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Sabbath Keeping Youth

CHURCH OF GOD

INTERNATIONAL

Feast of Tabernacles 2002

The "Fruit of the Holy Spirit" is the theme for the children's program at this year's Feast of Tabernacles. A Bible story lesson has been written which will be used to teach each of the nine virtues of the Fruit of the Spirit.

If you would like to be a part of the artistic team that creates activity and coloring pages, I would love to hear from you. If you are interested in helping, you may write me at:

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"...The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:28).



Hey mom, I need a drink, and would you get me my favorite sweatshirt?" How often do you ask your mom or dad to do simple things for you that you could easily do for yourself? Do you ever volunteer to get your mom a drink or maybe help her wash the dishes? Would she be shocked if you jumped out of bed, gave her a kiss, and said "I love you," instead of "I don't want to get up, I'm to tired?"

The Bible tells us to give of ourselves. Jesus was the greatest example of a giving person. He actually thought of himself more as a servant than a king. Most kings ordered their followers around, but Jesus considered it a privilege to serve those who followed Him. His ultimate act of service was when He allowed himself to be punished for our sins. Jesus sacrificed his life to save ours. The Bible says there is no greater love than that.

Do you want to be more like Jesus? Then it's time to start thinking about others before you think about yourself. Before you ask someone to do something for you, think about how you can do something for them.

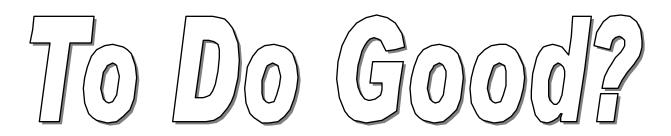
Ask God to show you ways that you can serve others, even people who aren't nice to you! Keep a chart of all the ways you help others. After a month has gone by, take a look at your chart and give Jesus praise because everyday you are becoming more like Him!



The Parents Corner

Children learn by example. When it comes to goodness, you can't set too good of an example. Let some of the ideas listed below get you on your way to being a parent whose goodness flows into daily living.

- Compliment three people every day.
- Help your child write a thank you note to their teacher.
- Let someone go before you in a checkout line.
- Greet your mailman and tell him thanks.
- Smile, shake hands, and say please often.



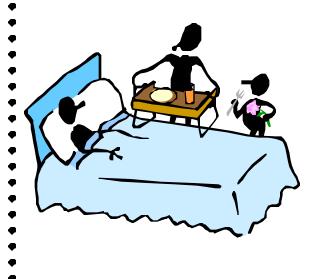
Goodness is a word that is rather broad to define, describe and interpret. The most simplistic way to define it would be to say goodness is the opposite of evil. If you desire your child to be good, then you must set about developing his character to be of moral excellence. Teach your child how to practice goodness and that he cannot be selective about whom he is good to. He has to be kind to his friends and his enemies. Jesus commanded, "But love your enemies, do good, and lend hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil" (Luke 6:35).

God has given each of us (sinners) undeserving forgiveness and grace. We have been redeemed through Jesus Christ. To do good means that goodness flows into your daily living. It was written of Christ that, "he went about doing good" (Acts 10:38). Doing good does not come naturally. It takes effort and determination.

Just as each individual has an obligation toward his Creator, he also has responsibilities toward his neighbor. Regardless of a person's racial, ethnic, religious or social background, it is each person's duty to love his neighbor as himself. God is no respecter of persons; He shows no partiality (Acts 10:34-35; James 2:2). In order to be a light to the world and set a proper example, you must do good toward all men. Jesus set us a high standard when He said, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:39). In other words, the love for your neighbor transcends the appearance or lifestyle of another. We are to hate the sin, but have compassion for the sinner.

Jesus is the epitome of showing outgoing concern for others when He gave His life for all sinners. In Philippians 2 we read about how Jesus emptied Himself of His power and glory as a member of the Godhead and came to earth not to be served, but to be a servant of all mankind. Jesus Himself personified the greatest love of all--the willingness to lay down one's life for another. To be good to your neighbor means that your attitude is of love and concern and his actions radiate unselfish service for his neighbor. The person who is good, is one who sets about to do good to others not for his benefit, but rather that he may profit from his goodness.

Paul exhorts us, "Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all...." (Galatians 6:10) Teach your children that goodness means to do what is right. It is by their works of kind and loving service to others that moral excellence of character is built. Only God is perfectly good, (Mark 10:18), but they can show the attitude of goodness through their actions, words and thoughts. Service is a way of communicating goodness.



