



The "Oh Yeah!"

Letter

A Day to Celebrate

by Ami Loper

We all celebrate our children's birthdays. We celebrate their births and their arrival into our families. But what about celebrating their rebirth and their arrival into the family of God?

Our children are sometimes confused and discouraged when they hear the amazing testimonies of people who were spiritual lost causes, but who God miraculously saved. They get very little out of it when the pastor encourages them to praise the Lord for how far He brought them. They wonder, "Where's my testimony? What did God do for me?" What they fail to see is the miracle God did for them by having them born into a loving Christian home, hearing about Jesus from birth and asking Him into their hearts before they had to experience the devastation of trying to get through life without Him.

Unfortunately, even though this blessing is glaring in our faces, it pales to them. Perhaps this is why, in the Old Testament, a king would come to God and serve Him wholeheartedly, only to be followed by a son who served Him halfheartedly, followed by a grandson who couldn't care less about God. Perhaps this is a case, as the Ezzos say in Growing Kids, of not establishing a "Memorial." Without a mile marker, a place to ponder, a chance to look back and think "What if God hadn't done this for me," maybe the salvation of our children, the most important day of their life, will be passed over with the hoe-hum of indifference that can only lead down that sleepy path of spiritual boredom and apathy. And of course, once we're asleep we're useless.

So what are we to do? Let our children wait to call on Jesus until they've tried everything else? Of course not. Those of us with dramatic testimonies would happily exchange it for a testimony of God's ability to keep us on the right path! So how about celebrating just that? God can keep us! God has saved us from wasting time being lost! God has pursued us and we have answered! God is teaching us and, if we are teachable, we will be so much farther ahead and have so much less to try to overcome!

Thus we

continued on back



* It's that time again! If you've taken Preparation for Adolescence, it's time to take the "Seven Warning Signs" test again!

* Remember the 8th "Non-Negotiable Duty" of a Father: "A father must build a relationship based on God's Word. Man's wisdom may work some of the time, but only God's wisdom can bring lasting change.

* Are you experiencing anger or rebellion from your child - seemingly out of nowhere? Check your child's verbal and physical freedoms. It's easy to let those slip and can cause a lot of headaches!

♥ Marriage ♥

Maybe I'm nosy - I'll call it curious! Anyway, my mom didn't seem to mind too much. Recently I asked her what she and my father had argued about when I was a child. Now they didn't argue a lot, but with my friends' parents getting divorced around me, I sometimes wondered if I would be the next child coming to school with red eyes and trying to decide who to live with. However, there was a change in my parents and if you see them argue now, they're either joking or they'll be done in 10 seconds and smooching again!

Well, my mother had to think long and hard about the question I had posed. "Isn't that the way," she pondered, "it always seems so important at the time." My dad wasn't much help either. Seems the best they could come up with was vaguely recalled arguments about how they handled me and my siblings. "Then your mother was diagnosed with Lupus," Dad recalled the 1982 day quite clearly, "and we didn't know how long she had. That's when we decided..." Mom chimed in, "If you won't stay mad forever, don't get mad at all." Life is too precious to waste time being mad.

~ Ami

A Parenting Treasure from the Word

"We will not hide them from their children; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, His power, and the wonders He has done." Psalm 78:4 God is worthy of our praise and our children are worthy of being told why!



FUN Idea OF THE Quarter

ONE OF THE FAVORITE FAMILY NIGHT ACTIVITIES WE REMEMBER AS A FAMILY WAS THE NIGHT WE TOOK A DRIVE AND GOT LOST. THE TRIP WAS ACTUALLY A LIFE LESSON ON THE IMPORTANCE OF OBEDIENCE. WE HAD PLANNED TO GO TO A LOCAL ICE CREAM SHOP AND HAD WRITTEN ON 3X5 CARDS STEP BY STEP DIRECTIONS. MY DAUGHTERS READ THE INSTRUCTIONS BUT I CHOSE TO GO A DIFFERENT WAY EVERY TIME UNTIL I GOT "LOST". AFTER APOLOGIZING FOR MY ARROGANCE AND DISOBEDIENCE, WE RETURNED HOME AND TRIED AGAIN, THIS TIME OBEYING THE DIRECTIONS AND HAPPILY WINDING UP AT THE ICE CREAM SHOP. WHILE WE LICKED OUR ICE CREAM CONES WE DISCUSSED HOW DISOBEDIENCE WASTES TIME WHILE OBEDIENCE HAS SWEET RETURNS

~ TIM

Quotes Worth Remembering

"A good marriage is the union of two good givers."
~ Ruth Bel Graham

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(cont.) have decided to celebrate this Spiritual Birthday - for the girls to give them a Memorial of sorts.

Ashley, being saved at the age of 4, had been saved 11 years when we made this decision. Alyssa had been saved 8 years and so had Abigail. Sadly, we only knew the actual date for Alyssa and we knew that Abigail followed her about 2 months later. We let Ashley and Abigail pick their Salvation Birthdays. Then because we had missed so much time, we celebrated all their birthdays together for the first time.

While any kind of symbolic, lasting memento will work, we gave each of the girls charm bracelets and added charms to symbolize the things God



(cont.) has done for them: First, a cross, the starting place for all of us. Second, a heart, the symbol of our souls that are now saved. A butterfly, symbolizing the regenerative work of the Holy Spirit. Finally, we added a "Jesus Fish," symbolizing our call to be fishers of men.

Ashley just celebrated her 12th (Salvation Birthday, that is.) This year we gave her a lighthouse charm to remind our teen that through the rough waters she may face, God will always be her Guide and she need never be dashed on the rocks like those with testimonies that bring awe. Her testimony can be one of a life brought safely to the shore.

Books we love...

The "Fun Idea of the Quarter" family night activity came from a book series available through "Focus on the Family". The "Family Night Tool Chest" series of books by Jim Weidmann and Kurt Bruner is published by Heritage Builders and Chariot -Victor Publishing. We have found the books to be loaded with great, fun teaching activities. Give them a try to give direction to your family nights!

Tim

Announcement
We are tentatively planning to teach Growing Kids God's Way again starting in late September and running through early March. We will take several weeks off for Christmas. Call us if you or friends are interested.

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