

Little Bridges News

February 2021



Calendar of Events

CLOSED – President's Day

Monday 2/15

Canyon Creek Church

Daily Devotionals

Facebook Live

Monday – Friday 7:30am

Sunday Service &

Sunday School

Facebook Live 10am

Join MOPS this Spring

It's a new year! Are you looking for community with other moms? Do you have children Kindergarten or younger? MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) @ Canyon Creek is here for you! Please join us this Spring semester.

We are encouraging each other as moms, sharing the joys and challenges of motherhood, and helping each other grow in faith. We have on-line meetings on the first Thursday evening and third Friday afternoon of every month. These online meetings include speakers or video messages, fun games and plenty of conversation.

We also plan outdoor gatherings – with social distancing and masks – once each month. You can find the sign up link on the Little Bridges website.

Community Care Pantry (CCP)

CCP supports families who are facing reduced income or loss of employment due to SIP with free non-perishable food and household supplies. Drive-up stations are located curbside Mondays from 12:30pm – 1:30pm.

If you would like to help sponsor CCP, any donations can be dropped off at the "runner gates" any day. Donations needed include:

FOOD: canned food and soup, rice and potato mix, cereal/oatmeal, pancake mix and flour, mac & cheese, dried pasta, peanut butter and jelly/jam, tomato sauce, sugar/seasonings, instant coffee/tea, and snacks.

HOUSEHOLD: disinfecting wipes, feminine hygiene products, hand sanitizer, laundry detergent, paper towels, personal hygiene toiletries, soap, tissue and toilet paper, trash bags/plastic grocery bags.

BABY: baby wipes and diapers (all sizes)

Moms in Prayer

Rest in sovereignty of God through prayer. Gather with other moms to pray for your children, their school, teachers/staff and the world. All moms, of kids who are newborn to adults are welcome. We meet remotely over WebEx, from 9am – 10am every Monday the San Ramon Valley Unified School District is in session. Please fill out the registration form to enable the MIP leaders to email you the WebEx. This link can also be found on our Little Bridges website.

Grace Filled Phrases

“Hurry up!” “Slow down!” “Why didn’t you do this?” “Why in the world did you do *that*?!” said me several times a day when I was in the midst of raising my 4 boys. I often sounded like a drill sergeant.

Now, sometimes those boys needed a drill sergeant. Sometimes they needed a little *motivation* to get in gear and get it done! But ultimately, our hope as parents is to provide guidance and words to help our kids grow into who God intended them to be. Afterall, our kids face a world that can be so harsh and demanding. Below are a few grace filled phrases that I would encourage you to use with your children.

1. “Let’s pray about that.”

All too often, amidst the business of daily happenings and issues, my first response as a parent would be to try to “fix” things for my kids, forgetting that our family could bring any struggles to a better Fixer.

If my son had a difficult math test coming up, I would certainly help him review math facts—but we could also pray about it. If my son got frustrated about a project, I could suggest we ask God for the patience to handle it.

Through such simple, everyday opportunities, we can teach our kids to seek God’s help with their challenges. Pay attention to the little dramas unfolding in your kids’ lives. And instead of brushing them off, or trying to fix it for them, teach them a practice that will serve them well for years to come – acknowledging the one whose grace we need every day.

2. “It’s not a big deal.”

You know the moments. A glass drops on the floor and shatters. A jacket gets forgotten at school. A toy gets left outside in the rain. Little mishaps happen so often with kids, you’d think we would learn to expect them!

Somehow, though, these moments can catch us off guard. And we can turn simple accidents into a bigger deal than they really are. Sure, there are times when these “accidents” are part of a bigger pattern of irresponsibility—and kids need to be accountable about their carelessness. But sometimes, it’s just an accident.

Next time a little mishap occurs, stop and ask yourself the question: “Is this part of a pattern? Or is this a moment of human forgetfulness or clumsiness that happens to us all?” If it’s the latter, help your kids find grace for simple mistakes by telling them “It’s no big deal” and calmly move on.

3. “I’m proud of you.”

In our culture, kids constantly receive feedback based on performance: School success, sports achievements, stickers for a job well done - and while none of these things are “bad”- we should be proud of the things our kids *do*. Do we take pride in *them*, simply for who God created them to *be*?

What our kids need even more than our approval for how they perform is our approval for *who they are*. If we only focus on affirming their skills (and the execution of them), we teach our kids that their value comes from their accomplishments. Give praise for your child’s encouraging attitude (not the soccer goal) or tell your child you appreciate his intelligence and curiosity even more than his test scores.

What are your kids’ unique personality strengths? What character traits do you admire in them? Notice them and speak them to your kids. You can cheer them on for their accomplishments, sure. But don’t let them doubt for a second that you are proud of who they are.

5. “I’m Sorry”

When kids misbehave, they deserve discipline, not out-of-control wrath. Truth spoken *in love*. Controlled correction that’s firm and clear. Our kids never deserve uncontrolled anger or unkind words, no matter what they’ve done.

When our words or actions become unkind—when we wound our kids instead of protecting them from our anger—we owe them an apology. This isn’t a sign of weakness. Rather, it shows integrity: It tells your child that you’re strong enough to admit your poor behavior and try to make things right.

If moments pass without admitting our wrong, our harsh words can fester in our kids’ hearts instead of being healed by grace. Don’t let that happen. Next time your words or actions go too far, apologize to your kids. They will learn an invaluable lesson about grace: That we *all* need it, and we all have opportunities to extend it to others.

6. “I Don’t Know.”

As my kids have grown older, I’ve noticed that I seem to be getting less intelligent. At least I’m certainly *feeling* less intelligent, because sometimes their questions leave me stumped. Often their questions go deep, delving into issues I’m not completely educated about or mysteries of God that can’t be easily explained. There’s a temptation in times like this to offer “safe” answers.

But quick answers can miss the deeper issues our kids are struggling with. And when we give pat answers, especially to our older kids, it can leave them with the impression that there’s something wrong with their doubts or questions.

As parents, we should share the knowledge we have. But there’s also a beautiful grace in admitting to our kids that “I don’t know.” We can invite them into a lifestyle of seeking better answers, instead of settling for half-truths and sound bites about issues we don’t fully understand.

And when it comes to questions of faith, even the best theological arguments can’t fully embody the mysteries of God. Doubting and questions are part of the faith journey. There are times when we have to live with the tension—trusting in God, even when we can’t fully understand or explain His ways.