

Marriage & Parenting at Hope

June 2008

“A truly rich man is one whose children run into his arms when his hands are empty.”
Anonymous

In honor of all of the fathers in our lives, I wanted to share some thoughts from John Trent, marriage and family counselor and president of Encouraging Word. He suggests the following for conversation builders and activities to connect fathers with their children and dig deeper into their relationships...

- What’s one thing I could pray about for you this week?
- If you could be anything when you grow up, what would you be?
- What’s one thing you really appreciate about your best friend?
- If we could go anywhere on vacation, where would we go and what would we do?
- What’s your favorite thing for us to do as a family that doesn’t involve spending any money?
- What’s one thing I could work on that would make you feel even more loved?

Of course, you can make up your own list, but you get the idea.

Asking questions is a great step toward greater intimacy with your kids, but why stop there? Once you’re talking, go ahead and try other ways to touch the hearts of your children. The more connected you are to your kids, the closer they feel to you. And the closer they feel, the more they’ll open up their hearts to talk to you about their concerns, dreams and prayers. Here are a few (OK, 15) ideas to get you started:

1. For a week, compliment each of your children individually every day. (Compliment and encourage your spouse in front of the kids every day, too.)
2. Give them a hug each day.
3. Point out one trait they have that God can use in the future. (“You have such a caring heart. I can’t wait to see how God helps you use it!”)
4. Roast marshmallows over the barbecue grill.
5. Make a blanket fort and spend time hiding out with the kids.
6. Camp out in the back yard or the living room.
7. Pick a board game the kids like and play it together.
8. Make a fishing pole with string and use a large paper clip as a hook. Color some construction-paper fish, toss them on the floor and try to hook a few.
9. Help the kids put together a puppet show or skit for Mom.
10. Hold the “National Soap Bubble Championship” in your back yard.
11. Take a hike on a new trail.
12. Spend a Sunday morning in *their* Sunday school class.
13. Read a Bible story or Christian chapter book together.
14. Take time to talk with your children about the things God is teaching you during the week.
15. Tell them about a prayer God answered in your life.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

Colossians 3:16

Deborah Boyer
Marriage & Parenting Coordinator
222-1520, ext. 115
deborah.boyer@hopewdm.org

Blessings, Deborah

WHAT TO DO AT HOPE:

Movie Night at Hope: "The Final Season" will air Saturday, June 7, in The Bridge. Light meal and popcorn served at 6:30 pm. Movie begins at 7:00 pm. Enjoy a date night with your beloved. *Movie is free. A free-will offering for food will be accepted. Sorry, childcare is unavailable.*

Summer service opportunities for you and your family:

Kids Against Hunger - Make meal packets Thursdays, 6:00-9:00 pm, 90 minute shifts. Contact Dina Remington at dina.remington@hopewdm.org or 222-1520, ext. 138.

Vacation Bible School - Help children learn about Jesus July 14-18 or July 21-25. Contact Jennifer Newton at jennifer.newton@hopewdm.org or 222-1520, ext. 139.

Watch the bulletin for CIA (Christ in Action) service opportunities to do with your children this summer.

Kids' Opportunities:

Summer Kingdom Quest runs through August 23/24, and is offered for kids age 3 by (Sept. 15) through grade 4 at the Saturday 5:00 pm service, as well as Sundays at 9:15 and 11:00 am. No pre-registration is required! Check kids in outside room 104 for age 3 through kindergarten or outside room 214 for grades 1 through 4.

Book Club: Wednesdays, June 18 - July 9, 10:00-11:00 am. Kids going into grades 3-6 are invited to discuss what they're reading this summer! Registrations and a list of books being read are available at www.hopewdm.org/childrens or at the Youth Booth as well as a list of books being read. Contact Children's Ministry for more information at 222-1520.

High School Summer Events

Incoming freshmen through graduated seniors are welcome at all events, except as noted. All events will take place at Lutheran Church of Hope unless other location specified. For more information please contact our Student Ministry summer interns: Sarah Burton at sarah.burton@hopewdm.org or Nick Brannen at nick.brannen@hopewdm.org. Both Sarah and Nick can be reached at 222-1520.

