

ISSUE
02
9.22.11

First Free **MOPS** Newsletter

Mothers of Preschoolers

First Evangelical Free Church, 3300 S. 84th Street, Lincoln, NE 68506

**"God doesn't want us to be shy with His gifts, but bold and loving and sensible."
2 Timothy 1:7**

Today at Mops

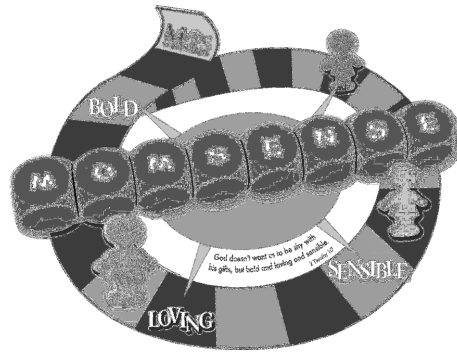


Barb Barber will be speaking on the "Momsense" theme and helping us to know how we can apply being bold, loving and sensible to our mothering and to our lives.



Today at Moppets

"King George and the Ducky"
(lessons about selfishness)



this issue
Welcome p. 1
Cranium Cadoo: Applying God's wisdom p. 2-3
Calendar of Events p. 4

Welcome To MOPS!

(Thoughts taken from a devotional led by Lorri Goode and from those who were at the Mops leadership meeting)

James 1:5 "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who give generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him."

Prayer: a privilege or a responsibility? Both! Have you ever thought about how amazing it is that while none of us could gain an audience with the president of the United States, we all can have access with the Creator of the Universe? And we don't have to cower in fear or guard our words! He even promises to answer us when we call out to Him. So, why don't we pray more?

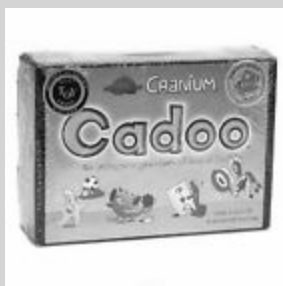
Right now is a very busy season in our lives. (Every once in awhile I wish for my now long-ago high school days when I was "bored," although I know that I will look back on this season of mothering as one of my sweetest times.) With all that we have going on, it is easy to push God aside even though this is the time that we need Him the most. We think of prayer as a lofty thing done in silence for a long period of time. But I feel that God is ready to meet us anytime, anyplace, any length of time. The more often the better. One of the leaders put it best – God wants to infuse our whole life – He doesn't want to be compartmentalized.

So, how do we pray more? We practice! We can ask God in the morning to please make us aware of His presence and how much we need Him. Then throughout our day, we seek God even on the little things. Lord, how do I make him stop hitting his sister? Lord, how can I not be crabby today on 2 hours of sleep? Lord, how can I make my grocery money stretch? Now while God is not going to give us tips over the Hy-Vee loudspeaker, we will know that He has heard us as we come up with ideas that we never would have thought up on our own! We are granted wisdom because we have asked!

Even better, we pray out loud sometimes and indirectly teach our children about being in God's presence. We pray for His protection when we hear ambulance sirens (and for the people getting help). Barb has always encouraged moms doing this, and now when I forget to pray, my kids remember. Some MOPS moms pray for their families while they fold laundry (for safety as you see skinned knees jeans, for purity as you fold underwear etc.) The more you pray about anything (I Thessalonians 5:17), the more you will pray about everything, because prayer is a habit you cannot live without!

P.S. FGL Mindy Bednar highly recommends reading [A Praying Life](#) by Paul E. Miller ©

Cranium (Cadoo): Having God's Wisdom in our heads (and hearts)



Act, puzzle, sketch, sculpt, or crack secret codes!. Fun for kids and grown-ups!



Since the wisest words do come from the Bible, I know I am blessed to listen to songs that come directly from Scripture. One of my favorite albums is "Glory Revealed," and the album is comprised of songs taken directly from Bible verses. There are also many albums available to help kids learn Scripture through song. Our family enjoys the "Hide 'Em in Your Heart" albums by Steve Green.

