

Fall Issue

TEACHING OBEDIENCE, DISCIPLESHIP, AND AGAPE TO YOUTH

2001

FOR CHURCH, HOME, AND SCHOOL

“Thy Kingdom Come!”

By Rory Ries



"Thy Kingdom Come!" What does this scripture mean to you? What does this mean to your children? Apparently, it has meaning to Christ because He was the one who instructed the disciples to pray this way. (Matt. 6:9-10) We also know that there are those who live in the world who have no understanding about what Christ meant when he said to pray this way.

Many use this model prayer and yet do they ever stop to wonder what does "thy kingdom come" mean? Is there any significance to these words? What does this have to do with teaching our children? We can take a good look at God's truth and come to see the real meaning of "thy kingdom come."

Recently there has been a new movement taking place in this nation's high schools. Those who have fought for gay rights have now introduced a prom for gays who attend high school. This has started on the east coast and now is spreading across the nation. Our children are being exposed to the idea that being gay is okay. It is a way of life or is it?

The latest Harry Potter book has sold more copies than the Holy Bible. Young children are being exposed to witchcraft and magic. This isn't anything new, however, it is becoming a stronger force that needs to be dealt with. Our children's schools are becoming more infected with Satan's schemes in kidnapping our children.

We could go on and on. The known HIV virus cases have increased way over 100% among teen girls in this country and that is due to sexual activity and drug usage. There are more single parents raising children than ever before. People are starving to death and dying of illnesses that have no cure. These problems are not just in the United States, they are worldwide.

What hope does this life have to offer us? What future is there for our children? Most kids will tell you they want a

family, a good job, nice car, and a big house. Some will even say they hope Christ doesn't return until they can get these things. Will these physical treasures bring true and lasting joy? Will they find peace and harmony in this life'?

This world is not going to change for the better. It's on a course that is going to bring it crashing down. Anyone that is a part of this world and those who love this world will go down with it. This world has nothing to offer that compares to what God has in store for those who love Him and for those who want to obey Him.

We are approaching the Fall Holy Days. So what, some would say! These days picture a great future that offers hope. There is life after death and there is peace and prosperity that nothing can come close to in this world; Joy and love that is real and lasts for an eternity; A vision of a perfect world that needs to be passed on to our children.

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Personal Note



Hello Everyone,

It's that time of the year when we start looking to the Fall Holydays and the Feast of Tabernacles. When you think about what these days portray it fills us with awe and love for our Precious Savior and our Father. When understanding that the holydays portray the plan of God, it adds so much meaning to our observing and worshipping on these holydays. And so we should make sure that our children know what these days mean and why we keep them. We should teach our children the meaning of each holyday and why it's special to us. If you can attend a Feast site where there is a Sabbath School, this will help reinforce to your children why we keep the Feast, and it makes our children feel special too.

In this issue we have included some Holyday Activities, more resource information, articles on Feast projects, a new

column called Sabbath Studies for Children, and an article introducing the staff of the TODAY Newsletter. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helps out with TODAY, and especially all of you readers. Your support, contributions and letters of encouragement keep us going. Let us know how we can serve you better and send us your suggestions, articles, resources and craft contributions.

The next issue of TODAY will be after the Feast, and it will be a Special Edition. We have some wonderful articles and ideas from past issues and since some of you are new to the TODAY, we thought you might enjoy seeing what we have did in the past. TODAY has been around several years, but in times past had different names (See article about our staff which includes some of our history).

Shelby Faith



Letters From Our Readers

Shelby and Fellow Workers of the faith,

Thank you for publishing TODAY. It is a breath of fresh air to receive helps and encouragement to teach our youth. We need this Newsletter for our churches because the youth is being taken from us by the world and your dedication to telling it how it is might get through to some parents or child about what to do. May the Father bless you all for doing the good work for families. KS, Free Union, VA

To My Christian Brothers and Sisters at TODAY News,

I would like to take this time and thank you for the time you put into your Newsletter. TODAY News has been a big help for me in my Christian walk with the Lord. Please keep sending me TODAY News, it makes me feel that I'm there with you on the Sabbath day. RM, Brunswick, NC

OUR ADDRESS

Please send any ideas, suggestions, resources, articles, crafts, contributing materials, letters, comments, etc. regarding TODAY to me at my address: Shelby Faith, P.O. Box 183, High Ridge, MO 63049

EMAIL ADDRESS: sfaith@mindspring.com

Continued from page 1 "Thy Kingdom Come!"

