



Parent Letter

From Brenda's Desk

Hi Families,
 I have not forgotten about you. My life has been very busy and I had to make some very tough choices. Currently, I am on a family leave for some period of time. I am so grateful that I have such a great team of people who are helping me keep all the programs running smoothly. I am still working behind the scenes from a distance. My father has MRSA and I have been taking care of him. MRSA is a staph infection that is antibiotic resistant. I am very thankful that I work for a place that places high value on family. The

next few weeks, you'll be reading about some of my adventures while I'm away. Today's scripture reading is terrific reminder about doing what is right. Wednesday night students have been studying about the story about "The Good Samaritan." I have read the story many times and have always focused on the Samaritan. The story reveals how we can miss the chance on a great blessing. The Jewish priest and a Levite missed an opportunity on being blessed. They both were members of the temple, and they made a choice not to help. I am certain that they both thought they had great reason not to stop and

help the man. But the only person who missed out was themselves. Sometimes taking the time to stop and help is not always easy and we think it will cost us too much. But in reality it costs us a great deal more not to stop and help someone. My Challenge to you this week: Look for a place to stop and bless someone and in return you will be blessed.

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Parent Tip

Baby Play

Talk softly to your baby and sing songs to help him or her tune into language as you offer gentle massages.

Rocking, swaddling, and feeding infants are important ways to develop their sensory systems while teaching them to engage in the world around them.

Progress to games such as pat-a-cake and peek-a-boo that encourages social interaction. Remember, repetition is key.

When children imitate any sound or gesture at the end of the game, interpret that as a meaningful request to repeat the game. Say, "Again?" and then do it again.

At first, the gestures will be random, but over time this teaches young children that they can use verbal or manual communication to make requests. Games of peek-a-boo also, teach children that even when you can't see something, it still exists.

Expand this skill by covering a favorite toy with a small cloth and teaching your child to uncover it.

Take turns rocking a baby doll or stuffed animal. Slowly, add items to the play routine. Cover the doll with a blanket before rocking her. Then feed her a bottle. Next, use a spoon and bowl to model the act of feeding. Always stimulate your child with language as you play. "The baby is hungry. Give her a bottle."

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Home Huddle

- Share your High and Lows.
- Read Scriptures.
- Talk about the Scripture.
- Pray, Praise, Thanks and Ask.
- Bless saying a blessing over each other making the sign of the cross.

Home Huddle Basics



A Home Huddle has 5 parts. We ask families to take a few minutes each day to walk through these five things. The next two pages are suggestions for Bible verses and discussion questions. Each are based around the theme in the title. Some families many have students in multiple programs. We suggest to pick one and follow that theme.

We understand that you may not Home Huddle every day, but we hope you try to touch base as many times as possible. Home Huddles are life giving and life changing.

Share: Share your high and lows of the day.

Read: Read the Bible verse of the day.

Talk: Talk about the how the Bible verse relates to your high and low or use the discussion question provided for each day.

Pray: Praise, Thank and Ask. Praise God and thank Jesus a for your highs. Ask the Holy Spirit to be with you in your lows.

Bless: Bless one another tracing the sign of the cross on each other's forehead or palm of their hand as you share the blessing.

Home Huddle Wedding Feast

Share, Read, Talk, Pray & Bless

Day 1:

Matthew 22:1

Why do you think Jesus used parables?

Day 2:

Matthew 22:2-3

Why do you think the guests refused to come?

Day 3:

Matthew 22:4-10

What kind of guests do you think the servants found on street corners?

Day 4:

Matthew 22:11-12

What kind of clothes do you wear to a wedding?

Day 5:

Matthew 22:13

Why do you think the king removed the guest?

Day 6:

Matthew 22:14

What do you think this verse means?

Day 7:

Matthew 22:1-14

What amazes you about this story?

Blessing: (Name) Child of God, may you grow to know, may you seek and show, may you follow and go in God's way this day. Amen.

Home Huddle Great Commandment

Share, Read, Talk, Pray & Bless

Day 1:

Luke 10:25-28

Why do you think Jesus answered every question with a question?

Day 2:

Luke 10:29-31

Why do you think the priest passed by the others on the side of the road?

Day 3:

Luke 10:32

Have you ever helped a stranger in trouble? What happened?

Day 4:

Luke 10:33-34

How are you like the Samaritan?

Day 5:

Luke 10:25

Who has been a Good Samaritan in your life?

Day 6:

Luke 10: 36-37

After reading this Parable, who would you say is your neighbor?

Day 7:

Luke 10: 25-37

What amazes you about this story?

Blessing: (Name) Child of God, may you know the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength. Amen.

Preschool Corner

Jesus Heals

Jesus enjoyed touching and healing. People everywhere heard that Jesus was a healer. They brought their sick family and friends to Jesus so, he could heal them. When Jesus was near sick people, he could have gotten sick too. But Jesus didn't get sick. Instead, Jesus healed the people. He went out of his way to help.