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Barnabas Was A Good Man

Acts 4:36, 37; 9:27-15:39, I Corinthians 9:6, Galatians 2:1, 9, 13; Colossians 4:10

The story of Barnabas is told in the scriptures listed above. While these scriptures about Barnabas are scattered through many verses, they tell a story about a generous and good man who played a major role in the history of the early church. His name was originally Joseph and was changed to Barnabas, which means "son of encouragement" (Acts 4:36). Barnabas earned this name because he was always helping others and giving encouragement to the lonely. When Christians in Jerusalem needed food Barnabas sold his land and gave the money to the apostles (Acts 4:37).

It is not written how Barnabas became a follower of Jesus Christ. We do know that John Mark, who wrote the Gospel of Mark, was his cousin and he had other family members who became Christians. This is known because when Barnabas became one of the leaders of Antioch, he went on a missionary with Paul and John Mark to Cyprus. Here it is revealed that he had many relatives and acquaintances on the island (Colossians 4:10). Paul and Barnabas were good friends.

There was a time when Paul, who's name was Saul, tried to stop Christianity from growing (Acts 8:1-3; 9:1, 2). In fact, on his way to Damascus to persecute Christians, Jesus appeared to him in a blinding vision and said, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" This caused Paul to realize what he had done wrong. He changed his ways and made a commitment to Christ (Acts 9:1-22). Paul received his sight back after three days from Ananias, a Christian sent by God. Since Paul had persecuted Christians in the past, the apostles still feared him (Acts 9:27). But Barnabas spoke up for Paul and convinced the apostles that he was a changed man and a believer in Jesus Christ.

Barnabas also helped those who were new in their faith (Acts 11:22-26). He ministered joyfully everywhere he went. Through his preaching and teaching, the church was strengthened and it grew strong. At one point, Barnabas had a desire to help the church grow even more and so he made a trip to Tarsus. While there, he met with Paul and brought him back to Antioch. Paul and Barnabas worked together in Antioch for one year and the church was fortified further through their preaching and dedication. When Jerusalem was struck with a famine, the Christians in Antioch sent money with Paul and Barnabas to help them (Acts 11:22-30).

After returning to Antioch, Paul and Barnabas went on their first missionary trip. Barnabas encouraged John Mark to join them. When the townspeople of Lystra saw them heal a crippled man, they worshiped them like gods. Paul and Barnabas were upset that the people did this. They said, "you should turn from these useless things to the living God" (Acts 14:15). Jews from Iconium and Antioch persuaded the multitude to stone Paul to the point they thought he was dead. After the events in Lystra, John Mark, for unknown reasons, returned to his home. He may have returned because of the stoning.

Upon planning their second missionary trip, Paul and Barnabas had a disagreement. Barnabas wanted John Mark to come and Paul did not because John Mark did not complete the first trip. At last, Paul and Barnabas went their separate ways. Paul chose Silas as a companion and went to Asia Minor, now called Turkey (Acts 15:22-41) and Barnabas took Mark and sailed to Cyprus. Eventually through Barnabas' patient encouragement, Paul and Mark reunited several years later (Acts 12:25-13:30).

The Bible says that Barnabas was a good man (Acts 11:24). We see from his example that there is always an opportunity to do good and he consistently sought to do good by encouraging others. Barnabas was generous and good to even the undeserving. Barnabas was a man of strong character who was good because he actively did good to others with the desire that they would profit from his goodness. He encouraged others, was a partner in spreading the gospel and was a peacemaker.

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Put Your Brain To the Test!

You have probably been

using your brain all day at school, and the thought of using it anymore is appalling (big word). But, before you put down this puzzle, work it out and see

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5,4 7,8 8,3 4 1 10,11 3 11 7,8 15
<u></u> <u></u> + U:32 (NIV)



Be Kind er' Else!

Whoa! Someone needs to teach this guy how to smile. Kind acts

aren't something you force someone to do. Kindness comes from the heart. Jesus commanded us to be kind to one another, and love one another. The great thing about kindness is that it makes others feel good about themselves. It also makes YOU feel real good about yourself! So if you could use a little positive self-esteem (another big word), try making someone else feel good with these acts of kindness.

You Sweet Thing You!

Get a glass jar with a large lid (cork works great). Pick a candy to glue on the lid (ex. Peppermints, M&M's, Mike & Ikes, etc...). Glue more layers of candy to create a pyramid effect. Fill the jar full of the same kind of candy and give it away with a smile.

Family Memories!

Make a scrapbook of family photos, drawings, and special thoughts to give to a grandparent!

Freebies!

etc...

Make a coupon book for a parent, school teacher, or Sabbath School teacher. Include a few of these: hug, prayer, clean the chalkboard or bedroom, sweep floor, bake cookies,

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