

A FAMILY RESOURCE

# home|front

M O N T H L Y

ENVIRONMENT

## responsibility

*God has entrusted me with the things and people around me that He has created.*

FAMILY FOOD TIME p. 4 & 5  
GAME TIME p. 6 & 7  
GOD'S WORD p. 8 & 9  
CREATE p. 11  
BLESSING p. 16

# How to Use this Resource

## It's as easy as 1 ... 2 ... 3 ...

**1** Start by deciding on a day and time that works well for your entire family. It can be an evening, afternoon, or morning. Just commit to building this time into your family's natural rhythm. (It's usually best to build this time around a meal!)

**2** Look through the HomeFront Monthly and see what stands out. Choose one or two experiences that you would like to incorporate into your family times this week. Don't feel burdened to complete all the activities at once, but carefully select which ones will fit your family best. Each month of curriculum provides more than enough experiences to last you throughout the month.

**3** Remember to **HAVE FUN!** Strive to make each gathering unique to your own family as you enjoy spending time with God and each other.

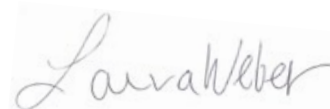
## Editor's Note

Whenever I think about responsibility, I can't help but think of the parable of the talents that Jesus tells in Matthew 25 (if you don't remember it, go read it right now ... it's a good one!). As I read the words in this parable, one thing is clear: I am responsible for using the life He has entrusted to me.

But the life He has entrusted to me is not the same as the life He has entrusted to anyone else. He has given me specific gifts. I uniquely have a role to play in His Kingdom. My responsibility is to use the things He has given to me.

I find a lot of freedom in knowing that I do not have to do the same thing as my friend, coworker, husband, or neighbor. I don't have to compare. I don't have to try to act as if I have the same talents that they have. I am responsible simply for being me and for serving Jesus with the unique life He has given me.

As you dive into this month's HomeFront, spend some time asking God what He has entrusted to you and your family. What talents has He called each of you to be responsible with? Embrace those things with passion. ☺



**LAURA WEBER** | EDITOR  
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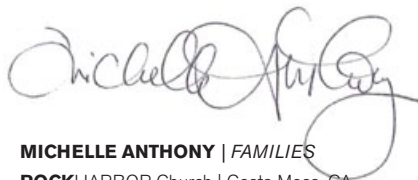
## ENVIRONMENT

# RESPONSIBILITY

Before you begin exploring this month's edition, take some time to set aside your previous ideas about responsibility. While most of us associate that word with the burdens in our lives, the responsibilities that God has charged us with are exciting and life giving!

Open your mind and your heart to what He has to show you about taking responsibility in the kingdom He has entrusted to you.

**THIS MONTH**, as we focus on creating an environment of responsibility within our families and explore the responsibilities God has charged us with, we recognize that they cover a variety of areas. First, this concept of responsibility captures the idea that God has entrusted His Kingdom to us! Next it takes a look at our ability to take ownership for our life, gifts, and resources before God. In addition, our families must be challenged to take responsibility for our brothers and sisters in Christ, as well as for those who are spiritually lost. Our hope is that the Holy Spirit would use this environment to allow each member of your family to be nurtured within a kingdom-minded worldview. As you explore the various facets of Christ-centered responsibility this month, we pray you will experience God in ways that will lead you to celebrate the responsibilities He has entrusted to you. ☺



**MICHELLE ANTHONY** | FAMILIES  
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## VERSE OF THE MONTH

Memorizing Scripture can be an incredible practice to engage in as a family. But words in and of themselves will not necessarily transform us; it is God's Spirit in these words that transforms. We come to know God more when we are willing to open our hearts and receive His Holy Spirit through the words we memorize. Have fun with these verses and think of creative ways to invite your family to open up to God as they commit these verses to memory.

### ELEMENTARY VERSE

"And he dies for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again."

2 Corinthians 5:15

### PRES/KINDER VERSE

"Nobody should seek his own good, but the good of others."

