



WELLSHIRE FAMILIES



PRAYER



Love is patient.

Love is kind.

Love is hopeful.

Love is trusting.

Love is humble.

God, thank you for loving me.

Help me love others too.

Valentine's Day

FAITH CONVERSATION

Print and cut out page 3 of this newsletter. Read it to your family, answer the questions below, and put it in a commonly viewed place in your home to revisit every day.

- What is one thing you can do today to love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might?
- What other reminders of faith do we have in your home?
- Read Matthew 22:37-40. Do you recognize any similarities?

DID YOU KNOW?

Listening to music with your children benefits not only brain development but can help your family grow in their life of faith. Music can help connect us to scripture in a fun way. You can:

- Replay songs from worship at home
- Play songs while driving in your car
- Sing your prayers at night

Go Fish Bible Beats, available wherever you download your music, has lots of fun songs to choose from. (You might recognize a couple songs from VBS.)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

February 14 Valentine's Day

February 17 Ash Wednesday, Lent Begins

February 21 First Sunday in Lent

February 21 Club 45
(4th and 5th grade from 3:00—4:00)

FAMILY RESOURCES. TOPIC: TALKING ABOUT RACE

IF YOU ARE NOT ALREADY, START TALKING ABOUT RACE NOW

It is never too early to talk to your children about race. Data indicates children as young as 6 months old begin to notice racial differences. Kids are not color blind so we cannot be color silent—it creates confusion, and stereotypes can fester.

Observing physical differences is ok as long as value is not being assigned or is being devalued. So, don't shut down if your child mentions physical differences.

Though talking about race can be uncomfortable, it is important as we work to educate our children on the beauty of God's diverse creation knowing that all people are made in the image of God.

DIVERSITY AND IDENTITY

Small steps made by grown-ups can make a big difference in positive perceptions of diversity and identity for their children.

- Expose your children to a wider range of media
- Diversify your books at home or check-out diverse books from your local library (there are many resources for diversifying your library but one I particularly like: www.common sense media.org/book-lists)

Many age appropriate resources are available online but, generally, focus on their feelings, the unfairness of being excluded, and push back on stereotypes. Reach out if you need help with any resources. Let's work as a community to love, grow, and learn together.

NOTE TO GROWN-UPS

Lent begins in a week. You will be receiving resources from your church on helping your family grow in their life of faith during this time.

In addition to keeping an eye out for those, we will soon have Outdoor Sunday School with Kendal, offered by age group. I am thrilled to begin welcoming children and their families back to church in any way possible. Until then I pray you feel the love of Christ in your home each day.

Every blessing,

Kendal

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wellshire
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Deuteronomy 6:4-8 is called the *Shema* by people who speak Hebrew. God told the Israelites to remember these words every day. They placed copies of these verses in special boxes, called *mezuzahs*, which hung by their doors. Each time they went through the door, they would touch the box and remember to love God. Jewish people still practice this today.

Cut here▶



Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

