

“Child of the King”

GenMin 2008 camps standard preteen teaching curriculum

Items Included:

- * Curriculum for Chapels (includes object lessons)
- * Words to Songs for Chapels
- * Web link for song music
- * Arts and Crafts ideas and web links
- * Flyer for campers to take home with them

Preparation for Preteen Chapels:

This curriculum, titled, “Child of the King” is based loosely on the movie “The Lion King.” Since some/most campers probably haven’t seen the movie (it came out 13 years ago!), you may wish to show it in its entirety on opening night. Note, however, that some scenes may frighten some of the youngest campers.

Chapel teaching lessons are designed so that each one stands on its own without showing the entire movie. Short excerpts from the movie have been selected for visual illustration of each message.

As Disney only releases and re-releases their movies at certain times, you may need to look around to rent or purchase a DVD/VHS copy (the scenes to be played have been timed according to the DVD version). Amazon.com typically has the movie for sale.

For providing the music that accompanies each lesson, you have two choices (and words to the songs are printed at the end of this curriculum):

1. Use musicians to play the music (you’ll need to order sheet music for this purpose).
2. Download the music at http://www.greerchurch.com/childrens_ministries.html (scroll to the bottom).

Presenters should preview and practice the Object Lesson of each Chapel ahead of time and make sure they have necessary props ready. Also, directors should decide if they want to provide special treats for the last Chapel and will also want Communion supplies on hand for the 4th Chapel.

Suggestions for Chapel presentations:

It will add a lot to the feel and interest of the Chapels if the presenter comes in a costume matching the Lion King theme. It sets the mood for the campers as they come in as well as just being fun for them to see one of the adults all dressed up. Ideas for costumes could be anything in African dress, safari clothes, one of the characters from the movie, adding some face paint perhaps, etc...

If you have an area reserved for preteen Chapel you could decorate the stage/area as a jungle or savannah. As camp progresses, dorms/campers can add to the decorations and see their contributions on stage. It can be a unifying arts & crafts project for dorms and for the camp.

Goals for this curriculum are to tie together different learning styles as well as incorporating the Object Lessons for Chapels into the rest of camp. A great way to do this is through arts and crafts outside of Chapel. Ideas for arts and crafts and how they can then be reincorporated back into the final Chapel are listed at the end of the lessons.

Construction of Chapel Messages/presentations:

Each lesson is constructed in the same manner for consistency for campers and ease of presentation. PowerPoint slides for songs and messages are included with the curriculum as well as a newsletter to send home with campers. Suggested words and key phrases in the lessons are shown in bold type – be sure to use these words and phrases in making the presentations.

The New Living Translation of the Bible is used for ease of understanding for this young audience. Feel free to use a different translation if it serves your purpose better. The verses used are listed in each lesson.

Note these other key points:

1. Each Chapel begins with a song and as camps are able, a PowerPoint display of the words. This is a great way to signal campers that Chapel is about to begin and transitions well into Chapel time.
2. Each lesson has a specific Object Lesson with a Main Point being made. Physical objects are used to reinforce the Object Lesson/Main Point. Supplies are listed at the beginning of each lesson. Presenters should become very familiar beforehand with the Object Lesson and Main Point to be conveyed.
3. We have tried to make the Main Point concise and easy to understand. Then following the introduction of the Object Lesson/Main Point there is conversation with campers and/or further explanation.
4. After presenting/discussing the Object Lesson/Main Point, there will be a short video clip from “The Lion King.” This usually will involve some discussion. Using the clip is a great way to incorporate a visual aide into your presentation.
5. Each lesson then ends with a song. Again, if possible, display the words since this aids the campers in learning the song as well as providing another visual aide for visual learners.

Lesson 1: God Chose You Before You Were Born

Begin Chapel by playing the song, "Oh I Just Can't Wait To See the King" This gives campers time to settle in. Show the words via PowerPoint if possible so they can see what they're singing (good for visual learners and retaining the words).

Object Lesson:

Supplies: gallon mayonnaise jar (any kind of clear jar)
 2 inch rocks (enough to fill the jar)
 ½ inch pebbles (enough to fill the jar once rocks are in the jar)
 2 cups sand or more (enough to pour over rocks and pebbles to fill jar)
 2 cups water or more (enough to pour over contents and fill jar)

Note: Do this demonstration prior to the event so you know for sure how much of each item you need for the jar you have.