1 Corinthians 10:24

by Tyler Carroll

# FAMILY FOOD TIME

## RECIPE

Cooking together is always fun, especially when making desserts! This recipe is easy to do with kids of all ages. They can help mix or sprinkle the chocolate chips.

### Cream Cheese Marble Squares (SERVES 6-9)

*Prep Time:* 15 min. *Cook Time:* Bake for 20-25 min.

1 8 oz. package of cream cheese	2 cups flour
2 1/3 cups sugar	1/2 cup sour cream
3 eggs	1 tsp. baking soda
1/2 cup margarine	1 1/2 oz. squares unsweetened chocolate
6 oz. package semisweet chocolate chips	



- Combine softened cream cheese and 1/3 cup sugar, mixing until well blended.
- Add 1 egg; mix well. Set aside.
- Combine margarine and unsweetened chocolate in a large bowl or saucepan. Melt in microwave or on stove.
- Combine flour and sugar; stir into chocolate mixture.
- Add remaining 2 eggs, sour cream, baking soda, and salt; mix well. Pour into greased and floured 15 1/2" x 10 1/2" pan.
- Spoon cream cheese mixture over batter. Cut through batter with knife several times for marble effect. Sprinkle with semisweet chocolate chips.
- Bake at 375 degrees for 20-25 minutes or until a toothpick comes out clean. 🍪

by Staci Igarashi

# FAMILY FOOD TIME

## Would You Rather?

Like most kids, I had several household responsibilities while growing up. I washed the dishes after dinner. I made sure my laundry got to the laundry room on laundry day. I had to walk and feed my dog every day. It was very important to my parents that I learned how to be responsible.

Part of being responsible involves knowing how to make choices. Although this is a game involving some very silly choices, they really do make you think. What would you choose? (Don't forget the most important part of the game ... asking why?)

## WOULD YOU RATHER?

- Would you rather have rollerblading feet or telescoping eyes? Why?
- Would you rather have the ability to fly or the ability to be invisible? Why?
- Would you rather eat 10 earthworms or sit in a bucket filled with worms? Why?
- Would you rather be a famous singer or an award-winning dancer? Why?
- Would you rather walk in shoes filled with chocolate pudding or wear a hat filled with spaghetti? Why?
- Make up your own questions! 🎲

## COOK WITH YOUR KIDS

IF YOU ARE CAUGHT BETWEEN FINDING TIME TO PREPARE MEALS AND SPENDING QUALITY TIME WITH YOUR CHILDREN, TRY COOKING WITH THEM. CHILDREN ENJOY HELPING IN THE KITCHEN AND OFTEN ARE MORE WILLING TO EAT FOODS THEY HELP PREPARE. IT'S IMPORTANT THAT YOU GIVE KITCHEN TASKS APPROPRIATE FOR YOUR CHILD'S AGE.

**2 YEAR OLDS:** CAN BRING INGREDIENTS FROM ONE PLACE TO ANOTHER, WIPE TABLETOPS, TEAR LETTUCE OR GREENS, BREAK CAULIFLOWER, PLAY WITH UTENSILS.

**3 YEAR OLDS:** CAN DO ALL THAT 2 YEAR OLDS CAN, PLUS ... WRAP POTATOES IN FOIL FOR BAKING, POUR LIQUIDS, MIX INGREDIENTS, SHAKE LIQUIDS IN A COVERED CONTAINER, SPREAD SOFT SPREADS, PLACE THINGS IN THE TRASH.

**4 YEAR OLDS:** CAN DO ALL THAT 2 AND 3 YEAR OLDS CAN, PLUS ... FORM ROUND SHAPES WITH DOUGH, CUT PARSLEY OR GREEN ONIONS WITH DULL SCISSORS, MASH BANANAS WITH A FORK, SET THE TABLE.

**5 TO 6 YEAR OLDS:** CAN DO ALL THAT 2, 3, AND 4 YEAR OLDS CAN, PLUS ... MEASURE INGREDIENTS, CUT WITH A BLUNT KNIFE, USE AN EGGBEATER.

