

# ParentPause

Ideas to Grow Your Preschooler's Faith at Home

NOVEMBER 2011

## PARENTING with Grace

Have you ever wondered why there aren't more instructions on parenting in the Bible? Why didn't God give you instructions on how to handle a child throwing a temper tantrum in the grocery store? Why hasn't He told you what to do with a 4-year-old who keeps taking toys away from her baby brother? What, exactly, are you to do with a child who finds lying so easy?

One of the very few specific instructions God has given parents is found in Colossians 3:21: *Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.* This is repeated in Ephesians 6:4 with a few more general guidelines: *Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.*

**REALLY? THAT'S IT?** Raising children is probably the most challenging task you will face in your entire life and all God has to say about it is that YOU'RE not supposed to upset THEM?

Well, no. That isn't it. God has also given you the ultimate example of parenting — Himself. And if you keep in mind the way your heavenly Father handles the issues in your life, you'll have a pretty good idea of how to handle your children.

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Does your child have a particular issue that you're constantly dealing with? For example, does she have a quick temper that is displayed by pouting or throwing tantrums every night at bedtime? You've tried letting her stay up later until she's so tired she wants to go to bed, but she outlasted you. You've tried bribery, offering her snacks or an extra bedtime story if she goes to bed happily, but it hasn't worked.

You've tried discipline, but that just makes her angrier.

No two children are the same, and the same solution won't work on all of them. But the Bible gives you a great perspective on how you should respond.

How does God respond when we sin? With grace. He understands who we are. And while He isn't happy

about our sin, and He expects us to be growing in Him and gaining control over our sins ... still, He understands. As a parent, you should respond the same way when your child sins — with grace. Gently correct, discipline appropriately when necessary, constantly show love and grace. And always, always remember how often you fall short of God's standard and how patient your heavenly Father is with you.

## November Ideas

### Gingerbread Cookies

For many of us, the taste and smell of gingerbread reminds us of crisp, fall days or a cozy, old-fashioned Christmas. Most children love to help cook and this recipe is lots of fun.

1 cup (220g) solid shortening  
1 cup (192g) sugar  
1 egg  
 $\frac{3}{4}$  cup (263 g) molasses  
2 tablespoons (30 mL) vinegar  
5 cups (497 g) flour  
1  $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoons (3.7g) baking soda  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon (2.5 g) salt  
2-3 teaspoons (5-7.5 g) ground ginger  
1 teaspoon (2.5 g) cinnamon  
1 teaspoon (2 g) ground cloves

Cream together the shortening and the sugar. Beat in the egg, molasses and vinegar. Sift together the flour, baking soda, salt, ginger, cinnamon and cloves. Blend with the shortening and egg mixture. Chill in refrigerator for three hours. Roll the dough  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch (1.3 cm) thick and cut with cookie cutter. Place the cookies on a slightly greased cookie sheet and bake at 375° (190° C) for 5 minutes. DON'T OVERCOOK.



# Making a Family CALENDAR

Try this project with your Cubbie this year. Not only is it fun, but it teaches your child about the different months and seasons of the year!



## YOU WILL NEED:

- Card stock or stiff construction paper (14 sheets)
- Paste
- A ruler (if you're not using the computer)
- Pens, crayons or markers
- A three-hole punch
- Yarn or heavy string
- Clear contact paper
- Family photos, colored paper, stickers, rubber stamps or other materials for decorating

## WHAT TO DO:

1. From your computer, print out 12 copies of a blank calendar page and paste them onto the card stock. (Use computer software or search online for free, printable calendar page templates. You could also draw your own calendar page and photocopy it.) Add two sheets of card stock for the front and back covers.
2. For each month, fill in the name of the month, days of the week and dates.
3. Decorate the pages above the calendar pages, including the front and back covers. Use photographs and/or have your child draw pictures

- or decorate the pages with stickers. Discuss with your child what each month is like: When are the holidays? What is the weather like? Whose birthdays fall in that month? (The pictures could reflect these things.) Mark important family events on the calendar, and include some Bible verses to remember each month.
4. Cover all the pages carefully with contact paper. Use the three-hole punch and the yarn to tie the pages together.
5. Hang the calendar in your home to use all year. It also makes a great Christmas present for grandparents.



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