



# SABBATH KEEPING YOUTH

A Newsletter by The Church of God International

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## The Parents' Corner

When your child is old enough to talk you begin teaching them manners. How many times have you said something like this to your child, "What do you say to Mr. Smith for the candy?" It's important to teach your children to be thankful. Use these ideas to encourage your children and your family to be "THANKFUL"!

- Choose a teacher, friend, or pastor to give a "Thank You" basket to. Have each family member participate in filling up the basket with goodies that your recipient will love!
- Reach back in time and thank someone for making an impact on your family's life. Have each family member write a note, letter, or draw a picture to send to that special someone.
- Gather your family together for a "thankful" prayer. Let every member of your family pray and share what they are thankful for. You may also let each person share what he or she is thankful for about each of the other family members. End with a giant family hug!



## God Loves Me This Much

**G**od created you and He knows the number of hairs on your head. God also sees everything you do and hears everything you say. No matter how many mistakes you make, God's love for you doesn't change. How can someone love people even when they don't deserve it? Think about it! God even loves the people in jail. They were created in God's image just like you. The way people act doesn't change God's love for them. When Jesus died on the cross, He died for everyone. Stop right now and tell God thank you for loving you so much. Next, spend some time getting to know God a little better. Read about his Son, Jesus, in the book of John. Ask your parents, minister, or Sabbath School teacher about the things you read and don't understand. Spend each day trying to learn one new thing about our amazing God.

As you discover more about God, you will be amazed at how He could possibly love you. After all, God doesn't need people. He could sit up in heaven with the angels and never have to worry about the millions of people who make mistakes

every day. Of course that's what makes God so incredible. Even though He doesn't need us, He chooses to love us. God also chose to create a place for those who love Him back. One day everyone who loves God will spend infinity with Him in His kingdom.

God wants to be your best friend. He makes time for you each day. He wants you to have friends to play with. He wants you to be healthy. He wants you to be happy. He never takes His eyes off you. He loves you! His love can't be bought or sold. And all God wants back from us is for us to love Him with all of our heart, mind, soul, and strength! Now that's a great deal!

**Down-load the lessons taught at the Feast of Tabernacles on The Story of Ruth. Visit <http://www.cgi.org/ptr/ruth.cfm>**

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# Teach Your Children To Love God

Parents are the number one influence in their child's life. If parents have a good understanding of who God is, they will pass this belief and understanding of God on to their children.

“Hear O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.” Deuteronomy 6-9.

These verses tell us:

- There is only one God.
- We should love God.
- We should teach our children about God.
- God should be apart of every aspect of our life.

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 is a very important passage to Jews. The passage is the basis for the Jewish Shema. The Jews recite the Shema in the morning and evening.

These verses and what the verses tell us are what you need to do and then teach your children to do the same. Here are some ideas of how to do that.

1. Post the verse someone

in your house for your children to see.

2. Have your children memorize the verse.

3. Use meal times to talk about what you are reading in the Bible. Discuss with your spouse what you are reading while the kids are listening. Then ask the kids what they think about that and what they are learning about God.

4. Here are a few questions that you can ask your children all the time.

What can I pray for you about?

Will you pray for me about \_\_\_\_?

How are your friends doing?

How can we encourage them this week?

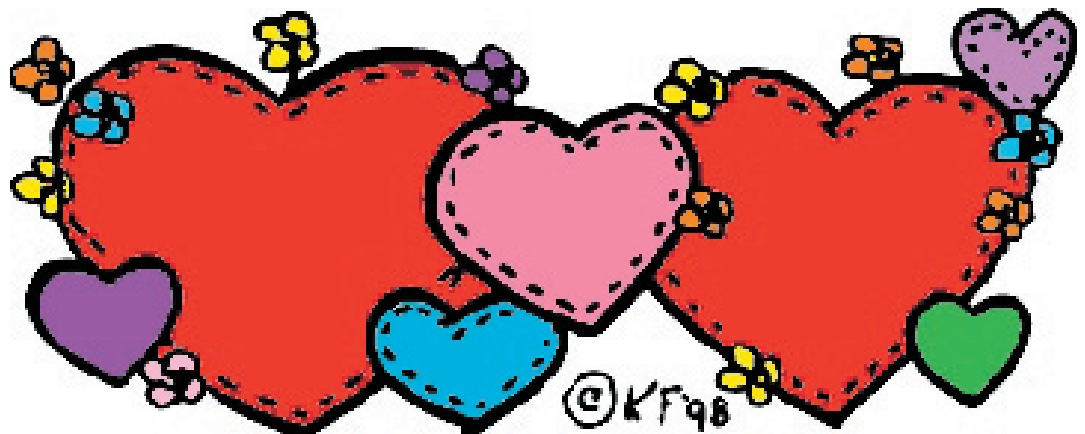
Did you catch the news story on \_\_\_\_\_ today?

