

Living Faith



Dear Friends,

Fall is naturally a time when we focus on stewardship at church. This issue focuses on ideas to teach stewardship to kids and ways to live stewardship in our lives. We are blessed to be a blessing. All of our time, talents and treasures come from God. So the question for us should be: how can we honor God by blessing others with our time, talents, and treasures? The first place to start is with ourselves. We lead by example. Kids may not always listen to us but they are always watching us. We need to let others see us being joyful and generous with our time, talents and treasures. I love the idea of being God's hands in the world. My goal is to roll up my sleeves and do God's work and pass that legacy down to my own children. The earlier kids see us being God's hands in our world, the greater chance we have at equipping them for a lifetime of compassion and service.
Lisa Kammerer
Associate in Ministry

The Three Jars

teaching stewardship to kids

It's easy, simple and really effective.

Create three containers to hold money. You can use jars, cans, envelopes, coin purses, boxes, anything really. Let your kids decorate and label them. Each should be labeled as follows:



JAR 1: save

The save jar is to put money away for the future. Talk about saving for college and saving for rainy days.



JAR 2: GIVE

This jar is for giving to others. Give to church, community projects, or your own project that helps someone. The important thing is for this jar to be used to give back to others in ways that make a difference.



JAR 3: spend

This spend jar is for buying things you want. Encourage kids to work hard and earn what they want. Also encourage thinking before you spend. Is that really what you want or need? Is this item worth it?

Each time your child receives money (allowance, extra chores, gifts, etc) they divide their money into these three jars. You decide what ratio to teach. At our house we like Save 20%, Give 10% (tithing), and Spend the rest. You will be teaching the responsibility of saving, that hard work pays off, and the joy of giving and helping others!

This information is prepared for you by the
Northwestern Iowa Synod-Home Life Network
for use by families and local congregations.

For more ideas about how you can pass on faith in your homes go to:
http://www.neiasynod.org/synod_resources/YouthFamilyResources.asp

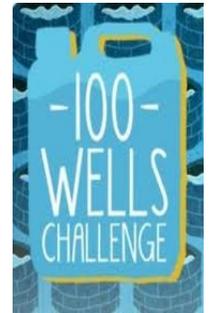
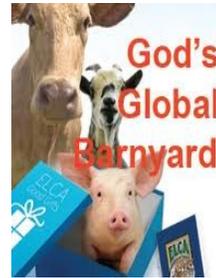


Need Inspiration?
Check out these ideas from
LearningtoGive.org



- Give as a family by sponsoring a child, supporting missionaries, or responding to a news story. Even if kids aren't giving money, they can write letters or make something for those in need. (Be sure to share any pictures, letters or thank you notes you receive with your children.)
- Let kids cook with you when you're preparing a meal for a sick friend or cookies for a neighbor.
- Encourage kids to create artwork in the form of pictures or cards to brighten a shut-in's day.
- Help kids choose gently-used items like toys and clothes that they can pass on.
- Teach the first fruits principle by having kids donate their shiniest coins or the money at the top of the allowance pile.
- Introduce "giving" role models by reading stories, visiting museums, or otherwise presenting the lives of noted altruists.
- Volunteer as a family once a month. Pick a project and have fun doing serving others as a family.
- Ask questions, such as: How did it feel to give? Do you think you'd like to give again? Do you have any ideas about how we could help so-and-so? Share your stories about ways a family member gave generously, or how someone made a difference by helping you.

Check out these ELCA
Giving Opportunities



Read the Bible together

Give

- ...regularly (I Corinthians 16:2)
- ...secretly (Matthew 6:1-2)
- ...sacrificially (Luke 21:1-4)
- ...based on your earnings (I Corinthians 16:2)
- ...purposefully (II Corinthians 9:7)
- ...cheerfully (II Corinthians 9:7)
- ...with God's priorities in mind (Matthew 6:19-21)
- ...generously (Luke 6:38, II Corinthians 9:6)

