Middle Elementary
WINTER

Family Connections

A quarterly letter for connecting with families who have children in 3rd and 4th grades at <Type your church or children's ministry name here>

Welcome to "Family Connections"—the quarterly newsletter that helps you know what your child is learning from God's Word. Please let us know if we can help you in any way as we partner together to grow kids in Jesus.

Family Thought

Your child is exploring Bible events in the order in which they took place in history. Have you ever thought about your family's spiritual history? Consider how God has led your family to this point. You may be amazed at what He has done, is doing, and can do!

Coming This Quarter

Units of learning include:
- God's Power
- God's Care
- God's Kingdom
- God's People

Family Memory Challenge

Bible verses your child will be learning this quarter include:
- Joshua 1:9
- Psalm 23:1, 6
- 2 Chronicles 7:14
- Micah 6:8

Choose a secret Scripture signal your family can use as a fun way of challenging one another to memorize Bible verses. For example, when memorizing Joshua 1:9, the signal might be to flex an arm muscle. Each time you flex your arm, you and another family member can repeat the verse. Choose a different signal for each verse.

Growing Together

How often have you heard a parent exclaim, "He won't even follow simple directions"? Or what about the child who says, "Mom only hears what she wants to hear"? One of the greatest problems facing families today is the issue of members being able to really listen to one another.

So how can a family grow together in the art of listening? First, practice good listening skills with your family on a regular basis. Take the time for direct eye contact, open facial expressions, and touch. Restate what a person has said, or ask a simple question to demonstrate that you value the current conversation. Listen patiently. Avoid cutting a person off before he has finished speaking.

Encourage conversation in your home too. Remove distractions. Turn off the TV. Play games together that require listening. Include plenty of praise and encouragement in your conversations. These are the kind of words others want to listen to. Above all, remember that the greatest joy of all can be found when listening together to the greatest messages of all—those found in God's Word!

For a guide to family devotions, go to www.21stcc.com and click on "Free Resources" to find the free weekly family pages for your child's age level.

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