

Parent Link *Faith@home*

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

Jesus Is the Reason

Our prayer for you this Christmas is for you and all of your family to reconnect with the reason behind the season. There's something in the birth of a child – God with us – that the Father wanted to communicate. A plan that was deeper than the wise men, the shepherds, or even Jesus' parents could understand. A purpose that is at once profoundly simple and beautifully complex; rooted in our personal lives and resounding across history.

At some point, we will pack up the Christmas decorations, and we won't be thinking so much about Jesus as

that sweet baby in the manger. But, the reality of Immanuel remains: God with us. Not God was with us or God will be with us, but God with us. Here, now, and always. Christmas reminds us of the sacrifice. It reminds us of the sweetness. And, when the Christmas season moves another eleven months away on the calendar,



the God of the Universe, doesn't move an inch. He is here. He is alive. He is working. We are so thankful for that little baby in the manger. For His perfect life. For His horrific death. For His miraculous resurrection. And for the way that He reigns now, on a throne at the right hand of the Father. He is there now, and yet He is here, working in all the details of our lives, reigning in our hearts, and promising that He will never leave or forsake us.

"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call His name Immanuel" Matthew 1:23

See page 2 for a **Fresh Start in 2016**

Upcoming Events



Help us help others.

Please donate to the DeSoto Food Pantry.

We will be collecting cans and non-perishables Sunday mornings and at Awana, now through Dec. 13

Join us for a candlelight Christmas Eve Service December 24 @ 6pm

FBC Kids

Ultimate Adventure

Sundays, 9am
In The GOSPEL PROJECT the Savior God had promised was born! Next, we'll learn about Moses and God forming His nation, saving them from physical captivity in Egypt as He would one day send Jesus to save His people from spiritual captivity

Children's Church

Sundays, 10:30am
In December, we finish Genesis and celebrate the birth of Christ! In January, we begin a new study, "Jesus in the Old Testament related to the Gospels."

Lil' FBC Kids

Nursery & Pre-K

Available during all regular and Christmas services. Want to help? Ask Donna

Mother's Day Out

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

mainly music

Mondays @ 9:30am
"It's the ultimate playgroup!"
Last session and Christmas party will be Mon. Dec. 7. We will resume on Jan. 4.

More info at FaithBible.com

Awana

Sundays

4:30-6:30pm

Dec. 6 Store Night

Dec. 13 **BAF Nativity Night**

Weather permitting... we are planning an **Outdoor Live Nativity**

***Please dress your child warmly and with shoes to be outside.**

Christmas Break

No Awana: Dec. 20, 27, and Jan. 3

Awana resumes Jan. 10 with a BAF and Triple Share Night.



More ideas...

to begin the new year right.

De-clutter and de-stress.

If you didn't purge some of your family's belongings before the holidays, do so in January. Together, sort and donate clothing and toys you've outgrown. Talk about how possessions are a blessing from God but don't replace Him. Also examine your family's schedule and see if you can cut an activity or two. Try to set aside at least one free evening per week.

Tend to your goals.

Discuss ways we can reach the goal of moving closer to Jesus (reading the Bible, praying, singing praise songs, showing love to other people, etc).

Stay focused.

Read Romans 2:7 and talk about what we miss when our focus is wrong. Discuss what really matters—God and our relationship with Him.

Avoid distractions.

Share distractions that can make you take your focus off God. Then make a plan to overcome them in the week ahead. Close in prayer, thanking God for always loving us and being faithful to us, even when we lose our focus on Him. Also ask God to help your family not forget Him in the year ahead but to seek Him and put Him first, above everything else.

Get connected!
FaithBible.com

Fresh Start in 2016

As you look forward to 2016, it's an ideal time to make sure your family is looking toward God. A new calendar year can mean a fresh start in many areas—including your family life and your faith life.

With busy schedules, it's easy to fall into "survival mode" and lose focus on what really matters: the eternal future of our children and ourselves.

So no matter what other goals you set for the year ahead, keep in mind the "end goal" of heaven. Then be intentional with all of your choices. Arrange plans around the big-picture goal. If activities or possessions start interfering with what's really most important, re-evaluate and rework your family's schedule. When faith is your top priority—and your family's—it'll also become your children's top priority.

ASK GOD:

- 1. To guide and protect your family in the new year ahead.**
- 2. To help you de-clutter your lives and hearts so you can stay focused on Jesus.**
- 3. To show your children the importance of living for Jesus—and living like Jesus.**

Here are more ideas for staying focused on Jesus during the new year:

- Create a family mission statement together. Decide your values, purpose, and vision. Then have everyone commit to living that way, publicly and privately.
- Start reading an age-appropriate devotional book together after dinner. End each time with prayer.
- Make worship a weekly highlight. Afterward, talk about what you learned. Show kids that following Jesus is a joyful, lifelong pursuit.

As a parent, your most important role—and goal—is helping your kids know and follow Jesus. He'll help you and your family focus on Him, no matter what you're facing. Have a conversation with your kids, starting with these questions:

- What things would you like to achieve or accomplish during the next week, month, and year?
- What are ways you can stay focused on a goal, despite challenges?
- What goals do you think Jesus wants us to set? How can He help us reach them?

"This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to Himself through Christ."

—2 Corinthians 5:17-18