

ParentPause

Ideas to Grow Your Preschooler's Faith at Home

FEBRUARY 2011

Love is...

*It's February.
Time for Valentine's Day.
Romance. Friendship. Love.*

*A*s your child points out the pink and red hearts everywhere, you stop for a minute to ponder. What does love really look like on a day-to-day basis for you and your preschool child?

Consider the words of 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, interpreted with today's child and parent in mind. The first section is written with application points for your child. The second part is written for parents.

Little child, love is patient. Love doesn't tug hard on Mom's arm when she stops to talk to that tall lady with glasses at church. Love waits quietly at the table while Dad scoops ice cream into the bowl.

Little child, love is kind. Love says "please" and "thank-you." Love lets her little sister take a turn playing the jelly jumping jackrabbit game on Dad's phone.

Little child, love doesn't sulk jealously all day when his older brother gets a better Christmas gift from Grandma.

Little child, love doesn't make all her friends play the game SHE wants to play and then brag about her big win.

Little child, love doesn't tell Mom NO when she says it's time to clean up, or start kicking toys angrily around the room.

Little child, let God and your parents teach you how to love!

Now for you, **preschool parent**. You already know that love often means putting your child's needs above your own. Love also means refusing to

harbor resentment when your child responds to you with anything but gratefulness.

Preschool parent, love doesn't keep thinking about your child's sins. It never counts the times your child disobeys.

Neither does love laugh at your child's "white" lies or take secret pleasure in giving your child the punishment she deserves; rather love rejoices to see your child taking steps to trust Christ as Savior and follow His ways each day.

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Finally, **preschool parent**, love perseveres patiently through temper tantrums at the check-out line, potty-training mishaps, whines at bedtime and infinite readings of Goodnight Moon. Love endures picky eating, muddy shoes, crayon on the walls and irritated looks when you arrive late to the party — all because your toddler insisted on dressing herself that day.

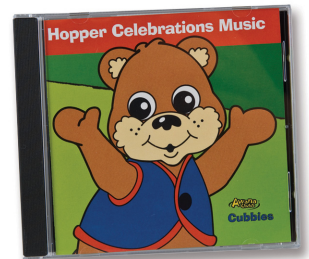
Above all, love sees the best in your child, praying and hoping for the day he will become a mature, godly adult.

Preschool parents, in this month of February, let God and His Word — and sometimes even your preschooler — teach you how to love!

MAKING MEMORIES

Is your child struggling to memorize Cubbies® handbook verses? It may be time to try the best memory tool around — MUSIC. Set the Bible verse to a familiar tune, nursery rhyme or kid's praise song. For example, set a verse to "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" or "Jesus Loves Me." Pick a tune that fits the mood and meaning of the verse.

Did you know *Hopper Celebrations Music CD* contains a sing-along song for each of the *Hopper Celebrations* handbook verses? Pop in this CD when you're riding in the car or while your child is playing at home. Your child will learn her verses in no time! Order at www.awana.org/store.



LITTLE LAUGHS

Don't you love your child's creativity?

"Here are three things my toddler did with a crayon this weekend:

1. Ate one while I was cooking dinner;
2. Threw one at a complete stranger in a restaurant;
3. Scribbled all over the wall at church while our eyes were closed for prayer!" Lezley, mother of two

"After coming in from the grocery store, my 3-year-old announces, 'I made you a drawing with stickers!' 'Wow!' I said, until I realized that those 'stickers' were about 12 first class stamps!" Andrea, mother of three

"After catching my Cubbie son, Jacob, with an open pen ready to write on my table, he says 'Can I buy a table when I'm 6?'" Michelle, mother of two

Hi Cubbies! Color/decorate this Valentine's Day card - write a message too.

Cut it out on the dotted lines, then fold it as directed.

Once you have done that, sign your name under the Bible verse.

Now give it to your mom, dad or someone special that you love!



1 John 4:8
"... God is love ..."

Fold here last.

Fold here first.

Happy Valentine's Day

CALENDAR

February 1:

- 🕒 Our Awana Theme: Spot Your Leader
- 🕒 Cubbies: we will be doing Bear Hug 14

February 8:

- 🕒 Our Awana Theme: Worship Night
- 🕒 Cubbies: we will be doing Special Day 3 (Valentine's Day)

February 15:

- 🕒 No Awana tonight

February 22:

- 🕒 Our Awana Theme: Shhhhh!
- 🕒 Cubbies: we will be doing Bear Hug 15

If you are looking for more details about our Awana themes for each night, check out the newsletters for Sparks or TnT's.

FAMILY RESOURCES

One of the resources available at the Family Resources Table in the lobby is this one called "Awana@Home." It is, "paired with 24 popular Adventures in Odyssey audio episodes for engaging spiritual development. Listen to these memorable segments together at home or in the car, then enjoy games, discussion questions, takeaways and more ... Great for upper elementary-age kids, but valuable for the entire family" (from Awana's website).



LEARNING GROUP

This 6 week series helps parents to take the spiritual leadership in their homes. Spiritual leadership may feel like a daunting task; come find encouragement and tools to help you make a difference in your home!

This Learning Group is hosted by Woodlands Church and begins Monday, February 7, from 6:00-8:00 pm. Contact Nancy Perri at 715.341.0800 if you need additional information.



GOD IS SO BIG...

...So strong and so mighty. There's nothing my God cannot do!" Perhaps your Spark sings that song from time to time. It is a great reminder of the God we love and serve. We may use fancier words to describe Him, but He truly is big, strong, mighty, and able to do it all. February is a great time to tell God how much He means to us and how much we appreciate His hand of protection and guidance in our lives so praise Him for...

- 🕒 being BIG enough to handle _____ for me,
- 🕒 being STRONG enough to protect me from _____,
- 🕒 being MIGHTY and saving me from sin's hold on my life,
- 🕒 and for being ABLE to do all that I need Him to do, especially _____.