

Fall Feast Issue

TEACHING OBEDIENCE, DISCIPLESHIP, AND AGAPE TO YOUTH

2003

FOR CHURCH, HOME, AND SCHOOL

“UNIVERSITY OF THE HOME”



(There is an excellent booklet titled “University of the Home”, written by James McBride and is available from Churches of God Outreach Ministries at www.cgom.org or CGOM, P.O. Box 54621. Tulsa, OK 74011-0621. Following are some excerpts from this booklet.)

Children, according to the Bible, are a heritage from God. They are a special treasure to us. Yet we as a society do not treasure our children and consider them as a gift from God. In too many families, parents think of their children as an afterthought, if they consider them at all. They are seen more as a problem rather than a heritage.



Our children should be a joy to our life. We should delight in them as we nourish them and see them grow. What parent has not looked at their new baby and thought that their baby is the most beautiful perfect child ever born? We lovingly take care of them and wait for them to walk, talk and start moving out into the world. As parents, it’s difficult for us because we can’t always protect them each minute when they’re away from us, at school, play or as they grow older and move away from the home. We have to let them learn, and even when they make mistakes, sometimes we have to just stand by and do nothing. But as Christians, we put our children in God’s hands, and ask Him to protect them and give them wisdom and understanding.

Our job is not done though. We have to set good examples for them and let them know we love them and that we’ll always be there for them, no matter what. We also have to properly discipline our children and “Train up a child in the way he should go” (Proverbs 22:6).

“What happens if you simply stand all year and look at

your garden? The weeds grow – right up to your knees! And what happens if a young sapling is left to grow unattended – without staking, without pruning, without training? It becomes unshapely, unfruitful and wild. So, too, poor habits grow in us and our children unless there is active cultivation!”



“The foundation of knowledge about children is wrapped in the great mystery of the Bible – that man is destined to become a part of God’s own family. This awesome fact illuminates everything we can say about right training for our children.”

“Consider the British Royal Family...The infant Prince Charles was prepared over a long span of years for the highest office in the land...He was carefully schooled in the

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HAPPY FALL HOLY DAYS!

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Personal Note

Hello Everyone,

The wonderful fall holy days are here. In my area of the country we've had a good summer. Most days were in the 80's and we had a few really hot days but not too many. We had some rain in the early summer but then it got real dry for a few weeks. Then we received downpours for a few days and now it's just beautiful. The days are already shorter and it makes us realize how the time flies.

In this issue, the lead article concerns discipline. Not only are we to discipline our children according to the Bible, but we are to discipline ourselves. Sometimes it's harder to discipline our own self than it is to discipline others. If we are going to set an example for our children we need to make sure we have ourselves in control.

Also included in this issue are some feast activity pages. One page is for younger children and the crossword puzzle is for older children.

I want to wish everyone wonderful and spiritual feasts during the upcoming fall holy days. May our Father and His Son be merciful and loving to each one of us. May He help us learn more about His Plan for us and may His joy become ours. May God bless all of you and your families.

Until next time,

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THE PARENT'S PRAYER

O Heavenly Father, make me a better parent.

Teach me to understand my children, listen patiently to what they have to say, and to answer all their questions kindly. Keep me from interrupting them or contradicting them.



Make me as courteous to them as I would have them be to me. Forbid that I should ever laugh at their mistakes or resort to shame or ridicule when they displease me.

May I never punish them for my own selfish satisfaction or to show my power, but only to correct, for "as the twig is bent so grows the tree".

Let me not tempt my child to lie or steal. And guide me hour by hour that I may demonstrate by all I say and do that honesty produces happiness.

Reduce, I pray, the meanness in me. And when I am out of sorts, help me, O Lord, to hold my tongue.

May I ever be mindful that my children are children and I should not expect of them the judgment of adults. Let me not rob them of the opportunities to wait on themselves and to make decisions within their grasp.

Bless me with bigness to grant all their reasonable requests, and the courage to deny them privileges I know will do them harm.

Make me fair, just and kind. And fit me, O Lord, to be loved and respected and imitated by my children..

AMEN.

(The above prayer was written by Garry C. Myers and contributed by Pam Chambers.)

“University of the Home” - Continued from Page 1

trappings of the office – even how to smile and wave in public...He was trained for kingship. How closely this parallels the offspring of true Christians.”

“Our children are born into a royal dynasty of the spirit.

Or they are adopted into it at our baptism. And we can have the expectation that they all will be ‘kings and priests unto God’. This is the goal that we as parents must constantly bear in mind for them...Our children are to be trained for kingship!”



kingship!”

“All aspects of child-rearing – not simply discipline – are essential...However, it requires discipline. It requires first that parents discipline themselves. If you want a tranquil home and all the other benefits...plus our heavenly Father’s commendation – then the training of our family must be at the top of our agenda. As Christians, the ‘nurture and admonition’ of our children must be a prime consideration. Our homes must become a ‘university of kingship’. And we parents must become skilled teachers.”

