

Children's Ministry Newsletter

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Discipling Children; Encouraging Families



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Office Hrs: Tuesdays & Thursdays

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From the Desk of Miriam Little



Spring is here. We spent part of Saturday cleaning up the garbage that has collected in the stream near our house. Lots of vines and branches had clogged up the stream so as to divert its flow. We pulled out a grocery cart, a snow board, some old bottles, balls and lots of other garbage. Speaking to my neighbor afterward, she said, "Now we can even hear the stream gurgling". And my granddaughter came running in because she saw fish for the first time making their way along the stream. It feels good to do some spring clean up.

Sometimes I feel the need to do some spiritual 'spring cleanup'. On Friday, I spent the day with a friend and we talked and prayed together. Some of the things I had been mulling over in my mind seemed clearer and I know what next step to take.

As you read the following pages about helping children problem solve, you may find that giving them time and space, yes, and even some quiet time will help. Offer a listening ear and pray with your child(ren) as they tackle their problems.

Looking ahead.... I hope you will mark your calendars for Carnival Connection on June 10th and Vacation Bible School during the week of July 30 to Aug 3rd.

The themes for this month's lessons are: **First Look** (for Preschool and Kindergarten children), 'God Loves Me'. For 252Basics (Grade 1 to 5) it is 'RESPONSIBILITY, showing you can be trusted with what's expected of you'. (See our church website for updates each week. Pick up the *Parent Cue* in the hallway or check out the emailed monthly version I send out).

Don't forget to return the money boxes for the 'High Five' Mission Project by May 20th. If your family didn't get a 'bank' just let me know and I will get you one. This worthy project is to sponsor children to go to camp in Lebanon through our STEP partner.

May you know the blessings of Christ,

Leaders in the Children's Programs!

Our leaders, nursery caregivers, and classroom helpers are amazing! Please let them know you appreciate the care they give our children.

All Children's Ministry volunteers are invited to join us for an informal brunch on Sunday morning, June 17th at 9:45 a.m. to celebrate the year. (Family members are welcome to come along.)

Carnival Connection

You won't want to miss this fun event sponsored by the Board of Christian Education!

INVITE YOUR FRIENDS! They will learn about the church and have tons of fun doing it.

YOU'RE INVITED TO MAKE A
YORKMINSTER PARK BAPTIST CHURCH
CARNIVAL
CONNECTION
CONNECTING WITH THE COMMUNITY!
JUNE 10TH - 12:30 to 3:30 pm

Enjoy **FREE LUNCH**
Jumping Castles
Trampoline
Clown & Face Painting
Salvation Army Band
FUN ACTIVITIES
for the whole family!

SOMETHING for EVERYONE

MUSIC FOOD

You Can Help!!!

We are seeking volunteers to help run this event. You may sign up for shorter or longer times to help with games, food, welcoming, tours, setup and tear down and much more. Please email the committee co-chairs Matthew Harris and Amy Charette at Amycharette@rogers.com or mattayork@hotmail.com for more information. Or speak to Miriam.

Check the next page for information on High Five, our mission project, the summer kid's event, SonRise National Park and for information about how to help in Sunday programs this summer.

SonRise National Park Day Camp

Yorkminster Park will host a half day summer kids' event during the week of July 30th to Aug 3, 2012 (also known as Vacation Bible School). It is for children from JK to Grade5 and runs for the mornings, Monday to Friday of this week.

Games, stories, crafts, and new friendships are all part of each day! It is all on the theme of the great outdoors in a National Park.

Brochures and applications are available from Miriam or on the Yorkminster Park Church website.

Consider how you might help in this outreach this summer. You can tell others about it; church & community kids are welcome and you could take a day or the week off your regular schedule to help in the program.

Themes for each day are:



Volunteers for summer

We want to run summer Sunday School at Yorkminster Park. Starting on May 13th you may sign up so that regular teachers can take a well deserved break. Please consider helping on one or two Sundays over the summer. Materials will be provided and if you are new to the ministry, you will always be placed with an experienced volunteer. If you haven't helped in the past we will request a short interview and police check in keeping with our safety policy.

"High Five"

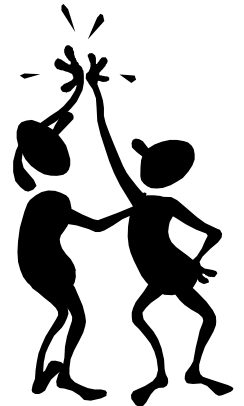
Children's Ministry Missions Project Spring 2012

You hear it everywhere, "Give me five!"

This saying evokes a response of celebration in us. Often we say it with a smile.

What a lot we have to celebrate! We, in our country, are blessed in incredible ways with resources and opportunities to get ahead. We have freedoms that most of the world just dreams about.

Remembering how blessed we are, we want to give to a ministry in Lebanon, supporting our STEP partner, the Lebanese Society for Education and Social Development (LSESD).



The children's and youth department of the LSESD runs camps to help children who come from varied life situations, some of them, very difficult. Some are abused, while others are from orphanages or are street children. Some children come from churches and they bring along their non-churched friends. There are many stories of changed lives and new hope from the experiences of camp.

As you may have experienced in your life, going to camp can change a life! Children learn about getting along, learn new skills and learn more about living for Jesus. They are away from their sometimes stressful, home environments and have the opportunity to build relationships with caring Christian leaders. To top it off, camp is FUN!

