

LightHouse

Family Church

Winter 2014



Baby It's Cold Outside

How to create warm family memories

Toddler Misbehavior

Which discipline choice will you make?

Transparent Faith in the Workplace
Would Anyone at Work Know

**Making Your
Faith Come
Alive in
2014**

POINT MAN

The Special Sauce

I PREACHED A SERMON RECENTLY WHERE I referred to obedience as the special sauce that turns belief into faith. John 3:16 says *"For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life."*

But then James tells us this; *"You say you have faith, for you believe that there is one God.¹ Good for you! Even the demons believe this, and they tremble in terror. How foolish! Can't you see that faith without good deeds is useless?"*

So what does that mean for us in 2014. It means that we should be believing and doing. Doing what we believe! Do you believe that Jesus saves us from an eternity in Hell? Then do something about it. Share the Life-Changing Message of Jesus Christ with someone this year. It's not rocket science; It's easy as to start a conversation about Heaven. Here is one way to do it. When talking to a friend start with something like this;

"Have you heard about the new movie that is coming out in April? It is called "Heaven is for Real". Do you think Heaven is real? "If you died tonight do you think you would go to Heaven?"

Knowing for sure that you will go to Heaven is as easy as ABC.

Admit that you are a sinner. Romans 3:23 says that all of us are sinners, you and me. Romans 6:23 says that the penalty for our sin is separation from God. Then it goes on to say that Jesus pays the penalty for us so we don't have to be separated from God and we can go to Heaven!

Believe that Jesus is God's only Son and that He died then and rose from the dead in order to save us from the consequence of our sin. Romans 5:8 Acts 4:12 John 3:16

Commit your life to Jesus. This is the act of obedience that turns belief into faith. Roman's 10 : 9, 10 says *"That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord', (That's obedience) and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."*

Make 2014 the year that you share Christ!

Shine the Light,
Pastor Morri

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Your Church Magazine

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LET IT SNOW...

Cuz We Can Still Have Fun!



Okay this is ridiculous. I live in sunny California and even I'm realizing that old man winter is in full force this year. And so are the kids! It can be very challenging to busy our little ones this time of the year, but it's not impossible. Here are a few fun activities that were a hit in my home.

Sock Wars- Yep, you get all the socks and ball them up and then RUN! cuz you're gonna get blasted with soft balls of fun.

Skits- We would pick TV shows to imitate or story books to act out. We even had a comedy show one time where you had to get the other person to laugh.

Share Can- List nouns like: turkey, cookies, swimming pool, monkeys etc. on strips of paper and place the individual papers into a can or jar. Have each person pick and tell something that has to do with the topic, you can decide if it has to be make believe or true. This game teaches children how to stay on topic. ➔

(Winter Fun Continued)

Baking Day- We would make homemade sugar cookies and have fun decorating them. Be sure and save one for Daddy!

Dance-A-Thon- Crank the tunes and shake what your mama gave you. This is tons of fun and accomplishes more than you think-Mom gets a workout, and the little ones get a good nap in the end.

Camp Out. This was probably my children's favorite winter past time. We would convert the dining room table into a cave/tent with sheets, and then drag in all the toys, pillows, and blankets. I would tell sort of scary stories by flashlight and have them share stories too.

So shake those winter blues, and use this indoor season to create memories that will last a lifetime.



Making an Impact in the Workplace

Although there are several opportunities for Christians to stand out in the workplace, it's important that it's not done in weird ways.



HOW MANY CHRISTIANS WORK IN YOUR OFFICE? Not sure? Maybe they've chosen to hide their true identity. Maybe your office is teeming with undercover Christians. Are you one of them?

In Matthew, chapter five, Jesus commands us to make our faith evident to everyone around us. "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven (NIV)."

Kind of Tricky

But did Jesus really mean at work? Living a high definition, transparent life in the secular workplace can get kind of tricky. It's not like you can begin each day leading the office in prayer, or reciting weekly Bible memory verses.

