

CMBC

# Kids' Konnection

January

2009



FYI

## Parent and Child Dedication Service

A Parent/Child Dedication Service will be held during the second worship service on February 8, 2009. This service provides an opportunity for parents to openly declare that they want to bring up their child in the ways of the Lord. If you would like to be involved in this service, please complete the "Application for Dedication of a Child" card that is available at the literature table closest to the main office and return it either to Pastor Reid or put in the church office drop box. Contact Pastor Reid or the church office for more information (717-442-8161).

## Service Opportunities

Do you want to get involved in sharing the love of Jesus with children? We currently have openings for Nursery Caregivers, Sunday morning PreSchool volunteers, Junior Church Leaders, and Awana Puggles and Cubbies Leaders. Contact Heather Ensslen if you would like more information.

## Growing Up with God

An age-by-age guide to nurturing your child's faith  
by Marlene LeFever

Four-year-old Alicia made a slight mistake when she said her Bible verse: "That who so ever believes in him should not perish but have ever *laughing* life." Grinning, her mother didn't correct her. That's exactly how she wants Alicia to feel about Jesus. From their earliest days, we want our children to know the joy of learning about Jesus. But how much can a child really understand about God? And how does that change as she gets older? To help our children develop a faith that will carry them into adulthood, it's essential we play off their strengths at each stage of development.

### A Solid Start: Birth to 2

Even these early years are critical to your child's spiritual development. As a parent, you're always there, ready to feed your baby when he's hungry, play with him when he's awake and rock him when he's fussy. Through these experiences, your child develops a foundation of love and trust in you that will later lead to trust in God.

Children under 2 also learn by imitating. When you pray with your toddler, she might fold her hands and try to copy the language and

tone of your prayers. These activities will eventually help your child make sense of the concept of having a relationship with God.

Children first become conscious of God around age 2. The God-images they develop now are crucial to their future concept of who God is. You can help shape your child's idea of God by talking about God's love and kindness. You can assure your child that we can trust God to take care of us.

This is also a great time to use your child's natural curiosity as a springboard for talking about God's power and creativity. Talk about God as the Creator as you walk outside, read about nature or visit the zoo.

### Bible truths for Birth to 2-year-olds:

- God made all things.
- God loves and cares for me.
- Jesus, God's Son, loves me.

### Learning Explosion: Ages 3 and 4

At this stage, a child will often express his thoughts and feelings through play. As your child learns more about God's love, he'll want to show God love in return. He can do

**Growing** continued on back page

## A Look Ahead to Summer 2009

Plans for Summer 2009 are already underway! We are planning to hold Vacation Bible School (VBS) again this summer. VBS will be held in the evenings of July 12-16, 2009.

An exciting addition to the events this summer is a week at Kingdom Quest Camp (held at Camp Joy El in Greencastle, PA). This week-long overnight camp experience will be held August 3-7, 2009 and is for children who will have completed grades 3-6.

An information meeting about camp will be held immediately following the second service on April 5, 2009. Watch for more details in the coming months! We are looking for several adults and teens who would like to serve as camp staff. If you are interested, please contact Heather Ensslen.





**Contact Information**

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**456 Sermon Notes**

Children who have been completing the 456 Sermon Notes should turn in their completed sheets to Heather Ensslen this month in order to receive their special event invitation.

Children who entered fourth grade this fall are invited to participate in the 456 Sermon Notes program. Each week, a sheet for taking notes during the sermon is created for children in 4th-6th grade. To sign up to receive these pages, please contact Heather Ensslen.

*Growing* continued from front page that through simple songs and prayers.

This is also a stage of rapid mental development. Between the ages of 3 and 10, the activity level in your child's brain is about 225 percent higher than that of an adult brain. With this expanding mental ability comes a better understanding of right and wrong. So as your preschooler learns Biblical truths like loving others and respecting parents, he can begin to apply those truths to his actions. Now is a good time to talk to your child about his conscience. Explain that the conscience is one way God talks to us. When our conscience tells us something is wrong, we need to listen.

**Bible truths for 3- and 4-year-olds:**

- The Bible tells me about a loving God and his Son, Jesus.
- I can listen to Bible stories and learn Bible verses.

- I'm beginning to understand that the Bible is God's Word.
- I know that Jesus feels sad when I do something I shouldn't.

**A Child of God: Ages 5 and 6**

At this age, many children who have been raised in Christian homes are ready to ask Jesus to be their friend for life. Although this is an exciting time for parents, it's important to let them make their own decision. Sharon, the mother of 6-year-old twins says, "They're asking questions about sin and Jesus' death on the cross. But they don't quite get it yet." She says. "I'm not pushing them. I want their decision to be made for the right reasons, not because they're pleasing me."

By the time your child reaches 6 years old, she starts to realize that Bible stories and songs actually relate to her own identity

as a Christian. You can use simple symbols as teaching tools. For example, set an extra plate and chair at the table and explain that it's for Jesus who is with you all the time even though you can't see him.

**Bible truths for 5- and 6-year-olds:**

- Jesus loves everyone and that's why he came to earth.
- I know who God is, what he's like and what he's done for me.
- I can talk to God whenever and wherever I want.
- I know people in Bible times loved God and served him, and I know how I can love and serve him today.

*This article will be continued in the February 2009 issue of Kids' Konnection.*

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*Free Children and Family Programs*

There are several websites online where you can listen to great radio shows, podcasts, and children's programs free of charge! Check out the websites listed below:

- Oneplace.com: "The Online Home of Christian Radio Ministry." Here you will find *Down Gilead Lane*, *Your Story Hour*, *Paws & Tales*, plus *FamilyLife Today*, *Insight for Life*, and many more!
- Focusonthefamily.com: Click on the "Family Media Center" link to access *Adventures in Odyssey*, *Family News in Focus*, *Dr. Dobson Podcasts*, and more!

**January 2009**

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