

# FAMILY CONNECTION



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## Children's Spiritual Formation

*Excerpt from Passing It On - How to Nurture Your Children's Faith Season By Season by Kara Lassen Oliver | Copyright 2015 | Upper Room Books*

As families, we shape our children. We form them as football fans, musicians, athletes, consumers, readers, environmentalists, and so on. We give great thought to forming our children in body and mind.

Formation comes as a function of time, practice, and symbol. Some families are forming sports fans. Some are spending lots of time outside hiking and biking, practicing habits of recycling. We form our families by the ways we spend our time, our

regular habits, and the symbols that repeat themselves on our clothing and refrigerator magnets.

Yet *choosing* to form our children spiritually seems more intimidating, more difficult and abstract. For many parents, spiritual formation sounds like a burden, an impossibility, a task for which they feel unqualified. But the same practices that form a die-hard Hoosier or a politically astute child—family time, regular practice, and concrete symbols—can convey



*At Kids Connect, kids use a beach ball to learn the Lord's Prayer. This is a fun way to learn scripture. Try this at home!*

Christian tradition and spirituality to our children with equal joy and lasting effect. As we engage in spiritually forming one another, family members spend time together with God, develop spiritual practices, and

incorporate Christian symbols into our lives. We can read Bible stories, name the squirrels and butterflies—and snakes—as God's good creation, and take a moment to pray for those sleeping in the cold tonight.

## Message from Pastor Jeanette

*Families Practicing Prayer*

Parents often wonder how they can begin praying together with their family and kids. I suggest praying before dinner as a wonderful way to get started. Praying a simple prayer such as, "Thank you God for the food we are about to share and thank you for our family," is a good way to

begin the practice of a dinnertime prayer. Even young children can share a simple one or two sentence of saying thank you to God. Right before bedtime as they settle into bed, a quiet one-on-one time can be a moment when kids open up and share any fears or concerns they

have. It's an opportunity to listen and ask what they would like to ask God for help with for themselves or for others. When our kids were little, this was often one of the sweetest times of the day. By praying with them, I was able to share in the reassurance of the love of God through

Jesus Christ and that God is always present and listening to the joys and concerns of their hearts.



This month's Parent Cue is about INITIATIVE. Pick up your card at KidsConnect.

# Ways to Connect

**Family eXperience “FX”** starts September 27<sup>th</sup> with a **new format and time!** FX is a new way for you to experience faith together as a family. Playing with hula hoops and ping pong balls take on a new meaning when you come to FX! Family activities at September’s FX will be all about **individuality** – discovering who you are meant to be so you can make a difference. Sign up on the KidsConnect patio to bring a potluck lunch item and join us for an hour or so of **food, fun, family fellowship and faith development** on Sunday September 27 (11:30-1:00pm) at the King Hall Connection Center.

## Family Spotlight



Marco and Sandy Bonaccorsi and their two daughter's Daniela (8) and Analisa (5) have been attending Foothills since 2012. They were looking for a welcoming church to connect and grow with. They feel blessed to be a part of Foothills!

## What’s Happening in Kids Connect

During September, we are learning about **INITIATIVE – seeing what needs to be done and doing it.** Initiative isn’t only a practical principle; it’s really a spiritual principle that starts with God.

This month, we’ll break down the story of Nehemiah into four segments that will give kids insight into this idea of initiative. What would it be like if our children could begin to notice things that need to be done and do them without being asked? What could happen if they look at the people who need help and take the initiative to help them? What if they saw things that needed to be changed in their own lives and changed them?

Help your kids see life in a different way. Start asking the question, “What do you see?” Help your kids notice things they would not ordinarily see. Help encourage them to do something about it. Our memory verse this month is a wonderful inspiration: **“Work at everything you do with all your heart. Work as if you were working for the Lord.” Colossians 3:23a (NirV)**

## Shout Out to...



**Sarah Robertson** for all her contributions to Children’s Ministries. Sarah is now serving on the Family Ministry and Pew Ambassador Teams.

## Get Connected!

Here is what is coming up in Children’s, Youth & Family Ministries.

- *Youth Mission Trip Presentation, Sept. 6*
- *Youth Trip to Magic Mountain, Sept. 12-13*
- *Youth Annual Bunco Night, Sept. 27*
- *Children’s Choirs, begins September 16*
- *MomsConnect, September 2 & 16*
- *Family eXperience, October 4*

Children, Youth & Family Ministries Team

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