Display items where all can see to show how much you are trying to fit into the jar. Feel free to invite 'helpers' to join you if you are comfortable with that.

I have here sand, pebbles, water and rocks. We have to figure out how to get all of this into this jar. Any ideas? *Encourage campers' suggestions of how to approach the problem and help them think through some of the options they present.*

I think we need a plan! How about we go from biggest to smallest? First let's fill the jar with all these rocks. *Fill jar with rocks. Then we will add the pebbles* *add the pebbles.* **Do you think we can fit in the sand? Is there room?** *Encourage feedback* **Ok let's pour in the sand...look it does fit! Boy the jar looks awfully full. I don't know if we can fit this water in too. Do you think we can still fit in the water?** *Slowly pour in the water.* **Wow it does fit! I am so glad we had a plan!**

Conclusion: **Just as it took thought and planning for us to fit all this stuff into the jar...God had a plan even before He created this earth for each of us...for each of you...to be in HIS FAMILY.**

As we've just seen in the object lesson, God does a bit of planning and planned for you to be in His family. But, even more than that...

Main point: GOD CHOSE YOU BEFORE YOU WERE BORN

Read Ephesians 1:4-5 (NLT)

Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be with him. God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by what Jesus, his Son would do for us. Doing so give him great pleasure. *Explain and discuss the scripture making sure campers understand.*

Now show the video clip – discussion will come later in this lesson. Remember to emphasize the main point as much as possible throughout the course of the lesson. Repetition of the main point is key to campers retaining the lesson/message.

Video Clip: If the kids have seen the movie, before you play this clip, have them brainstorm/give feedback as to what they remember about why being the firstborn son of Mufasa was such a big deal. **What made Simba different from the other animals? What did it mean for him to be the first born?** If you haven't shown the entire movie, you may want to introduce the clip first. **This video clip is from a movie called, "The Lion King." It's about a king named Mufasa and his son Simba. In this part of the movie, Mufasa is presenting his son to the other animals and showing them who will someday be their new king.**

Show the presentation of Simba at Pride Rock as the first born son. It is scene 1 on the DVD (approx. 4 ½ minutes).

Debrief the clip. **So this clip was about Simba and how he was trained to be a king by his father. He walked alongside Mufasa and learned from his dad. It's the same with us and our Father, God. God has all kinds of names like Father, King, Creator (add a few others if you wish) In these Chapels, we'll be using "Father" and "King" a lot when we talk about God. What are some cool things about being a son/daughter of the King?** After hearing responses of campers, some other responses to bring up may be: inheritance, take on responsibilities of the Father – His focus becomes our focus, we have closeness with God that only family can have, He LOVES us!

God desires for us to have all of the advantages to which his children are entitled. Being a child in God's family is like being a firstborn son like Simba in "The Lion King." In some cultures today and in the past, if a couple had no children of their own, they would adopt a child. Once they adopted a child as theirs, that child had all the privileges and wealth that a child born naturally to them would have. What God has done for us is like that. He chose us before we were born – He chose YOU before YOU were born to be in adopted into his family – to be his child. Can you imagine that? Just as the scripture we read earlier said, God adopted us into His family – He loved us and chose us before He made the world!

Closing Song: End lesson by playing the song, "Can You Feel His Love For You?" Again, show the words via PowerPoint if possible. It's a great visual aide and will help campers learn the words more quickly.

Lesson 2: NOTHING Stops God From Loving You

Begin Chapel by playing the song, "Oh I Just Can't Wait To See the King" This gives campers time to settle in. Show the words via PowerPoint if possible so they can see what they're singing (good for visual learners and retaining the words).

Object Lesson:

Supplies: cloth hanky or Kleenex

Note: Play up having a stuffy nose or cold.

Hi everyone. I am so glad you all made it today. I am sorry that I sound a little funny ...sneeze into the hanky or Kleenex and begin trying to pass it off to the kids in the front row but I really wanted to be here today to share with you some awesome news.

Begin to react to the fact that the kids don't want to take the "soiled" Kleenex. If one does take it stop and ask what are they going to do with it...

Why don't you want this? What do you mean it's yucky or *(put in their description)*
How come you feel that way? OK, here let me take it. *Fold it up and put it in a pocket.*
The truth is I didn't sneeze on it. It is perfectly clean and ready for when I do need to really blow my nose.

