



The Gift of Children

Mentor Information

Scripture regularly lifts up the gift of children. They are identified as signs and signals of the kingdom of God. In the day to day details of family life, the power of children can get lost. Valuing children recognizes the gifts God has given and is a way to provide children with a glimpse of God's presence and power in their lives.

Purpose

For parents to recognize and celebrate the gifts of their children given to them through God

Child/Family/Faith Formation

- Children are a gift from God to love, cherish, and guide throughout their lives
- Children come from God with an inherent understanding of faith

Word

The context, connection and related conversation in this meeting are found in the scripture of Acts 17: 25b-28a (CEV)

God gives life, breath, and everything else to all people. From one person, God made all nations who live on earth and he decided when and where every nation would be. God had done all of this so that we will look for Him and reach out and find Him. He isn't far from us, and He gives the power to live and move and be who we are. We are his children.

Context

- Paul is telling the people in Athens about who God is and how God can be found
- He reminds the people that God created them and His handiwork can be found in all they are and all they do

Connections

- As parents recognize the gifts present in their children it recognizes the God who gave them these gifts

Conversation

- What is the greatest gift of faith you can give your child?
- How will you honor the gifts God has given your child?



The Gift of Children

For this meeting you will need:

- ☐ Flipchart
- ☐ 2 colored markers for each family
- ☐ Tape
- ☐ 1 child size piece of Butcher paper for each family
- ☐ Crayons
- ☐ Picture of the church

One meeting before, ask parents to bring one picture of the outside of their home.



The Gift of Children

Allow 15 minutes
for the Gathering.

Gathering

Use the questions below to begin the meeting.

- Are there any milestones that took place for your family that you would like to share?
- How has faith been a part of your life since we last met?

Read the chosen scripture: Acts 17: 25b-28a (CEV)

God gives life, breath, and everything else to all people. From one person, God made all nations who live on earth and He decided when and where every nation would be. God had done all of this so that we will look for Him and reach out and find Him. He isn't far from us, and He gives the power to live and move and be who we are. We are his children.

Engaging the Word

Ritual

Introduce the families to the ritual activity for the meeting by saying:

God has provided you with wondrous gifts through your children. Recognizing and celebrating these gifts will honor God as it honors your children.

Allow 30 minutes
for the Ritual.

Pass out a marker and sheet of butcher paper to each family. Ask them to trace the outline of their children's bodies. When everyone has finished say:

There are many ways to note and celebrate the gifts you have received from God through your children. Take a moment to think of these gifts and write them on the tracing. As you write, talk with your children about the gifts you have received.

When everyone has finished, hang the tracings in the room and invite the group to verbally add to each tracing the gifts they have seen in the other children.

When the meeting is over, give the tracings back to each family and encourage them to display it at home.



The Gift of Children

Connecting the Word

God has presented you with the gift of a child. Creating a home for faith development is one of the ways you can honor this gift. Your children have a deep, inherent connection to God. Conversation, rituals, prayers and acknowledging God's presence in your life feeds your children spiritually while creating deep everlasting memories of faith.

Celebrating the Word

Large Group Discussion

Hold up the picture of the church and say:

From looking at the picture of the church and from your experiences here, how do you know this is a house of faith?

When everyone has responded, ask each family to hold up a picture of their house and say:

From looking at the picture of your home and knowing what is inside, how would anyone know that a child lives there?

When everyone has responded say:

From looking at the picture of your home and knowing what is inside, how would anyone know that this is a home of faith?

What can you do to increase the presence and feeling of faith in your home?

When everyone has responded, invite the group to walk around the church noticing signs of faith that they could replicate in each of their homes.

Allow 25 minutes
for this activity.

Sending

We thankfully receive these children as a gift from God. With humility and hope, we dedicate ourselves to love and care for each and to raise them in your name through teaching and example. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.