We are commanded to keep these Holy Days, The Feast of Trumpets, Day of Atonement, and the Feast of Tabernacles. (Levi. 23:23-44) Each Holy Day brings us hope and teaches us that God has a plan and His plan will succeed. Not only for us but for our children. Our children are blessed and holy because they too belong to God.

God commands us to rejoice at the Feast of Tabernacles because of what it pictures. (Dent. 16:9-11) He also commands us to take our children so they can take part in a great experience that they will not get anywhere else. Our children can have this same vision that we are only living in this world temporarily. There is a great Kingdom coming where Christ will rule. Our children can have this same hope.



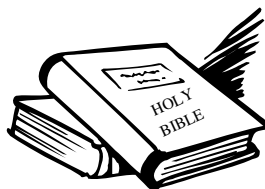
This world has nothing to offer us, nor our children. Whatever possessions we gain, we gain them for just a short period of time. Our life on this earth is just a vapor. We see millions of people suffering. We see hate and rage. People killing one another, people destroying lives, hunger and starvation, and diseases that can deplete a nation's most needed resources.

There is hope. Christ is going to return. God's great Kingdom does offer everything we ever needed and then some. Do we pray for this to happen? Is it a priority in our prayers? Do our children see the desire for Christ to return. Our beliefs and desires can become a part of them. They can be led to Christ by our example. They too can have hope that can be lasting and that can bring great joy and peace.

SABBATH STUDIES FOR CHILDREN

By Sharon L. White

(This is the beginning of a series of Sabbath Studies for Children written by Sharon White, mother of five children, ages 3 to 13 years. Sharon home schools her children and also teaches them about God's Ways. We will continue these series as often as Sharon has the time to contribute them to TODAY.)



1. Open the bible to Exodus 20, verses 1 through 17. These are the Ten Commandments. Read them to the children without explaining them.
2. Have each child read the entire passage. (The teacher or parent reads through them first and then each child reads through them, verses 1 - 17. Everyone should have a turn reading the Ten Commandments.
3. Next, go over what each verse means and some of the blessings and curses mentioned that will happen if we obey or disobey the commandments.
4. Then have the older children copy down verses 3 to 17 in a notebook, and describe what each verse means. The younger children (perhaps ages 7 to 9 years) could just copy down the verses, depending on their capabilities. Very young children could just listen and try to repeat some of the commandments, or try to just remember one or whatever they can.
5. Allow each child to read out loud what they wrote in their notebook regarding the Ten Commandments and their explanation. However, if a child is too timid to read what they wrote, don't force them to read it to the group.
6. When all have read what they wrote, then the teacher or parent should read Deut. 31:26 and have the children copy down this verse in their notebook as he or she reads it to them. ("Take this book of the law, and put it in the side of the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God, that it may be there for a witness against thee.") The parent or teacher should then explain that the children have now written the words of the law in their notebooks, and it will be a witness against them if they do not obey these commandments.

INTRODUCING THE "TODAY" STAFF

We thought you might like to know a little about the volunteers who help out with the TODAY Newsletter, and how the TODAY is put together.

It starts out in St. Louis Mo. with gathering articles, information, resources, activities and other materials from our volunteers and writers. Sometimes we will have a theme for the issue, such as the Spring Holy Days, Fall Holy Days, Special Issue, etc. As most of you know, we solicit contributions from you, our readers, as well as relying on regular volunteers like Rory Ries to come up with articles, etc. for the newsletter.



