

Parent Link *Faith@home*

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

Religious Freedom

Religious freedom is truly a blessing. So many around the world are less fortunate and cannot worship freely. Three quarters of the world's population lives in areas with severe religious restrictions, the most persecuted being Christian, according to the Pew Research Center.

Christian persecution is any hostility as a result of one's identification with Jesus, from verbal harassment to imprisonment, even violent death. Around the world, experts believe there are more than 100,000 Christians murdered each year for their faith.

Christians are forced to hide their faith in more than 60 countries, including North Korea, India, and Somalia, but mostly in the Middle East, where Christianity was born. There, the number of Christians has dropped significantly even in the past several years, from 25 percent of the

population in 2011 to just 10 percent today, says the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom. Politicians and religious leaders are working to stop violence against these Christians, using legislation, sanctions, and public visits to affect change. To learn more how your family can pray for and support efforts in combatting Christian persecution, visit OpenDoorsUSA.org.



ASK GOD:

1. To fortify world leaders working to overcome religious persecution.
2. For opportunities to teach your kids about the freedom we have in Jesus.

Upcoming Events

FROZEN

Night at Awana, March 1
Your favorites will be there to share a special message.

--Spring Break Camps--

ONEGOAL Soccer Camp

Mar. 9-11 (M-W)

9-11:30am. Cost is \$45

for ages 6-10, includes T-shirt
*Ages 3-5 will not be turned away.

Faith Adventure Camp

Mar. 10&11 (T-W)

12:30-5:30pm. Cost is \$35

1st-6th grade

Register at: FaithBible.com

Save the Date! **VBS**

June 15-19, 9am-noon

FBC Kids

Ultimate Adventure

Sundays, 9am

In The GOSPEL PROJECT we'll journey toward Jerusalem studying Jesus' life and teachings as examples for His followers of true holy living.

Children's Church

Sundays, 10:30am

We are continuing in Luke, looking at the attitudes and actions of a disciple of Jesus: faith, love, prayer, repentance, and more. We also continue to learn about missions in Africa, past and present.

Lil' FBC Kids

Nursery & Pre-K

Available during both Sunday services.

mainly music

Mondays, 9:20-10:30am

Come enjoy music and movement for you and your little one.

Mother's Day Out

Tu & Th, 9-2:30pm

Info at 972-223-0000 x136

Have you seen our awesome new playground?
It's playtime!

More info at
FaithBible.com

Awana

Sundays, 4:30-6:30pm

Dads & Daughters Dessert

Friday, Mar. 6 @ 7p, FLC
sponsored by

Awana T&T Girls Club

Sign up to bring a dessert and to be in the talent show.

R.S.V.P. Mary West
(214)399-7099

mwest67@aircanopy.net

- Mar. 1 Frozen Night
- Mar. 8 Awana Store Night
- Mar. 15 Crazy Hat Night
- Mar. 22 Western Cook-out
- Mar. 29 BAF & Early Easter

**Apr. 5 No Awana
Easter Break**

Freedom in Jesus

To your kids, being a Christian might on the surface feel like a burden of rules—a list of things they can't do and fun they can't have, especially as they grow older and face even more worldly temptations. There are movies they can't watch, Web sites they can't visit, and constant reminders not to do many things. So how do we show kids that the freedom Jesus gives us is different from—and infinitely better than—the type of freedom the world has to offer?

Here are ideas:

Kids start to learn about consequences at a very young age. So you can use many situations to make the point that God gave us rules to live by because He made us, understands what's best for us, and loves us. He wants us to live our best lives.

Food Choices: Our food choices affect how we feel for the day. As kids choose their snacks or meals, think through with them which foods are the best choices and why. As kids get older, they'll learn there are other consequences for making bad food choices, too, such as cavities and lack of energy to participate in fun things such as sports.

Secrets: Ask kids to think about a time they kept a secret about something they did wrong, a bad choice they made. Tell them to think about how they might have thought they had to lie to someone they loved to keep that secret. Ask: How did you feel when you didn't tell the truth about the secret? And how did that compare to telling the truth about something, even when it was difficult to do so?

Pets: If you have a pet, talk with your child about what would happen if you didn't have rules for your pet. Ask: Why do we put Tigger on a leash when we go for a walk? What might happen if we never told Tigger "no"? Explain why you think rules are good for our pet.

TV Characters: Use the choices of characters in movies and on television as a learning tool. Ask: What choices led to the outcome? How might different choices have changed things? What would you tell that person about how to make good choices? Also look for ways to illustrate the difference between fixing one bad choice versus the effects of ongoing bad choices. Does the character redeem himself from a bad choice? How is the damage worse when a bad habit forms?

Use these ideas to point out positive consequences of good decisions, too, such as good grades, healthy bodies, and trustworthy friendships. Discuss how what feels like freedom in the moment can actually harm us if it's not part of God's plan for us.

Get connected!
FaithBible.com

"And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."
John 8:32