



Lemont United Methodist Church
Sunday School



Notes to Parents

Dear Parents,

December 2013



Happy Holiday season! Only 25 days left until Christmas...how is your shopping coming along? Have you been buying a little all year? Did you battle the "Black Friday" crowds to claim great deals? Or are you just getting started now that Thanksgiving has passed? I fall into the last group, but somehow we always manage to have an abundance of gifts under our tree at Christmas. Every year I am rewarded as I watch my family open their gifts because for me, giving truly is more enjoyable than receiving. But I wonder if I have been misguided in focusing on fulfilling my children's material wishes. Jesus advised us, "It is more blessed to give than receive." (Acts 20:35b) Perhaps I should be helping my children to experience the joy of giving as well. Here are some tips on how to raise an altruistic child (adapted from www.focusonthefamily.com):

Prayer Connect

This month's theme is Sharing Love with Actions
(1 John 3:18)



Dear Lord,
Help my children to love not just with words but with actions and in truth.

Amen

1. Be a good Role Model. Let your children see you giving and helping others. Add a child or family in need to your giving list.
2. Give as a Family. Take them to the store to pick out gifts for others. Even if you do the shopping, they can still contribute...have them wrap the gift or draw a Christmas card.
3. Make it Hands On. Get them involved in a project to help others...like cooking for the homeless shelter or making candies to give as gifts.
4. Give it Away. Encourage them to donate gently-used toys and clothing
5. Share Examples. Read stories about generous people and talk about acts you've witnessed
6. Start a "Giving Bank." Give your children a special bank that they can fill with coins to donate to a charity of their choice.
7. Help it Sink In. After they give, ask them questions to reinforce the act: "How did it feel?" "Would you like to give again?" "Do you have other ideas how we can help?"

Like anything else, learning to give takes practice...but the rewards will come by themselves!
Happy Parenting!

Yours in Christ,
Karin Peraino & Mary Rohrer

Mark Your Calendar

- ✓ 12/01 = Advent Calendars, Chrismons at 10:45am service, Church decorating 3pm-6pm
- ✓ 12/08 = Potluck Brunch for Mike Galati
- ✓ 12/15 = Pancake Breakfast for SS at 9:30am
- ✓ 12/23-1/06 = No SS, Christmas break
- ✓ 12/24 = Christmas Eve services at 4pm & 8pm
- ✓ 1/12/14 = Sunday School resumes!

December Open Pantry Need:

Paper Towels



GROW



Winter 2013-14

Teacher	Date	Session	Bible Story	Scripture
Unit 1: The Birth of Jesus Bible Point: I celebrate the birth of Jesus. Key Verse: "She gave birth to her firstborn child, a son, wrapped him snugly, and laid him in a manger" ~Luke 2:7				
	12/01	2	<i>A Message to Mary</i>	Luke 1:26-38, 46-47
	12/08	3	<i>A Message to Joseph</i>	Matthew 1:18-25
	12/15	4	<i>Good News!</i>	Luke 2:1-20
Unit 2: The Life of Jesus Bible Point: My faith in God grows as I grow Key Verse: "Jesus matured in wisdom and years, and in favor with God and with people" ~ Luke 2:52				
	1/12	1	<i>The Wise Men</i>	Matthew 2:1-12
	1/19	2	<i>Jesus at the Temple</i>	Luke 2:39-52
	1/26	3	<i>Jesus' Baptism</i>	Mark 1:4-11

*(Note: Jr. High is watching and discussing "The Bible" miniseries.
This month we review stories about David and Daniel.
The HS Breakfast Club holds discussions based on various religious materials.)*

Breakfast Club dates: 12/08/13, 1/12/14, 2/02/14, 2/23/14, 3/09/14, 3/23/14, 4/13/14, 4/27/14, 5/11/15

Thoughts for the Month



"Give and it will be given to you."

~Luke 6:38

"It's not how much we give,
but how much love we put into giving"

~Mother Theresa

Kidz Korner



Happy December Birthday to our Sunday School friends!
Molly Stood 12/01, Mason Rohrer 12/08,
Megan Cheehy 12/12, and Abby Ivancicts 12/27



Did You Know?

The traditional colors of Christmas are green, red, and gold. These colors are important reminders of the true meaning of the holiday. Green symbolizes life and reminds us of Jesus' birth; red symbolizes the blood of Christ and reminds us of his sacrifice; and gold represents royalty and reminds us of God's Kingdom in heaven.



Christmas Word Jumble

Can you unscramble these Christmas words? (For help, there is a word bank in the box below.)

- | | | | |
|------------|-------|---------------|-------|
| 1. VISROA | _____ | 11.MALEC | _____ |
| 2. NGELA | _____ | 12.DPREHSEH | _____ |
| 3. YRAM | _____ | 13.LHEHTEEMB | _____ |
| 4. ODNYKE | _____ | 14.REMGNA | _____ |
| 5. ISKNG | _____ | 15.RASTW | _____ |
| 6. HEJOPS | _____ | 16.PEEKNNRIE | _____ |
| 7. NAECDL | _____ | 17.TSRA | _____ |
| 8. BHTRI | _____ | 18.YTSPoiHLIR | _____ |
| 9. AVENHE | _____ | 19.SUJES | _____ |
| 10.SINAMEW | _____ | 20.SEDSBLE | _____ |

Word Bank

Angel
Bethlehem
Birth
Blessed
Camel

Candle
Donkey
Heaven
Holy Spirit
Innkeeper

Jesus
Joseph
Kings
Manger
Mary

Savior
Shepherd
Star
Straw
Wiseman