Top: Linda Smith and Shelby Faith
Bottom: Rory Ries and Matt Hellwege

Once all the material is gathered together, Shelby Faith then edits and puts all this into a Publisher program on her computer, and then turns a printed copy over to Linda Smith and her son, Matt Hellwege. Sometimes material is sent as an email attachment to Linda and Matt. Linda and Matt scan the material into their computer which needs to be arranged and formatted, and then is checked for errors. Matt then puts the formatted TODAY onto a CD, and it is sent to Rick Gawith in Tulsa, OK.

Rick reviews the file once again for any last minute corrections that may have to be made, and then sends the file along to the Just-Us Printers in Springdale, AR to be printed. The printer then sends the printed TODAY

Newsletters back to Rick Gawith. Rick, his wife Sherry and their two sons, Brian and Matthew then fold, stuff, seal, label all the Newsletters and then they are delivered to the post office for mailing.

It sounds very simple and not too time-consuming. But the gathering and selecting materials, writing articles, typing all of it into a computer program and formatting and putting the Newsletter on a CD takes many, many hours, and sometimes it's frustrating when something doesn't come out like we thought it would. And then when the Gawith Family gets the Newsletters back from the printer, they spend a great deal of time as an assembly line, getting them ready to mail out.

We appreciate so much what each volunteer does and thank them for all the time spent helping out with the TODAY. We breathe a sigh of relief, have a certain feeling of satisfaction in getting the job done, and then start over again with the creation of the next issue. Most of the volunteers have jobs, families, go to school or have other activities that keep them busy, but they still volunteer themselves to get the TODAY out to you. Again, thanks to everyone who helps out with this effort.

(TODAY Newsletter is a publication of the Churches of God Outreach Ministries - CGOM - and is made possible through contributions to CGOM. Thanks to all who support this effort.)