You reacted to what you thought you saw to be true. God doesn't go by what people "thought happened" or how people judge things, He goes by what He knows to be true. Sometimes we are told that we are "yucky," "not good enough," that you are unloveable or...add in the descriptions the children gave you. But God knows the truth. That NOTHING will stop Him from LOVING YOU!

That's what we're going to talk about today. Just because we "hear" messages from people or society around us that we are "Yucky" like my Kleenex or not good enough...

Main point: NOTHING STOPS GOD FROM LOVING YOU

Note to presenter: It may not be a good idea to open up this next portion for all group discussion as it can take you places you don't necessarily want to go during a Chapel and in front of a large group. You'll want to use your discretion to get the point across without making the campers uncomfortable or allowing sensitive items to be shared with the group. You know your group best, so do what you think works best for them during this Chapel. The point is to place the message of God's unconditional love for them in contrast to the messages and lies our society pounds into them.

Let's talk about some of the messages this world or people in this world send you.

We all have heard things like:

"You're not good enough"

"You're not smart enough"

"You're stupid"

"You don't do the right things"

"You're not a good kid"

"I don't like you"

"You're not loveable"

"You're not pretty"

"You're fat"

The list goes on.

The good news is that God doesn't go by ANY of this!

He loves you no matter what because you belong to him. You are his child!

Video Clip: Watch this next clip and see how Scar, Simba's jealous uncle, uses the same techniques that society uses on us.

This is the section where Mufasa dies because of Scar and Scar tricks Simba into thinking it's Simba's fault. Stop video after Scar tells Simba to, "Run away and never return." It is scene 10 on the DVD (approx. 3 ½ minutes).

What was Scar trying to get Simba to do? Why? What did Scar want? How did Scar trick or "play" Simba?

Society tries to trick us as Scar was trying to trick Simba. But remember, it's a trick - NOTHING stops God from loving you - He is constant!

Read verse Ephesians 1:4-8 (NLT)

...Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be child. God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us through his dear Son Jesus. He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins. He has showered his kindness on us!

God LOVES you and won't ever stop loving you!

End lesson by playing the song, "Can You Feel His Love For You?" Again, use PowerPoint to give campers a visual aide.

Lesson 3: It's Your Choice - Do You Accept You're a Child of the King?

Begin Chapel by playing the song, "Oh I Just Can't Wait To See the King" This gives campers time to settle in. Show the words via PowerPoint if possible so they can see what they're singing (good for visual learners and retaining the words).

Object Lesson:

Supplies: Poster below (create one if you don't have it displayed on PowerPoint)

If you know your alphabet and can count from one to ten then you shouldn't have much difficulty carrying out the simple task I'm going to give you. In a few moments I'm going to put a short sentence on the screen. You will have ten seconds to read it through, and count the number of times the letter "F" is used in the sentence. Don't say anything while the words are on the screen, and don't tell your answer to anyone else - keep it to yourself.

*At this point, show the sentence below. The words **must** be printed and arranged exactly as shown for it to work (use a simple bold font such as "Arial" and include the box around the text). After ten seconds hide the sentence.*

FINISHED FILES ARE THE RESULT OF YEARS OF SCIENTIFIC STUDY COMBINED WITH THE EXPERIENCE OF MANY YEARS.

Now here's the interesting part. We all counted the number of times the letter F appeared in the sentence. Remember, don't tell anybody else your answer. You may have a different answer than other people, but keep to the number *you* counted.

Raise your hand if you counted just one letter F (probably nobody). Now raise your hand if you counted two (maybe one or two). OK so how many counted three? (At this point the vast majority should raise their hand). OK that's good! By the way, is there anybody who thought they saw four? . . . five? . . . six? . . . seven? (It is possible that a few may raise their hand for four, five or six, but don't stop - just pass quickly on). OK, one or two have different answers, but I think it's clear that almost everybody agrees there were three.

Now let's look at it again (*show the sentence again*). I want everybody to keep silent while we go through it. I'm sure everybody spotted the first letter F (*point to the first letter of the sentence*). And here's the second one (*point to the letter F in "FILES"*). But there is a third one, here at the end of the second line just before the hyphen (*point to it*). So most of you think you got it right? But what about this one? (*point to the letter F in the first "OF" in the second line*) and did you miss this one? (*Point to the letter F in the second "OF" in the second line*) or this one? (*Point to the letter F in the word "OF" in the last line*).

