

March Birthdays:

- 2-Blakelee Adams
- 6-Sue Maxwell
- 9-Marissa Martinez
- 17-Noah Assi
- 19-Britney Clays
- 25-Leo Martinez



March Anniversaries:

- 1 Mike & Jill Osborne
31 years together

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Family Connection

Golden Hills Church Of The Nazarene

March 2011

A GREAT FIT

A caller to Christian radio station KLOVE spoke of the amazing way God restored her struggling marriage. On the weekend that she and her husband separated, they each attended different services on different days at their large, multi-campus church.

hers — and it fit. It was the piece her husband had received at church.

The woman said that was a loud sign from God that she and her husband “fit” together and would be okay. Life and marriage aren’t always perfect, but she framed the puzzle pieces “as a constant reminder to our covenant to each other” and to God’s promises

For an object lesson, the pastor had purchased three 1,500-piece puzzles and given one piece to each worshiper that weekend. The woman took hers home and placed it on her dresser. That Sunday, the husband stopped by the house to do yard work. When the woman walked by her dresser, she noticed that another puzzle piece was attached to



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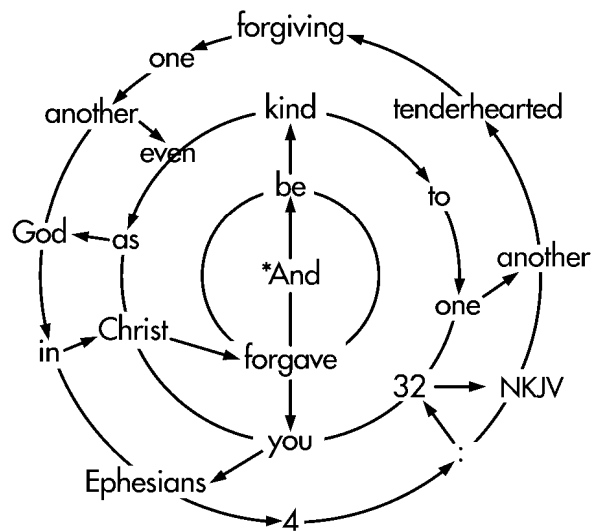


WHY FORGIVE?



This Bible verse teaches an important lesson about how we should treat others – and why.

Directions: Start with the asterisk in the center circle and follow the arrows. Write the words in order on the blanks below.



“And _____ ,
 _____ , _____
 _____ , _____
 _____ .”
 _____ , _____

Answers: And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you. Ephesians 4:32, NKJV

Forgiveness BRACELET

Jesus died on the cross to forgive our sins, and he tells us to forgive other people, too. Make and wear this craft as a reminder that you are forgiven — and should be forgiving.

What you need:

- Clear plastic bottle (about 16 oz.)
- An adult to help
- Scissors
- Construction paper
- Permanent black marker
- Glue or clear tape
- Thin ribbon or yarn
- Small hole punch

What you do:

1. Remove any label from the bottle. Have an adult help you cut the bottle in half, width-wise. At the middle, cut out two identical half-inch-wide strips.
2. Cut out paper the same size as the plastic strips.
3. On the paper, write “Forgive, and you will be forgiven” (Luke 6:37, NIV).
4. Place the paper between the two plastic strips.
5. Cut and glue the ribbon or yarn to run along the top and bottom of the verse, framing the words.
6. Punch a hole at each end, through all three layers.
7. Tie the bracelet to your wrist with ribbon or yarn.

Candy Land in a Bottle

How to Really, Really Love Our Kids
 (Part 2 of a few more)

Have you ever been asked to do something you thought was impossible?
 If so, what did you do?
 Did you try anyway, and succeed?
 Did you just say, “Forget it,” and walk away?
 Did you try anyway, and fail?

I found myself in a situation like this last week. It was the final session at the Family Ministry Re-Group conference in Loveland, CO., when our moderator, Christine Yount-Jones, asked us to clear everything off our tables. Upon clearing, each table was handed a brand-spanking new Candy Land game – still wrapped in the cellophane. We were also handed an empty two-liter soda bottle. Then Christine said,

“You have twenty-five minutes to put the entire Candy Land game into the empty soda bottle. You may not alter the bottle in any way. GO!”



WHAAAAAAT?