Left to right: Matthew, Rick, Brian and Sherry Gawith

Word Search

assemble

prepare

celebrate

Trumpets

return

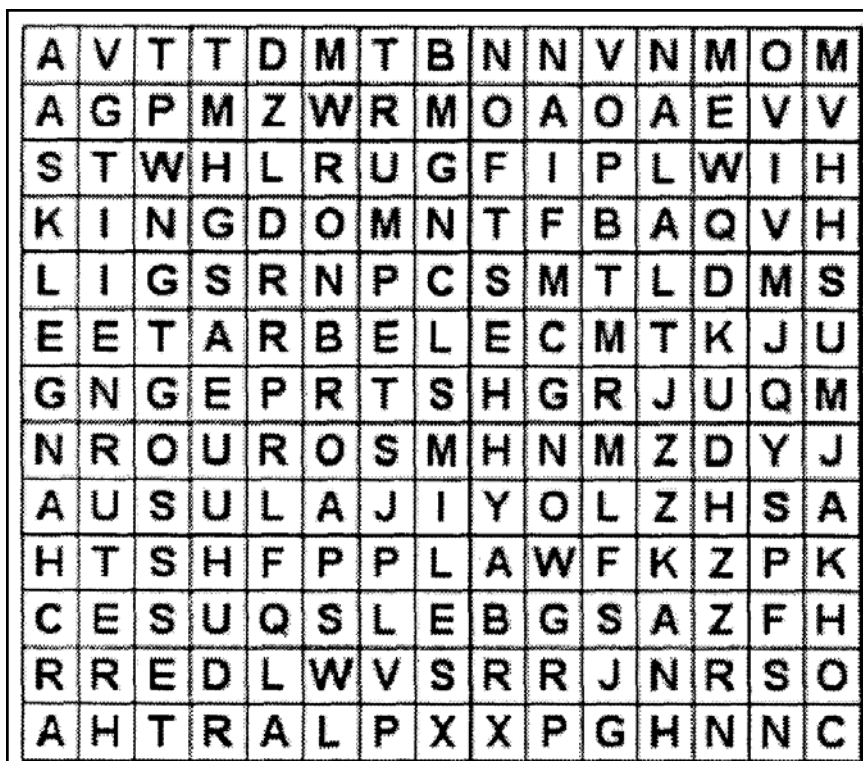
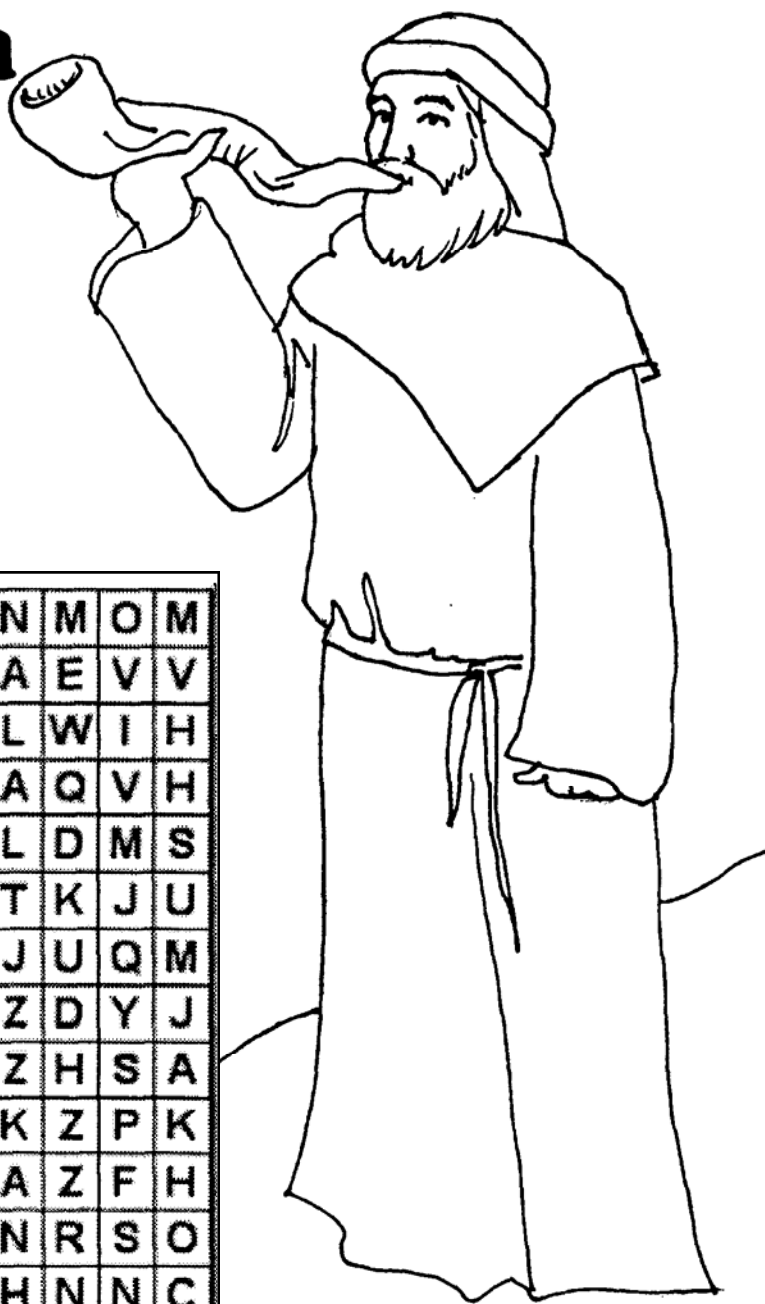
shofar

kingdom

resurrection

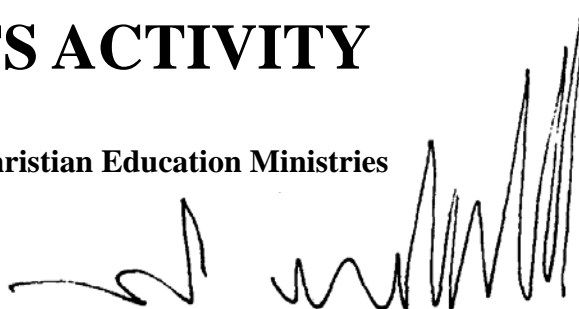
archangel

watch



FEAST OF TRUMPETS ACTIVITY

This activity is from Festival Supplement published by Christian Education Ministries



I Thessalonians 4:16 "For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first" (NKJ).