Did you know that you can listen to the Bible through your i-pod or even phone? Since we can often struggle with being uninterrupted long enough to finish a sentence, let alone a complete thought, listening to Scripture could be the answer at times. At our house, we have the Max McClean listener's Bible. But there are many different online Bible

Wisdom: the power of judging rightly and following the soundest course of action, based on knowledge, experience, understanding; good judgment; sagacity (definition: penetrating intelligence and sound judgment: new word of the day ☺)

Having sound judgment in the heat of the moment is a challenge for me. Maybe this is true for everyone. I can definitely know the right thing to do, can even have my correct response planned, but in the midst of a challenging moment, all of my good intentions are forgotten. Sometimes I do see glimpses of hope – that I can follow sound action even in the midst of struggle. This only happens when God's Word penetrates my heart and transforms my thinking.

In the middle of the Old Testament is the lovely book of Proverbs. This book is full of wise sayings on how we should live. Proverbs also tells us where wisdom begins in 1:7 "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom." Definitely a book to access if you are wondering how to handle a particular situation. Conveniently there are 31 chapters, and I know of many people who choose to read a chapter each correlating day. (The book of Ecclesiastes is also filled with wise sayings but maybe isn't the book to read when you're feeling discouraged as it's also filled with "life is meaningless" statements. ☺)



Proverbs 25:12 "Like apples of gold in settings of silver is a word spoken in right circumstances."

(Some verses on wisdom beyond Proverbs)

I Kings 4:29

II Chronicles 1:10

Job 38:36-38

Psalms 51:6; 111:10

Isaiah 28:29

Jeremiah 10:12

Micah 6:9

Matthew 11:19

Romans 11:33

Ephesians 1:17-19

Colossians 3:2-3

James 3:13



Object Lessons for teaching about wisdom ...

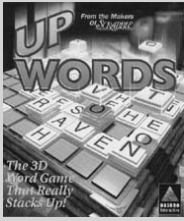
* Bring out a compass and/or map. Share what each do: help travelers find their way to certain locations. Ask what would happen if you did not have a compass or map. Explain that God is our compass to help us through life. He will be our guide, and His wisdom will help us make right decisions and help us do things God's way.

* Make sandy treats. Crush vanilla wafers or graham crackers in a zipper bag – pour on top of vanilla pudding. In I Kings 4:29, the Bible says that Solomon's wisdom was greater than the grains of sand on the seashore. We can know that God will also give us wisdom if we ask.

* If you are teaching a group of kids, you could use this Pringles idea.

<http://www.christianitycove.com/sunday-school-activities-solomon-asks-god-for-wisdom/447/>

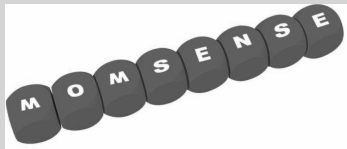
Cranium (Cadoo): Having God's Wisdom in our heads (and hearts)



Jodi's Positive Parenting

(Thoughts on being a good mom from my good friend, Jodi!)

As parents, it's easy for us to only notice or pay attention when our kids make bad choices because those are the choices that negatively affect us. I go through phases of doing well and doing poorly at "catching" my kids making wise choices and then praising them for it. When I remember to catch them making wise choices, they just puff up with pride and the trickle down effect is that all the kids start making wise choices because they want the praise and/or reward like the first child.



Steering Team Members

Co-coordinators:
Sarah Opp and Jori Newell

Creative Activities:
Anita Hains and Angela Kleager

Finance Coordinator:
Kendra Jantzen

Friendship Group Leaders
Coordinator: Kelly Watson

Fundraising: Tiffany Maly

Hospitality: Kathy Van Cott

Mentors: Barb Barber, Lorri Goode, Danelle Mills, Lisa Peeples and Sandy Schindler

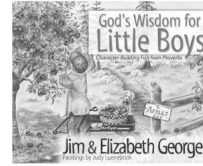
Moppets: Rhonda Otto

Publicity: Gretchen Garrison

To contact us: please use the e-mail below or access the blogs' online phone directory. Thanks!



Bookworm!



