

K&F
Kids & Friends
#193
June 28, 2009



Dan went to hang out with his friends.
 “She’s such a show-off,” Jay said.
 “Who?”
 “Stacy. She thinks she can tell us what to do. And she’s always talking about God.”
 Dan felt bad. Stacy went to his church and he wanted to defend her. But the guys might not like him any more... “I go to church. I believe in God.”
 ... Would they tease him?

Talk over with Dad and Mum

- # Why did Dan feel bad?
- # Think about what might happen next, now that Dan had told his friends that he too goes to church and believes in God.
- # How hard is it for people to tell their friends that they go to church?
- # Does it depend on your school?
- # Would your school friends believe you if you told them that you follow Jesus? What can they tell by your behaviour?
- # What might be the best way to let your friends and neighbours know that you follow Jesus and go to church?

Riddles

What animals do people always take for a walk?

Calves

Who/what walks on four legs, then 2 and then 3?

Humans. They crawl on all fours when babies, walk on 2 when grown, and use a walking stick when old!

A Quiz about Bible People: Who are we?

1. I was a queen until my husband sacked me and chose a young Jewish girl to be queen instead.
2. I went back to my husband’s country with Naomi my mother-in-law.
3. I was the first king of Israel and was anointed by Samuel.
4. My king, David, forced me into a battle and then married my wife.
5. I became an apostle even though I had hated Jesus first.
6. I cut off the ear of a soldier. Jesus healed him.
7. I smashed two ‘books’ made out of stone.
8. I cheated my brother when he was hungry.

For Parents, grand parents and adults

Children and Work?!

My then 3 year old grandson loved bins. He noticed them everywhere, and of course, he also loved putting things into bins, which has distinct downsides!

When our toddlers and young kids want to help, are we exploiting them when we encourage and praise their efforts?

Eventually kids begin their first ‘real’ jobs. Perhaps they willingly get up early and get out of their comfort zone for a challenge or to save up for something very special.

How do our children learn to willingly ‘go without’, ‘delay gratification’ to achieve a dream?

The seeds of this attitude are sown in the early years, with training done faithfully by thoughtful parents. It begins when we acknowledge our young children’s efforts at cleaning the floor or car or sink, when we praise them for taking the dishes to the kitchen or picking up their toys, although it would have taken less time to do it ourselves. And when we share why we do this.

It often seems unpopular - certainly to most children – that they are expected to help with the dishes, or have to help with the cleaning chores, or have to work for their dream toy. I heard of a mum who thought it wrong to ask her daughters to assist with chores until they had their own households to run.

It’s generally believed that kids receive more and work less today than in the past and that many of today’s adults are less able to deal with challenges and adversities of life because they have not encountered these as children. In too many homes over the last twenty or so years children have learned that materialism and being served by others are the norm. There is a perception around that today’s children and adults are no longer ‘problem solvers’ or ‘possibility thinkers’ because everything was laid on in their childhood.

So what should we aim for in our homes?

- To be Godly parents who provide stimulating places of nurture
- To help our children learn to serve in and with the family
- To nurture our children’s creative and problem solving abilities rather than give in to our culture of materialism, money and more

And perhaps by God’s grace and with new world crises the tide is turning. I read about a family that decided to tone down their lifestyle ‘extras’. Their kids now share in the chores and ‘real family life’. The results are kids easier to manage, happier and more caring.

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