



Heartland KIDS Newsletter

EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

Happy New Year!

Connection. This is one thing I am choosing to focus on this year...how I connect with God & others. I want to connect well with the kids and families I serve. I want to love you more. The best way to love more is to get to know someone. This is true in my relationship with God and in my relationships to others also. The more I know, the more I love which makes me want to know more and thus I love more. As I serve the kids and families of Heartland, I want to make connections with you. I want to know what you like about children's ministry, ideas you might have, struggles that maybe I could help with. I want to be here for you and your kids. I want to better live out Matthew 22:37-39, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Please let me know how I can better serve you.

May 2020 be a great year of connecting!

For His Glory.

Jodi Welch

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OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

Children's Ministry at Heartland Evangelical Free Church exists to help fulfill the mission of our church. Our goal is to assist in raising up a faithful generation of children that **come, follow and serve**.

CALENDAR

Children's Church

First Service during the sermon time

Awana

Jan 1 NO AWANA

Jan 15 T&T start working on cars

Feb 5 Grand Prix

Sunday School

Every Sunday-ages 2 through 6th grade

BIBLE CHALLENGE

for families

Read the Bible as a family 4 out of 7 days each week the month of January. Stop by the Heartland KIDS slat wall for Bible reading calendar.

Connecting with our kids

Relationships is how faith is passed on. It's how someone knows that they are loved. "If we want [our children] the next generation to come to know the faith, we have to teach, model, and incarnate truth in our relationship with them." (So the Next Generation Will Know). Relationships shape how we view God. In their book, S. McDowell & Wallace share ways we can connect with others. Some ways include sharing stories, entering their world, being a good listener, expressing unconditional love, training them for life, and more. Focus on the Family has a good article about how dads can connect with their children by Tim Shoemaker. Moms, we can take ideas from this also.

How Dads Can Connect With Their Children: Play With Them

"Dad, come out and play with us!" The snow was piled high and deep, and the boys were in it and having the time of their lives.

I was busy, but if I didn't drop what I was doing soon, they'd get cold and come back inside — and I'd miss the opportunity.

Therefore, I responded, "I'll be out in five minutes," I told them. "And you'd better watch out when I do!"

I stepped into an old, royal blue, one-piece snowsuit. Then I added a yellow bath towel for a cape, and donned a mask to complete the effect. I had transformed into "Blue Guy" — the superhero known only to my kids and a handful of their friends — and I was on the scene again.

From the moment Blue Guy stepped outside, he was all about chasing the kids, tossing them in "jail" and getting beat playing "king of the hill" on the pile the snowplow had left.

By the time we came back inside, we were wet, exhausted and totally happy. We'd connected — adding another layer of strength to our relationship.

It is important for fathers to give regular thought to how dads can connect with their children to encourage positive relationship building.

We want to be a positive influence to our kids and steer them onto healthy paths. And, it's our job to protect them from dangerous friendships, habits and pressures. Ultimately, we want them to embrace our faith and make it their own.

To maintain that influence, we need to connect with them as often as we can. Life is more fun that way. We get a needed escape from the demands and stress of life. And as our kids get older, that connection will allow us to influence them and speak into their lives. And the more effectively we connect with our kids, the more powerful our influence will be on them.

Practical ways to connect:

- Play with them.
- Read picture books to them. Or just make up stories about a boy or girl "just about their size." They'll be mesmerized — and you'll be connecting.
- Build a fort together. Couch cushions. Blankets or tarps. It doesn't take much to make a fort — and your kids will love it.
- Take them with you when running errands. When you're knocking off items on your to-do list, bring the kids along. You'll be investing in your kids. It will also strengthen your bonds — and that will come in really handy as the kids hit their teen years.
- Introduce them to your interests. As you draw your kids into your world, you'll be working on relationship building and forming stronger bonds.
- Find what interests them and jump in. When you find out what interests them you need to meet them where they are. That's where you make the strongest connections.

NURSERY CORNER

Fruit of the Spirit for Toddlers

For our children, character training begins at home. Teaching the Fruits of the Spirit is a wonderful way we can begin to "train up a child in the way he should go" Proverbs 22:6.

Fruit of the Spirit: GOODNESS

Memory Verse: 1 Corinthians 10:24 Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbor. (ESV)

Lesson: God is good and helps us make good choices.

Read: The story of Zacchaeus (Luke 19)

Discuss: Why did Zacchaeus want to see Jesus? Why do you think Jesus wanted to see him? How far would you go if you got to see Jesus? Why did Zacchaeus decide to give back all the money he had taken? What would you do if you saw Jesus? Why? What is goodness? How might meeting Jesus change you? How is God good?

Activity: Use craft materials and paper plates to make a crown to symbolize God being a good King. Take turns wearing the crown and pretending to be a good king. How would a good king treat others? What would a good king do for his people?

Pray: Encourage your child to ask God to help them make good choices and to do the right thing. Spend time listening to God about ways they can do the right thing in the coming week.

Kari Hanson
Childcare Coordinator