So nearly all of us got it wrong. We counted three but missed the other three! Don't feel too bad about it though - it's a trick - a clever piece of psychology, deliberately designed to make you miss three out of the six. But it was there in plain sight for you to see. Your brain didn't accept the "OF" as having an "F" sound... so you didn't see it all.

God wants you to "see it all" ...to know and understand that He planned for you to be His Child. It is right in front of you....Do you see it? **Do you accept you are a child of the KING?**

Main point: IT'S YOUR CHOICE - DO YOU ACCEPT YOU'RE A CHILD OF THE KING?

Read verse Ephesians 1:4-5

Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be his child. God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure.

So, where that leaves us is here: Do you accept God's love for you, and the truth that he has made you his child? As we accept God's love, we are changed from the inside out. God's love flows in us and we are changed. We become vessels of his love who share his love with others. We can't help it (put the focus on the transformation by God from the inside out). As we have God's love in us, we move from the philosophy of *Acuna Mattata* (the way of avoiding difficult things - you may need to explain this reference if campers have not seen the movie) to accepting God and His love for us.

Acuna Mattata is a way of thinking - no responsibilities, making everything about ourselves - what we want - what pleases us. Do you like being around people like that? God's love for us gives us a purpose. We become aware that we are truly God's child - a part of His family - and we take on the responsibility of being His son or daughter. This means that we start to be like our King. We start to focus on loving other people. We have a purpose and a direction for our life.

In contrast, if we do not accept who we are; if we don't accept God's love and the embrace the truth that we are his child, we just stay the same as we already are. We don't know the joy of being His child. We focus on "I" and try to handle everything ourselves.

What does that accomplish? Look at Simba. There were consequences to his choice of not accepting that he was king. His land was dying and the animals were moving on or starving. He was focused only on himself. He had no purpose or meaning for his life. God has showed us His love and has invited us to live as his child. He gives us a purpose to live for.

We can accept the world's messages, shut off and focus on us denying God's love or we can respond to God's love, accept that He loves us and we're his sons/daughters. See what Simba does about accepting who he is in the movie.

Video Clip: Nala finds Simba and tries to get him to accept who he is. It is scene 18 on the DVD (approx. 1 ½ minutes).

End lesson by playing the song, "Can You Feel His Love For You?" with PowerPoint for words.

Lesson 4: You Are Connected to God

Begin Chapel by playing the song, “Oh I Just Can’t Wait To See the King” This gives campers time to settle in. Show the words via PowerPoint if possible so they can see what they’re singing (good for visual learners and retaining the words).

Object Lesson:

Supplies: Cell Phone

How many of you have your own cell phone? How many have older brothers or sisters with cell phones? How about your parents? How many of you know your parents’ cell phone numbers? Why do you know their cell phone numbers? *Let the campers share their reasons why/answers* (Possible answers: to call when I need them to pick me up, to let them know where I am, to ask to go to a friend’s house, etc...)

So you can connect with your parents at any time by calling their cell phone? Why? (Possible responses: Mom has it in her purse, my dad had his clipped on his belt, they always carry it with them) **So you always can reach them if you need them?** *Presenter share some of your personal use of cell phones and people with whom you are in contact.*

Did you know that on cell phones there is a way to turn on the locator button? It’s a feature that allows the police to track your phone so they can locate you if you are missing or there’s an emergency? *Display your cell phone....So you are always connected to someone if you choose.*

That is what is so awesome about God. When we accept that we are his child—a part of His family, we become aware of the connection we have with God every minute of every day. We can always talk with him and he always has our location.

Main point: YOU ARE CONNECTED TO GOD

Read verse Ephesians 1:7-9

He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom and forgave our sins with the blood of his Son. He showered on us his kindness, wisdom and understanding. God has now revealed to us his mysterious plan regarding Jesus Christ, a plan to fulfill his own good pleasure for us.

This is the good news for us! We need to know that we are children of God (use the personal with kids – i.e. YOU are a child of God, I am a child of God). **God loved us so much that he gave us a connection to him. Jesus, God’s son and our big brother allows us to always be in contact. How? Jesus became a human being for us; he lived on this earth with us, he died for us and he rose from death and went to heaven for us. All this so we can be God’s children—part of God’s family. Yes, we have and will do bad things. But Jesus took upon himself the punishment for our sins so that we are forgiven and given a new life with him and with the Holy Spirit who helps us walk with Jesus.**

Because Jesus gives us His Spirit, we ALWAYS have a connection with God. He never leaves us – He’s always there with us and for us; helping us; loving us.

