

January 21, 2018

Message #4. (Previous messages on the following pages.)

Dear Celebration Families and Friends,

With this letter comes new copies of the following which you can download using the appropriate links on the Creation Celebration home page (upcoming events page).

- A 2018 copy of What's Our Plan (for present and future reference – print and keep).
- Entry forms for quizzing (both younger and older participants)
- A list of what things you can prepare/take part in for the Celebration for those who may not know.
- “Handle Your Sword” document from last year for your reference.

We have “upset the fruit basket” for quizzing to try to keep it fresh, allow younger children to get a stronger grasp of the basic facts, and to participate more.

For the older ones, we have grouped things according to topics, as you will note on “What's Our Plan.” (We all need a plan if we want to reach a goal).

We will continue “Handle Your Sword” for all groups. “Sharpen Your Sword” is open to all ages, including adults, and will be open Bible, based on the memorization list, plus II Timothy and II Peter.

If we have overlooked something or if you want help/ideas, we welcome you to call Erin (306)386-7318 or Sharon (306)445-5916.

Blessings as you prepare!

Erin and Sharon

Message #3.

December 4, 2017

The run up to Christmas is a great time to teach how to find Bible references that pertain to the Christmas story: eg. Matthew, Luke, for younger ones, adding Micah and Isaiah for older ones. Then when children hear readings at programs or in church, it will ring bells with them.

The time remaining before Christmas is also a great time to “accidentally” learn the Christmas story from Luke 2:1-20. Without making it a burden, parents can make the verses so familiar that the words forever become a part of Christmas for them. Read it in various ways, turn about, as small groupings taking turns, say a verse but leave a blank and see who can fill it in, etc. Eg. And there were in the same country\_\_\_\_\_. And they wrapped him in \_\_\_\_\_ because there was no \_\_\_\_\_ for them in the \_\_\_\_\_. Ask questions such as, “What did Mary do after the shepherds left? Why did they make the trip to Bethlehem? How did the shepherds feel when the angels appeared? What sign did the angel tell the shepherds about finding Jesus? What did the heavenly host say to the shepherds? How do we know Mary was pregnant when they made the trip to Bethlehem?”

If we use the words of Luke 2 to answer such questions, the account continually becomes more familiar. The KJV account is beautiful, traditional and familiar to many, so that as it is read, people can mentally join in. If we facilitate learning this passage, it is a great gift to our children. Encouragingly, if they learn much of the Christmas story, it does not spoil their capacity to learn other verses or necessary things, but makes it more likely that they can and will. Children will soak up what they are exposed to. As we regulate their “inputs”, we influence their “outputs”.

May the Christmas season be a joy to all!

Sharon Foreman

Message #2.

November 20, 2017

Upon reflection, as well as re-listening to one of Ken Hamm's DVDs on the "races" and one blood, I would like to add two more references to the memory list. So we are attaching an updated list for you to print off.

Ken always stresses that the purpose of marriage/family is to raise up godly seed/offspring (Malachi 2:15), generation after generation. Over and over, in Biblical history, the Israelites intermarried with heathen people, against God's clear instructions, and to their own spiritual destruction. Unfortunately, nothing has changed!

Much of the heartache of Christian parents today is a result of either:

1. Believers marrying unbelievers, and/or
2. Truth not being passed on, or not being accepted by the next generation.

Because of that, the two passages I suggest we add are five verses in 2 Corinthians 6:14-18, about being unequally yoked together, and three verses in Deuteronomy 11: 18-20, about passing truth to our families.

These are verses well worth investing the time to memorize, LONG before people are considering marriage partners. Note that 2 Corinthians 6:14-18 lends itself well to a chart with positives on one side, and negatives on the other, which could be a useful memory aid. A large piece of dollar store bristol board would make an easy poster. The Deuteronomy passage could be illustrated for memory help. Families could discuss where, when and how, in our day, truth is and should be passed on. Note the scripture does not suggest delegation to the church or others.

