TOOLS FOR

Motherhood

NEWSLETTER

December 2009

The Word:

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good testimony." Hebrews 11:1

In Hebrews 11, we see a list of Old Testament saints who lived by faith. The Wycliffe Bible Commentary (1962), describes faith as follows: "Faith is trust in the unseen. It is not trust in the unknown." (p. 1421) As mothers we have sitting before us in the high chair a miracle of God, woven together in our own inward parts; or as adoptive parents in a biological mother's parts. In Psalm 139:16b (NKJV) we read, "And in your book there were written the days fashioned for me [our child] when as yet there were none of them" (p. 736). In other words, this child sitting before us has a destiny to accomplish, planned by God before they were even fashioned inside our bodies. Although their future is as yet unseen to us, we can have faith that our daily job of raising them helps to equip them for the future purposes of God. These children are given to us "on loan" for a few short decades. Later on it is an awesome privilege as a mom, in daily prayer, to release that young adult back to God to fulfill their ultimate destiny. It seems there is no greater accomplishment in our lifetime than that of being a mom. Our job is not a career. It is building a legacy for the next generation and future generations yet unborn.

The Activity:

For the month of December, we mentally reenact the New Testament story of a young woman who acted in faith. As a teenager, God called Mary to trust the unseen. Because she was willing, she became the vessel God used to bless each of us through the birth of the Savior of the world. Therefore, let us share this story of the Nativity in a fresh way with our little ones this month. Begin by finding a book with pictures that tells the story; either one you have purchased from the Christian bookstore, or found in the Bible (Luke 1:26-38). Pull your children in close and enjoy reading with expression this wonderful story. Point out the pictures. Ask questions of your older ones to engage their thinking. Then find creative ways to act out the story. As mom or dad reads, younger children could pantomime the words and actions of the characters. Older children could ad lib while the narrator pauses appropriately. You could even make your own Nativity scenery with the addition of simple costumes. Invite Grandpa and Grandma. Be creative, have fun. This is a story worth telling, over and over and over again…

How Time Flies!

This time of year brings precious memories. When our "children" (they're now in their 40's!) were preschoolers, on Christmas Eve my husband would read aloud "The Christmas Story" from a Little Golden Book. *Fast-Fwd*... During Julie and Jeff's elementary years, he would read from the different accounts surrounding Christ's birth from the Gospel narratives in Matthew and Luke. *Fast-Fwd*... As they became teenagers, Myron progressed to the rich prophecies of Isaiah and Micah.
Fast-Fwd... Now we're enjoying our eight grandchildren (with a great-grandchild on the way!) Several Christmases ago, our daughter's family was coming for Christmas. Knowing that both of our "kids'" families baked a traditional birthday cake for Jesus, I shopped ahead of time and bought a white cake mix and some green Jello (kiddos really like poking cooled cake layers with a fork and then pouring hot Jello over the top*; after it sets up in the 'fridge, it has a pretty white-and-green marbled effect). I also purchased various types of candy that I thought the granddaughters could use to design a really cool "flat" nativity scene on top of the cake. Well.....Claire and Kate had a whole different approach — they made a stand-up manger scene – with baby Jesus in a Hershey's chocolate manger, covered in a flat-fruit-roll blanket. (We had stirred yellow food color into some Angel-flake coconut for the "hay" ahead of time, and frosted the middle and sides of the cake with white icing. For the top, we stirred blue food color into the rest of the icing.) They dotted silver "sparkles" in the blue icing for stars. Then came the "Happy Birthday" song! Something fun to try with your children?

*use the large box of Jello for 2 layers or a 9x13 pan, but only stir in half of the water (only the hot portion).

Check out all the great resources on our website:

www.toolsformotherhood.org

"Train up a child in the way he should go…" Proverbs 22:6