

Faith Formation at Home

Resources for Parents

Ideas for nurturing faith at home

Talkabout

If your church uses Gather 'Round material, be sure to ask for the *Talkabout*. It comes on a CD or as a download that each church orders. It includes creative resources to help parents and children enjoy talking about Bible stories and applying them to their everyday lives. There are monthly calendars, weekly pages, and bulletin notes that can be e-mailed, printed, or placed in church bulletins and newsletters. [See a sample](#) at www.gatherround.org.

Shalom Readers Club

This is designed to be implemented as a club at church, but the book list is a good source of suggestions for books to read at home. Parents or adult leaders help children aged 4 through 14 select and read books from a list specially chosen to teach core Christian values from an Anabaptist understanding. If children read seven books and give reports on two of them, they may earn a gift book of their choice from the list. Go to www.centralplainsmc.org and click on Shalom Readers to find the book list or to learn how to start a club at your church.

Music

Music has the power to shape the listener. Play music in the background as children play, to encourage quiet time, to entertain in the car and to sing together. Herald Press offers **Sing, Little Children, Sing; Songs to Live By I and II**, and two CDs each of **Sing the Journey** and **Sing the Story** songs. Find them in the online store at www.heraldpress.com.

Storybooks

Reading to children is a very effective way to instill faith. The stories we hear and reflect on powerfully shape us. When reading together, reflect on the story's similarities to your own lives and pray together. For a list of books that introduce Bible stories, prayers and stories of faith to children, see the list "Books for Children" on the Central Plains web site, www.centralplainsmc.org → Congregational Ministries.

Video

Rhythms of Peace Go to www.heraldpress.org and enter "Mr. Fredd" into the search box
Video on peacemaking for children ages 8-11. Comedian host Mr. Fredd introduces stories which are antidotes to the media images of violence that children grow up with in today's society. Helps children discuss ways to solve conflict peacefully. This award-winning video includes four stories: An Eye for an Eye (consequences of taking revenge); Tea for Everyone (appreciating our differences); Rhythm Makers (the negative impacts of war toys); The Sun and the Wind (the power of love). The "Home Package" comes with a brief study guide for parents watch the video with their children for maximum teaching value. 35 min. \$19.95

Books for Parents

How to Really Love Your Child by Dr. D. Ross Campbell

In this best-selling book, Dr. D. Ross Campbell reveals the emotional needs of a child and provides parents with the skill and techniques that can begin to help make your child feel truly loved and

accepted. Learn to really love your child through every situation of child rearing from physical touch to discipline and from affirmation to spiritual nurture. 144 pages \$12.99

See also **How To Really Love Your Teenager** and **How to Really Love Your Angry Child**.

The Five Love Languages of Children by Gary Chapman and Dr. D. Ross Campbell

Every child (like every adult) expresses and receives love best through one of five communication styles. Find out which one of these your child speaks: quality time, words of affirmation, gifts, acts of service or physical touch. Discover how to express unconditional feelings of respect, affection and commitment that will resonate in their souls— and inspire them for the rest of their lives. 224 pages. \$14.99

From Herald Press

Priority Parenting: Reclaiming Your Home for Heaven's Sake by Steve Ganger

A very readable book with guidelines for reclaiming the home as a loving place. Ganger explores what makes a real home, over-commitment in schedules, our hurried lifestyles, what God really intends childhood to be, and ideas for making your household a home that truly worships God. 128 pages \$9.99

Parents—Passing the Torch of Faith by John Drescher

Simple yet wise suggestions for parents who want to pass Christian faith on to their children. You will find practical ideas for managing family ties, priorities, prayer, electronic media and more. 96 pages \$7.99

Seven Things Children Need by John Drescher

This book discusses seven of the most basic needs of the growing child: significance, security, acceptance, love, praise, discipline and God. A practical, personal, down-to-earth book for people who care about children as persons. 144 pages. \$9.99