DAY OF ATONEMENT

How many words can you make using the word “Atonement”?

Sample: One		

We are commanded not to work on this holy day, and also to fast on this day. (Read Leviticus 23: 28). We are to afflict ourselves on the Day of Atonement.

1. Look in a dictionary to find out what the word “atone” or atonement” means? Write the definition here.



2. What does it mean to “fast” on this day?

3. Read Leviticus 16 and describe below what was done with the 2 goats; what happened to each goat?



FEAST OF TABERNACLES

Hidden in the puzzle below are words about the Feast of Tabernacles.

FEAST OF TABERNACLES

G	G	F	H	U	O	K	X	S	Y	A	D	N	E	V	E	S	T	X	E
V	T	A	X	H	V	P	G	F	W	M	C	I	C	P	J	H	I	V	C
F	L	B	M	N	V	S	Y	Q	J	T	A	C	Y	N	O	B	V	A	F
O	B	X	P	I	H	Y	V	F	Y	H	P	J	O	U	N	F	N	X	Q
P	W	S	R	T	L	R	P	W	E	D	I	T	S	K	S	I	I	O	C
Q	X	Q	O	Y	P	L	O	C	J	J	F	A	C	K	M	M	V	G	H
Y	L	O	M	F	T	C	E	Y	R	E	N	J	Y	A	B	T	A	L	K
U	B	Z	N	C	Q	R	B	N	S	D	A	I	L	F	O	J	A	Z	T
T	S	I	R	H	C	P	A	T	N	V	Q	S	D	E	P	U	W	N	W
R	O	U	A	C	N	C	I	V	U	I	J	U	C	Y	W	Q	E	C	G
N	O	E	O	A	T	V	Y	W	E	K	U	D	Q	T	U	M	R	T	M
L	M	V	C	P	A	W	L	U	F	L	E	M	X	S	Y	A	F	A	X
E	P	Q	K	L	D	S	J	V	F	H	X	C	Z	O	I	T	N	B	L
B	O	D	P	P	G	O	K	A	C	X	H	F	J	N	S	S	X	E	L
U	L	B	N	C	E	I	M	M	X	E	C	N	M	K	B	A	G	R	M
F	T	L	D	S	N	I	M	W	A	O	E	P	F	A	W	E	N	N	H
Q	G	K	O	G	L	Q	H	D	R	E	I	G	N	N	K	F	B	A	C
W	B	Y	D	Y	O	P	N	J	V	F	V	V	I	W	B	C	V	C	F
A	Y	O	A	Y	T	A	S	I	G	N	I	R	E	F	F	O	A	L	G
U	M	C	K	G	V	O	Q	O	M	V	I	W	G	F	W	Q	K	E	E

ANIMALS
BOOTH
CHRIST
ENJOYMENT
FAMILY
FEAST
FESTIVAL
KINGDOM

MILLENNIUM
OFFERING
REIGN
SEVENDAYS
TABERNACLE
THOUSAND
TRAVEL
JOY

LAST GREAT DAY

Immediately after the seven days of the Feast of Tabernacles, there is the eighth day, the last Holy Day of the year. (Leviticus 23:36,39) This Holy Day is called the Last Great Day. The Last Great Day pictures a time in the future called the Great White Throne Judgment. It pictures God sitting on a great white throne, judging everyone according to their works, from the words written in the Bible. The Book of Life is opened, and anyone whose name is not written in this Book will perish forever.

Look up the scriptures and fill in the blanks in the spaces below.