"Many of the tools we use at church just don't work in a secular environment," says C. Peter Wagner, author of, *The Church in the Workplace: How God's People Can Transform Society* (Regal). "Influence in the church is achieved through spirituality, in the workplace influence is achieved through success."

Wagner warns that although there are several opportunities for Christians to stand out in the workplace, it's important that it's not done in weird ways. "Learn how to draw the line. There are times to cut some slack and allow the system to operate. But you have to adapt before you have a chance to

change them. Otherwise you isolate, and hide in a cubical with Bible verses pinned to your wall."

Plastic Image

Sometimes Christians unknowingly make themselves unapproachable by refusing to be transparent and thereby projecting a false, almost plastic, image. It leaves their co-workers believing that Christians live a perfect life. Perhaps believers fear that sharing their struggles with other people at work reveal a lack of faith. On the contrary says Wagner, "It's okay to talk about your struggles and then others will talk about their struggles with you. That's when you gain influence."

Wagner says it's best when Christians take a missionary's perspective when entering the workplace. "We live in two different cultures. Christians need to be like missionaries, taking their faith into a culture that is different than the church. Sometimes believers try to transfer the piety of the church into the workplace, and that doesn't work. We have to adapt to the workplace culture."

Being Adaptable

Adapting doesn't mean compromising faith. After all there's the story of Daniel, a biblical example of a man rising in power, while maintaining spiritual integrity.

"Daniel had to become part of a whole group of sooth-sayers and seers, but eventually became their leader," explains Wagner. ➔

Faith In the Workplace Continued

“The spiritual principles Daniel was working with were a lot different than the principles the soothsayers were working with, and when it came to prayer, he drew the line. He couldn’t compromise on that one.”

Daniel isn’t the only one who openly lived out his faith in the workplace. It was Paul who befriended Aquila and Pricilla, co-workers in the tent-making business. And in Genesis 39 we read that Joseph, under Potiphar, rose to the top due to his excellent abilities.

“The Lord was with Joseph and he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master. When his master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord gave him success in everything he did, Joseph found favor in his eyes and became his attendant. Potiphar put him in charge of his household, and he entrusted to his care everything he owned.”



What is obvious in this passage is that Potiphar had no doubt as to where Joseph’s ability originated; it came from God. According to Wagner, giving credit to God is paramount to living a transparent life that can greatly impact the work environment. “The one thing you should not do is hide the fact that you follow Christ. When you succeed, they wonder if there’s a connection. People respect that.”

Living a transparent and authentic life means allowing your relationship with God to illuminate every environment you enter, even the workplace. Besides, says Wagner, “The place to workout your faith isn’t just at church. What people do in the workplace is their ministry, just as much as singing in the choir is at church.”

Are You Living a Transparent Life at Work?

- Do you fake happiness even when you are sad about something?
- Have you ever shared a personal concern with a co-worker?
- Have you openly spoken about how God helped you during a tough time?
- Do your actions at work reflect your Christian principles?
- Are you pursuing excellence, as working for the Lord, not for men?
- Do you have a vision for your workplace?

C. Peter Wagner says-

“Christians need to have a vision. What they do in the workplace is paramount to bringing the kingdom of God here on earth as it is in heaven.”

Toddler Misbehavior

Is your little angel having a bad day?
It's important to pick the right solution
for restoring heavenly peace.



YOU'VE READ ALL THE PARENTING BOOKS, watched every episode of Dr. Phil, participated in parenting programs at church and still your child is misbehaving. What's a parent to do? Here are some familiar scenarios along with possible responses. See which solution works best for you.

Tantrums

Loaded down with a cart full of groceries, in fear and trepidation, you slowly make your way to the checkout stand, mindful of the landmines awaiting you. Your toddler snaps to attention, noticing the assorted candies and mints strategically placed at eye level for little people too young to purchase anything. You hold your breath and then... "Mommy, can I have some candy?!" You quickly point out the granola chewy bars in the cart, along with the soy potato chips, but no dice. It's game time! You know your child has reached code red, the highest tantrum level, because the store clerk is processing the contents of your cart at rapid speed, and those behind have begun whispering the mantra of the childless, "if he were mine..."

