

The Veritas Vine

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God in the Mirror...Is HE there?

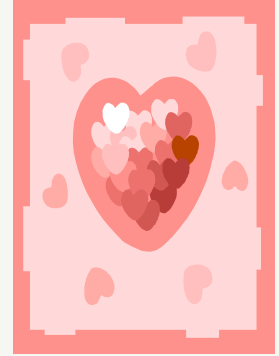
Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Col.3:12-14

This month, we are looking at specific and practical ways to reflect God's love at home and in the world. Most of us would agree that our children are our first ministry. It is easy to lose the joy of loving them when we are overwhelmed with homeschooling, laundry, cooking, extra-curricular activities, church responsibilities, etc. If our homes are to be bound together in perfect unity by the love of Christ, it is imperative that we commit to daily practices that will infuse that into our children. The elementary Bible curriculum this month assigned the students to make a family "love box" for encouraging notes and letters to be stored. Why not do it? Better yet, make a box for *each* child. Require your children to write a note to one of their siblings to place in their love box each week. These prove to be timeless reminders of love for each other, especially when sibling disagreements arise. Schedule a date night once a month with each of your children. This becomes even more critical as they approach and encounter the adolescent years. Ross Campbell, M.D. says in his book, How to Really Love Your Child, "Focused attention is not something that is nice to give our child only if time permits; it is a critical **need** each child has.... Without focused attention, a child experiences increased anxiety because he feels everything else is more important than he is. He is consequently less secure and is impaired in his emotional and psychological health." One suggestion the book gives is to give one half hour

each Sunday afternoon to each child. Once established, this routine will undoubtedly impact your children for a lifetime. Take time to fully understand your child's love language. The book, Love Languages of Children, by Chapman and Campbell does an excellent job of explaining tangible ways to show Christ's love to your children.

Second, it is equally imperative to teach them how to share the Gospel, God's greatest gift of love. Antioch Ministries International recently wrote to share their training school's worldwide success with a very simple method of sharing the gospel. "They memorize a tract, or anything that communicates the gospel simply. Then they are able to focus on the person they are talking to, not what they are trying to say." The trainer goes on to say that, "For a lot of us it means purposefully going about our days with the thought that 'I am an ambassador of Jesus.'" That simple mindset alone opens the door for the Holy Spirit to bring us into encounters with people who want to know Jesus. Whether it is a grocery store clerk, a neighbor, or a black sheep in the family, we are all called to be ambassadors of Jesus to them. Why not choose a few tracts to work on memorizing over Spring Break and the summer? Remember that the grass will wither, the flowers will fade, but the Word of God will stand forever. A simple way to incorporate this into your daily routine is to **make a choice** to stop and pray each time you are about to leave the house or get out of the car. Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide you and empower you to be ambassadors of Jesus everywhere you go.

Whether at home, at a ballgame, or at the grocery store, choose today to implement life-altering love gifts into your family's routine. Your choices will most assuredly reap an eternal harvest and bring an abundance of joy to your family! Happy love gifting!



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Quote of the month:

If you read history you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were precisely those who thought most of the next. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this.

C.S. Lewis

From the Director's Den by Jill Marr

I recently had a discussion with one of our instructors. She is a long term educator both to her children and through professional means. The “proof is in the pudding,” so to speak. Her children are mostly grown and are picking their way through life in a way that should make their parents proud. They are making wise choices, seeking education, and settling down to life with great alacrity. There is no doubt this is due to firm foundations both in spiritual and educational matters.

The wisdom she chose to impart gave me pause. I needed to reflect on this! Her statement is profound:

“The greatest thing about home school is child-centered education. The worst thing about home school is child-centered education.”

Now, before your ire peaks...think about that statement. Child-centered education means we can tailor make our day to the strengths of our individual students. But home school is also about character training. As life

revolves around our children, are we also imparting the humility and “God-centeredness” they need? Do they believe they are the center of the universe or is God?