“Also on the _____ day of the _____ month, when you have gathered in the _____ of the land, you shall keep the feast of the _____ for _____ days; on the first _____ there shall be a sabbath rest, and on the _____ day a sabbath rest.” (Leviticus 23:29)

“On the last day, that great day of the Feast, Jesus stood up and cried out, saying, _____
_____”. (John 7:37)

“Then I saw a great _____ throne and Him who sat on it from whose face the _____ and _____ fled away. And there was found no _____ for them.” (Revelations 20:11)

“And I saw the dead, _____ and _____, standing before God, and _____ were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of _____. And the dead were judged according to their _____, by the things which were written in the _____.” (Revelations 20:12)

“And anyone not found _____ in the book of _____ was cast in the _____ of _____. (Revelations 20:15)

FALL FEAST ACTIVITIES

FEAST OF TRUMPETS ACTIVITY

(Submitted by Neva Dodson)



One week before Trumpets the Sabbath School teacher had the children make paper trumpets, complete with horns, and told the children they were to be used the next week.

On the day of Trumpets, the minister announced that there would be no Sabbath School, only a sermon. He then told the children they could blow their trumpets every time the phrase "Feast of Trumpets" was mentioned.

The minister then announced "This is the Feast of Tabernacles", and there was just silence. Then he repeated it - and still just silence. Then he said "This is the Feast of Trumpets". Everyone of the children blew their horns. All through the sermon every time the minister mentioned Trumpets, the children blew their horns, right on cue and real attentive. They were real impressed and so was the congregation.

(Editor's Note: You might want to try this idea with your Sabbath School class. It keeps the children's attention to what is being said and helps them to listen, and the children would enjoy it. However, you would want to check with the minister and get his permission and involvement before you add this activity to the Feast of Trumpets.)

MAKE A FEAST FAN

(Submitted by Pam Chambers)

Materials Needed: Sturdy poster board, large wooden craft sticks, glue, scissors, crayons, markers, and tape. (Optional: pictures or color book pages of animals, etc.)

1. Trace a large circle pattern onto the poster board and cut out circle.
2. Glue and tape a craft stick on one side of the fan.
3. Have the children write the plan of God on one side of the Fan, and write "The Feast of Tabernacles" on the reverse side of the fan.
4. Other ideas: let students color, cut out and glue pictures of animals to one side of the fan, or have the children color a picture of what they think the Feast of Tabernacles will be like on the fan.)

PRE-FEAST PARTY

By Shelby Faith

Most of you already have your plans for the Feast made and are eagerly anticipating packing suitcases, kids and yourself into the car and getting on the road to the Feast site. However, in our Sabbath school classes we always had one or two children who were not able to go to the feast, This situation usually came up when one parent wasn't in the church, or children came to service and Sabbath school with their grandparents or other relatives, or just came with their friends, and were not able to attend the feast.



We started a annual pre-feast party tradition to help these children feel a part of the feast excitement and not feel too let down at this time of the year when all the other children were taking off from school and looking forward to the feast.



Our party is held on the last Sabbath before the feast. After the service is over, the teachers would then come forward and award Sabbath School Certificates to all who had attended Sabbath School. We made sure that we had a certificate for everyone, even those who had only attended a few times during the year. We also give a bag of goodies to each child including a nice gift and other wrapped surprises.

Before church service, we usually decorated an area with balloons, streamers, banners, and load a table with lots of kiddie goodies (also included a few items adults like), little sandwiches, cupcakes, candies, chips, soda or fruit punch. One year we made peanut butter and jelly sandwiches which all the children seemed to love. The problem was that the adults also clustered around and ate these too. So we always make sure now that we have enough goodies for the adults to enjoy too.



Happy Feast 2001 To Everyone

MAKE A PRE-FEAST CHAIN



Pre - Feast

Chain Activity

By Sabbath School Class,
St. Louis, Missouri

Left to right:

Michael Abrolat

Seth Ries

Ryan Thoene

Hannah Kirk

Amber Calascibetta

This pre-feast activity can be done in a class or on an individual basis. The parent or teacher should collect enough supplies for everyone in the class to be able to make a chain out of construction paper. Not much is needed for this activity other than lots of different colored construction paper, scissors and glue. This activity should be done about a month before the Feast of Tabernacles, but can be done only a few days ahead. When the chain is finished each child should have one that they can take home. Every day the child will remove one chain until they get to the last one, and that will be the day before the Feast.

