say thanks for all their hard work to brighten up your Christmas.

Get connected!
FaithBible.com

"I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people.
The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today
in Bethlehem, the city of David!"

—Luke 2:10-11