Our table/team of 5 Children and Youth Pastors looked at each other, bewildered. But that only lasted for a second. After all, the clock was ticking! Then our Children/Youth pastor crazy-blood kicked in, and we went to work.

Twenty-five minutes later, the entire Candy Land game was *in* the bottle. SUCCESS!

How did we do it, you ask? I’ll let you know in the next... newsletter... article.

But even though I won’t tell you *how* yet, I will tell you *what* we needed to succeed:

- ◆ A Willing Team
- ◆ The Right Tools
- ◆ Tenacity

Team, Tools and Tenacity.
 That’s also what we need to really, really love our kids these days.

Last month, I wrote that to really, really love our kids, we need to really, really love God with all our hearts. (If you missed it, read Deuteronomy 6:4-9. If you didn’t miss it, read Deuteronomy 6:4-9)

How did you react to God’s command to “Commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today. Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up. Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.” Deuteronomy 6:6-9

Did you say, “This is impossible in my current situation. I’m all alone and barely hanging in there as it is. I’m not able to do this?”

Did you say, “I’d like to do this, but I have no idea where to start?”

Did you say, “I tried to do this once, but it turned out to be a disaster, so I’m not trying it again?”

Then you need Team, Tools and Tenacity.

I’ll start by addressing tenacity first. What is your objective in raising your children? I’m not talking about what job you want them to have when they grow up or where you want them to live and things like that. I mean, what kind of people do you want them to grow up to be? What values do you want them to have? What do you want to see as priorities in their lives? If you want them to grow up to be fully-devoted followers of Christ, then you just can’t give in to the many excuses to give up. Our kids aren’t going to get spiritual training by accident, and they certainly aren’t going to get it from the world. They aren’t going to know how to put Christ in the

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40 Nights of Prayer

Beginning Wednesday March 9th
7-8 pm @ The Office in the Upper Room

Mike and Jill will open their home the other six
nights of the week from 7-8 pm.
2490 Beechwood, Paso Robles
Call and let them know you're coming
423-6616 (Mike's cell)



Bible Quiz

Just before the Last Supper (John 13), Jesus took off his outer robe, poured water into a basin and began washing his disciples' feet. One disciple, however, protested having the Lord wash his feet. Jesus told the reluctant man that unless he allowed Jesus to wash his feet, he really had no share in Christ's leadership. The disciple then relented. He said Jesus could wash not only his feet but his hands and head, as well.

Choose the name of this disciple from the list below:

- A. Peter
- B. John
- C. Andrew
- D. Judas

Answer: A (See John 13:1-9)



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Bursting Forth From Heaven (Transformation Prayer Guide, Week 1)

Dear Church Family,
I'm hungry for more of the manifest presence of God among us. I want to see more of His supernatural power at work radically and permanently transforming human lives. I want His Kingdom to come and His will to be done in Paso Robles as it is in heaven. Are you feelin' me? If so, would you allow the following to shape your relationship and conversation with God?

-*Pastor Mike*

Oh, that you would burst from the heavens and come down! How the mountains would quake in your presence!... When you came down long ago, you did awesome things beyond our highest expectations. And oh, how the mountains quaked! For since the world began, no ear has heard, and no eye has seen a God like you, who works for those who wait for him! (Isaiah 64:1, 3-4, NLT).








Prayer Focus: If the very mountains created by God would quake in His presence, imagine how our hearts would tremble at a glimpse of His glory! If the Lord burst forth from the heavens and became fully present in our midst, everything would change instantly. Our concerns in this world would quickly fade as we stood breathless, awe-struck, and overwhelmed. We would suddenly realize that our expectations have been far too low, and that God's power and presence can bring even nations in humble submission before Him. As this passage

indicates, God works for those who wait for Him, for His glory to be revealed! As we begin a journey of prayer for transformation, may we turn our hearts toward Him and pray with hope and expectation—and wait for nothing less than His very presence among us.

Prayer Prompts:

- ◆ Worship God as the Glory of all creation. Thank Him for desiring to reveal His presence.
- ◆ Acknowledge to God that you desire the revealing of His glory in your life and in the world.
- ◆ Repent of the ways you have impatiently walked your own way, with glory for yourself overtaking your desire for God's glory in your life.
- ◆ Pray that God will stir within you a deep desire for transformation of your own heart.
- ◆ Ask God to fill you with an expectancy for those awesome things beyond your own imagination.
- ◆ Pray that your church will begin crying out for the mountain-quaking presence of God.
- ◆ Pray for revival and transformation that changes the very fabric of our churches, cities, and society.
- ◆ Pray that the nations of the world will bow in humble submission to God—and be transformed by His glory!

