



NEWSLETTER

Partnering with parents in the spiritual nurturing of their children

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FROM SUSAN...

WOW, it is fall again! I am excited about the Fall season of Sunday School. On September 9, our fall classes will start at 9:00 a.m. We have some returning teachers and some new teachers. Our desire is to provide the best Christian Education we can for you and your kids.

The UPC Sunday School program focuses on five main areas of study and worship through age-appropriate materials and activities:

1. Building Bible knowledge, starting with favorite stories, and progressing through Bible survey, learning to study the Bible and how to share it with others, and learning how to apply the truth so our lives are transformed.
2. Learning the doctrines of the church, in the Westminster Confession of Faith and related catechisms, and knowing how to apply it to Bible study and defense of our faith.
3. Being exposed to an overview of church history.
4. Learning the great hymns of the church along with fun praise songs.
5. Developing a heart for Christian Service.

Children's Ministries

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#9 Decide To Trust

Will they try drugs? Is she going to get pregnant? Is he going to get in a fight? Are they drinking and driving? This world can fill our hearts and lives with so much fear that we might want to never let our children out of the house or out of our sight! However, if we overprotect our children in their teen years, we cripple them and their development, and we never see the thing we most want — a responsible, moral, independent adult child. We can become our own worst enemy. Our fears as parents drive us to overreact. There are two ways to parent a teen: by fear or by faith. Decide to trust.

Communicate to your kids that God has a plan to bless their future as they prepare to receive the precious things God wants to entrust to them: complete responsibility for their own lives and futures. If you honor God,

God will honor you.

A person's basic character is set by age 12. Character flaws are very difficult to correct after sixth grade. If you have parented well before your kids turn 13, their teen years will be an exciting delight as you watch the fruit of your labors unfold before your very eyes. Here are some key parental guidelines to strive to place in children early:

—Integrity is not optional. A good name is the best asset you have.

—Servant hearts will be rewarded. People respond to servant leadership.

—Never expect others to do what you are unwilling to do.

—You can't please everyone, so strive to please God. If you please Him, you will most likely also be pleasing those who are godly.

—A positive attitude won't get you everything, but it will get you a whole lot more than a negative attitude will.

—Speak with a respectful attitude. You don't have to agree with us, but you do have to honor us as your parents.

As your kids enter the teen

years, your parenting styles will change. For the first 12 years of your child's life, you set boundaries and decided the rules, schedule, and priorities. However, now that your child is a teen, your job as a parent has changed. Your role now is to systematically, little by little, transfer responsibility to your teens so that by the time they are adults, they are fully responsible for their own lives.

Sometimes, teens will assert their independence through acts of rebellion. They just will not do as you have asked. The most dangerous tactics are manipulation and lying—the teen tells you what you want to hear and then does just the opposite when you are not around. You may be tempted to reign in your kids too tightly. If you do, your kids may not be prepared for the freedom they will one day face, and they may give in to the temptations you so diligently protected from. They never develop their own value system.

Other parents abdicate their duties during their kid's teen years. Some parents expect their 14-year-olds to find all their own rides to and from school, sports, and activities, work to pay for all their own needs, and maybe help out the family too. Some teens feel that they are parenting not only themselves, but their siblings and often their own parents as well. Most of the time, however, teens of disengaged parents follow their parent's example and refuse to grow up.



If you allow your teens to think through the major areas of their lives (relationships, driving, working, education, social commitments, and faith) and choose their own structure, boundaries, and consequences for violations, you are no longer seen as the bad guy. You simply enforce the consequences your teens have chosen. This frightens some parents. Many think teens will choose “light sentences” but most of the time the opposite is true. If you let your pre teens choose their own punishment, they will probably be harder on themselves than you might be. (If you currently have teens, I have included some contracts—S.)



Your goal as a parent is to work yourself out of the role of overseeing your children’s lives and, piece by piece, give that responsibility to them by the time they are 18.