These 2 titles are available from Amazon or CBD (the rest are at the library):

George, Elizabeth God's Wisdom for Little Boys: Character Building from Proverbs and God's Wisdom for Little Girls: Virtues and Fun from Proverbs 31

Bunting, Eve Finn McCool and the Great Fish

Merriam, Eve The Wise Woman and Her Secret

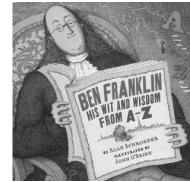
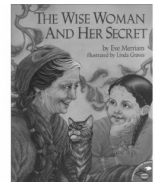
Muth, Jon J. The Three Questions

Pelley, Kathleen T. Magnus Maximus, A Marvelous Measurer

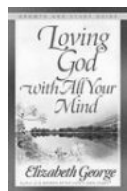
Schroeder, Alan Ben Franklin: His Wit and Wisdom from A-Z

Stampler, Ann Redisch Something for Nothing

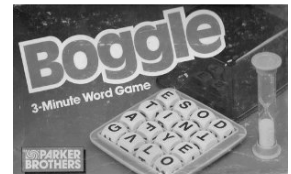
Winch, John The Old Woman Who Loved to Read



Feeling boggled? Need a break from mothering? I would highly recommend the "Yada Yada Prayer Group" series by Neta Jackson. A group of highly diverse women are put into a prayer group at a Chicago conference, and they make a heart connection that lasts. I was personally challenged to pray about everything and to let go of some of my own preconceived ideas and stereotypes. This series is available at the library.



As far as non-fiction goes, I would also recommend Elizabeth George's book Loving God with All of Your Mind. While her books can be a bit intense at times, her love of the Savior and His Word definitely shine through! This book is not available at the library but is worth buying.



Here are some video suggestions about wisdom.

Available at the library:
Veggie Tales DVD: "Larry Boy and the Bad Apple" dealing with temptation

Available from Christian retailers:

"Hermie & Friends" DVD: "Buzby, the Misbehaving Bee"

A new series just was released from Chuck Swindoll and Providential Pictures:
"Paws and Tales: Bible Wisdom for Kids"



~Mark Your Calendar~

BirthDay

Cards



September

- 21 Jenni Engelbart
- 22 Andrea Barber
- 28 Denise Savage



To Come ...

October 13th – “Mad Gab”
Friendship Group Day!

October 27th – “Sorry”

Robin Gifford on manners & more

ALSO: Ladies Night Out

November 11th Gina Boe
Newsletter Theme: sharing during
Thanksgiving/Christmas time

Community Events

September 29th – October 2nd:
Annual Lincoln Library Book Sale
www.lincolnlibraries.org

For more ideas of what is
happening around Lincoln, you
can visit:

www.todointhistown.com

If you have not paid for first semester, we really need you to take care of that ASAP. Please talk to Kendra Jantzen (our Finance Coordinator) if you have any questions.

Cost

Registration Fee = \$23.95
(One Time Fee)

1st Semester Fee = \$42
(September-December)

2nd Semester Fee = \$63
(January-May)

Looking for inspiration on praying for your kids? You can pray these verses. (This is my prayer for YOU too!)

Ephesians 1:17-18 ¹⁷ I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit^[a] of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. ¹⁸ I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people,

Ladies Night Out is October 27th

Want an evening out where you can get some Christmas shopping done early, enjoy yummy dessert and maybe even go home with a gift? Our 3rd annual night out for ladies is only 5 weeks away! So please mark your calendars and start inviting your mom, your sister(s) and your friends. If you are interested in helping with this huge undertaking, please contact Tiffany Maly at tiffanymaly@gmail.com.

You can also contact Tiffany if you are interested in having a display for your small business. Due to space constraints, we only are able to have one of each type of small business. Past vendors are given first right of refusal – once you have had a booth at Ladies' Night, you can continue coming back year after year. If you have a duplicate business, you can be added to a list and will be contacted if the original vendor is no longer able to make it. We would love for current MOPs moms to be the ones hosting the tables, but since this event happens so early, past vendors are contacted before MOPs has even started in the fall. Plus this is also a fundraiser for our group. Booths are \$50 for current MOPs moms, and \$75 for outside vendors.

Notes:

◆ If you have any information to include in our MOPs newsletter, have any suggestions, questions or comments, please contact Gretchen Garrison by sending an email to FirstFreeMops@gmail.com. Be sure to put "newsletter" in the subject line. To God be the glory in MOPs and in our lives!