**ELEMENTARY AGE:** CAN DO ALL THAT THE PRESCHOOL AGE CHILDREN CAN, PLUS ... ASSEMBLE SANDWICHES, READ RECIPE DIRECTIONS, ROLL DOUGH, GRATE CHEESE, CRACK AND BEAT EGGS, AND MORE.

**MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL:** INVOLVE THEM IN MEAL PLANNING, SHOPPING, AND PREPARING THE MEAL FOR YOUR FAMILY NIGHT. 🎲

by Meg Roundy

# GAME TIME

## YOUNGER KIDS

### Responsibility Through Obedience

In all my years of working with children, and now as a mom of two little ones, I have learned that consistency is hugely critical no matter what you would like to see your children learn.

One way to instill responsibility in children is through teaching obedience. As they learn to obey, they learn that they are responsible for their own actions and decisions. They also learn to take responsibility for following through on requests made of them by others. Hopefully these young hearts that learn to obey Mom and Dad early on will grow to love Jesus so much that they can't help but choose to obey Him throughout their lives! Check out the tips from seasoned parents who have come alongside me with some clever and unique ways to positively reinforce obedience.



**Obey Ups:** Our 2 ½ year old is just starting to figure out “responsibility.” When I tell her to pick up the coat she just threw on the floor while running into the house, I remind her of the character trait she is demonstrating. “Maddy, hanging up your coat is being responsible.” Then, she gets an “obey up” for listening and obeying (first time) to my instruction. That is a moment when we pick her up, give her a quick squeeze (hug), and toss her up in the air—she loves it! It's great because the reward is instant, requires no stuff, and can be done anywhere.

**Winner, Winner, Chicken Dinner:** This is a form of reward and praise for completing chores, obeying, or some job well done. Sometimes we use it simply to lift our kids' spirits if they are feeling down. This is a little dance where Daddy picks them up, spins them around, and then turns them upside down, holding them by one leg (one child at a time of course!), repeating excitedly, “winner, winner, chicken dinner!” Of course, you can ad-lib with your own silly saying.

**Obedience Game:** With younger kids, it can be fun just to practice listening to and obeying Mom and Dad's crazy requests. “Jane, hop on one foot to the piano. Play ‘Twinkle, Twinkle’ and then skip backwards to me.” The more quickly and crazily they respond, the more you encourage them. “Look how you obeyed Daddy right away. That makes God glad too!” Send your kids out around the house on crazy adventures during your family time where they are connecting obedience with positive quality time. While this special time should not include their regular responsibilities and/or chores, it is a fun way to “get in the groove” of obeying Mom and Dad which models for them what it's like to obey their heavenly Father. ☺

