



Raising Up SPIRITUAL CHAMPIONS

GRATEFUL: for Salvation

Also in this newsletter:

- Connect Your Kids to God • Family Fun • Easy Bonus Activity

TIP:
Display this newsletter at home, and use the activities as desired throughout the week.



Questions to Go at bedtime, mealtime or car time

- What would it be like to be around others who weren't grateful because they felt like they deserved everything they got?
- If Jesus was standing right in front of you, what could you thank Him for?

Verse to Chew on

"In [Jesus] we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us" (Ephesians 1:7, NIV).

- How would you say this verse in your own words?
- Talk about what Jesus did and how you feel about Jesus trading His life for your freedom from sin.

Character Builder: Grateful

When you are a grateful person, you appreciate good things and the people around you. You see things through grateful eyes and appreciate sacrifices that others make for you. Your gratefulness to God for providing salvation is at the core of your grateful character. Understanding the sacrifice Jesus made for you makes you grateful for all good things in life.

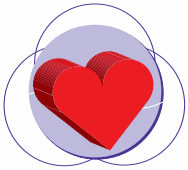
- **On a scale of 1 to 10** with 1 being low and 10 being high, find out how accepted your kids feel in your family. Ask what specifically makes them feel that way and what your family could do differently to increase that number. Then read Romans 3:24 together: "Jesus . . . freely accepts us and sets us free from our sins" (CEV). Talk about what Jesus has done that makes you know that He accepts you.
- **Allow your gratitude** for salvation to spill out to others as you share what you've received through Jesus Christ. Like the psalmist said, "It is good to be near God. I have made the Sovereign Lord my refuge; I will tell of all your deeds (Psalm 73:28, NIV).

Promote Gratitude

You can't force your kids to be grateful but you can promote it in your home. Recognize attitudes and actions of gratitude, and gently offer options when you see signs of ingratitude. The ultimate choice is theirs.

Preschool Focus

With your kids, draw pictures of things you are grateful for. Include a picture of yourselves showing how you feel. Write your kids' names on the picture, their age, and the date. At the bottom, write something like, "Thank You, God."



Connect Your Kids to God

What did Jesus save us from?

All people have sinned. Sin separates you from God. But God demonstrated His love for you in this way: While you were still in sin, Christ died for you (see Romans 5:8). He offers you the free gift of forgiveness because He gave His life for yours.

Some will choose not to accept His gift. They rebel against God's ways and are choosing to be separated from Him for all eternity. Jesus saves us from the punishment of hell, the place for all who rebel against God.

Thank God for His willingness to suffer and die to save you from the punishment everyone deserves because of sin.

You Can Do It!

- With your kids, look in the newspaper to find an example or two of the results of sin in our world.
- Explain that God made people so that we can choose to love and obey Him or not. God doesn't force anyone to obey Him. Because of our disobedience, our world isn't perfect any more. Sometimes very bad things happen.
- Read Romans 5:8 as a reminder of God's love and salvation.

Family Fun

Set aside a little time to do fun activities like these with your kids.

- **Family Puzzle:** Put together a puzzle that's the right level for the youngest in your family. If you don't have puzzles, borrow some from friends or check out the local thrift stores. Arrange to rotate puzzles or games with other families for a Friday night game night.
- **Kids as Teachers:** Ask your kids to teach you something they're learning in school. Ask questions for clarification. Let them give you an assignment or a test on it. Your kids will feel proud and excited to be teaching you.

Visit www.raisingupspiritualchampions.com for more Family Fun.

Did You Know?

"Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates correction is stupid." —Proverbs 12:1, NIV

Easy Bonus Activity

Delight your kids by pouring popcorn for them into a bowl until it overflows. Tell them you like to lavish them with good things. ("Lavish" means to be extremely generous.) Read 1 John 3:1: "How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called the children of God!" (NIV).

Preschool Focus

Sing this song with your kids to the tune of "London Bridge":

Thank You, Jesus, I love You. I love You. I love You.

Thank You, Jesus, I love You. You are my friend.

Make up other songs to tunes you know that express gratitude to God.