



PARENT LINK

A Publication Of
Bel Air United Methodist Church
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THEME OF THE MONTH

"BODY BUILDING"

VIRTUE OF THE MONTH

"INDIVIDUALITY"

THOUGHT OF THE MONTH

*"Discovering Who
You Are Meant
To Be So You
Can Make A
Difference."*

"So, just what is KINGDOM KIDZ?" I seem to be answering that question a lot lately, so here is the scoop for you parents who secretly want to know but are too afraid to ask!

Each week in **KINGDOM KIDZ** we spend 40 minutes in heart-felt worship, hear and see a Bible story translated into today's vernacular, spend time in prayer and giving our gifts to God. Following that, the children move to age appropriate small groups to talk about and discover how they can apply God's Word and the story from that day to their lives. Each month a different "virtue" is highlighted which relates to the Bible story.

When your children leave church after having attended **KINGDOM KIDZ** they should be able to tell you the Bible story and why that story is important to know. Take time each week to review with your child what they have learned, use the "God Time" cards they bring home each week to spend time in God's Word together throughout the week and the "Fridge Door" that comes to your email in-box on Monday to keep the focus of the lesson for the week right in front of you and your family.

Another question has been, ***"What if I want to attend Sunday school as an adult and have my children attend KINGDOM KIDZ then together attend worship? Will my child have the same lesson both times?"*** Yes and no! Both at 9:20 and 11:00 the same Bible story is presented however, since the leaders have approximately six different follow-up activities from which to choose to use in their small groups, it is unlikely that those would be repeated exactly as they were done at the other hour because there are different leaders at different services! So, you can worship as a family and all attend a time of Christian Learning at Bel Air UMC each week! Yes, that means 2 hours, but they will be the most exciting and blessed hours of your week...guaranteed!

Joni Behrendt

Director of Children & Family Ministries

PS...I invite you to join us some week to experience the excitement with us!

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made."

Psalms 139:14

October 4

- **Bible Story:** Philemon 1:1, 18-21
- **Bottom Line:** When you belong to God, you can make a difference

October 11

- **Bible Story:** Philippians 2:25-30
- **Bottom Line:** When you take care of others, you can make a difference

October 18

- **Bible Story:** Acts 9:36-42
- **Bottom Line:** When you use what you have to help others, you can make a difference

October 25

- **Bible Story:** 1 Corinthians 12:14-21, 25-27
- **Bottom Line:** When you do your part, you can make a difference

PARENTS: WHY NOT REVIEW THESE STORIES YOURSELVES SO YOU ARE ON THE SAME "PAGE" AS YOUR CHILD EACH WEEK?

Teach Children About Stewardship



For many people, the word *stewardship* brings to mind church offerings and financial obligations. But it really just means managing someone else's resources. As Christians, we're stewards of God's creation and the talents and gifts he has given us, including money.

From a young age, children can learn not only how to manage their money well but also how to give generously. As you discuss decisions about giving, saving, and spending, children will learn to be caretakers of all our blessings from God. Use these ideas to instill in children a heart for stewardship.

Set an example. When parents worship the Lord in their giving, children can develop a sense of generosity themselves. The most important thing parents can do is practice giving so children can see. Feelings about money are contagious, so also model appropriate attitudes about paying bills, shopping, and delayed gratification.

Give allowances. Give children a weekly allowance that can be divided easily. Then make or use a three-compartment container to help kids divide their money into the categories of saving, spending, and giving.

Have a heart for people in need. Discuss tangible needs in your community, church, and the world. Together, come up with ways your family can chip in to offer assistance. Then help children see the results of how giving their money, time, and talents impacts others.



A Wealth of Statistics

- About 60% of parents give their children an allowance. According to kidsmoney.org, the average weekly allowance is \$3.85 for 6-year-olds, \$5.52 for 9-year-olds, and \$9.58 for 12-year-olds.
- In a poll conducted by *Children's Ministry Magazine*, 91% of people said tithing is an important value for children.
- Children have enormous spending power. According to estimates, consumers younger than 12 directly and indirectly influence almost \$600 billion of household spending each year.

DID YOU KNOW WE HAVE STARTED LEARNING THE "DOXOLOGY" IN KINGDOM KIDZ AND TALK EACH WEEK ABOUT OUR GIFTS WE GIVE BACK TO GOD? NOW IS THE TIME FOR YOU TO HAVE THIS DISCUSSION WITH YOUR CHILDREN...BOTH YOU AND THEY WILL BE BLESSED AND GOD WILL BE HONORED!

Many parents avoid discussions about money because the topic makes them uncomfortable. But such conversations will instill in children proper attitudes about finances and stewardship.

1. Why do we need money? Explain whether money is a bad or good thing.
2. How do you decide what to buy or do with your own money?
3. Why does God put us in charge of his creation? What does God want us to do with our money and talents?
4. Share what it feels like to give away some of your money. When are you most cheerful about giving?

Ask God:

1. To help your children be faithful stewards of all he has given to them.
2. To help your children put their trust in him, not in money or material things.
3. To transform your family members into cheerful and generous givers.

Parenting Insights

The late Christian financial expert Larry Burkett emphasized the importance of giving our "first fruits" to God. Here are a few of his insights about money management for children:

1. **Why we give**—Because God is the provider, we aren't really giving for his sake. "We give our money for our sakes, to remind ourselves we're God's stewards and everything is his."
2. **How much to give**—Burkett recommended the following budgeting guidelines for children: give 10%, save 50%, and spend 40%.
3. **How we give**—Returning resources to God should be a celebration. Burkett suggested making the act of giving seem like a "thanks party."