1) Choose how many days before the Feast you want the children to make the chain for. (Example: One day equals one chain. If you make the chain 30 days before the Feast, there should be 30 links for the chain. If you only want to make the chain two weeks before the Feast, have the children make 14 chain links. Count up the days before the Feast and have the children make that many links for the chain.)



2) Let each child cut strips out of different colors of construction paper.

3) Glue the ends together for the first link, and then add each link gluing the ends together after inserting the link into the previous link, making a chain (one link for each day left before the Feast).

4) Instruct each child that they are to remove one link every day before the Feast. When they get to the last link, there will only be one day left.

This activity helps get the children excited about the coming Feast, and helps the anticipation build as the children see how many days are left until the Feast. It allows the children to see for themselves how many days it will be until Feast time. Included in this issue is a picture of our class in the Church of God Sabbatarian Sabbath School taken a couple of years ago. Each child made a chain and had fun counting the days left before the Feast. It's a great activity and your kids will love doing it.

ANOTHER IDEA FOR FEAST SABBATH SCHOOL TEACHERS

(Thanks to Pam Chambers for this idea)

Set up a "Teddy Bear Table" at the Feast this year for the younger children and let them help themselves to a stuffed toy. You can use bears, lions, lambs, elephants or other stuffed animals. You may want to coordinate a feast lesson talking about the Lion and the Lamb, what it will be like when God's peaceful kingdom is set up, creation, etc. The children love this idea and it makes them feel special.



THE WILLING HEART



A nine year old boy lived in a rural town in Tennessee, in a poor community. One day a local church pastor came knocking on his door, and asked to speak to his parents. He answered that his parents take off every weekend and leave him and his little brother at home. The pastor couldn't believe him and asked him to repeat it. The youngster gave the same answer. The pastor asked him if he could come in and talk with him. They went into the living room and sat down on an old couch with the foam and springs exposed.

The pastor asked the kid, "Where do you go to church?" The young boy surprised the pastor by replying, "I've never been to church in my whole life." The pastor thought to himself about the fact that his church was only three miles away. "Are you sure you've never been to church?", he asked again. "I'm sure I haven't", came his answer.

"Well, son, more important than going to church, have you ever heard the greatest love story ever told?", and then he proceeded to share the gospel with this little nine year old boy. The young boy's heart began to be tenderized, and at the end of the story, the pastor asked the boy if he believed. The youngster exclaimed "You bet". Since the next day was church day, the pastor asked if he could pick the boy up and take him to the church service. "Sure", the nine year old replied.

The pastor got to the house early the next morning and found the lights off. He let himself in and went through the house and found the little boy sleeping in his bed. He woke up the boy and his brother, helped them to get dressed, and took them

on the church bus to church. They ate donuts for breakfast on the way. Now keep in mind that this little boy had never been to church. The church was a big one, and the little boy just sat there, clueless of what was going on.

A few minutes into the service, some tall guys walked down to the front and picked up some wooden plates. One of the men prayed, and the kid, with utter fascination, watched the men walk up and down the aisles. He still didn't know what was going on. All of a sudden, like a bolt of lightning, it hit the kid what was taking place. These people must be giving money to Jesus. He immediately searched his pockets, front and back, and couldn't find a thing to give to Jesus. By this time the offering plate was being passed down his aisle, and with a broken heart he just grabbed the plate and held onto it. He finally let go and watched the plate pass on down the aisle. He turned around and saw it being passed down the aisle behind him. His eyes remained on the plate as it was passed back and forth, back and forth, all the way to the rear of the church.

Then he got an idea. This little nine year old boy, in front of God and everybody, got up out of his seat and walked about eight rows back. He grabbed the usher by the coat and asked to hold the plate one more time. Then he did the most astounding thing. He took the plate, sat it on the carpeted church floor and stepped into the middle of it. As he stood there, he lifted his little head up and said, "Jesus, I don't have anything to give you today, but just me. I give you me."

