

“TEACHING YOUR CHILDREN—PART I”

By *Bill Faith*



Teaching Obedience, Discipleship and Agape love to our Youth (**TODAY**) is a very rewarding experience, especially when we see the results of that effort bearing good fruit in our children's lives.



Too often in this world, however, we see parents that are not grounded in the faith of God trying to raise their children to follow Christian values. At times these parents, who are not grounded themselves, send their children to

Vacation Bible schools or to church and expect the church ministry to be responsible for the training of their children. But if the children do not see their parents bearing good fruit then the instruction they are receiving at church is not being properly supported at home.

According to the Bible, the responsibility of proper child rearing falls squarely on the shoulders of the parents and not a church organization. Churches can certainly help by supporting the beliefs of the parents, but the church should by no means be the primary teacher for the youth.

Can you imagine what it would be like to take a college course taught by an instructor that does not know the subject himself? How can someone teach others if he/she does not know the subject themselves? Obviously, by this type of reasoning it is easy to understand why it is so important that the parents are rooted in their faith before attempting to teach their children.

This is also supported by the Word of God. In Deuteronomy 6:1 we find Moses instructing the Israelites this: “Now these are the commandments, the statutes and the judgments, which the Lord your God commanded to teach you, that you might do them in the land whither you go to possess it”. Moses was reiterating to them “All that the Lord had given him in commandment unto them”. (Deut. 1:3) Notice that God had instructed that they were to learn them and do them. It reminds us of when Paul said that we are to be doers of the Word and not just hearers of it. (James 1:22)

In verse 2 of Deuteronomy 6, Moses instructs the people including their children and grandchildren, that they are to keep all God's statutes and commandments, that they may learn to fear the Lord. Again in verse 3, Moses repeats, “Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe to do it...”. Moses stressed to the people that they were to observe all that God has instructed them to do. This supports the fact that Chris-

(Continued on Page 3)



All is ready,
Come to the Feast!

IN THIS ISSUE

ARTICLES

“Teaching The Children”	1, 3
PERSONAL NOTE, Poem and Grandmother Stories	2
Family Bonding Time	3
Activity Sheets	4 - 5
School, Home and the Feast	6

Personal Note

Hello Everyone,

In this issue we have an article on "Teaching Your Children" by Bill Faith. This article dwells on the importance of being established in the faith yourself so you can teach your children. This is Part I and Part II will be coming along in the winter issue. As mentioned in this article, the parents have the primary responsibility in teaching their children and God holds them responsible.

Another way to help your children is to spend good quality bonding time with them. Be sure and read the article titled "Family Bonding Time" by Pam Chambers, where she has an example of one way to accomplish this.

We have included two activity sheets. One is titled "Isaiah's Vision" and is about the coming Kingdom of God on the earth, page 4, and the other activity on page 5 is a Word Search puzzle about the Fall Holy Days. Feel free to copy these pages and use them in your classes, at home, or at the Feast.

We feature an article herein on how best to approach your child's teacher when it comes time to tell her/him that you will be taking your child out of school for a few days to attend the Feast of Tabernacle. This article is written by Diane Kleeschulte, a Church of God member and a teacher by profession. She has taught elementary school in the past and is presently a teacher of middle school students. Long-time readers of Today will recognize Diane as she has written many articles, lessons and other materials in past issues.

I want to wish everyone a great feast this year. May you rejoice and be filled spiritually and physically during the coming fall holy days.

Until next time,

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"Another Six Days' Work Is Done"

By Joseph Stennett (1663-1713)

Another six days' work is done.
Another Sabbath is begun;
Return my soul, enjoy the rest,
Improve the day that God hath blest.

O, that our thoughts and thanks may rise,
As grateful incense to the skies,
And draw from heaven that sweet repose,
Which none but he that feels it knows!

A heavenly calm pervades the breast,
The earnest of that glorious rest,
Which for the Church of God remains,
The end of cares, the end of pains.

With joy, Great God, thy works we view,
In various scenes, both old and new;
With praise we think on mercies past,
With hope we future pleasures taste.

In holy duties, let the day,
In holy pleasures, pass away;
How sweet a Sabbath thus to spend,
In hope of one that ne'er shall end!

(These words are from a hymn written by a Sabbath Keeper and distinguished pastor of the Pinners' Hall Congregation about 1790, Joseph Stennett. Submitted by Susanne Temple)

"Grandmother Stories"

A grandmother was telling her little granddaughter what her own childhood was like. "We used to skate outside on a pond. I had a swing made from a tire; it hung from a tree in our front yard. We rode our pony. We picked wild raspberries in the wilds." The little girl was wide-eyed, taking this all in. At last she said, "I sure wish I'd gotten to know you sooner!"

(Also submitted by Susanne Temple)

“Teaching Your Children” - Continued from Page 1

tianity is to be a way of life to us, and not just some passing thought.

In Deut. 6:5-6, the people were told to “Love the Lord with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words which I command thee this day shall be in your heart.”

