

FAMILY FAITH ON THE FRIDGE

Jacob's Well - A Monthly Guide Connecting Home and Church - December 2015

Wee Ones

Babes - 3 Year Olds

Pretend!

Gather your stuffed animals. Pretend you are at the stable where Jesus was going to be born. Brush and feed the animals. Pretend to clean the stable to get it ready for Jesus.

Make It!

Grab a few recyclables. Make a present for Baby Jesus. Put it under the tree!

Build!

Use blocks to build the path that Mary & Joseph walked on to Bethlehem. Build the stable where Jesus would be born.

Hide It In Your Heart!

"For to us a child is born..." Isaiah 9:6
(Spread arms in front of you. Pretend to rock a baby.)



Hide & Find!

Hide the people & animals from your nativity set around the room. Invite your child to find them. Invite them to share the names of each one.

Singin'

Baby Jesus, Please Don't Cry
(Tune of Frere Jacques)

Baby Jesus, Baby Jesus
Please don't cry, please don't cry
Don't you know I love you?
Don't you know I love you?
Very much, very much.

The Loft

4 Year Olds - K

Play!

Grab your play tools, blocks, and sandpaper. Talk about Jesus' daddy, Joseph and how he was a carpenter. What kinds of things might Joseph build?

Pack Up!

Chat about Mary & Joseph's long journey to Bethlehem. What would they pack for their trip? Invite your child to pack their own suitcase and travel around the house as if they were going on a long journey, too.



Pretend!

Help your child care for Baby Jesus. Set up a manger (maybe a shoebox or basket), line it with "hay" (shredded paper or cloth rags), and a Baby Jesus. Gather a few things that will help them care for him: a bottle, swaddling blanket, diaper, a pacifier, and books to read.

Sing It!

Light one candle for the King,
One bright candle for the King,
He brings joy to every heart,
He comes, He comes!

Light one candle for joy,
One bright candle for joy,
He brings joy to every heart,
He comes, He comes!

Wonderground

1st - 5th Grade

Chat n' Chew

I wonder why God sent Jesus to earth as a baby and not an adult?

I wonder what sign you have seen of the reality of Jesus?

I wonder how you feel connected to Jesus though you cannot touch him?

Readin' By The Fire

Micah 5:1-4

Isaiah 9:1-6

Hosea 11:1

Isaiah 40:1-5

Upcoming Activities

11/29 - 12/20: Grade School in morning worship gatherings

12/6: Grade schoolers will be offering the gift of song at both morning gatherings.

12/27: Annual Jesus Birthday Party during normal Wonderground gathering

Christmas Eve Gatherings

Jacob's Well will have four Christmas Eve Gatherings this year!

3pm, 5pm, 7pm and 11pm.



Celebrating Advent as a Family

Join us this November at familiesatthewell.com for a blog series full of our best ideas and resources for Advent with kids.

New posts starting November 15th!



Apprenticing Our Children into The Community of Faith

At Jacob's Well, we believe that our children's participation in our corporate worship gathering is central to their discipleship. As children join adults in the practice of worshipping God, their identity as Christ-followers is being formed. As they worship alongside their parents and other adults, they are making connections and developing a sense of belonging to the community. Biblical scholar, Patrick Miller writes, "Instruction of the child is not simply in a classroom. It is highly contextual, growing out of context and practice. The religious and social practices of a community become the occasion for the young ones to learn who they are and whose they are."



"But my child is bored in the service," some say. That's okay. Our kids need opportunities to be bored, to slow down. As a child, I attended First Presbyterian Church in St. Louis with my grandparents. I remember feeling bored sitting in the pew. I also remember feeling welcomed, known, and served by a community of people. I remember being given a role as an acolyte. I remember singing the Doxology every Sunday next to my grandfather. I think God was sowing seeds in my soul, seeds I had no idea were being sown. I wonder what God is up to in the hearts of JW kids? I think that he's building a root structure below the surface.....a hidden work of the soul.

So, how do we nurture this opportunity when our kids are in worship with us? If you are a parent, sit up front so they can see everything going on. Tell your child what's happening. Name it. Teach. Whisper. Ask questions. Sing. Pray together after communion in the pew. Pick up a journal in the foyer for them to doodle in while they listen. During Advent, there are reflection sheets and colored pencils for them to take in with them. Ask questions about the sermon when you get home around the dinner table.

Our children are fellow-worshippers with gifts to offer. May we receive from them the wonder they hold, their lack of inhibition, and their effortless faith. And may we apprentice our children into the community of faith.

Mimi Keel - Kids Community Director