In this next video clip, Simba tries to ignore his connection with his father. Watch to see what happens.

Video Clip: Rafiki helps Simba realize that he is the child of the King. The King (Simba’s father) is alive because he lives in Simba – just as the King lives in us. Stop the video after Rafiki shows Simba his reflection in the pool and says, “You see, he lives in you.” This is scene 19 on the DVD (approx. 4 minutes).

Just as Simba realized that his father was there and alive in him, we need to realize that God is alive lives in us through the Holy Spirit. We are always connected to God, but do we know that? Do we rejoice in that? Do we listen to His voice? Do we talk to him and ask for His help? You always can – you are his child!

Now we’re going to have what we call *Communion*. It represents our connection with our King – with our Heavenly Father and our brother Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Through communion we remember what Jesus did so we can be God’s child – a part of his family. Drinking the grape juice and eating the bread remind us that Jesus is alive in us. His Spirit is always with us. We are always connected to God.

Offer Communion

End lesson by playing the song, “Can You Feel His Love For You?” with words on PowerPoint.

Lesson 5: Celebrate Being the Child of the King!

Presenter note: You may want to speak to counselors ahead of time as campers will be bringing crafts/instruments to this Chapel. Counselors will need to hold onto any noisy instruments until the end during song time. Also, things have been changed around a bit for this Chapel. So, you'll want to note which song is played when and how things are arranged.

Begin Chapel by playing the song, "Can You Feel His Love for You?" while kids get settled. Again, show the words on PowerPoint. Songs have been switched around to save the more upbeat song for the end of Chapel.

No introduction is needed for the video clip. You can begin showing it as soon as the song is concluded.

Video Clip: The ending celebration when animals come back to Pride Rock and Simba, Nala, and the others are there for the presentation of their son. *During video clip, hand out paper crowns to all campers* (suggested activity). Video clip is scene 23 on DVD (approx. 2 ½ minutes).

Main point: CELEBRATE BEING THE ADOPTED CHILD OF GOD!

Welcome to Chapel today! We want to celebrate who you all are! You all are all adopted children of the King. You are a part of God's family!

Read verse **Ephesians 1:11**

Furthermore, because we are united with Christ, we have received an inheritance from God, for he chose us in advance, and he makes everything work out according to his plan.

We are children of the King! All we have to do is believe it and accept it! God loves us and has provided this opportunity for us. So what does it mean to be a daughter or son of the King? What does it mean to you? Solicit responses from the campers.

As we talked about a few Chapels back, once we accept the love God has for us, His Spirit lives in us and helps us to become more like him and like his Son Jesus. How can we show love to our world? How can we show love to people around us like God and Jesus show their love to us? What's going on in your schools, churches, neighborhoods, communities, with our soldiers, etc...? (Have large paper to write kids' ideas on of what they could do to show love - how they can impact their world as Children of the King)

These are all great ideas of things you can do – but most importantly, we can begin just to show love and kindness to others just as God has shown us love. No more Acuna Mattata for us! We'd like to pray for you as you accept that you're a Child of the King and give you a special blessing to go out as sons and daughters of the King into the world. Pray over the campers.

Please conduct this next part in whatever manner you feel is most appropriate for your campers: **For those of you who would like to dedicate your lives to Jesus or recommit your life to Jesus, we'd like to offer you the chance to do that now and have some of your counselors and pastors pray with you.**

Now's the time to break out those instruments and crafts you've been working on during camp! Let's sing and celebrate!

End the celebration with dancing to the song, "Oh, I Just Can't Wait To See the King" Campers get to use any instruments they made during crafts, wear their crafts, etc...

This is a party! Joy in your place in the family of God! You are God's child and have His love in you – a love you can share with others!

Suggestions are to have cake/cupcakes, bring instruments and crafts that were made during camp to play and wave/wear during the celebration.

Each camp can decide if they'd like the teens to join in the final celebration with the preteens so the whole "family" is together.

Supplemental Materials

Arts & Crafts Ideas:

These would need to be implemented during Arts & Crafts sessions during camp as Chapel probably isn't long enough. But, it's a great way to integrate Chapel themes/messages. Another option would be that dorms could work on stage decorations and talk about the Chapels while decorating together.