Summer Ignition

Sundays, June 8, July 6 and August 3 at 6:30 pm in Rm 130

This large group gathering meets once a month during the summer. Summer Ignition reunites the Ignition tribe during the chaotic summer months. Students can expect worship, teaching, great food, and a whole lot of fun!



Summer Bible study

Wednesdays (starting June 11) at 6:30 pm

This weekly Bible study for guys and gals is led by our summer interns. This is our organized "deep" ministry time during the summer.



Ultimate Frisbee League

Mondays (starting June 9) at 4:00 pm

This is a great weekly Monday evening hangout with Frisbees, food, and fun! Meet at Webster Elementary School in Urbandale.



World Vision's 30 Hour Famine

Saturday, June 28

Students are challenged to find supporters to sponsor them in a 30-hour fast. While fasting, students will serve the community, learn about the struggle against AIDS, hunger, poverty in Africa, and spend some incredible time with God. This is an overnight event.



Vacation Bible School



July 14-18
9:00 am - noon

July 21-25
9:00 am - noon
6:00-8:00 pm

Registration forms are available for kids and volunteers online at www.hopewdm.org/childrens and at the Welcome Centers and Youth Booth. Cost: \$10/child (\$25/family maximum)

For more information contact Jennifer Newton at jennifer.newton@hopewdm.org or 422-9139.



Thoughts from a 17 month old boy's father on Father's Day

I've heard it said that kids these days have it a lot harder growing up than I did, which was supposed to be a lot harder than the days when my father grew up. They tell me this difficulty is due to all the new ways kids can get in trouble that I have no clue about: technology, girls, drugs, alcohol, etc. I'm told the kids grow up so much faster than kids ever have before, and once they grow up they face a difficult future with the economy, national debt, global warming, and the list goes on and on.

All this is daunting news for a new dad, who already worries if he's a sufficient dad for right now, let alone for all the things our family will face in the future. Then I think about Jesus. I'm drawn to Matthew 19:13. The first half of the verse says it all, "One day some parents brought their children to Jesus..." Why would parents take their children to Jesus? It seems because that's the only rightful place for children and their parents. The rightful place is with Jesus, because our kids are not our kids. They belong to Jesus. As parents, we do not even belong to ourselves. We belong to Jesus, too. He says, "Let the little children come to me!"

Suddenly, it hits me. My job as a father is not to be the "best" father possible. My job is to daily surrender my fatherly claims over my children to Jesus, AND to run to Jesus myself as a little child does. Praise be to God our Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ who rule victoriously over all of things that scare and worry this father. Praise to God for claiming us as his children in baptism and the promise we and our kids receive from Romans 8, that nothing can separate us from God's claim on us. Praise!

Grant Woodley, who grew up in Clarion, is married to Nicole. Their son Dietrich is 17 months old. Grant and Nicole are serving as intern pastors at Hope through Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN.

Marriage & Parenting at Hope

V
I
S To reach out to families in our community and to encourage them to be Christ-centered, spirited, growing, and serving. Classes, small groups and special events focus on supporting and encouraging families through biblically-based and Christ-centered programs.

I
O
N "But from the beginning of the creation, God 'made them male and female.' 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife and the two shall become one flesh'; so then they are no longer two, but one flesh."
Mark 10:6-8



G
O
A
L To be a safe place within the community of believers where today's families can share challenges and offer support.

"Know that the Lord your God, he is God, the faithful God, who keeps covenant and mercy with those who love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations." Deuteronomy 7:9

Marriage & Parenting at Hope provides classes, events and small-group connections to:

- **Show** couples how to experience the true gift of marriage that God has given them. (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12)
- **Help** marriages build on a Christ-centered foundation through prayer and Bible study. (Matthew 6:33)
 - **Build** small groups to provide an opportunity to share life and grow together. (Matthew 28:18-20; Luke 6:12-16; Acts 2:42, 46-47)
- **Empower** couples to model their lives after Jesus as disciples that serve others. (2 Timothy 2:2)
 - **Encourage** families to grow together in Christ. (Proverbs 23:18)

For more information, please contact Marriage & Parenting Coordinator Deborah Boyer at 222-1520, ext.115 or email deb.boyer@hopewdm.org.