In other words, the truth and the way of God is to be an integral part of every parent. Then they are to instruct their children as it states in Deut. 6:6, “And you shall teach them diligently unto thy children, and shall talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou riseth up.”

As was mentioned earlier in this article, according to the Bible, the responsibility of child rearing rests primarily on the parents. This is brought out quite painfully in Hosea

**“Where there is no vision,
The people perish”**

4:6, “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge...seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children”.

The importance of the faith of the parents cannot be overstated. How can parents direct their children when they have no vision themselves. And, “Where there is no vision, the people perish” (Proverbs 29:18).

Yes, teaching obedience, discipleship and agape love to our youth is a very rewarding experience, especially when we can see the results of that effort bearing good fruit in our children’s lives. However, don’t neglect the teaching of obedience, discipleship and agape love to ourselves as parents first. Only then can we teach these principles to our children accordingly.

Children are like mirrors.
They reflect the attitude and
character of their parents.

“FAMILY BONDING TIME”

By Pam Chambers

Our children need a strong anchor to help them get through life in this world today. We must all help to teach them two important things:

1. The truth of God’s plan for each of them, personally.
2. The anchor, always there for them, of their family’s love.

One suggestion: Every Friday evening the whole family welcomes the Sabbath by sitting down together for a special meal. The menu, prepared ahead of time, can be simple or complex, as you wish, just add some fresh bread and wine, and perhaps you can light one or two candles.

Before the meal begins, the father, or grandfather, rises and goes around the table, stopping behind each child. He places his hands on their shoulders, and thanks God for this child, and asks for a special blessing just for him/her.

Then he also asks a blessing for his wife, and praises her for her help and talents. (She may give a short prayer also.) Then he thanks God for this meal and for his family. Every week he repeats how the Sabbath evening and day pictures Creation, God’s Plan, a rest for us, and the Millennial Kingdom to come.

As most families do not watch television on the Sabbath evening, there is time for Bible study after the meal. Allow the children to participate, asking questions and answering questions according to their age group.

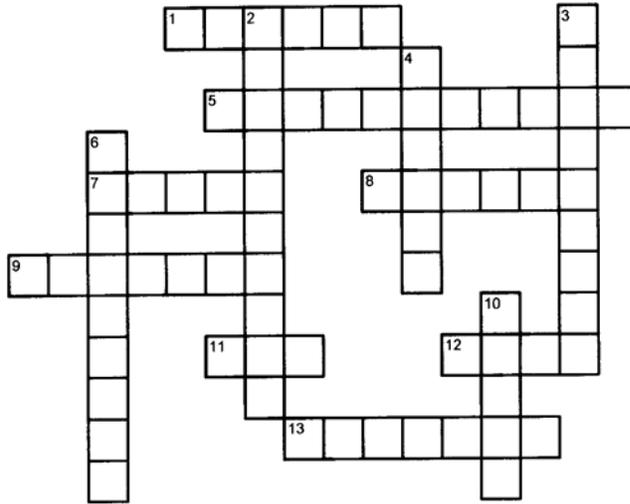


An old friend told me that when she learned of this Jewish custom, her children were grown and gone, but she and her husband follow this simple procedure with their grandchildren. They love it!

Our children desperately need this loving, reassuring bond with their family, faithfully each week, or as often as possible.

Parents, please make Friday night “Family Night” for you and your children. Your little ones will forever be grateful that their parents had a special “Family Night” just with them. This bonding with your family will make their anchor strong.

Isaiah's Vision



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Across

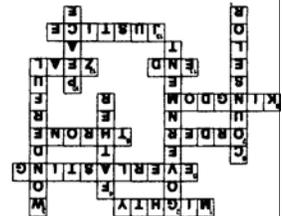
- 1 powerful
- 5 goes on forever
- 7 a state of peace because of law
- 8 seat for a king
- 9 what a king rules
- 11 opposite of beginning
- 12 enthusiasm
- 13 fairness

Down

- 2 system for organizing the world
- 3 very good
- 4 opposite of mother
- 6 one who gives advice
- 10 opposite of war

Read Isaiah 9, verses 6 and 7 in the New King James Version of the Bible. Then fill in the missing blanks below. Use the answers as a word pool to complete the crossword puzzle.

"For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a son is given; And the _____ will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called _____, _____ God, _____ Prince of _____. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no _____, Upon the _____ of David and over His _____, To _____ it and establish it with judgment and _____ From that time forward, even forever. The _____ of the Lord of hosts will perform this."



Fall Holy Days—Word Search

Find the words in the grid. Words can go horizontally, vertically and diagonally in all eight directions.