This summer, a Short Term Mission team from Yorkminster Park (six people including Kate Irish, Kathleen Wilson, Kelly Dixon, Mary Edward, Miriam Little, and Rick Menassa) are going to minister in one of these camps. We, in Children's Ministries, want to encourage our team and help the camp and so have Children's Ministries has chosen this as our Spring Mission Project.

Let us give the opportunity for more children to attend the camp. The cost to send one child to camp is \$165. **Our goal is to try to help at least 20 children go to camp this year!** Wouldn't that be awesome? High fives all around from Canada to Lebanon!

How to give

Please support the project by including a gift with your regular offering (clearly marked) or collecting coins in the box banks children received in class. Bring the box to the church before or on May 20th. Give the coins to the Sunday School teacher or Miriam. (Please clearly mark the box or envelope with your family name if you would like the total to be added to your tax receipt at the end of the year.)



the Parent LINK

Children's Ministry Edition



May 2012



POWERSOURCE

ASK GOD:

1. To help you be a Christ-like example of how to deal with—and learn from—problems.
2. To reassure your family members that God loves them, no matter what they're facing.
3. To help your kids trust God, not themselves, for answers.

Help Children Solve Problems

As kids grow, they must negotiate peer interactions, make decisions, and learn new skills. Here are age-appropriate insights about problem-solving:

Ages Birth to 2: Young children are sensory-oriented and learn by imitating. Offer choices and model problem-solving techniques, such as different ways of stacking blocks or holding a cup.

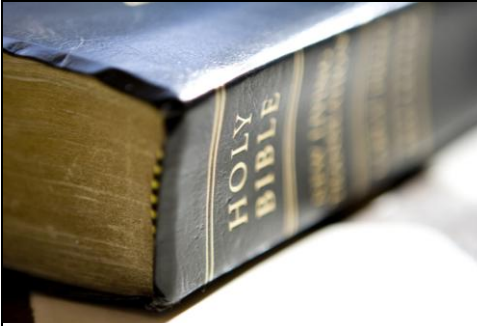
Ages 3 to 5: Preschoolers are multi-sensory, solving as they touch and do. Allow time and space for problem-solving. Praise kids' efforts.

Ages 6 to 8: By this age, kids begin to learn in specific ways (auditory, visual, spatial, etc.), which will affect how they tackle problems. Encourage kids to employ these different approaches as they problem-solve, too.

Ages 9 to 12: Preteens observe how peers solve problems. Although they want to be independent, they often lack confidence. Tell kids you trust their abilities. Let them know failure is okay. Be available to discuss problems.

INSIGHTS

- In a survey of more than 1,000 children ages 9 to 13, 35% said they worry "a lot" about making mistakes and messing up. Another 33% said they worry a lot about friends and their problems. The good news is that 75% of kids say they want and need their parents' help when they're struggling. (KidsHealth KidsPoll)
- When given training in appropriate ways to solve problems, children of all ages show improved social skills, as well as increased impulse control and patience. (thinkingpreteen.com)



“I thank and praise you, God of my ancestors, for you have given me wisdom and strength. You have told me what we asked of you and revealed to us what the king demanded.” (Daniel 2:23)

Although King Nebuchadnezzar’s astrologers said his dream was “impossible” to interpret, Daniel received answers from God in a vision. Then the king praised God!

TEACHABLE MOMENTS

1. “I Can’t” Jar—When children say they can’t do something, write down the problem and pray about it together. When the problem or obstacle has been overcome, put the slip of paper in the jar as a visual reminder of what God helps us accomplish.

2. Calm and Collected—Model for children how to react to bad or scary news. Don’t use worst-case scenarios or exaggerate risks just to make a point. Instead, provide accurate, age-appropriate information. Empower kids and give them a sense of control by brainstorming solutions with them.

3. Stand Together—Remind children that everyone has weaknesses and that God puts us in families to support one another. Practice using “I” statements to speak out for what you need, whether it’s help or hugs.



Start a conversation about problem-solving by asking these questions:

1. When you can’t figure out something, how do you feel? How do you usually react, and why?
2. Where do you look for answers to your problems?
3. What lessons have you learned from dealing with different problems? What have you learned about yourself in the process?

FAMILY EXPERIENCE

Use these fun activities, adapted from Group’s *Hands-On Bible*, to show how God helps us solve problems:

• **Falling Walls**—Read aloud Joshua 6:1-20, when God knocks down the walls of Jericho without force. Say: “Does this sound impossible? Let’s try it!” Break graham crackers into fourths and spread marshmallow creme on one side of each section. Stack the crackers on top of each other, using the creme as cement. Line up several stacks to form a wall. Say: “Let’s shout at our wall as loudly as we can.” Afterward, ask what happened. Say: “That’s right—nothing! It isn’t easy to bring down a wall with just noise, but God did it. God is awesome!” As you eat each section of the wall, discuss times when you need God’s power. Close in prayer, asking God to help you with all your problems and challenges.

• **Strength to Fly**—Ask: “Ever wish you could fly?” Read aloud Isaiah 40:31. Say: “That verse isn’t talking about people flying. But it’s a promise that if we trust God, he’ll give us new strength.” Have family members each try this cool trick as a reminder to trust God when problems arise. Stand in a doorway. Press the backs of your hands against the door frame as hard as you can. Count to 25. Then move away from the doorway, relax your arms, and discuss what happens. Say: “You found new strength! When you stopped pressing so hard, your arms wanted to fly up. God promises to renew our strength when we trust him, even when we’re tired and troubled. Next time things gets tough, just remember that God promises to give us new strength.”