(Editor's Note: Isn't this a wonderful story. We should all have the attitude of this little boy, and give ourselves to our Savior. That's what He wants of us, to give ourselves to Him wholeheartedly, without holding back. This story came from the Internet, and was submitted to TODAY by Carissa Smith.)



1993 FEAST OF TABERNACLES - PANAMA CITY BEACH, FL

Time Flies!

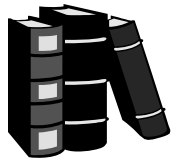
Recognize anyone? This was the Sabbath School Class at the Church of God International Feast in Panama City Beach, Florida in 1993. There were about 50 children, ages 4 through 9 years in this group. These kids are now ages 12 through about 17 years.

(P.S. Shelby Faith, editor of TODAY, is in the last row at the top of this picture.)





THE RESOURCE CORNER



Thanks for responding to my request for resources that you have found and are using to teach your children, and thanks for sharing these resources with others. Please continue to send me any books, lessons, crafts and web sites that would be helpful to parents and teachers. Following is an online web site that has a lot to offer parents, teachers and our youth:

SKY - SABBATH KEEPING YOUTH,

An online web site provided by the Church of God International for the youth at www.cgi.org. (Hit the SKY button when you get to this site.) There are lessons, activities, and you can order booklets and tapes regarding Christian principles for parents and other parenting helps. There is no charge for any of the lessons, etc. Following is a list of some available items on this web site:

SKY Story Time - Recommended for children ages 3-7. It is a quarterly series. Each lesson has a parent or teacher's bible study, a children's story and an activity page that corresponds with the lesson being taught.

Sabbath School Curriculum - Recommended for children 8-12. It is a quarterly series. Includes memory verses, teacher's bible study, bible story and activities.

SKY Correspondence Course - Recommended for teens ages 13-19. Includes a bible study, memory verse and quiz.

Family Articles - Articles to encourage and help parents teach their children the Word of God.

Review: This is a very good web site, informative, lots of stories and activities that can be downloaded and used by the parent or teacher. Noni McVey is the Director of this site and the goal of these resources is to help parents and Sabbath School teachers teach children about God. Kids of different age groups will also enjoy this web site as it has a lot to offer. There are contests and quizzes, coloring books, games and puzzles. Kids can send in drawings, poems and essays to be displayed online. They can also have a church pen pal, send a greeting card to someone, chat on line with friends and post a message on the Bulletin Board. This site is kept up-to-date, has timely articles, lessons and activities, and is well worth checking out.

THE COMPLETE BOOK OF BIBLE TRIVIA,

This book contains more than 4,500 questions and answers based on the Bible written by J. Stephen Lang, and published by Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., and can be purchased at book stores.

Review: This book contains a lot of information and can be used with different age groups including adults. Children will need to have some knowledge of bible stories and scriptures to participate, but this book can also be used as a way to get young children and teenagers to become interested in looking up the answers to the trivia questions. Some questions are very simple such as: *"Who had surgery performed on him as he slept?; Who laughed when she heard she would bear a son in her old age?; What prophet ate a book and found it sweet?; What two cities were destroyed by fire and brimstone from heaven?; What book says there is a time to weep and a time to rejoice?"* Others are more difficult and will require the actual scripture to be looked up to get the answer. However, this book can be a good learning tool and it might help the children remember where these subjects are located in the bible.



Please send any resource information that would be suitable for Sabbath School or in home school to:

*Shelby Faith,
P.O.Box 183, High Ridge, Mo. 63049 or
email to sfaith@mindspring.com.)*

T.O.D.A.Y. NEWSLETTER

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T.O.D.A.Y. CONTRIBUTORS YOU!!

Shelby Faith **Rory Ries**
Pam Chambers **Neva Dodson**
Sharon White **Carissa Smith**

Production and Layout
Matt Hellwege & Linda Smith

HANDLING AND MAILING

Rick Gawith **Sherry Gawith**
Brian Gawith **Matt Gawith**

"Children's children are the crown of old men; and the glory of children are their fathers" Proverbs 17:6