



October 2009



240 W. Ninth Avenue  
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## Teach Children About Stewardship

For many people, the word *stewardship* brings to mind church offerings and financial obligations. But it really just means managing someone else's resources. As Christians, we're stewards of God's creation and the talents and gifts he has given us, including money.

From a young age, children can learn not only how to manage their money well but also how to give generously. As you discuss decisions about giving, saving, and spending, children will learn to be caretakers of all our blessings from God. Use these ideas to instill in children a heart for stewardship.

**Set an example.** When parents worship the Lord in their giving, children can develop a sense of generosity themselves. The most important thing parents can do is practice giving so children can see. Feelings about money are contagious, so also model appropriate attitudes about paying bills, shopping, and delayed gratification.

**Give allowances.** Give children a weekly allowance that can be divided easily. Then make or use a three-compartment container to help kids divide their money into the categories of saving, spending, and giving.



**Have a heart for people in need.** Discuss tangible needs in your community, church, and the world. Together, come up with ways your family can chip in to offer assistance. Then help children see the results of how giving their money, time, and talents impacts others.

### A Wealth of Statistics

- About 60% of parents give their children an allowance. According to [kidsmoney.org](http://kidsmoney.org), the average weekly allowance is \$3.85 for 6-year-olds, \$5.52 for 9-year-olds, and \$9.58 for 12-year-olds.
- In a poll conducted by *Children's Ministry Magazine*, 91% of people said tithing is an important value for children.
- Children have enormous spending power. According to estimates, consumers younger than 12 directly and indirectly influence almost \$600 billion of household spending each year.

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### Ask God:

1. To help your children be faithful stewards of all he has given to them.
2. To help your children put their trust in him, not in money or material things.
3. To transform your family members into cheerful and generous givers.

### Parenting Insights

The late Christian financial expert Larry Burkett emphasized the importance of giving our "first fruits" to God. Here are a few of his insights about money management for children:

1. **Why we give**—Because God is the provider, we aren't really giving for his sake. "We give our money for our sakes, to remind ourselves we're God's stewards and everything is his."
2. **How much to give**—Burkett recommended the following budgeting guidelines for children: give 10%, save 50%, and spend 40%.
3. **How we give**—Returning resources to God should be a celebration. Burkett suggested making the act of giving seem like a "thanks party."

## OpenTheBook

**"You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. 'For God loves a person who gives cheerfully.'" 2 Corinthians 9:7**

Church stances on "tithing," or giving 10% of one's income, vary. But no matter our offering amount, God wants us to give willingly and with a smile.

### Teachable Moments

- 1. "Change" the World—**Decorate a glass jar with a ribbon and a permanent marker, and then set the jar in your kitchen. As a family, choose a charity to help financially. Each day, family members can empty their spare change into the jar. When the jar is full, take your children to convert the change into a money order made out to the charity. Deliver it in person, if the charity is local.



- 2. Sponsor a child—**As a family, sponsor a child through a Christian outreach group such as World Vision or Compassion International. Every month, forgo one restaurant meal or other outing to provide for the physical, spiritual, and educational needs of a boy or girl. Encourage your children to write letters and send photos to the child.



**"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**

**Many parents avoid discussions about money because the topic makes them uncomfortable. But such conversations will instill in children proper attitudes about finances and stewardship.**

1. Why do we need money? Explain whether money is a bad or good thing.
2. How do you decide what to buy or do with your own money?
3. Why does God put us in charge of his creation? What does God want us to do with our money and talents?
4. Share what it feels like to give away some of your money. When are you most cheerful about giving?

## Family Experience: Thankful Giving

**Giving some money back to God is just the beginning. God wants all of us! Try these experiences from Group's Hands-On Bible.**

- **Give Yourself to God—**Read aloud Luke 21:1-4, about the poor widow who donated two small coins to the temple. Say: "Giving ourselves to God means trusting and obeying him with our whole lives." Then make some reminders to be like the widow. Have each family member tape two pennies to an index card. Then rub a crayon or pencil on the other side of the card, over the coins. Remove the pennies and write "Give Yourself to God" on the card. Then decorate it. Tape your cards to a mirror or a place where you'll see them every day. Encourage family members to give themselves to God daily.
- **Give God Your Best—**Read aloud 1 Corinthians 10:31: "So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." Have each family member share what he or she thinks this verse means. Then ask: "How can we give God glory with our family's income? with our personal earnings? What does it mean to honor God with our whole lives?" Then have a "Give God Your Best" dinner with your family. Use your best tablecloth, wear nice clothes, make favorite foods, and serve a fancy dessert. Ask each person to name one way to honor God this week with their words or actions.





## What's Playing at the Movies

**Movie:** *Where the Wild Things Are* (Oct. 16)

**Genre:** Family Adventure, Drama, Fantasy

**Rating:** PG (for mild thematic elements, some adventure action, and brief language)

**Cast:** Max Records, Catherine Keener, Mark Ruffalo

**Synopsis:** In this adaptation of Maurice Sendak's beloved children's book, mischievous, misunderstood Max is sent to bed without supper. His imagination runs "wild" as he travels to an island and meets strange creatures. After Max is crowned king, he realizes that ruling these beasts is more complicated than he expected.