by Rae Lynn Lott

# GAME TIME

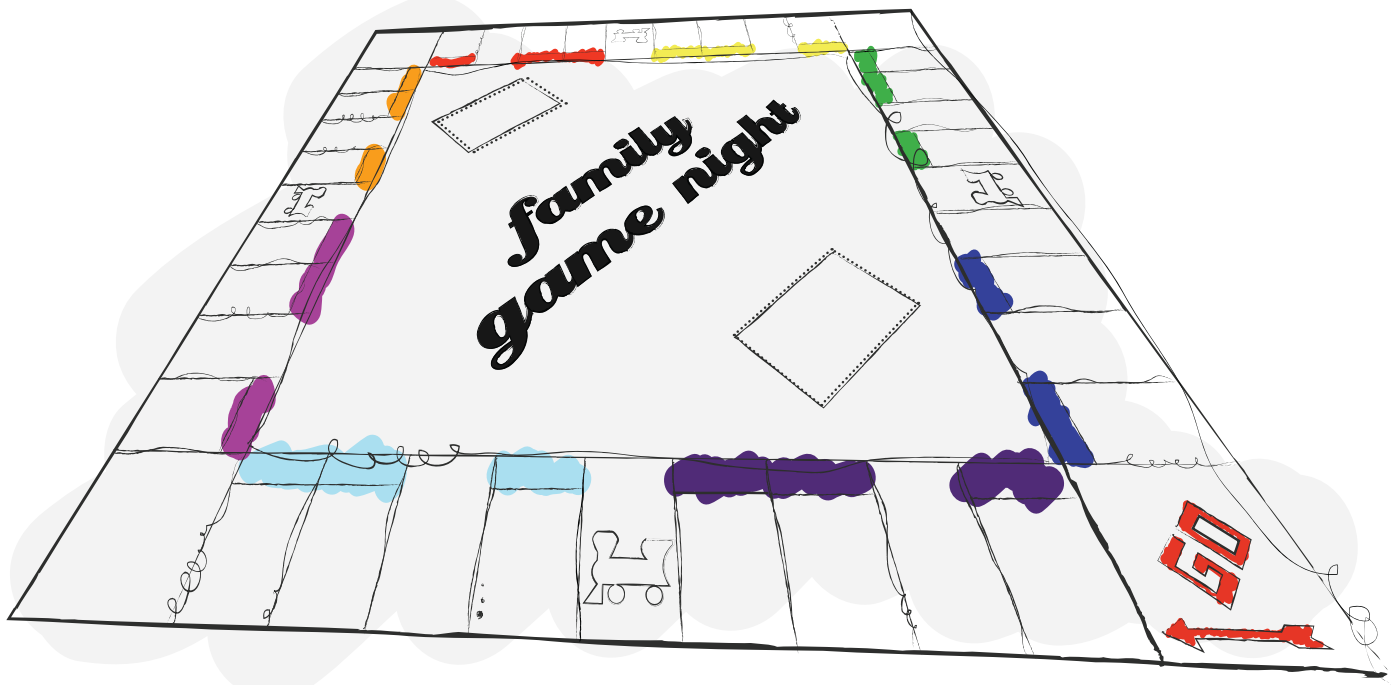
## OLDER KIDS

### Bringing Back Monopoly

Long before I learned how to balance my checkbook or open a savings account, I was buying hotels on Park Place and mortgaging my house on Boardwalk, all after collecting \$200 from passing GO.

Monopoly, the all-time classic board game, was a childhood favorite—teaching me financial responsibility and savvy at a young age. Some of my fondest memories growing up were playing Monopoly with my older brother and my grandparents at their kitchen table. Somehow, my brother always managed to win. (Though I think he might have cheated.)

Monopoly, though it has been around a long time, still remains a favorite family-time game. For this month's theme of "responsibility," I suggest dusting off the old board game and playing as a family. But, don't just make it about the game ... redeem this time by having a conversation about taking responsibility for the things that God has blessed each one of us with. ☺



# GOD'S WORD

## ONE ANOTHER

The concept of responsibility has gotten a bad rap over the years. We've been trained to think of our responsibilities as a burden or something we loathe doing. (Taking out the trash, cleaning the house, etc.)

We feel this way because these routine responsibilities seem unimportant in the grand scheme of things. However, as Christians, we have been charged with some responsibilities that we should feel just the opposite about!

God has entrusted us with some huge responsibilities that are actually incredibly exciting. He's blessed us with gifts and abilities that we have been charged with being responsible for. He's surrounded us with a world of people who are lost and allows us the responsibility of sharing who He is with them. He's also given us a faith community that we are responsible for supporting, encouraging, and pushing forward. I believe these are exciting responsibilities because they are the responsibilities that will literally change the world! I don't know about you, but that sounds like something I want to be a part of.

### HEAR IT

Instead of reading one specific passage from the Bible, take some time with your family to read over the following verses. There are a lot of verses here, so you may want to divide your family up into a few groups and have each group look up a few of the verses. As you read them, make a list of the various things we are being called to do or show:

John 13:13–15	Ephesians 5:19
John 13:24–35	Colossians 3:13
Romans 12:10	Colossians 3:16
Romans 13:8	1 Thessalonians 5:11
Romans 14:13	Hebrews 3:13
Romans 15:7	1 Peter 3:8
Galatians 5:13	1 Peter 4:9
Ephesians 4:2	1 Peter 5:5
Ephesians 4:32	

Do you notice any similarities between these verses? Every one of them uses the phrase "one another." These are just a few of the many "one another" Scriptures found in the New Testament. God makes it clear in these verses that He's given us a responsibility for one another!