In order to raise our children properly, we must first learn to discipline ourselves and set the right example for our children. Without training, nurturing and disciplining, poor habits grow in us and our children. “There has to be active cultivation. Besides discipline, there are other vital aspects of child rearing. For example:

Guidelines For Parents

- Love your children, even when you don’t approve (of their behavior).
- Spend time with them.
- Provide adequate physical care.
- Set a proper example.
- Pay positive attention.
- Protect them from evil influences.
- Be fair, and be flexible.
- Teach respect for God’s ways.
- Teach independence and self-discipline.”

“We parents are largely responsible for what our young children do and say, and the habits they develop! Our children’s destiny is to a large extent in our hands!...Again

all aspects of child rearing are essential. It’s our responsibility as parents to move steadily toward these goals. Here are some suggested training goals – for parents:

Training Goals For Parents

- Agree on an agenda with your spouse. Results come from working together.
- Make an intense study of the scriptures to see what God expects you to do for your children (for example: Deut. 6:7, Hebrews 12:15). Write your observations in a notebook.
- List important behavioral goals for each child. Each is an individual... and they learn at different speeds. It’s important to write out these goals, and update them regularly.
- Explore your own behavior for weaknesses (Psalms 139:23,24), for children learn mostly by mimicking their parents! They copy our often faulty reactions to life situations...anger, resentment, hatred, expletives, negativism, complaining.
- Discipline yourself to overcome your personal weaknesses, calling on divine power for help.
- Counsel with those who have successfully raised a family, and with your spiritual elders.
- Set an example of positive hope in all life situations.

“This ‘Foundation Course’ of our *University of the Home* can be quite demanding and time consuming. Success in child rearing is greatly enhanced, however, if we parents will first look in the mirror, and take the necessary basic steps for success. Let’s not fear then to properly discipline our children.”

Guidelines For Discipline Of Your Child

- **Begin early**—The first months of a baby’s life is not a time for physical discipline! However when a child begins to show signs of gross behavior, tantrums, destructive or dangerous activity, a measure of correction is called for.
- **Be consistent**—A child will be confused if allowed to get away with something today and tomorrow corrected for doing so. Keep note of your decisions to correct, and how you correct.

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Fall Holy Days

Youth Bible Study: Ages 4-8

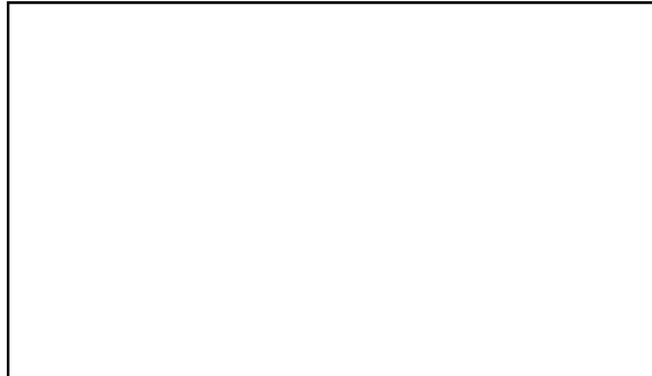
1. The first holy day in the fall is called the Feast of Trumpets and portrays the blowing of seven trumpets. Draw 6 more trumpets like the one in the picture below.



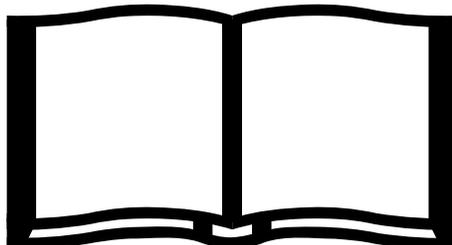
2. The second holy day in the fall is called the Day of Atonement. This is a fast day which means that we are to not eat and drink for a whole day. Place an "X" on the pictures below of things we are not supposed to do on the fast day.



3. The next holy day season in the fall is called the Feast of Tabernacles and lasts seven days but only the first day of this feast is a holy day. Church families sometimes camp out during these days. Draw a picture of a tent in the space below.

