

FYI

Reminder for Parents

Parents, thank you for bringing your children to our Sunday children's ministry each week! As a reminder, please pick up your children in grades K-2 promptly after Sunday School. If your nursery or preschool child is not staying for the second worship service, please pick him or her up as soon as Sunday School is finished. Since many of our volunteers plan to attend the second service, they may not be able to attend the service on time if your children have not yet been picked up. Additionally, knowing which nursery and preschool children are staying for the second service allows us to ensure that there are enough adults in each of these classroom. Thank you for your help!

The chiming clock announced it was time to leave for church, and I was far from ready. Seeing my crazed preparations, my husband offered to iron my clothes for me. Our 3-year-old daughter, the connoisseur of conversation, approached him.

"Are you ironing your shirt, Daddy?" she asked.

"No, I'm ironing Mommy's shirt."

"Oh, did you think it was your shirt?" A small giggle escaped her lips. "That's silly."

"No, I knew it was Mommy's shirt," he said.

A puzzled expression crossed my daughter's face. "Then why are you doing that?"

"Because your mommy is a special person, and I like to help her," he answered.

"Oh," she happily replied, then skipped out of the room. "I'm going to go help my brother."

Be an Example

As our children's first teachers, we know that little eyes keep track of our every move. Even as you complete the most mundane tasks around the house, your kids are watching. Later, you may find your little imitator chattering into a plastic phone, cooking up meals in toy pots or pounding with "tools."

We know that our children imitate not only our actions, but our attitudes. And that can have its downside. We've all

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Memorization Tools for Awana

Below is a list of memorization tools for you to use as your work with your children on their Awana memory verses. For more information on each of the tools and to access the links, visit the children's ministry website (cmbcchildren.weebly.com).

- **BookWalks** "walk" you through your child's Sparks or T&T handbook, section by section, to help you help your child. Sometimes the BookWalk suggests ways to explain the verse to your child, or it might give you simple hints for helping your child memorize, or it might suggest activities to do with your child related to the handbook section. Visit the website listed above for more information.
- **Verse Printables:** Homeschool Creations is a website created by a homeschooling mom. She has created printable sheets to help her children memorize the verses in the Sparks and Cubbies handbooks. The printables include sentence strips, word cards that can be used to piece the verses together, and verse "puzzles." Visit the website listed above for more information.
- **Bible Memory CDs:** These CDs put verses to song so that your child can learn verses more easily through catchy tunes. There are CDs available for each of the Cubbies books, each of the Sparks books, and for the first two T&T books. The CDs cost \$9.99 each and contain all of the memory verses in the handbook set to music. To order a CD, contact Heather Ensslen (heathere@calvarymonument.org).
- **Parent Handbooks:** Awana also offers parent handbooks that allow you to study the same lessons your children in Sparks and T&T are learning in Awana. The books give you insights and ideas for teaching these Bible truths to your children. The parent handbooks cost \$6.95 each. To order a book, contact Heather Ensslen (heathere@calvarymonument.org).

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had those "Oh no" moments when we hear our children scold their siblings or friends in a tone we know they learned from us. But on the positive side, that same propensity to imitate can serve us well as we try to model, and in turn teach, an attitude of kindness and cheerful servanthood.

We all try to do nice things for our spouses and children. But even more important than what we do is how we act. The difference between "doing things" and "serving others" is a matter of attitude.

Think about the last time you cooked a meal or folded laundry. How did you feel about serving

your family in this way? Were you glad to do it or did you feel resentful that you were stuck with this mundane chore? Naturally, none of us has a cheerful servant's heart all day, every day. But if we want our children to willingly reach out to others and show kindness and compassion, it's essential that they see us doing the same.

Make the Connection

To translate your example of servanthood into something your child can start doing intentionally, you'll need to help your child make the connection between action and attitude.

Your always-observant preschooler may seem to

be an endless source of questions and curiosity. You can take advantage of her inquisitiveness to teach kindness. When she asks, "What are you doing?" instead of answering "I'm cooking," say, "I'm making dinner for you and Daddy because I love you."

Instead of saying "I'm working on the car," answer, "I'm fixing a problem so our family will be safe." This shows your child that what you do is not as important as the people you're doing it for.

To be continued next month...

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Nurturing Helpful Hearts

1. **Read a story about people who have helped each other (try Mark 2:1-5).** Point out to your kids how kind and loving behavior is appreciated.
2. **Make one evening a week "Share-the-Load Night."** Tackle household projects together like washing the dishes, stacking wood or helping the children clean their rooms.
3. **When you find litter in a public place, encourage your child to help you pick it up.** Explain that you're providing a clean area for others to enjoy.
4. **Make helping each other fun.** With younger children, take turns buttoning each other's coats. Let older children rake the yard together and jump in the leaves all they want.
5. **Have a "Big Helper" contest.** Make a simple chart and keep track of family members who have helped each other. At the end of the week, reward all helpers with a family prize such as an ice-cream outing.
6. **Help your child create "Serving Coupons" to give as gifts.** A younger child could include coupons for helping Mommy sweep. An older child could offer coupons good for walking the dog or reading a story to his little sister.
7. **Each morning, encourage your children to think of one way they can help someone else during the day.** At bedtime, talk about their acts of service and thank God for the specific ways they helped.
8. **Remind your child that praying is also a form of helping.** In situations when we can't physically assist others, we can ask God to help in his own special way. Teach your child that God is the best helper of all.