You and Your Child’s Development

Your child’s stages of life	Your child’s approach to life	Your child’s needs	Your role as a parent
Early Childhood Infancy through pre-school	Dependency Your child needs you in every way imaginable and only knows about the part of the world you introduce him or her to.	Establish a bond Your child needs to establish an emotional and social bond with you through physical touch, fair discipline, and playtime.	Decision maker You must make most decisions for your child and discern what is best for him or her.
Childhood Kindergarten to puberty	Exploration School introduces your child to a big new world. He or she will be fascinated by it and be motivated to explore the possibilities.	Set goals and find an activity to excel in The world is a big place, so kids must learn to prioritize and set goals, and to discover a unique ability that will give them confidence now and later.	Director Your child needs you to lay out healthy options for exploration and direct him or her to get involved.
Adolescence Puberty to age 18	Experimentation Teenagers discover who they are by experimenting with different identities in different situations. Increased hormonal levels limit their ability to think clearly but intensify their emotional responses to experiences.	Make wise decisions This is a time of turmoil as teenagers try to figure out their place in life. They may avoid accepting responsibility for their decisions. They need to see the long-term effect of their decisions—positive and negative.	Coach Enable your teens to make as many decisions as possible. Coach them into making good decisions while you retain veto power. Ask questions such as, “What do you think we should do?” or “Tell me why I should say Yes.”
Early Adulthood Age 19-30	Application Young adults have established their identify. Now they live out this conclusion by making choices about career, family, and community.	Establish mentoring and encouraging relationships Your children will seek your affirmation and wisdom without compromising their independence.	Consultant Wait to be asked and only intervene when absolutely necessary. Launch your child into an independent life.
Adulthood Age 30 and over	Interdependence Your children have figured out their place in life and realized that we are on this journey together. They will value others’ contributions and will be attracted to supportive relationships.	Establish peer relationships Your children are now your adult peers. Their talents and contributions to life is equal to or greater than yours.	Peer It is now time to be friends. You have a unique place in life and so does your child. You can now contribute to one another’s life as equals.

Family Devotion Ideas

Some of you were asking about materials or books that can be used for family devotions. Here is my quick, short list:

Younger kids

A good Bible story book like The Child's Story Bible by Catherine Vos
Little Visits With God by Allan Johsman and Martin Simon
Big Truths for Little Kids by Susan Hunt and Richie Hunt
Leading Little Ones to God by Marian Schoolland

Elementary Kids

Riddle of the Outlaw Bear by John Leeper

Biography series by Irene Howat

Ten Boys Who Made History
Ten Girls Who Made History
Ten Boys Who Made a Difference
Ten Girls Who Made a Difference
Ten Boys Who Changed the World
Ten Girls Who Changed the World
Ten Boys Who Didn't Give In
Ten Girls Who Didn't Give In

I am sure there are others. Do look at the Christian Bookstore or see me (Susan). I have all of these.

Teachers and Aides

2 and 3 year olds

4 - Kindergarten
Susan Pickett
Kim Ruth

Grades 1 and 2
Kari Lines

Grades 3 and 4 and 5
Jennifer Taylor

Mid-High girls
Joanna Watne

Mid-High boys
Mark Watne

Hymn of the Month

Please help your child memorize the verses of this hymn.

To God Be The Glory Trinity #55

To God be the glory, great things he has done!
So loved he the world that he have us his Son,
who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
and opened the life-gate that we may go in.

Chorus:

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father Thro' Jesus the Son
and give him the glory great things he has done!

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood!
To every believer the promise of God;
the vilest offender who truly believes,
that moment from Jesus forgiveness receives. (*chorus*)

Great things he has taught us, great things he has done,
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
but purer and higher and greater will be our wonder,
our transport, when Jesus we see. (*chorus*)

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Catechism Corner

Each month we ask that you take time to review the assigned questions with your child, depending upon their grade level. If you would like background information to help deepen your family discussion of these important doctrinal concepts, please talk with your child's teacher.

4 yrs—2nd grade

49. Q. Did Jesus ever sin?
A. No. He lived a sinless life.
50. Q. How could Christ suffer?
A. Christ, the Son of God, became a man so that he could obey and suffer in our place.
51. Q. For whom did Christ obey and suffer?
A. For all whom God the Father gave to Christ.
52. Q. What kind of life did Christ live on earth?
A. A life of obedience, service and suffering.

3rd—5th grade

1. Q. What is the chief end of man?
A. Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.
2. Q. What rule hath God given to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him?
A. The Word of God, which is contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, is the rule to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him.
3. Q. What do the Scriptures principally teach?
A. The Scriptures principally teach, what man is to believe concerning God, and what duty God requires of man.