

# Mount Zion - Children's Church News

We are learning, loving and serving God together!

At Mount Zion Church, we enter the Christmas season by enjoying our annual meal together on **December 6**. It is always a wonderful time of fellowship, great food and much joy! Hope to see you there.

Our theme this month is **JOY**. It is an important concept for the children to learn. When they know that, they can have inner joy all the time they can learn to walk through any situation.

If you have 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	Liliane Mingardi
Luisa Thuswaldner	Marguerite MacDonald
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## December's Theme: JOY

We want the children to understand the true meaning of Joy. That it is a way of thinking and a way of looking at life. We can only have this joy through Jesus and through what he has done for us.

## Underlying Concepts:

- Because of Jesus, we can have true joy even in difficult times, because He promised to never leave us.
- Develop an attitude of joy for every day.
- The story of the prodigal son and the lesson he learned about true joy.

## December's Scripture Memory Verse:

Psalm 95:1 "Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation."

## Upcoming Dates/Events:

**Dec. 6:** Mount Zion Christmas dinner.

**Dec. 21:** *Happy Birthday Jesus Celebration* for all the children at Mount Zion! Please mark this date in your calendars. We have lots of fun with games and treats!

**Dec. 24:** Christmas Eve Communion Service and Fellowship

## What Parents Can Do:

The Christmas season is the perfect opportunity to teach children about the saying; "*it is better to give than to receive*". Parents can help their children plan in advance who they would like to bless. Giving does not have to be simply buying someone a gift. However if they do want to buy something, the money used should be money they have earned so they understand the value of giving from their savings. Giving can also mean they can make something, a hand written message, bake cookies, spend time visiting an elderly person or playing with a younger child. Share with children the idea of *random acts of kindness* such as shoveling a neighbour's driveway before they come home. Your children will be filled with **joy** as they see fruits of their giving!

**Helpful hints: see next page!**

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Helpful Hints:

## The True Meaning of Joy

***"The Lord has done great things for us and we are filled with joy." Psalms 126:3***

It is easy for all of us to fall into the commercial trappings of the Christmas season. Children start making lists of presents they want in November! They think the next best toy will make them truly happy. As parents, we know from experience that although they may be thrilled with their gift, in a week or two it will be in the toy box heap! Although there is nothing wrong with receiving gifts at Christmas time, we want to teach our children that they can have a lasting joy regardless of any event, material possession or temporary feelings.

So how do parents avoid having children focus only on external things to bring them happiness? The simple answer is taking time in your daily life to teach your children that **joy comes from within, knowing that God loves you. Joy doesn't depend on our circumstances. We can be content in good times or difficult times because we know that God is with us and will never leave us (Hebrews 13:5). Joy is praising God in every situation. Joy is an attitude of Thanksgiving.**

A few suggestions to develop joy in your children:

- Help your children nurture a relationship with God by praying together. When difficult times come, your children will know who to turn to and where to draw their strength. **Nehemiah 8:10** *"The joy of the Lord is your strength."*
- Show your children how to choose the right attitude. Keeping our eyes focused on the Lord makes Him **bigger** than any problem. Choose to have joy! **Philippians 4:4** *"Rejoice in the Lord always".*
- Form the habit of appreciating the countless moments of joy and happiness that occur in your family's life each day. Count your blessings together when you tuck your children in bed or at the kitchen table before they go off to school or at supertime.
- Teach your children to be open to the Holy Spirit within them. He empowers all of us to walk through any difficulty. Joy is a manifestation of the fruit of the Holy Spirit in our life. **Galatians 5:22-23**

Christmas is a perfect time to reflect on the abundance we have in Jesus. He is our good Shepherd and He provides for all our needs. Knowing this fills us with great **JOY**. When children know who the source of their joy is, all the other "stuff" has much less meaning. In **John 15:11** Jesus tells us that when we know the word will we have joy. *"I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete."*

***May the Joy of the Lord be with all our families! We send blessings from all of us at Children's Church.***

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Year 2014 – Issue 12 - Mount Zion – Children's Church News

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