### DO IT

When looking at the list you created while exploring the Scriptures above, words like "love," "acceptance," "serve," "kindness," "compassion," "forgiveness," "teach," "encourage," and more probably show up a few times. (The small book of 1 John alone contains five commands to love one another!) Now, here's the hard part. Are you doing it?

Do you find yourself, as part of your daily routine, doing the things for "one another" that God has



... continued from God's Word

called us to do in these passages? Do you regularly show love to those around you? Do you encourage them? Do you forgive them or accept them without judgment? Do you live in harmony with them showing humility, gentleness, and patience?

If you're anything like me, you can probably point to some examples of these traits showing up in your life, but more often you lapse into sarcasm, gossip, selfishness, or insincerity. In fact, if I'm honest, I see more of the latter traits showing up in my life than those given to us in Scripture. So, what are we going to do about it?

While it's tempting to think that this is a behavior problem, it's not. It's all about the condition of the heart. When I'm walking closer with Jesus and allowing the Holy Spirit to work through me, the attributes of God naturally begin to flow out of me.

When I'm not, the attributes of a sinful, imperfect being are what people see and experience.

“HE’S  
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WHO HE IS  
WITH THEM.”

Take some time, both individually and as a family, to explore the condition of your hearts. Share with each other as you discover where you are spiritually. Work together to figure out how, as individuals and as a family, you can be more intentional about allowing God to show Himself through you.

For me, it's asking God every day to fill me with the fullness of the Holy Spirit. It's spending time in His Word getting to know Him better. It's taking long walks just talking to Him and processing through my day. It's spending time in fellowship with other Christians who challenge me and push me to be more open to His moving in my life.

When we take responsibility for what we've been given and allow God to use us in each others' lives, we strengthen the kingdom; then we are all more able to take responsibility for sharing God's love within a lost world. 🙏

# STORYTELLING

## RESPONSIBILITY

As a 4th generation Californian, my family roots are on a cattle ranch near the coast. My first baths were in the same mudroom sinks as my father and grandmother.



he land was full of desert sage bush before my family came, so every plant and every tree had been planted by them. My grandmother lived most of her life there.

On the front hill of her house, she planted a massive garden. It was so big and productive that she would have to invent things to do with all the produce as it got ripe. At dinnertime each night, we would take a walk through the vast garden and pick out the vegetables we would eat for dinner and, depending on the season, maybe some fruit for dessert. There was something about eating right from the garden my grandmother had planted that made me more adventurous to try things like kohirabi, parsnips, or eggplant (loved the kohirabi and parsnips, not the eggplant). After she planted the seeds, I helped her water them every time I visited. I had some ownership in this stuff on my plate, and it somehow made it taste better.

My kids have grown up in a vastly different world. We lost the ranch to legal battles before they were born. The opportunities for growing a garden the size of my grandmother's are nonexistent in our area. How far their world has come from where I had been born! Here, all their vegetables come in packages, and all their fruit comes with little labels on them. They have never seen the work and skill it takes to grow amazing, tasty tomatoes. Worst of all, we don't get the chance to walk through a garden to choose what we want to have with dinner. In the end, a lot of vegetables have ended up on their plates after dinner because they are not interested in them.

Somehow, being responsible for things makes a difference in how we value them and how they influence our lives. A few years ago, my wife and I started to talk to our kids about recycling. We explained to them that we all need to take responsibility for our world. It was one of the first four commandments given to humanity. We told them that, while we may not be able to clean up the

whole planet, it is our responsibility to do our part. Additionally, when we recycle in our area, there is a financial benefit. We told the kids that they could take turns every year deciding on a charity to give the proceeds to. The first year, my daughter decided to give the recycling money to a mission agency working in Africa where we sponsor a child. She knew that, in Uganda, there was a little boy that our family had taken responsibility for and she wanted to help even more. She made his situation her concern.