A bigger question looms. Are your children the center of your universe? Have you placed them on a throne or are your eyes wide open to their foibles and faults? Are you training them to deal humbly with the world, setting aside their pride towards a life of service?

There is a disturbing cultural trend that is exhibited across all facets of our society. I have seen it while teaching children’s church and even at Veritas. Adults, teachers and other forms of authority in our society are increasingly dismissed and disrespected while deferring to the statements and opinions of our children.

We need to remember our perspective here. How many of us had child-like perspectives of events in our lives that proved to be flawed? Children are in need of maturity and training. Could it

be we are missing vital “teachable moments” while we pursue the wrong view of child-centered learning? We need to teach submission to Godly authority and respect to all the population.

This begins with a careful search of our hearts as parents. Do we evaluate their behavior and always take their side in life events dealing with other children and/or adults? Are we more concerned with their needs or balancing the family structure as a whole? Are we teaching them to communicate positively with those around them regarding Godly conflict resolution? I have begun the task of evaluating this for myself. This will only improve if I set the example!

I encourage you to measure your child-centered education against the Scriptures. Their future success depends on our ability to impart social and spiritual balance. It will affect their marriages, their job performance and most importantly their contribution to God’s Kingdom!

Thank you for all the referrals!

Enrollment for new students began February 1st, 2010.

*A great website can be found at www.crosswalk.com. It has ideas on practical Christian thinking and living. You can receive daily or weekly e-mails on news, persecution, family, etc.

next time your kiddos are struggling to focus, take them on a brisk walk or send them outside for 30 minutes of play!

*Don’t forget that enrollment for returning students is OPEN!! Enroll NOW to insure your child’s placement for next year. You can get the new enrollment forms at www.veritasclassicalschoools.com The process is completely online and paperless!

Helpful Hints....

Just in case you missed it last month....There are 3 websites that offer FREE online grocery and drugstore coupons.

www.shortcuts.com;
www.cellfire.com;
www.southernsavvers.com The cellfire.com website actually offers digital coupons that you can download onto your phone or Kroger card so that no paper is involved!

Did you know that it takes only 30 minutes of sunshine to shift your mood from weary and worn to happy and productive? The



Verse of the month:

And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love.

(I Cor. 13:13)





Family Feature

With the upcoming Spring Break and Summer Break in mind, we will be featuring worthwhile family-friendly places. This month, we are featuring the **Creation Museum** [2800 Bullittsburg Church Road, Petersburg, KY 41080] ; located about 7 hours from Memphis. Phone: 888-582-4253; creationmuseum.org; Ticket prices: Adult - \$21.95; Children (5-12) - \$11.95; Children under 5 - FREE - Includes admission to Men in White Show, Walk Through History, Botanical Gardens, and Petting Zoo. There is also a two day pass, which is \$29.95 for adults and \$14.95 for children. I highly recommend the two-day pass because there is so much to see and absorb. This can

Putting Feet to our Faith

We were able to raise \$203.15 dollars for Bible for Burma! That equals 45 Bibles for the Burmese people! Thank you for giving! We have sent the money this month to Voice of the Martyrs so they can purchase the Bibles. **PLEASE REMEMBER** to continue to send quarters with your children to school for Sudan.

Reminder...Our 2nd Semester project will be partnering with

easily be done on a weekend mini-vacation. They are open M-F 10-6; Sat 9-6 and Sun 12-6 (EST). On Fridays, the museum is open until 9:00 March-Sept. The Creation Museum brings the Biblical account of the Flood, Noah's Ark, Dinosaurs, Dragons, the Garden of Eden, and so much more to life. There is plenty to keep young children interested and listening while older children can read and soak in the Biblical Worldview that permeates the museum. The museum's exhibit design is based on the seven c's: creation, corruption, catastrophe, confusion, Christ, cross, and

