

December 14, 2009

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For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also ~ Luke 12: 34

Family Experience: You're Important to God

When we remember to place God first, our self-worth becomes empowered and eternal. Use these fun experiences from IT: Innovative Tools for Children's Ministry to help family members understand that they must rely on God.

- **Crowned With Glory** – Gather a Bible, garland, and mylar streamers. At dusk, go outside and ask: "When you look at the world around you, what reminds you of God's greatness?" Read aloud Psalm 8:3-5. Ask: "Why do you think people are important to God? How has God shown you that you're important to him?"

Say: "Our value comes from God. Psalm 8:5 lets us know how much God values us." Repeat the verse together. Say: "God must think pretty highly of us to treat us this way." Make shiny crowns. Then say each person's name, followed by "...is important to God."

- **Marble Roll** – Gather marbles, water, and flour. Form pairs and give each pair a marble. Have pairs dip their marbles in water and roll them back and forth. Ask: "What was it like to roll and catch the wet marble?" Then have pairs dip their marbles in flour and try rolling them back and forth. Make sure there's enough flour to cause resistance. Ask: "What happened when you changed one thing with your marble? How does the way you feel about yourself change as you grow up?" Have an age-appropriate discussion about good and bad changes that affect self-esteem. Say: "No matter what you do that changes your self-esteem, always remember that your value comes from God."

Dates to Remember

- **December 16**
Pajama Party
- **Dec. 24-Jan 1**
Winter Break
- **January 4**
Staff Development
- **January 5**
Students Return

Nurse's Tips

- . Store all medicines in a locked cabinet far from children's reach.
- . Store cleaning products in a high cabinet far from reach.

Inclement Weather

In case of snow or ice, please refer to Channel 5 or KLTU-94.9 for school closing. We are listed as "Fellowship Christian Academy-OCBF".

Fellowship Christian Academy

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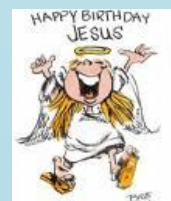
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Thank you for attending our
performance of
"Happy Birthday, Jesus"



THE MEANING BEHIND CHRISTMAS SYMBOLS



Christmas is not only beautiful, but it can be very meaningful if you allow the symbols and imagery to remind you of the Christmas story.



Candy Cane - A Christian confectioner made the candy cane as a reminder of the Shepherd's staff. They were red and white - red for the blood shed by Jesus Christ, white for His purity.



The Wreath - God is the Alpha and Omega. He is everlasting. His kingdom knows no beginning and no end. (Revelation 1:8)

The Lights - "Jesus, the Light of the world." (John 8:12)
"The Lord shall be thy everlasting light." (Isaiah 60:20)
"The Lord is my light and my salvation." (Psalm 27:1)



The Holly - crown of thorns (see red & green below)



The Star - marks the place where the Christ Child lay. (Matthew 2:10)

Christmas Tree Symbolizes life. "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good" (Romans 12:21)
The Lord is like "an evergreen tree" Hosea 14:8



Santa Claus - Eastern European name for Saint Nicholas. He tossed pouches with gold coins through the windows of needy people in his town.

But in reality, it is Jesus who gives all good gifts and we must be careful to give credit to whom credit is due.

Angels - proclaim the birth of the Savior. (Luke 2:10)