What we didn't expect was how taking responsibility would root itself in their hearts. This year, my son decided that the people of Haiti needed the money. They have begun looking for other ways to raise money for their pet projects as well. They beg us to have a garage sale so they can sell their old toys. Of course there is the perennial lemonade stand. Another time they actually sold paper to the neighbors. My daughter collected all the extra paper in our house and put it on a table in our driveway with a sign saying she was raising funds for kids in Africa. Of course, people didn't need the wrinkled refuse, but they were impressed with her enthusiasm for kids in Africa. She made more in one day than we normally do having a family garage sale.

When they saw that they could make a difference, they stepped up to the plate and took responsibility for helping others in need. It keeps happening. The more opportunity I give them to open up their little hearts, the more sensitive those hearts seem to get.

Last week, I took my son and daughter to the nursery to pick out some fruit trees. I asked them to help me plant them, but they hemmed and hawed. I had to pull out the authority card and make them help me. But once we started going, they wanted to take over. Yes, I could have gotten the job done faster by myself, but I know that once the fruit begins to ripen, they are going to be excited to taste it since they had a part in planting it. Somehow responsibility makes all the difference. 🍌

by Ashley Otani

# CREATE

## FAMILY PRAYER WHEEL

### SUPPLIES

- Construction paper
- Glue
- Brads
- Sticker letters
- Photos

Find a photo of each family member. (If necessary, cut it out of a group shot.) Place each photo on a piece of construction paper similar to the one shown below. Using construction paper, create arrows to go with each picture. Each arrow will point to the person you are to look out for over the next week. At the end of the week, switch the pictures around so that each person's arrow is pointed to someone new. Look for ways to lend a hand, encourage, help with someone else's chores, or offer a hug or a listening ear.

The goal is to be in tune to this person during each week. Ask, **“How can I be less concerned about myself and more concerned about you?”** Hopefully, as your family members find creative ways to care for each other, they will begin to learn how to take responsibility for one another. 🌟



# WORSHIP

## POST IT

Gather your family together and read Philippians 2:4, recognizing and allowing each person to feel the weight of this responsibility. Next, take time to answer the following questions:

- **What does it mean to be responsible?**
- **Why am I responsible for others?**
- **Who are some people that God might be asking me to be responsible for?**
- **Why has God entrusted this to me?**

As each of us thinks about the people we encounter on a daily basis, it's important to recognize our role in their lives. We are not managers of their lives, but God has entrusted us with the privilege of being a part of the transformation He wants to do in that person's life. He has also called us to support one another in our daily spiritual walks.

Explain to your family that your worship time this month will take place individually throughout two weeks with one family gathering at the end. Kids who are too young to read and write will need assistance from a parent or older sibling.

**Week One:** As each member of your family goes about their day, charge them to keep an eye out for people who are spiritually lost or for people within

the faith community that are in need. At the end of each day, give each member of your family a set of sticky notes and a pen or pencil. Use the sticky notes to write down the names of these people and stick them to a wall. Challenge each family member to put up at least one sticky note per day.

**Week Two:** Now, begin to write down words that describe God's power and ability. Place these sticky notes over those from Week One. Challenge each family member to write at least two notes per day.

At the end of Week Two, gather the family together in front of your wall. Have one member of your family begin with prayer and midway through, invite the rest of the family to join in, voicing what is written on the sticky notes from Week Two, then remove them from the wall.

For example: **"Lord, you are \_\_\_\_\_"** or **"Lord, we praise You for being \_\_\_\_\_"** and remove sticky note.

After this, you should see only the names of people on the wall. Pray again, saying something like, "God, because of who You are and because You are all powerful, we believe together that You can use us, and we accept the call You have placed before us to take responsibility for the lives of those around us." As you remove each name, ask God to give them the courage to act with responsibility toward this person. Discuss what that might look like. (Invitation to church or dinner, providing a listening ear, offering a hand, etc.) Ask God for daily reminders of this call and commit to be looking at the interests of others before your own. ☺

WE OFTEN THINK OF WORSHIP AS SINGING, **BUT WE CAN WORSHIP GOD IN MANY DIFFERENT WAYS: PRAYER, SILENCE, ART, DANCE, GIVING, SHARING, AND THANKSGIVING** —JUST TO NAME A FEW. MAKE PLANS FOR YOUR FAMILY WORSHIP TIME, BUT PREPARE YOURSELF TO HOLD THESE PLANS LOOSELY IF THE HOLY SPIRIT LEADS YOU IN A DIFFERENT DIRECTION.

