

Mount Zion - Children's Church News

We are learning, loving and serving God together!

Hard to believe November is upon us! Our workers are working hard to improve our Children's Ministry in order to give the children the best possible foundation to walk with in God. Therefore, we are making some changes to how we operate.

Important notice

We are establishing some **new rules** starting this month in order to instill in the children the importance of Children's Church and keeping our commitments.

1. We will start our time together at **10:40 am** every Sunday regardless of what is happening in the main service. This will help everyone to set a consistent routine.
2. If the children are late they disrupt the meeting and give a bad example to the others. It is our expectation that the children will be on time. Any child who comes **after 10:40 will be asked to return to the main service and sit with his/her parents.**

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to speak with me or email me (address below).

Rita Cardarelli (Children's Church Director)

Children's Church Workers

Grace Castro-Nolet	Lilianne Mingardi
Luisa Thuswaldner	Radina Petrova
Steve Thuswaldner	Vincent Nolet

General Theme for Several Months: Jesus – His Birth and Ministry

November Focus: God loves me and sent Jesus

- **Jesus' Birth**
- **Underlying Concepts**
 1. Because God loves us He sent His son Jesus.
 2. Jesus is our Saviour. He rescues us from sin.
 3. God is faithful and kept His promise to send Jesus. We also should keep our promises.

November's Scripture Memory Verses:

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, so that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

Luke 2: 10 and 11 "The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior is born to you; he is Christ the Lord."

Upcoming Dates/Events

Nov. 3 to Dec. 1

We are **planning a presentation for our Dec. 7 Christmas dinner.** Therefore it is **very important that your children come to church regularly.** They are part of a team and when one is away the team does not function as it should. It lets the others down!

- **Nov. 3 to Dec. 1- preparations for Dec. 7 / art work and voice recordings**
- **Nov. 10 – Scripture Memory recitation & prizes!**
- **Nov. 24 – Videotaping for Dec. 7 presentation**

What Parents Can Do

Please **review the memory verses** every day with your child. Doing it together sets an example that you consider it a priority in your life too!

Ask your child what they are learning in Children's Church. Showing your interest affects their motivation to learn.

Encourage regular church attendance to show the importance of keeping our commitments/promises!

Helpful Hints: See next page!

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Helpful Hints

As an educator for many years, parents who were experiencing difficulties with their child at home would come to me and ask; "How come my child listens to you and not us?"

I often responded with a few words of wisdom that I've learned through many years of experience!

1. **Have the courage to say "NO"**. Parents sometimes think if they say "no" to their children they won't "like" them. My response to them was always; "you are not your children's friend, you are their parents". Children need parents to set boundaries for them. They look to their parents to give them the guidance and direction they need (even if they sometimes act like they don't want it!). By saying "no" to certain things parents are instilling necessary morals and values that children need.
Scripture: Proverbs 22:6 "Train children of on the way they should go and even when they are old they will not turn from it."
2. **Be consistent**. As teacher and principal, my students always knew where I stood on matters. I established rules, expectations, consequences and rewards with them early in the year and **always maintained them**. I didn't deviate from the rules, no matter what was going on. Your "yes" means "yes" and your "no" means "no"! (2 Cor 1:17-19) **Establish rules and set consequences that have meaning for your child and are logical**. For example, parents often make the mistake of giving consequences that don't fit the crime or are too long. If a child breaks something of value when they were told not to touch it, a logical consequence is that they have to pay for it out of their allowance. Another example of a logical consequence for not adhering to a week night curfew would be losing a weekend privilege, (not losing a privilege for a month). If it's too long it loses its effect. The key is to **ALWAYS follow through with what you say**. When parents are consistent, children learn what to expect and also learn to trust what parents say.
3. James Lehman, (child behavioral therapist), says that the rules shouldn't get more—or less—strict because you're tired, or frustrated. Rules shouldn't be more lenient because you're enjoying yourself and having a good day. "The rules are your structure," he explains, "They're your guidelines for power." **Being consistent with your rules, values, limits, and consequences is a crucial part of establishing a culture of accountability in your home**—the structure that upholds you the parent as the authority that your child answers to. When you are not consistent in these areas, you undermine your own authority because the boundaries aren't clear—and what you say doesn't match up with what you do."

You are probably wondering: "Okay, where do I start. Do I have to establish all these rules for everything?". My suggestion is to start small! Deal with the most pressing issue. Establish a rule for that and follow through on consequences and rewards. Once that rule has a firm foundation, move to the next issue. You will be much more successful! Try it out!

I'm always available to help out and welcome your feedback!

Rita (rita.cardarelli@mzchurch.net)