

Growing faith at home this Christmas

What do you want the children and young people in your life to learn from this Christmas?

If we are not deliberate about teaching them Christian values and truth, then they will probably learn ...

that the more money you have the better a person you are,
and the more money you spend the more caring a person you are!

that free time means doing as little as possible (and hoping Someone Else will do all the work!)

that Santa is a powerful and generous god and Jesus is cute and irrelevant!

My question for you is – how are you going to share your faith with your family this Christmas? I'd suggest the answer is probably NOT to give them a sermon or lecture. It doesn't need to involve complex object lessons or tests. Sharing our faith at home needs to be natural and fun and loving. Here are three easy and effective ways ...

1) Make a sacred moment at bed-time.

When tucking kids in for the night (even big kids ... hey, even husbands and wives!) is a great time for a quiet word of blessing and a story. Read a section from the Bible. Share a memory from your own life. Pray for peace and remember Jesus the Prince of Peace.

2) Ask questions

When you are in the mall or at the park, notice things around you and ask questions to get into conversation.

"Why did God make sandflies?" "I wonder how God feels about all this shopping" "What do you think matters most?"

3) Add meaning to what you do for Christmas

For instance, as you are tying ribbons or hanging decorations, talk the different colours and what they might mean ... GOLD because Jesus is a King ... RED for berries, red for Jesus' blood shed on the cross ... SILVER for the star ... etc.. Make a game out of making up meanings in the everyday things around you. "The mince pie reminds me of the manger with the treasure of Jesus hiding inside". Teach children how to think in symbols.

Faith is caught as well as taught, throughout all our lives long. God will use you in gentle ways to open a child's heart to Christ, through little moments and simple lessons. May love grow strong in your family this Christmas.

Silvia