**Discussion Questions:** What are some constructive ways to deal with anger? How active is your imagination? Read Psalm 27:1. What are your biggest fears? How do your fears affect your faith, and vice versa? How can you conquer your fears and worries?



## What Music Is Releasing

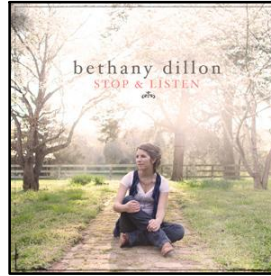
**Artist:** Bethany Dillon

**Album:** *Stop & Listen*

**Artist Info:** Dillon, 21, started playing guitar at age 10. Three years later, she recorded an album that led to several hit singles and award nods. Dillon, known for her deep songs and a life lived for Christ, is married to Christian musician Shane Barnard.

**Summary:** Dillon describes *Stop & Listen*, her fourth project with Sparrow Records, as her most confessional album yet. She encourages listeners to pause and find peace during life's chaos. "Most of the songs are about the not-so-simple ideas of stopping, listening, and waiting," Dillon says.

**Discussion Questions:** What makes you "stop and listen" to God? When you're busy, do you pray more or less, and why? How patient are you? Read Isaiah 40:30-31. What are some ways to "wait" on the Lord?



## What Games Are Out

Title	Content	Rating & Platform
<i>Shorts</i>	In this game, based on a late-summer movie, players' wishes magically come true. Features gross humor, name-calling, and enemies such as "booger monsters."	Nintendo DS; E
<i>Mini Ninjas</i>	Cool and cute warriors engage in combat with a variety of weapons. Contains cartoon violence but no blood.	Wii, Xbox 360, PSP3; E10+
<i>The Beatles: Rock Band</i>	This much-hyped game has only a few mildly suggestive lyrics. Families can discuss how music has changed across generations.	Wii, Xbox 360, PSP3; T

**GAME RATINGS KEY:** EC=Early Childhood, E=Everyone (ages 6+), E10+ (ages 10+), T=Teen (ages 13+)



## Culture & Trends

**What's happening right now that may affect your children and family:**

- Contrary to popular belief, research shows that children with busy schedules thrive emotionally. Instead, it's their parents who are stressed by all the activities and driving. (msnbc.com)
- Kids of all ages enjoy "KenKen," which has been called the new Sudoku. Players add, subtract, multiply, and divide numbers to fill "cages." (kenken.com)

## Quick Stats

- Most school districts now recommend 10 minutes of homework a night per grade level (10 minutes for first-graders, 20 minutes for second-graders, and so on).



- While 57% of parents say they spend the right amount of time helping their children with homework, almost nine in 10 teachers say parents don't set aside enough time to help. (AP/AOL poll)

# October 2009

## Children's Ministry Calendar

				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Love & Logic Intro Class at First English 9:15am Sunday School			K- Force 4pm Backwards Day			Vision 2 Serve Meeting 1 pm @ Peace
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Sunday School Bring Food for the Food Pantry Social Statement Forum 9:15am @ First English			K- Force 4pm Fire Safety Social Statement Forum 6:30pm @ Peace			
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Sunday School Baby Step Class 9:15am Social Statement Forum 9:15am @ Peace			K- Force 4pm Fire Safety			Vision 2 Serve Meeting 1pm @ Peace
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Sunday School Confirmation Sunday		New Member Orientation 6:30pm	K- Force 4pm Halloween Costume Party	Trunk or Treat 4:30 – 7 pm at First English		Happy Halloween!  Turn clocks back ☺

Hello church families –

October is here already. Gone are the summer days and it is time to gear up for carmel apples, hay rides and pumpkin pie.

It is ironic to me that this October newsletter from Group Publishing talks about the topic of Stewardship this month, because this is the month that we – the members of Peace Church – are beginning discussions about a project called "Vision 2 Serve." In the calendar above, I have included the vision meetings that are happening this month to kick off this project. The Vision 2 Serve Project comes to our church due to the great need we have to improve our stewardship. What I like about this project is it isn't about "give the church more money," but it is about being called to further the ministry of Jesus. To do that we need to focus on people. I hope you will find time to come to at least one of the meetings to engage in sharing your ideas about what our church's ministry is and how we can activate it.

Also on the October calendar are forums for us as a church body to come together to talk about the Social Statement on Human Sexuality that the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church of America) National Assembly passed. We are an ELCA church and this statement gives ELCA churches the ability to hire actively homosexual pastors, and to perform same sex marriages if Wisconsin laws change. Peace members have different views on the topic. These forums are a time to come together and talk so that the leadership teams can decide where our church will stand on this issue and what actions we will take, if any. This is another great opportunity to make an impact in our church and community.

I hope to see you there. Lauri