



Christian Education

Bulletin Insert

September, 2003

The Rev'd Patricia Drummond
Christian Education Director, 460-8349,
anged@nbnet.nb.ca

Some Family Faith Building Ideas for the New Academic Year

“It is through our everyday relationship with our children that we convey spirituality. As we share our reverence for the natural world, the simple joys of family life, our dependability, and our unconditional love, we show them the face of God.”

Joan Grasso Fitzpatrick

- ★ If you have a good reader in your family, have them record one or two Bible stories on an audiocassette. Use a good children's Bible such as The Lion Storyteller Bible or the Read With Me Bible. These may be used on many occasions such as in the car or when a child is sick.
- ★ Exchange cassettes with other families in your church.
- ★ Choose a Bible verse to put on the bathroom mirror each week. See who has it memorized by the end of the week.
- ★ During family prayers, have an adult start a prayer and then ask each family member to add a little to it. E.g. a thank you prayer, “Thank you God for . . .” or an intercessory prayer such as “God, we ask you today especially to help . . .”
- ★ Have a family giving box in a prominent place, such as the dining table. Ask everyone to put in something every day, a penny for the youngest, spare change for those who are older. Decide beforehand where the money will go and label the box accordingly. Some possibilities - The Rev'd Paul Jeffries, PWRDF, support for a foster child.
- ★ Have a world map on the kitchen wall or in another prominent place. Use post-it arrows, or some other method, to pin point areas which need prayer. E.g. war torn countries, countries where famine relief is particularly needed, areas where natural disasters have occurred, areas

where major sporting (or other) events are taking place, areas where important diplomatic meetings are being held. You might also use the map when talking about mission work

- ★ Choose a Hymn of the Month, and sing a verse or two during family devotion time each day. Try to learn one or two verses by heart by the end of the month. Take turns choosing the hymn and try to make them seasonal if possible.
- ★ Make a point of talking about the sermon and/or Sunday School lessons as you go home after church or over Sunday lunch. What did you like/dislike? What was the most memorable thing? Was there anything funny? What do you remember most? Was there anything you didn't understand?

September 22, St. Matthew

Look at the beginning verses of St Matthew's gospel. They are the genealogy or family tree of Jesus. In Jesus' time it was very important to know about your family. It had been prophesied in the Old Testament that God's Son would come from the family tree of King David and Matthew includes Jesus' family tree to show that he did. Some of the people in Jesus' family tree were great heroes of the Bible, such as Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Ruth, David and Solomon. Others were unknown people, and some were evil, such as Jehoram and Ahaz. God can use all sorts of people for his work, although it would be much the best to try to be the sort of person it is easy for him to use. What might this mean?

Children might start to draw up their own family tree. Make an outline of a tree on a large piece of paper and put the names or pictures of your family at the top. Work down the tree, putting in the names of parents, grandparents and great-grandparents. How far can you go? Talk about the people in the family tree, what they were like, what they did, where they worshipped etc. Try to get a really good start on this before your next family get together, which might be at Thanksgiving. Then you can ask older relatives to help you fill in any gaps.