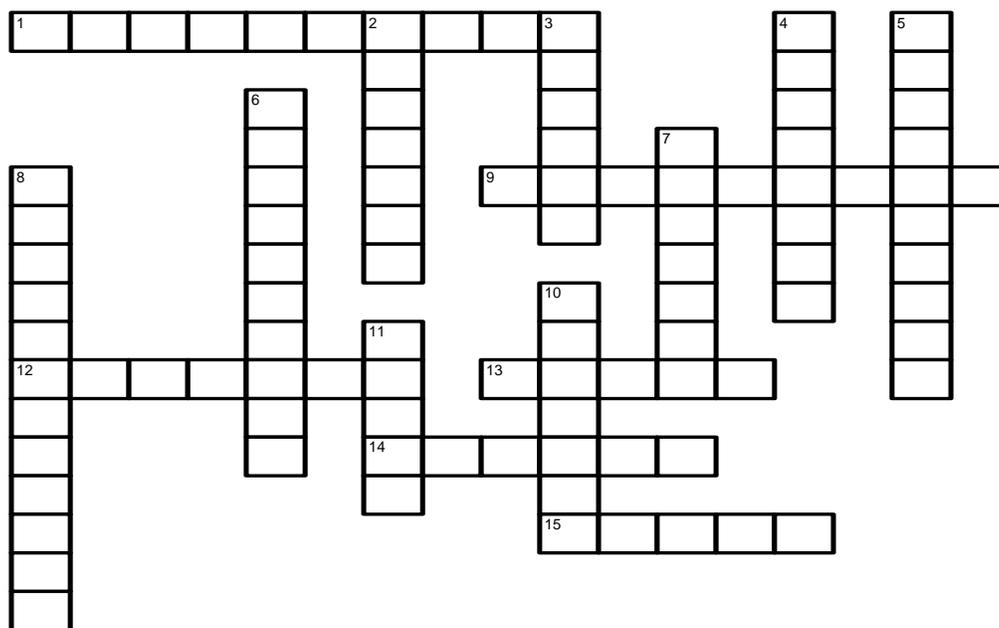


4. Immediately after this feast is the last holy day of the fall. This holy day is called the Last Great Day. It pictures the time when God judges mankind from the words written in the Bible, according to their works. The Book of Life is opened and anyone whose name is not in this book will perish. Make sure your name is written in the Book of Life by loving and obeying God all your life. Write your name in the book below.



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Feast of Tabernacles



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Across

- 1 People getting together
 9 Not permanent
 12 Be happy, enjoy
 13 Word of God
 14 God's People
 15 Next number after six

Down

- 2 A holy day
 3 Communicating with God
 4 A gift to God
 5 Temporary dwelling
 6 One thousand year period
 7 Unique
 8 Brought back to life
 10 People you know and like
 11 A festival

WORD POOL

Resurrection

Millennium

Saints

Fellowship

Temporary

Bible

Prayer

Rejoice

Seven

Friends

Tabernacle

Sabbath

Special

Offering

Feast

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- **Be clear**-Every correction must be understood by the child-he must be able to link the offence and the correction. This applies at any age, but the younger the child the closer to the event must be the correction. A slap on the hand is ideal for a toddler reaching for a hot stove!
- **Be selective**-Ensure your list of behavior goals isn't a game of trivial pursuits! Within a disciplinary frame, leave space for self-expression.
- **Be concise**-Teach the word “No!”. The younger the child the more vital is this coded message, for they can't understand rational argument. Lives have literally been saved where children have learned to respond immediately to this simple command. Use the word sparingly and consistently.
- **Be calm**-Don't correct a child in anger, but count to the proverbial ten. Better still, aim to correct before you are driven to irritation and anger!
- **Be fair**-The world certainly isn't “fair”. But if our children are to break this pattern they must see our example of even-handed correction-no favorites. And make the punishment appropriate to the offence!
- **Be loving**-It's wrong to correct a child outside a loving relationship, freely expressed through hugs and kisses.

“Wise King Solomon gives us a good maxim: “The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child left to himself brings his mother to shame”. (Proverbs 29:15) Applied appropriately, the rod is a helpful and necessary measure of discipline. It is not always needed...but reproof, guidance and instruction is equally vital.”

Know Your Children

“Each child is different - There are no “one fits all” disciplines. There are of course support measures we can take alongside physical correction. One to avoid is isolation, sent to the bedroom or ordered to a closet, or kept in the dark. Nor should they be deprived of meals, etc.

Learn what is appropriate for each child...Tailor extra chores effectively and according to age and ability.

Chinese Proverb...

If you are planning for a year, sow rice.

If you are planning for a decade, plant trees.

If you are planning for a lifetime, educate a person.

Parental Guidance

“The Biblical pattern, however, is prevention. Given that exciting purpose for which mankind is created it is criminal to neglect our children, to let them grow as they please, as ‘wild olives’. They must be taught!

Moses in his final guidance to the children of Israel, passed on this message from God. “Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds...Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up...so that your days and the days of your children may be many...” (Deuteronomy 11:18-21).



“So apply diligently the points listed...use wisdom and common sense, and do not neglect loving discipline of your precious little ones.”

“But start, parents, by first taking a long and careful look at your own behavior.”

(Editor's Note: Most of this article is direct quotes from the booklet - “University of the Home”. Some editing was done for the sake of brevity.)

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And YOU!!

“Children's children are the crown of old men; and the glory of children are their fathers” Proverbs 17:6