# PRAYER

Last month we talked about the importance of modeling, using the Psalms as examples for teaching our children about prayer that is pleasing to God.

What is our role in modeling for our children the responsibility to pray? Paul said, “The first thing I want you to do is pray. Pray every way you know how, for everyone you know” (1 Timothy 2:1 MSG). In another place he writes, “Be cheerful no matter what; pray all the time; thank God no matter what happens. This is the way God wants you who belong to Christ Jesus to live” (1 Thessalonians 5:16–18 MSG). These verses are from The Message Bible. I encourage you to help your children find the Bible passages in the translation you use at home. This helps them to “own” the verses they read.

Being cheerful isn’t difficult for most children, but what about the “no matter what happens” part? National disasters like the earthquake in Haiti, hurricane in New Orleans, or tsunami that affected much of Asia are examples of ways to help children realize that although we can’t always understand what happens, prayer is always a loving and effective way to touch lives.

Our church features an Adopt-A-Country program where individuals, small groups, or families adopt a country in which being a Christian is dangerous or even life threatening. While being sensitive to graphic details of persecution, we encourage the children to pray for children in their adopted country.

**Family project:** Adopt your own persecuted nation. The Voice of the Martyrs organization offers free maps, a monthly update magazine, and other helpful resources. Visit [www.persecution.com](http://www.persecution.com).

Choosing your country can be based on serious or whimsical reasons. One of our families chose Myanmar (Burma) because of historical family ties to the nation. One child chose Egypt because he loved the pyramids. An adult chose Jordan because it began with the same letter as Jesus and would help her remember to pray.

After the choice has been made, older children can research the country and create posters or folders of pictures and information. Encyclopedic resources provide cultural and commercial information. Younger children can learn about toys

and games and costumes. Watch for references to your country on TV, or in the newspapers. Plan a family dinner around the foods of the country; let each child take part in the preparation or cooking. Learn a few phrases of the language. An added benefit—all this research might provide material for a school project later!

Teach your children to pray for the children of that nation: for protection from harm, from disease, from enemies; for freedom to learn about Jesus and speak His name. Whatever you would pray for your own children would be appropriate to teach them to pray for other children. And when you hear of troubles and persecution in your country, help your children to pray “in every way you know how.” 🙏

CHILDREN  
LOVE TO  
PRAY! HELP  
THEM TAKE  
RESPONSIBILITY  
FOR PRAYING  
FOR THE  
FAMILY OF  
GOD’S  
CHILDREN  
WORLDWIDE.

by Laura Weber

# MARRIAGE

## “R” LEVELS

I am sad to say I have met many couples who need to take the same advice they give their children—“Be responsible!”

Here is a responsibility test I've developed for parents to check their “R” levels:

- Do I handle my finances responsibly?
- Do I communicate in a responsible way—managing my anger, listening without interrupting, not exaggerating by using phrases like “you always ...,” or “you never ... !”
- Do I balance my life with discipline in the areas of eating, exercising, and Bible reading?
- Am I on time? Does my family complain that I am often late?
- Am I such a perfectionist that my spouse or children feel as if they can never do things “good enough” for me?
- Have I been accused of being lazy or perhaps of not planning enough in advance?
- Have I ever been accused of being stubborn, the one who needs to be right, or has to have it “my” way?
- Have I been short with my comments, harsh, or moody?
- Have I been accused of procrastinating?