The Seed Company and Wycliffe Bible Translators. According to recent statistics, more than 2,200 languages, which includes around 200 million people, still do NOT have the Bible in their language. According to The Seed Company's literature, 522 people groups in Mainland Asia, 515 in Nigeria & Central Africa, and 707 in Indo-Pacific still need the Bible translated into their language. The specific project we will be

Circus Days

The most amazing podcasts can be found at www.howstuffworks.com/podcasts/coolest-stuff-on-the-planet.rss. On cold or rainy days, it's a great substitute for mindless television. Your children can learn about the Peruvian Amazon, Yellowstone National Park, the Panama Canal, or any other number of fascinating places around the world. It's worth the time to check it out!

There is a neat website that donates free rice to needy countries for using their website. On the website, your child can learn vocabulary, practice multiplication and Algebra, learn Spanish, French, English, German, or Italian, and much more. Simply by downloading their toolbar and playing the educational games, the rice is donated for free!

consummation. It tells God's story in a way that is captivating for any age. Also, you come away better able to explain why the Bible can be trusted, how to defend your faith, and why the Bible must be our starting point. While not an inexpensive museum, it is well worth your money and time because it is a museum that will change your life! I learned more from one day at the museum than from any book I've ever read!



helping fund is the Sudan Luke Partnership Cluster. They are working on translating the Jesus film and the Gospel of Luke for 3 people groups in the Sudan. You can read more about it at <http://www.theseedcompany.org/project/sudan-lp-cluster>. Our goal is to raise \$500.00 for The Seed Company to help them translate the Gospel to reach the Sudanese people.

ONLINE ENROLLMENT OPEN!

For returning parents, enrollment is now open! Applications are already rolling in for next year!

Open enrollment for new students opened on February 1st.

This year the forms are in "click" format online and can be submitted online!

Feedback from our parents regarding the ease of this process has been wonderful!

Let us know if you need assistance or have any other questions!

NEW WEBSITE IN PROGRESS

VCS BOOKSTORE is getting a FACELIFT.....

You are going to LOVE the changes at VCS bookstore. After our first year, we used all the feedback from our parents on how to make our website more user friendly and we are making some wonderful changes:

1. Online order management
2. Booklist One-Click ordering (literally-your booklist will pop up and you can order each item)
3. Free shipping on any order over \$300.00
4. As always: Discounts!

We will let you know when the GRAND OPENING occurs this Spring!



Recommended books

How to Really Love Your Child by Ross Campbell, M.D.; The Five Love Languages of Children by Gary Chapman, Ph.D. & Ross Campbell, M.D.; Sir Gibbie by George Macdonald

Practical Love Gifts

We would **love** to hear about and share your practical ideas for love-gifting at home and in your world. You can e-mail us at veritasvine@gmail.com . Here are a few of our favorite love gifts for home, some of which are found in [The five Love Languages of Children](#). We've included a couple for each love language.

Give kisses to your children, no matter what their age. Hold hands during family prayer time.

When your child is feeling down, share five reasons why you are proud of them. Also, hide little love notes in their dressers and in their school books.

Take walks together each day that weather permits. Eat meals together instead of in front of the television.

Play games or listen to an audio book together instead of watching television.

Download a special song for your child onto their mp3 player or iPod, one that reminds you of them or will uplift them in some way. Instead of spending money on a lot of gifts, host a birthday party at a special place or host a progressive dinner for your teenager and friends at various restaurants.

Continue to tuck your children in at night, no matter what their age. Occasionally, make your child's favorite breakfast or dinner, "just because you love them."

Advertise HERE!

We have received a few calls from parents who would like to advertise their services to the Veritas Community.

We think it is a great idea to let each other know how we can assist beyond the walls of our campuses!

If you would like to advertise in the Veritas Vine, please call our office at 901-830-6173 or 662-895-9514.

Please understand that placement of an ad in the Veritas Vine does not constitute endorsement. It is merely serves informational purposes.

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