An unbelieving parent is not equipped to partner in passing on a Christian worldview and may be an active hindrance to the believing parent doing so. Unfortunately, sometimes people who only appear to be believers are found in churches and Bible schools. Time is needed to observe whether a person is actually regenerated and will be able to fulfill the role of a believing parent.

The other huge difficulty in our day is the matter of "inputs", especially in regards to entertainment. If parents are careless about what inputs shape their children's hearts and minds, there will be no appetite for godly instruction. Positive inputs change the soil of a child's heart.

Also, everyone grapples with the tyranny of the urgent crowding out what is truly important, so we must prioritize what matters in the long run.

I will include these two passages on the 2018 Quiz list, which means taking others off to make room for them. All verses will remain on the memorization list. Quiz lists will follow shortly with some change ups. Stay tuned!

I am also attaching a short document I wrote this year, *Only Two Masters*, just for your consideration; it has nothing to do with the Celebration, although it has everything to do with why we have the Celebration!

Sincerely,  
Sharon

Dear Celebration Families,            Message #1, November 17, 2018

This year, the Celebration package will be sent in several different parts so that each segment may be featured more effectively. The Memorization List 2018 is posted under the “Scripture Memorization” link, with a new look and some changes. Please let us know if there are questions or concerns. Please pass the list to any prospective families.

1. Keep in mind the Celebration’s purpose is not just to provide a one day happy gathering, but to be a catalyst for parents who want to raise children with a solid foundation on origins for a Christian worldview. This will not happen by having a two week burst of effort near the Celebration.

2. Last year, Psalm 1 was added. This year, we added a few more. We encourage you to take a fresh look at ALL the Psalm passages, watching for recurring themes and well-known verses.

3. Parents: consider when reviewing and choosing passages –

- What scripture do we already know?

- What are the best and most appropriate choices for my child?

- How can we prepare our children for the world they face, in terms of Bible knowledge?

4. Do not underestimate the value of reading aloud from the memorization list. Most children will not hear much of it in church. They need to hear this material over and over again, and hear the application to life now.

5. Since the legwork to compile the list has been done, it is straightforward to use it for family worship time, in segments to suit children’s age level. If not used with the whole family, any grouping within the family can be the focus, eg. one child at bedtime, etc.

6. Children should both SEE and HEAR the words of scripture, for better focus and retention. Exposure and repetition (even without memorizing) will inculcate truth. (Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God – Romans 10:17.)

7. Whether reading or memorizing, explain difficult words. These days, many children often hear only functional English, and do not know words that were common usage not long ago. For hundreds of years, children were taught Bible verses. Now it is often thought too difficult. It may have more to do with loss of vocabulary, injection of much more entertainment, and competition for time than it being too hard for children. Memorizing scripture will enhance learning in other areas because it requires focus and there are few vehicles to practice focus today.

8. Try to identify wasted moments to review or learn verses. Prepare for such moments by printing verses on cardstock in large print, making smaller cards to fit in a pocket or bag, put a poster of verses on a bedroom, kitchen or dining room wall, keep a copy in the backseat pocket of the car, put a verse on a table place card, etc. Frequent, short shots are effective for any kind of learning, and are relatively painless. Learn bite sized chunks at a time so it is not overwhelming.

9. What we learn when we are young is what we remember when we are old. Children soak up scripture and songs easily when we integrate them purposefully in their formative years.

10. Family passages are chosen from this same memorization list and are awarded a special medal. As few as two and as many as you like may participate. Some families incorporate actions, illustrations, props, choral speaking, even outfits, to add interest or to aid memory. Even a short passage is most welcome!

11. Try to integrate memorized passages into other areas of life: recite for church, for the family, for extended family or friends, do art to illustrate verses, learn a hymn on the same theme, enter local music festival speech arts, make placements featuring the passage and laminate them, etc.

12. Consider your overall life goals for each child. Record in a special book what verses each child has learned. Note Psalm 119:130. Your efforts now may make all the difference later on.

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