African animal masks (paper mache and balloons or just cardstock/stiff paper that they can color, paint, or decorate)
African instruments
Stage decorations (brown paper bag trees, tissue paper flowers, vines, etc...)
Jungle photo frames
Jungle bookmarks/prayer bookmarks
Animal bookmarks
Beaded necklaces

The following website links are places either to order craft supplies at discount prices or sites that give information on how to construct different crafts:

Oriental Trading Company

<http://www.orientaltrading.com>

Some possible crafts for purchase here:

Zoo Animal Necklace, Color-Your-Own Zoo Animal Masks, Design-Your-Own Zoo

Animal Hats, Baubles from Abroad Necklace (could be nice for older preteens)

http://www.dltk-kids.com/world/africa/pake_an_african_mask.asp

<http://www.dltk-kids.com/world/africa/pdrum.asp>

http://www.dltk-kids.com/world/africa/psand_paper_art.asp

<http://www.michaels.com/art/online/ProjectPrint?width=80&pid=c00158>

http://www.canadianliving.com/crafts/kids_crafts/rain_schtick.php

<http://jas.familyfun.go.com/arts-and-crafts?page=CraftDisplay&craftid=10690>

After camp suggestion:

Send home a short flyer to let parents know what we discussed in Chapels along with the brainstorm list of ways kids can make a difference with love - to help remind campers after camp of what they learned at camp. Flyer is included with curriculum for camps to photocopy.

Theme Verse for Chapels:

New Living Translation Ephesians 1:3-11

3. All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ. 4. Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. 5. God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. 6. So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son. 7. He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins. 8. He has showered his kindness on us, along with all wisdom and understanding. 9. God has now revealed to us his mysterious plan regarding Christ, a plan to fulfill his own good pleasure. 10. And this is the plan: At the right time he will bring everything together under the authority of Christ - everything in heaven and on earth. 11. Furthermore, because we are united with Christ, we have received an inheritance from God, for he chose us in advance, and he makes everything work out according to his plan.

Lyrics to Songs

“Oh I Just Can’t Wait to See the King!”

Jesus is our mighty King
His enemies run in fear
The love of Jesus is in our hearts
He's standing with us here
When I'm feeling pain or fear
His Spirit makes me strong
In every situation
Jesus moves me on
Let all creation jump for joy and sing
Oh I just can't wait to see the King

Let all creation jump for joy and sing
Lift him high and let his praises ring
It's gonna be the greatest thing I've seen
Oh I just can't wait to see the King (x3)

Lyrics - Simon Matthews, Copyright ©
1996 Chasah Music
Music - Elton John, Copyright © 1994
Disney

Jesus said he loves me
Jesus said he loves you
Jesus said love them
In the way that I do
Jesus loves us every single day
He loves us in every possible way

Everybody jump left
Everybody jump right
Everybody jump up
And put Jesus in your life

"Can You Feel His Love For You?"

Be still before the Lord now
What is on your mind?
Are there things that worry you,
Fears of any kind?
God is here to bless you
His heart is full of love
Jesus hand is reaching out to you
With the Spirit's power

Can you feel his love for you?
The peace his presence brings
He longs to hold you
In his loving arms
You're worth so much to him

There's nothing you can't tell him
No thought you need to hide
The things you've said,
The things you've done
Just open up your heart
And as you wait, he'll answer
A still small voice of calm
That speaks the truth
"You're so special,
You're the Father's child"

Lyrics - Mike Burn, Copyright © 1996
Chasah Music
Music - Elton John, Copyright © 1994
Disney

Living as a Child of the KING!

celebrating our place in God's family

Dear Parents,

Just as there was excitement and celebration among the animals as Simba, new-born child of the Lion King, was presented, your child has been celebrating at camp the good news that long, long ago God decided to adopt us into his family through Jesus Christ (Eph 1:5).

Through a re-telling of the story of Simba's struggle to accept who he really was and what it meant to be King...your child has been learning at camp what it means to be an adopted child of God, their King.

Simba's living out his true role as King affected the lives of the animals of the savannah. As a child of King Jesus, your children can positively impact the lives of those around them, in their neighborhood, school, city, nation and world.

This newsletter gives you as parent ideas to help your child live out what they have learned at camp. May they truly impact their world with the love that God has lavished on us all!

Bring it home!

You had a great time at camp. Now bring it home! You can share God's love in your neighborhood. Get to know those who live on your street and on the blocks around you. Maybe some of them will want to join you in serving others in your city or community.



