

Mount Zion - Children's Church News

We are learning, loving and serving God together!

Spring is a time of renewal and new life! We are so thankful that we are "a new creation" in Jesus and that we can share this good news with others.

Our theme this month is all about how to be a good friend to others by being encouraging and showing our love in different ways every day!

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

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April's Theme: Friendship

The bible can teach us much about the meaning of friendship. Jesus is our role model.

Underlying Concepts:

- Jesus demonstrated the ultimate gift of friendship by dying for us. We will review the death and resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday.
- What are the qualities and characteristics of being a good friend?
- How can we be a "good friend" to others and let them see the light of Jesus in us?

April's Scripture Memory Verse:

1 Thessalonians 5:22

"Therefore encourage one another and build one another up."

Upcoming Dates/Events:

April 5: Easter Celebration

What Parents Can Do:

Did you know research indicates that parents tend to criticize their children more than offer praise and encouragement? It takes four affirming comments from a teacher or parent to offset the effects of one criticism directed towards a child.

With that in mind, let us be more conscious of how we use our words towards our children. Try to encourage and praise them so that they can grow up with confidence knowing that you love them.



See helpful hints: see next page!

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Helpful Hints:

Encouragement

All parents want to see their children grow up with confidence and positive self-esteem. One way to do that is with a daily dose of encouragement! ***"Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing."*** (1 Thess. 5:22) As you consistently build up your children, they will see themselves as worthwhile. Encourage them to have faith in their efforts, rather than the outcomes.

Research shows that children who feel encouraged are more apt as adults to try new things and do not fear making mistakes. They feel a greater sense of safety and they are more accepting of themselves and others.

Part of my Job as an educator was to inspire my students to reach their potential. To encourage them, I spent time and effort to see their gifts and talents. Then I fostered in them the belief that they could achieve any learning goal. My experience has taught me that, to have an impact on a child, encouragement must have some characteristics that parents can easily implement at home.

- 1. Be specific when encouraging a child.** Use your words wisely. Stating "I really liked the strategies you used to solve that problem" has much more impact than simply saying "good job".
- 2. Acknowledge your child's effort.** Effort is what counts. Say, "Thank you for helping your brother to clean his room." "I like the way you included your sister in the game." Recognition and observation let your child know that you've seen their hard work. Telling them you appreciate their effort will motivate them to continue doing their best.
- 3. Practice active listening.** Pay attention when your child is telling you something! Respond to his/her comments. It shows that what they are saying has value. I know it's hard sometimes, but if you do it consistently it does pay off. When something serious arises, they will talk to you about it because they know you are there for them.
- 4. Share decision-making.** The more I involved children in classroom decisions, the more they were engaged in their learning. Asking their opinion empowered them with a greater sense of responsibility. Discussing family decisions is a form of encouragement because it shows to your children that their opinions matter. This leads to a greater sense of belonging.

Our job, as adults, is to inspire and support our children to achieve all their God-given potential. Let us share His love by the encouraging words we speak to them every day!

"Anxiety in a man's heart weighs him down, but a good word makes him glad." (Proverbs 12:25)



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