You decide to:

Solution 1: You reach for the nearest chocolate product, rip off the packaging and shove it into your toddler's mouth. You smile at the cashier and hand him the wrapper with bar code intact.

Solution 2: Tough it out. Let 'em scream. Someday when your child is Valedictorian of the local high school, everyone will hail you as Mother of the Year.

Solution 3: Leave the line, telling the checker you'll be right back. Ask the courtesy clerk to temporarily place your cart in the back in cold storage. Leave the store and then return after your child calms down.

According to Family Psychologist John Rosemond, author of *Parenting by the Book* (Howard Books), there needs to be a tantrum place in the home. "You are giving permission to have a tantrum. Offer to help him find a place where he can't destroy anything, like the bathroom or guest bedroom. isolated place." This teaches your child that →

Toddler Misbehavior Continued

feelings of frustration are normal, but using self control means getting by yourself for a time to vent and then come back to the situation in a calm manner.

Lying

Within the walls of almost every family lives an apparition capable of gross destruction. It leaves fingerprints on perfectly frosted cakes, shatters glass and pottery beyond recognition, and wreaks havoc upon innocent animals with torture tools resembling paint and women's clothing. Its only identification? "Not Me." You're no Judge Judy, but a toddler covered in chocolate frosting, standing on a chair next to the shattered remains of a family heirloom, or toting a paint brush dripping in a hue of red matching the dog's nose gives you enough evidence to convict. The objection? "I didn't do it."

You decide to:

- Solution 1: Believe your child (then call me, 'cuz I have some lakefront property I'd like to sell to you).
- Solution 2: Set up court in your home and hear all arguments before convicting. Don't forget the gavel.
- Solution 3: Don't ask who did it. Why bother? Just clean up the mess, dole out any consequences, and move on.



"Toddlers lie," says Rosemond, "but parents already know the answer to the question. When parents ask, they are setting up the toddler to take the opportunity to lie and roll the dice. Don't ask. Tell the child what she did wrong and have the toddler help you clean it up. Make statements that don't invite the lie in the first place."

Whining

You swore before you had children that you would never in a million years succumb to shouting at your child those horrid words, "Shut up!" Now, a couple of years in, you've discovered your darker side. To your defense, what normal human being is capable of enduring a straight twenty minutes of whiny, high-pitched noises disguised as an attempt to communicate? Especially when said toddler has otherwise mastered the ability to speak clearly and much less annoyingly.

You decide to:

- Solution 1: Take a cram course in Whining 101 in an attempt to meet your child where he is at.
- Solution 2: Succumb to the "S.U." comeback you swore off, and die of embarrassment later when your child yells that response to another child.
- Solution 3: Tell your child that you can't hear whining, and you'll only respond to proper talk.

Rosemond says be persistent and don't respond to whining. Remember also that patience is a Fruit of the Spirit. He also suggests focusing on the positive aspects of toddlerhood by reading his book, *Making the Terrible Twos Terrific!* (Andrews & McMeel).

Hopefully the solutions you choose will reflect to your little one the love and discipline of our Lord. It might help to remember just how much grace He bestows upon us when we misbehave.

All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

Hebrews 12:11

Life's Changing Seasons

A winter landscape outside my window
Is just a reminder that seasons change,
That nothing in life is permanent
And life has its moments of pain.
There will be some disappointments--
These cannot last too long;
And "joy does come in the morning,"
It comes with a burst of song.

When autumn shows its fall colors
And fierce north winds began to blow;
Don't give up or be disappointed
Another season will come and go.
And though you shiver when the cold comes
Or you snuggle besides the warm fire
Though the air outside is chilly
Spring may bring you your heart's desire.

For life is like the seasons
We go through good times and bad;
Still we look ahead to the future
And believe times will be less sad.
When the sun shines a little warmer
And daffodils peep through the earth
Just lift your eyes to the heavens
And smile for all you're worth!

-Leona Nichols