How about the senior citizens who live on your block? Do they need their sidewalk dug out when it snows in winter, or leaves raked in the fall? Does a disabled neighbor need their dog walked? What other ways can you help your neighbors who are in need?

Birthday Party Ideas

- ♥ Take all your guests to "Make a Bear" and have each make a bear and together donate them to a local shelter.
- ♥ Have your party start at the local Food Bank and take some time to help organize canned food.
- ♥ Have guests bring plants as presents and go together and clean up a garden and plant the flowers at a Women's shelter.
- ♥ Have guests bring socks, gloves or hygiene products for presents and send them to a group that serves the homeless in your area.
- ♥ Have guests bring a bag full of all the stuff for a birthday party, cake mix, frosting, plates, balloons and party favors etc. Then create birthday baskets to deliver to the food bank to go to families with a birthday coming up.
- ♥ Have a "book" birthday party and have guest bring a new book and donate the books to a children's hospice or hospital.

Cities try to provide services for those with low incomes or those who find it challenging to care for themselves or their families in the following major areas:

1. Safety (after school programs, neighborhood watch, sports programs)
2. Adequate Shelter (Family & teen shelters, transitional housing)
3. Food & Clothing (Food banks, soup kitchens, clothing rooms)
4. Health services (Medical clinics, senior at home care)
5. Access to Emergency services (24 hour hotlines, emergency help with heating or electric bills, disaster assistance)
6. Means to improve ones life (education, job training, Marriage & family counseling, support groups, English and a 2nd language)

To find the organizations in your city go to your city website and look for Human Services and look for their resource list to link to websites for information on programs and volunteer needs. Then call the organization and ask to talk to someone about how kids can help!

Ideas for Families Serving Together

- Take pizza and your Wii to a local teen shelter to provide food, fun and friendship to teens in their community.
- Sing Christmas carols at a neighborhood store during the holidays receiving money and “food” donations to give to a local food bank.
- Sponsor an international child and then set a place for that child at each family meal.
- Go once a month to help serve dinner at a soup kitchen.
- Chooses one person from the community who has really helped the family and come up with a fun way to thank them.
- Gather neighborhood families to design and built a float for the city 4th of July parade to make people aware of the needs of a local charity.
- Have a “lunch” sack with sandwich, fruit etc. in the car just in case you see a homeless person on the street corner.

Kids Can Make a Difference: Local

Food Bank:

- Have neighborhood, classroom or school food drives to help with snack, lunch or breakfast items just before winter and spring break.
- Have “item” drives for laundry soap, or hygiene products – items not covered by food stamps
- Find out what the food bank uses to pack the food into. Plastic bags? Paper bags? Have a drive for those items.

Children’s Clothing Banks:

- Have coat drives in the fall for winter coats, hats, gloves.
- Shoe, socks or underwear drives
- Swimsuit drives in the late spring
- Be a drop off site for kids clothing donations from friends and then deliver it all to the charity.
- Help sort clothing at a non-profit clothing bank

Family Shelters: Find out what they need first maybe...

- Drive for board games for video games
- Book drives
- Food drives for what they use the most
- Hygiene and laundry supplies



Global Impact

Kids have been having an awesome impact on the world as they reach outward sharing their blessings with others. Here are a few examples:

- Kids in a California town sold bottled water to raise funds to help a village in Africa get a pump for the well so that the children could access good drinking water. They sold enough for the pay for the whole project.
- A group of kids raised funds to send a Sunday School Teacher to Russia to train other Sunday School Teachers and provided teaching tools for their classroom.
- A young girl heard that an orphanage in China needed picture books for the young children to expand their view of the world and give them hope. She collected and shipped 3 full cases of books.

Here are Websites for ideas & information.

Kids making a difference:

Kidsicare.org

prudential.com/spirit (click on the latest Spirit of Community Report)

Volunteering

Servenet.org

Takepride.gov

Global – Worldconcern.org, Kidsalive.org
Worldvision.org, .freethechildren.com

The exciting thing about serving is that it’s an opportunity to show people how much God loves them. Actions of love speak louder than words and open doors to conversations about God and his love. When you partner with God in “love’n” on people in need, He works in awesome and sometimes unexpected ways! Take a moment to pray—think about what God wants for the people you are helping. He wants them to know He loves them and wants them to know they are his children....Go show and tell them!