

FYI

Awana Closing Program

Joins us on May 5 at 6:45 PM as we celebrate the accomplishments of our Awana clubbers during the 2009-2010 Awana year. There will also be a time of light refreshments and fellowship following the program.

CMBC Children's Ministry Website

Check out the CMBC Children's Ministry website! This website contains information about our ministries, as well as resources for parents to use as they lead their children in knowing and serving God. One exciting feature of the website will be a sermon follow-up that Pastor Reid will be posting each week following the Sunday services. There is a link to the website from the church's homepage (www.calvarymonument.org).

Targeting Truth

Can truth really be relative?

Help your kids learn to discover God's absolutes.

by Marlene LeFever

The barn was covered with circle targets, each with a bullet hole in the bull's eye. But the farmer wasn't a crack shot. He just shot first and drew the circle around the hole later. This is the way a lot of our children approach truth. Truth, like the center of the target, is whatever they say it is. It's whatever feels right at the moment or seems convenient for them.

Our children live in a culture that doesn't value absolute truth. And we as Christians aren't exempt from this kind of thinking. According to the Barna Research Group, only 9 percent of Christian teens, for example, believe in moral absolutes. If we want our children to cherish truth, we have to take a look at the subtle messages we send about the importance of truth.

Let's say Kelsey pinches another child and her mother justifies it by saying that Kelsey is having a bad day. If the

mother doesn't make Kelsey responsible for her actions and explain that what she did was wrong, she's avoiding the moral truth of the situation. If Casey's father punishes him for lying, but says, "Tell them I'm not home," when he doesn't want to take a phone call, Casey learns that truth in one situation is not necessarily truth in every situation.

As children reach the elementary years, they are exposed to the myriad values of other children. For the first time, they see that their family values aren't necessarily the values of others. They need your help to figure out why you believe what you say you believe and why you live the way you do. They simply will not develop an understanding of absolute, Christ-centered truth without your guidance.

Truth continued on back page

Summer Program Registration!

This summer's children's ministry calendar is full of exciting events that will challenge our children to grow in the Lord and to have a lot of fun while they're at it! Registration forms for the following summer programs will be available beginning April 11.

- **Heroes of the Faith and Future:** Children who have completed Kindergarten through 5th grade will explore 1 Corinthians 13 and learn how to be the kind of friend Christ intends for us to be. They will then be able to participate in a workshop (sports, crafts, cooking, drama, science lab, etc.) and learn how to live out each character trait in their own life! *Heroes* will be held Wednesday evenings starting May 19.
- **VeggieConnections:** This program includes lots of fun activities and VeggieTales characters! Children 3-5 years old will learn to connect with the Lord. *Veggies* will be held Wednesday evenings starting May 19.
- **The Egypt File (VBS):** The Egypt File will meet each evening during the week of July 11-15. During VBS, kids will learn that they are specially created in the image of God for the purpose of loving and serving Him. Children age 3 through those who have completed 6th grade are invited to attend.
- **Extreme Challenge Summer Camp:** This overnight camping adventure (August 2-6) is for children who have completed 3rd-6th grade. At camp, children will participate in incredible games, swimming, and other indoor and outdoor activities. They will experience fun times in small groups, in exciting worship, and in learning challenges from God's Word.



Contact Information

Heather Ensslen
Director of
Children's Ministries
1660 Mine Road
Paradise, PA 17562

717-442-8161
heathere@calvarymonument.org

Truth continued from front page

A task this important calls for a lifestyle where truth is lived and honored at all cost. That means:

Being consistent. Make your yes "yes," and your no "no." If Kimberly has been told to finish her veggies before she can have dessert, she shouldn't get dessert if the beans stay on her plate. Kids might appear to bristle under such firm boundaries and expectations, but child development experts agree that children feel more comfortable and confident when they know that the adults around them can be trusted to mean what they say.

Considering the cost of truth training. Modeling truthfulness can be inconvenient. If you drive the speed limit when a police cruiser is behind you, then

speed up when it's gone, your kids will notice. If you expect your children to make difficult choices about right and wrong, you have to show them how it's done.

Explaining truth. As children get older, they start to understand that the truth is often complex. In Sunday school, I was telling the story of Jesus' healing of Jairus' daughter. "Was she really dead?" Jimmy asked. "Yes," I replied. "Well, why did Jesus lie and say she was sleeping?" We stopped right there and talked about how Jesus was telling the mourners that life doesn't end with physical death. We have to help children understand the subtle shadings of truth by talking about white lies and half truths.

Being fair. To elementary children, truth and justice

are the same concept. This can be tricky because sometimes life isn't fair. Do your best to help your child live honestly even in the face of injustice, and support her efforts to be honest even when doing so might get her into trouble in the short run.

Living differently. Traditions and rituals, for example, help demonstrate Christian differences. Make bold choices and children will notice. So will others around you. People are hungry for truth and are drawn to someone who dares to say, "As for me and my family, we will struggle to live with honesty and integrity."

This article first appeared in the March 2003 issue of *Christian Parenting Today*. Used by permission of Christianity Today International, Carol Stream, Illinois 60188

Summer Volunteer Opportunities

Summer is only a few months away! The "Summer 2010 Volunteer Opportunities Booklet" is now available at the children's ministry bulletin board. As you pray about serving the Lord by ministering to the children of CMBC and the community, use this booklet to help you find a position that will make use of your gifts, talents, and skills. There are a wide variety of positions available—from Bible teaching, to leading craft activities and games, to support positions. Get involved today!

April 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 Easter	5	6	7 Awana, 6:45 PM	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 Awana, 6:45 PM	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 Awana, 6:45 PM	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 Awana, 6:45 PM	29	30	