March 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Prayer meetings every night 7-8		1 NO UPPER ROOM	 2 The R.I.O.T 6:30-8:00 NO GRAPPLE PRAYER MEETING	3	4	5
 6 Celebration Service: 10:30 Host Family Adams	7	8 Upper Room 2:30-5:30	 9 The R.I.O.T 6:30-8:00 NO GRAPPLE PRAYER MEETING	10	11	12
13 Daylight Savings Begins Celebration Service: 10:30 Host Family Clays	14	15 Board Meeting Upper Room 2:30-5:30	 16 The R.I.O.T 6:30-8:00 NO GRAPPLE PRAYER MEETING	17 	18	19
20 Spring Begins Celebration Service: 10:30 Host Family Ventura's	21	22 Upper Room 2:30-5:30	 23 The R.I.O.T 6:30-8:00 NO GRAPPLE PRAYER MEETING	24	25	26
27 Celebration Service: 10:30 Host Family Covington's	28	29 Upper Room 2:30-5:30	 30 The R.I.O.T 6:30-8:00 NO GRAPPLE PRAYER MEETING	31		

(Continued from page 2)

center of their lives if it has never been modeled for them in their family of origin.

Just like our crazy challenge to put Candy Land in a bottle, your challenge to keep Christ at the center of your home in the midst of the craziness of life may seem impossible.

But failure is not an option.
So you must be tenacious!

There. I said the hard thing. Now for some encouragement!

When I first heard the command to “put Candy Land in a bottle,” I was nervous and hesitant. So was everyone else at my table. But when we got started, it was amazing to see how our outlook changed. As the entire team jumped into the task, we were immediately encouraged. Some churned out ideas, and some were work horses. Others interjected humor (which was greatly needed), and others kept us on time. We quickly and naturally fell into the roles that matched our God-given gifts and abilities. Before we were through, *every* person had contributed to our success.

As you seek to implement God’s commands from Deuteronomy 6 in your home, please remember that you have a team to help! Your pastors, leaders, and others in the body of believers are all in this together. So gather, support and invest in your team! *You* may have to take the initiative to get people together to pray and to dialogue about how you’re going to work together. After all—everyone is busy. But if you determine to be part of a team, success *is* possible. (A side note – call your pastors for help! If you need special prayer support or encouragement of any kind, let us know. We make it a regular habit to pray for the families in the church during our daily prayer times, but we’re also willing to do this with you in person. Often our weeks get filled up with appointments and the tasks of running the church—but our main reason for being here is to pray and be ministers of the Word. See Ephesians 4:11-12 and Acts 6. We’re here because we *want* to be part of the team!)

The other thing you need is tools. *We* needed tools to put Candy Land in a bottle. (Wait till you find out what we used!) *You* need tools to raise spiritually-charged kids. Of course, the Bible is an awesome tool. Prayer is a mandatory tool. Others who have been down this road have provided other tools that can be very helpful if we just know where to find them. In the next few months, we will be placing some new tools in your hands to support you as the primary faith influencer in your child’s life. We’ll teach you how to share Faith Talks and God Sightings. We’ll also be showing you how to have Family Faith celebrations in your home, and we’ll be coming alongside you to offer church-wide celebrations to solidify important milestones in your family. Think of the church as the spiritual version of the Craftsman tool aisle at Sears (Only these tools are guaranteed for eternity. You can’t beat that warranty!).

Candy Land in a bottle? Not a problem. All it took was Team, Tools and Tenacity. Raising our Kids to love God in today’s world? A little bit more of a challenge.

But NOT impossible.

“Have you not heard? Have you never understood? The Lord is the Everlasting God, the Creator of all the earth. He never grows weak or weary. No one can measure the depths of His understanding. He gives power to the weak and strength to the powerless. Even youths will become weak and tired, and young men will fall in exhaustion. But those who trust in the Lord will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint.”
Isaiah 40:28-31

It’s a journey. We won’t be perfect. But we have God’s promise to help, and we have each other.

We can do this!
Serving Him,

Jill