L	A	T	O	N	E	M	E	N	T	W	H	R	G
A	V	W	A	J	B	W	L	Q	C	O	N	Q	N
S	T	H	P	B	F	K	M	P	L	L	S	X	I
T	S	Z	Z	J	E	B	G	Y	M	T	N	Y	R
G	A	N	Y	B	M	R	D	N	E	R	B	K	E
R	E	F	F	K	T	A	N	P	E	P	N	W	F
E	F	A	G	A	Y	M	M	A	X	V	J	L	F
A	Z	L	G	S	S	U	D	R	C	E	E	L	O
T	M	L	L	T	R	T	E	T	I	L	D	S	L
D	Q	K	R	T	P	Y	R	G	P	Y	E	K	G
A	V	C	T	D	A	L	H	Y	D	Q	D	S	L
Y	W	C	P	R	Y	T	R	T	S	I	R	H	C
Q	W	H	P	F	H	G	K	D	W	V	Q	M	K
S	C	A	P	E	G	O	A	T	N	H	Q	B	M

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Atonement

Christ

Eighth

Fall

Fast

Feast

Holy Days

Last Great Day

Offering

Prayer

Scapegoat

Seven

Tabernacles

Trumpets

“School, Home and the Feast”

By Diane Kleeschulte

...and you shall rejoice before the Lord your God for seven days... You shall celebrate it in the seventh month... (Leviticus 23:40-41, NKJV)

After having taught now for twelve years, both in elementary and middle school, I realize that families vacation throughout the year for many reasons and purposes. The responsibility of completing the course work before returning to school, of course, belongs to the student. But how do parents support the child, school, and teacher while vacationing or visiting friends and relatives? How do parents who attend the Feast of Tabernacles organize themselves to complete school assignments before returning home? This article offers suggestions and insights from my experience both as a parent and teacher.

Most schools recommend at least one week notification before the student's absence in order to allow teachers ample time to prepare assignments. Teachers sometimes are not sure how far they may get in a particular subject area, for example, in math. Having plenty of time to consider in advance where she may be when the student returns is very important. (If you have a special needs child that receives services through another teacher, that teacher may offer an assignment and/or suggestions on how you can help them with their regular classroom assignments.) Elementary teachers must prepare at least six, sometimes seven days of assignments for all subject areas. This can be daunting to everyone involved, especially when your child walks in a day or two before departing for the Feast with a page of work for each day of absence, as well as a packed book bag. From personal experience as a parent, I offer this to others: ***This work is a priority, it has to be done.*** Even with all the preparations going all around you, I suggest that everyone discuss and review all assignments together before you leave. On occasion, there were instructions that were unclear and I needed to call the teacher for clarification. It helps in the long run to make this a priority. Then plan a schedule.

1. What can be completed while traveling?
2. What assignments will require assistance and extra time?
3. Do any extra books or supplies need to be packed?

Parents with more than one child will find this quite a balancing act, but dividends will be paid upon your child's return to the classroom. When you discuss the assignments and plan a schedule as a family, it communicates to the child that the parents perceive his work as a priority.

Middle school and high school students usually have a different teacher for each subject area. Following the above planning suggestion should meet with equal success for this age group as well, however these students can be unpredictable. If you have any doubts about whether the math teacher really told you child, “Don't worry, you can catch up when you get back”, call the teacher immediately. Parents are seldom guilty of overreacting in instances such as these. But again, planning well in advance is the key to success for any student attending the Feast.

The issue of planning a time to study and complete work has been a thorn in the side of many families at the Feast. Discussing assignments ahead of time and making a plan of action, as sug-

gested above, will give you an advantage once you arrive at the Feast and find that your child is distracted with the many events and invitations. In your plan of action I suggest that you consider whether it would be more beneficial for the work to be completed over several days as opposed to one or two. But this, of course, depends on how your child works; is he an efficient independent worker, requiring little help, or does he work better with much guidance and support? Which parent does he work better with when it comes to math, English, science? Also, who is more available for the hours the work plan was scheduled? Having attended the Feast with our boys we have a clear understanding of what parents are up against when this issue arises. It may take some trial and error. I have heard many parents exclaim the fact that they did not realize how different their children's work habits were until they tried to help them at the Feast with their assignments. Teachers know this first hand from the classroom, but it can be surprising as well as frustrating to parents. If possible, seek support from another parent or family if the situation becomes too stressful. (For several years at different Feast sites there were volunteer homework help sessions. It was scheduled twice during the week and we usually had a very good turn out. Parents were always very grateful for the assistance and support. Ask around before the Feast to see if there might be volunteers who would be willing to hold a couple of these homework help sessions during the Feast.)

Before your child returns to school, check over their assignments one more time. If the assignments have been checked off the homework list as being completed, check them over one more time to be sure they did not get misplaced or lost. A binder or folder is helpful to keep everything together. When your child returns to school with everything completed and organized, everyone will have a sense of success and accomplishment.

Remember that with discussion, planning, and follow through with your child's work you will be sending him a message about so many important life lessons. Perhaps the most significant, though is the message that attending the Feast is not an obstacle, or something negative to overcome because of responsibilities at home. Let your child see that you have planned well for God's Feast Days, so that he and your family can enjoy every good thing God has for you each and every year.

Seven days you shall keep a sacred feast to the Lord your God in the place which the Lord chooses, because the Lord your God will bless you...so that you surely rejoice. (Deuteronomy 16:15 NKJV)

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