Early one morning, Jesus went to his friend, Simon Peter's house. Simon Peter was very upset. "Jesus, my wife's mother has a terrible fever. I know you have healed people in many places.

Would you please heal her too?"

Jesus could feel how sad his friend was. He knelt down next to the woman, held her hand, and healed her.

Jesus and his friends kept going from town to town healing others and teaching people about God's love.

Bible Verse:
The Child Jesus grew. He became strong and wise, and God blessed him.

Home Huddle

Daily

Share: Your Highs and Lows of the day.

Read:

Talk: (See Below)

Pray: Praise, Thank, & Ask.

Blessing: (Name), Child of God, may you find healing when you are sick. Amen.

Day 1:

If you could bring someone to Jesus to be healed, who would you bring?

Day 2:

What makes you feel better when you are sick?

Day 3:

Draw a picture of you being sick.

Day 4:

Draw a picture of you being healthy.

Day 5:

How do you think Simon Peter felt when Jesus healed his wife's mother?

Day 6:

Pray for Doctors and Nurses.

Day 7:

Pray for sick people.

Isaac is Born

God gave a special promise to Abram. He promised to give Abram and his wife a son. As a reminder of His promise, God changed Abram's name to Abraham. Abraham means "father of many." Abraham and his wife, Sarah, waited many years, but they still did not stop believing God's promise.

Abraham and Sarah grew very old, older than most grandparents. One day some angels visited Abraham. "Next year Sarah will have a son," the visitors said.

Sarah was sitting in her tent listening to Abraham and the visitors. When she heard the angels' words, she started to laugh. She and Abraham were almost one hundred years old. She knew that no one her age ever had a baby. She was just too old! The visitors knew that she laughed. They said, "Is anything too hard for God?"

God kept his promise to Abraham and Sarah. The next year, Sarah had a baby boy just as God had said. Abraham and Sarah named him Isaac.

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Home Huddle

Daily

Share: Your Highs and Lows of the day.

Read:

Talk: (See Below)

Pray: Praise, Thank, & Ask.

Bless: (Name) Child of God, may you trust in God. Amen.

Day 1:

Who makes promises to you?

Day 2:

What makes you laugh?

Day 3:

Draw a picture of you as a baby.

Day 4:

Have your mom tell you about how she prepared for your arrival.

Day 5:

What are some things newborns need?

Day 6:

How did your parents pick out your name?

Day 7:

Pray for moms and dads.

Bible Verse:
We get to know God.

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Faith
every day in every
home
reinforced
every week in church

Family Fun Calendar

February Dates

- 2nd - Groundhog Day
- 4th - Thank a Mailman Day
- 5th - Super Bowl XLVI
- 8th - Fly a Kite Day
- 9th - Toothache Day
- 12th - Abraham Lincoln's Birthday
- 14th - Valentine's Day
- 15th - National Gumdrop Day
- 20th - Presidents Day
- 21st - Fat Tuesday
- 22nd - Ash Wednesday/ Be Humble Day
- 26th - Carnival Day

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Family Fun

Penguin Games

When researchers first observed penguins hopping about on ice floes and using floes for taking them for a ride. They weren't quite sure what was going on. Was it a territorial ritual or a means of avoiding predators? Ultimately, the scientists decided the birds were simply having fun. Here's how your kids can create a penguin styled blast of their own. Play this fun game indoors.

Lay a trail of "ice floe" pillows about two feet apart on a cleared, carpeted floor. Have everyone line up single file (this is how penguins migrate north) and take turns hopping from pillow to pillow.

"Penguins" must land with both feet on each ice floe; if they don't, they are

considered to have fallen in the drink and must step aside. Space the pillows a little farther apart for each new round until all but one penguin is left. The one still standing is the "winner".

Bobbing bird

The bird with its' comical waddle and tuxedo-like feather coat, a penguin is always good for a laugh. To assemble a penguin like this one described, You will need 1 liter plastic soda bottle. Cut into one side with a craft knife (adults only) for a flap. Repeat on the other side. Place a fist-sized ball of clay inside the bottle (this will keep it from toppling over too easily), then pull a white athletic sock up and over the bottle from the bottom to top. Twist a rubber band around the bottle neck to hold the sock in place. Use

the handle of a wooden spoon to tuck the sock into the bottle. Use black "Foamies" craft foam, and cut a rectangle that wraps three quarters of the way around the bottle and have it extend about two-thirds of the way up from the bottom. Trim the edges to resemble penguin's wings, and attach them to the sock with mounting tape. Next, cut out colored-foam eyes, a beak, a bow tie, and feet and tape them in place. Top off your bird with a laundry-soap bottle cap for a hat.

Now, your child can try his luck at making the penguin waddle. The trick is to roll a rubber ball so, that it knocks the bottle smartly without tipping it over.

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