If you answered the above questions honestly, you may need to take more responsibility for yourself. You are not alone! 🙏



## THERE ARE IMMEDIATE AND PRACTICAL WAYS TO IMPROVE YOUR “R” LEVELS.

- **BE HUMBLE. BE WILLING TO ADMIT THAT YOU STRUGGLE WITH SOME OF THESE ISSUES. BE QUICK TO APOLOGIZE FOR YOUR WEAKNESSES AND SHORTCOMINGS.**
- **MAKE IT A GOAL TO ACTIVELY PURSUE CHANGE IN THE AREAS THAT HAVE BEEN CALLED TO YOUR ATTENTION THROUGH THIS SIMPLE TEST.**
- **ACKNOWLEDGE AND ENCOURAGE EACH OTHER WHEN YOU SEE EACH OTHER MAKE EFFORTS TO CHANGE IN SPECIFIC AREAS. TELL EACH OTHER HOW MUCH YOU APPRECIATE THEIR EFFORT.**

# TRADITIONS

## CAN RECYCLE

The environment of RESPONSIBILITY involves two things: First, we all must take ownership for our lives, gifts, and resources; second, we have to take responsibility in caring for others in and around our community. This will often look like simply showing up in our communities and looking for ways God wants to use us in the lives of others.

My hope is that, as you develop a family tradition based on responsibility, the Holy Spirit will cultivate a kingdom-minded worldview in each member of your family.

### CAN RECYCLE

Everywhere we go there are aluminum cans. We see them in parks, on sports fields, in the street, on sidewalks, at the beach, and even in our own homes. What would it look like for your family to gather these cans in a way that cultivates a kingdom mindset and takes responsibility for the environment and your community?

1. Start by gathering as a family and asking God to show you a group, individual, or organization that you could serve, bless, or encourage. This might be a friend that is sick, a neighbor down the street, an organization you have heard of, or a member of your family.
2. Go to your local hardware store and purchase a large trash can and a box of trash bags that

TRADITION IS THE HANDING DOWN OF STATEMENTS, BELIEFS, LEGENDS, OR CUSTOMS FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION. **WHAT TRADITIONS ARE IN PLACE FOR YOUR FAMILY? WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO PASS DOWN TO THE NEXT GENERATION? IT IS ALWAYS FUN TO CREATE NEW TRADITIONS WITH EACH GENERATION.**



can hold aluminum cans. Place the trash can somewhere around your home and the trash bags in the trunk of your vehicle so you're prepared to gather cans.

3. Make a family can collection chart to record the number of cans each family member has collected. Post this on the refrigerator or in a location that your family will frequently see.
4. Live your life.
5. As you go through your normal routines, keep an eye out for aluminum cans. Gather them from the soccer field, a friend's birthday party, or while on a walk. Wherever you go, keep an eye out for cans.
6. When you have gathered several bags of cans, exchange them for their cash refund. Plan together as a family how you can use this money to serve, bless, or encourage the person or organization you originally decided on.

Allow gathering cans to become a tradition in your family. 🗑️

# BLESSING

If we try to be responsible in our own power, it can feel overwhelming. Every one of us has a lot to be responsible for! When I begin to feel burdened with all of the things I think I have to “do,” I’m reminded that the most important thing I’m called to is not a task, but a Person. I’m called to the Person of Christ. I’m called to love Him with my whole heart. It’s when my heart is turned toward Him that He gives me the ability to take responsibility for my own life as well as for the lives and hearts of others.

## BLESSING

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind’; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.”

Luke 10:27

This month, as you bless your children, remind them that their most important responsibility is to love God and to let Him have their whole heart. When they look toward Him, He will give them hearts that are able to take responsibility for themselves, their neighbors, and their world.

Take the time to speak this blessing into the lives of your children at different times throughout the month. You can do this on the way to school, before bed, or while you eat as a family. Just make sure you have your children’s attention. Look them in their eyes and pray the blessing over them. Affirm your love for them by placing a hand on their shoulder or holding their hands. Remember, God’s Spirit is at work; He will bless and care for the growing and tender hearts of your children. ☺



# home|front

**Don’t forget the HomeFront Weekly:** A resource to get parents and kids talking about God’s Word together.