



**November /  
December 2011**



## Reduce Possession-Obsession

For many families, it's a necessary pre-Christmas ritual: weeding through the old toys just to make room for new ones. Children typically have so much "stuff" they can't keep track of or play with it all. When possessions become a priority, it's time to re-evaluate your family's stance on stuff.

Many of us keep materialism in check most of the year but then slip at Christmas. Although presents aren't bad, you can ease the focus on materialism this season. For example:

**Remind your children that Jesus is our best gift.** Make sure they know that Christmas is Jesus' birthday and that God sent Jesus because he loves us. When you decorate for Christmas, leave a nativity scene manger empty. Wrap the baby Jesus figurine in a special box and open it on Christmas Eve. Then read Romans 6:23b: "The free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord."

**Discuss the gifts we can give to God.** Talk about how you respond when someone gives you a nice gift. Ask children what they can do that God would really like, such as pray or tell a friend about him. As a family, fill out gift cards listing what you can each give to God. Then hang the cards from your Christmas tree or wrap them and place them under your tree as gifts to God.

**Encourage children to be generous.** Emphasize the importance of giving, not receiving. As a family, participate in a service project for people in need. Help children experience the joy of giving by donating some time and money to others. Talk about how it feels to give, and discuss some ways you can continue doing so in the year ahead.



### Buy Buy!

- Each year, 8 to 12 year olds spend \$30 billion of their own money and influence another \$150 billion of parental spending. (cbsnews.com)
- The negative effects of rampant materialism can be tempered by teaching kids to appreciate what they have. Preteens and teens who are both highly materialistic and highly thankful say they like to spend time helping others. (Harris Interactive)



### Ask God:

- To help your family focus on Jesus' birth this Christmas.
- To reduce your emphasis on buying and receiving.
- To help your children treasure God, not earthly things.



Come out on Sunday December 4th at 6:00 PM as our Kidz Choir leads us in worship presenting "The Great Christmas Giveaway." You will not want to miss this presentation!

For more information contact Mark Hutsko at 740-927-1859 or [mhutsko@jerseychurch.org](mailto:mhutsko@jerseychurch.org)



## Upward Basketball

Registration is still open! Evaluation nights will be November 15 and 17 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. If you have not signed up do so at jerseychurch.org or in the church office. Contact Ryan Morris for questions.

Upward Basketball Practice begin November 28

## AWANA

AWANA is collecting Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes beginning Wednesday November 2nd. Drop off shoe boxes at the Children's Welcome Desk by November 16

## Kidz of the Kingdom

Christmas parties will be held in all Bible Fellowship Classes on December 18! Invite your friends.

Happy Holidays from your Children's Ministry Staff!

Ryan Morris...x204  
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"So commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these words of mine. Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. Teach them to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are **ON THE ROAD**, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up." **Deuteronomy 11:18-19, NLT**

### Take inventory of your children's thoughts about "stuff" by asking these discussion-starter questions:

1. How can a person tell when he or she has too much stuff? How should you decide what to keep and what to give away?
2. How important are presents to you at Christmas time? How would the holiday be different if we didn't exchange gifts?
3. What does it feel like to give someone a special gift? How do you expect a person to respond when you offer them a present?
4. What are some of the best gifts you've ever received? How is Jesus a gift from God?

### Family Experience: Reason for the Season

#### Take a break from shopping to focus on what happened on that "Silent Night" in Bethlehem more than 2,000 years ago.

- **Celebrate Stillness**—Gather several CD or music players and some Christmas music. Give everyone an index card and a pencil. Ask family members to write or draw what they'd like for Christmas. As they begin, play different Christmas music on all the players at the same time, at a loud volume. After one minute, stop the music. Say: "Now let's focus on something else, without the distraction." Place a figure of baby Jesus in front of family members and say, "For one minute, pray silently and ask God to show you what's important about Christmas." When time is up, ask: "What answers did you come up with? How was the noisy music like what often happens at Christmas?" Close in prayer, asking God to help your family find time to be quiet and thankful this season.



- **Bring the Story to Life**—Have family members choose different characters in the Christmas account. Together, write and present a short drama based on each character's experiences. Discuss the different people's perspectives and why Christmas was important to each of them. Make simple costumes. Videotape the play and watch it while enjoying Christmas cookies. You may also want to post the video on a video-sharing site and send the link to family and friends as part of your annual Christmas greeting.

# little feet

preschool ministries



## Mom's Ministry Playgroup

A time for moms to get together for a play date with other moms and children. Any expecting mom or mom with children birth to 5 are welcome to join. Fellowship, laughter, and refreshments are shared. Siblings welcome! This winter we will meet at the indoor play area from 9:30 AM—11:30 AM on December 8

## Special Events

### Graeter's Ice Cream Tour November 17, 10 AM

Join us for fellowship time at Graeter's Ice Cream Factory on Bethel Road. We'll take a factory tour and then play on the indoor play area. This event is FREE...except for whatever ice cream treats you decide to try.

### Franklin Park Conservatory Holiday Exhibit December 15, 10 AM

Join us for fellowship at the Franklin Park Conservatory. We will meet at the front gate at 10 AM. Cost for adults is \$11.00, ages 3-7 \$6.00, and birth—2 is free. Parking is free.

## First Steps Seminar

December 3rd 10 AM—Noon

A required seminar for parents who wish to participate in the Parent Child Dedication; where parents will be recognized as the primary faith influencer for their child and family. Child care will be provided. Please sign up at the info point between November 6 and November 27. Parents who have participated in past dedications are welcome to sign up too.

## Parent Child Dedication

December 11, 2011

If you are an active member of Jersey Baptist Church, and would like to participate in the Parent Child Dedication you must attend a 2 hour seminar called First Steps on December 3rd from 10 AM—Noon. Please sign up at the info point between November 6-November 27 and provide a picture of your child (fully clothed, please!) to be used in a slide presentation during the dedication service.

## Preschool Ministry Live Nativity Christmas Party

December 18

During Bible Fellowship class time we will host a Live Nativity Christmas Party. All kids who attend will receive a small Christmas gift.

**\*\*\*No Wednesday night classes on the following dates: November 23, December 21, & December 28\*\*\***

Merry Christmas from your  
Preschool Ministry Staff!

Debbie Zachariah...x102  
dzachariah@jerseychurch.org

Nikki Carr...x205  
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# November 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
			Operation Christmas Child Begins			
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Daylight Savings Time						
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
		Upward Evaluation Night	Operation Christmas Child Ends	Upward Evaluation Night		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
			No AWANA	Happy Thanksgiving		
27	28	29	30			
	Upward Practice	Upward Practice				

# December 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
				Upward Practice		First Steps Seminar
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Kidz Choir Musical 6 PM	Upward Practice	Upward Practice		Mom's Ministry Playgroup Upward Practice		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Parent Child Dedication	Upward Practice	Upward Practice	AWANA Christmas Party	Upward Practice	Choir Christmas Presentation 7 PM	Choir Christmas Presentation 7 PM
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Bible Fellowship Christmas Parties  Choir Christmas Presentation 7 PM			No AWANA			
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Merry Christmas			No AWANA			New Year's Eve