What do you think God might call us to do about that?

What can I do this week to help you?

Is there anything I'm doing that discourages you?

5. Ask your children at dinner sometime—"How would you describe Jesus?" After your children describe Jesus to you, share your own description of Christ with your children and how you developed it.



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## Do You Love Me?

If someone asked you if you loved God, what would you say? How would you say it? Peter was a man who was asked three times if he loved God. Let's see how he answered the questions.

On the night of Passover Jesus took his followers to the Mount of Olives. There he told them, "Tonight you will all stumble in your faith on account of me, because it is written in the Scriptures: 'I will kill the shepherd, and the sheep will scatter.' But after I rise from the dead, I will go ahead of you into Galilee." Peter said, "Everyone else may stumble in their faith because of you, but I will not." Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, tonight before the rooster crows you will say three times that you don't know me." But Peter said, "I will never say that I don't know you! I will even die with you!" And all the other followers said the same thing." (Matthew 26:31-35)

Later that night Jesus was arrested and was taken to the house of Caiaphas. "At that time, as Peter was sitting in the courtyard, a servant girl came to him and said, 'You also were with Jesus of Galilee.' But Peter said to all the people there that he was never with Jesus. He said, 'I don't know what you are talking about.' . . . another girl saw him. She said to the people there, 'This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.' Again, Peter said he was never with him, saying 'I swear I don't know this man Jesus!' A short time later, some people standing there went to Peter and said, 'Surely you are one of those who followed Jesus. The way you talk show it.' Then Peter began to place a curse on himself and swear, 'I don't know the man.' At once, a rooster crowed." (Matthew 26: 69-74) Peter was so upset that he had denied knowing Jesus when he was faced with opposition. He went outside and cried because he never thought he would deny God.

Peter was given another opportunity to show his love for God. It was morning and some of Jesus' followers were fishing in the Lake of Galilee. They saw Jesus on the shore and went to meet him. Jesus told them to bring some of their fish they had caught and they would eat. "When they finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon son of John do you love me more than these?' He answered, 'Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.' Jesus said, 'Feed my lambs.' Again Jesus said, 'Simon son of John do you love me?' He answered, 'Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.' Jesus said, 'Take care of my sheep.' A third time he said, 'Simon son of John do you love me?' Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, 'Do you love me?' Peter said, 'Lord, you know everything, you know that I love you!' He said to him, 'Feed my sheep.'" (John 21:15-17)

The first time Jesus asked Peter if he loved Him He said, "more than these." The "these" could have been referring to the disciples or Peter's fishing equipment. We are not really sure but we do know that Jesus was asking if Peter loved Him more than anyone or anything.

There are two Greek words used for love in these verses. *Agape* which is deep intimate selfless love as found in John 3:16. *Phileo* which is a casual brotherly kind of love. The first two times that Jesus asked Peter if he loved Him He used *agape* and Peter answered with *phileo*. The last time Peter was asked both Jesus and Peter used *agape*.

Jesus, our Lord and Savior, is persistent. He does not settle for a quick answer that has no depth of meaning. Jesus will dig deep. He has a way of asking and asking till finally He is at the heart of the matter. Peter was forced to look at his true feelings and motives.

Did you know that Love is the most important of the spiritual gifts each of us are given? Faith, sacrifice, commitment and dedication will produce very little without love.

How would you respond if Jesus asked you, "Do you truly love me?" "Do you really love me?" Are you my friend?"

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## Just Say . . . THANKS!

### ***“I thank God for...”***

Gather your family or friends together for this fun “I thank God for...” game. Everyone sits in a circle. The first person says, “I thank God for...” and fills in the blank. The 2nd person has 5 seconds to say something they are thankful for that starts with the same letter as the last letter of the previous word used. Are you completely confused? Here’s how it might work. The first person might say, “I thank God for my family”, then the 2nd person has 5 seconds to say something that starts with the letter ‘y.’ He might say, “I thank God for the color yellow.” The 3rd person has to thank God for something that starts with the letter ‘w.’ Each person must say their thankful word within 5 seconds or they are out. Continue on until there is only one player left. No repeats allowed!

### ***Friendly Popcorn Pleasers***

Make this yummy treat to let someone know you are thankful for their friendship. You will need:

- 1/4 cup butter or margarine
- 1 pound bag of M&M’s
- 10 oz. bag marshmallows
- 20 caramels
- 3-4 cups popped popcorn

Place the popcorn and M&M’s on a cookie sheet. Melt the butter, marshmallows, and caramels in the microwave in a large bowl. Pour the melted mixture over the popcorn and M&M’s. Spread some butter on your hands and shape the popcorn into balls. Let them cool. Place one ball in a sandwich bag and attach a thank you note for your friend.!

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