



FYI

**You are Invited...**

To serve in Children's Ministry! Pick up a copy of the "Volunteer Opportunities Booklet" to read about the many ways you can get involved. The booklet is available on the children's ministry bulletin board in the main lobby. Contact Heather Ensslen if you have any questions and to fill out a volunteer application. Current open positions include: Nursery Caregiver; Early Service Pre-School Room volunteers; PreSchool Teachers/Assistants; 1st and 2nd Grade Girls Sunday School Sub; Junior Church leaders; Puggles, Cubbies, T&T Leaders; T&T Girls Game Leader.

## Raising Thankful Kids

*How to develop the virtue of gratefulness*  
Suzanne Woods Fisher

If I could guarantee a few things that my children would carry into adulthood, one would be a grateful heart. Gratitude is essential to a deep, maturing faith in God because it defines who we are, who God is and what we expect of life. I'm discovering that instilling thankfulness in our children is a long-term project. Obviously my family isn't finished yet, but we've stumbled onto ten key principles that have made a big difference.

### 1. Practice what you preach

As with everything else in life, kids learn best by example. Often I realize I've missed an opportunity to express and model gratitude. I'm trying to make this a higher priority, promptly writing thank-you notes, reciprocating a favor.

### 2. Give your kids less

This is probably the most effective way to get our children to appreciate more. Even if you can afford it, don't buy gifts habitually for your kids. It may make you feel generous, but children quickly feel entitled to treats and start expecting them.

### 3. Get a new perspective

Encounters with those who have less can sensitize your child to some of the pain and suffering in the world. It also helps kids realize how fortunate they are.

### 4. Learn to count

As you say prayers at night, count up five blessings of the day, one for each finger. The younger the child, the simpler the blessing.

### 5. Make the most of holidays

Start the ball rolling by asking your kids leading questions: Do you have good food on the table? Clothes to wear? Toys to play with? Family and friends who love you? Then pause and thank God for his great gifts. Keep this list on the fridge, add to it, enjoy it.

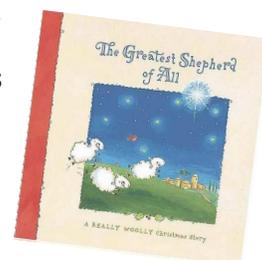
### 6. Separate privileges from rights

After years of campaigning, 11-year-old Becca of Danville, California, finally talked her mom, Debbie, into letting her take horseback riding lessons. "Becca, there's one thing you need to understand," Debbie told her. "These lessons are so costly I'll need to take on a few

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## A Look Ahead to Christmas 2009

- **Christmas Library Storytime**, Dec. 12, 9:30-10:30 AM: At our Christmas storytime, we'll be celebrating Jesus' birth. We'll read, "The Greatest Shepherd of All," design a special Christmas craft, and make a delicious treat. There will be a few other surprises as well! Children age 7 and under are invited to attend, when accompanied by an adult.
- **Children's Sunday School Christmas Program**, Dec. 20, 9:30-10:30 AM: Children in kindergarten-sixth grade are invited to join us for this year's Christmas program, "Once Upon A Christmas!" You'll hear from Mary, Joseph, an angel, and a shepherd and get to be a part of the action yourself! You'll also create a special ornament to remember the real reason for the season.



## Contact Information

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We're on the Web!  
CalvaryMonument.org

### Medical Information and Permission Forms

Parents of children under 18 should complete a form for each of their children that attend any CMBC ministry. Forms are available on the literature table. Return the complete form to the office.

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new piano students to pay for them. I'm willing to do this, but I will need you to do additional chores around the house. If you don't hold up your end, then the lessons will stop." That was more than a year ago, and Becca has done her part admirably. Debbie laid out clear guidelines that her daughter could understand about sacrifice, appreciation and the value of money, without guilt or martyrdom on Debbie's part. With that approach, kids perceive privileges, such as horseback riding lessons, as gifts, not rights.

### 7. Harness the power of ownership

My friend Kim has trained her daughter to earn her own money to pay for extras. "When we are shopping," says Kim, "and the

'I want, I need, I have to have' sentences come up, then I can ask: 'Do you have enough money to buy it?' The sense of ownership and gratitude is much greater when she spends her own money."

### 8. Tell kids what you expect

It just doesn't occur to most kids to show appreciation without a little prompting from their parents. Gestures like thanking the host for being invited to a party or writing a thank-you note to Grandma are taught and modeled.

### 9. Recognize the spiritual battle

Scripture repeatedly exhorts us to worship, praise and give thanks to God, in every circumstance. Thanking God for his involvement in our day-to-

day concerns keeps us focused on him. Saying grace at dinner time and prayers at bedtime are ideal moments to encourage the habit of thanking God.

### 10. Enjoy the payoff

Cultivating the habit of gratitude takes effort, but it yields rich dividends. As the psalmist proclaimed: "O Lord my God, I will give you thanks forever" (Ps. 30:12). A thankful heart and the ability to express gratitude make a dramatic difference in our children's relationship to others and especially in their relationship to God.

This article first appeared in the Winter 1999 issue of *Christian Parenting Today*. Used by permission of Christianity Today International, Carol Stream, Illinois 60188

## Websites Worth Checking Out

- **Wonderzone.com** is a website created by Child Evangelism Fellowship just for kids. On the website, children create a username to have access to a kid-friendly daily devotional, interactive Bible adventures, and games.
- **Questforcompassion.org** is an interactive journey into four distant villages created by Compassion International. Kids explore fun games while learning about the developing world. They'll keep a prayer journal, read Bible verses and more.
- **www.cbhministries.org/kfk/home.php** is CBH Ministries' Keys for Kids homepage. Kids can read or listen to a daily devotional and visit the CBH zone for games, puzzles, and more related to missions and CBH's kids ministries.

November 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 Awana, 6:45 PM	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 Awana, 6:45 PM	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 Awana, 6:45 PM	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 Thanksgiving Eve Service, 7 PM (No Awana)	26 Thanksgiving	27	28
29	30					