

# Faith Formation at Home

## Resources for Parents

Ideas for nurturing faith at home

### Shalom Readers Club

Parents or adult leaders help children aged 4 through 14 select and read books from a list specially chosen to teach core Christian values from an Anabaptist understanding. If children read seven books and give reports on two of them, they may earn a gift book of their choice from the list. To get started, go to [www.centralplainsmc.org](http://www.centralplainsmc.org) and click on Shalom Readers.

### Talkabout

If your church uses Gather Round material, be sure to ask for the Talkabout. Every quarter a new Talkabout gives busy parents practical ways to talk about faith with their children. Each Talkabout gives discussion starters, readings, prayers, and activity suggestions based on the Bible story your child heard in Sunday School. See <http://www.gatherround.org/thetalkabout.html> for examples of past Talkabouts. The cost is \$5 for each quarter's Talkabout.

### Music

Music has the power to shape the listener. Play music in the background as children play, to encourage quiet time, to entertain in the car and to sing together. Herald Press offers **Sing, Little Children, Sing ; Songs to Live By I and II**, and two CDs each of **Sing the Journey** and **Sing the Story** songs. Find them in the online store at [www.heraldpress.com](http://www.heraldpress.com).

### Storybooks

Reading to children is a very effective way to instill faith. The stories we hear and reflect on powerfully shape us. When reading together, reflect on the story's similarities to your own lives and pray together. For a list of books that introduce Bible stories, prayers and stories of faith to children, see the list "Books for Children" on the Central Plains web site, [www.centralplainsmc.org](http://www.centralplainsmc.org) → Congregational Ministries.

### Video

**Rhythms of Peace** Go to [www.heraldpress.org](http://www.heraldpress.org) and enter "Mr. Fredd" into the search box  
Video on peacemaking for children ages 8-11. Comedian host Mr. Fredd introduces stories which are antidotes to the media images of violence that children grow up with in today's society. Helps children discuss ways to solve conflict peacefully. This award-winning video includes four stories: An Eye for an Eye (consequences of taking revenge); Tea for Everyone (appreciating our differences); Rhythm Makers (the negative impacts of war toys); The Sun and the Wind (the power of love) The "Home Package" comes with a brief study guide for parents who choose to watch the video with their children for maximum teaching value. 35 min. Licensed for home use only. \$19.95

### Books for Parents

**How to Really Love Your Child** by Dr. D. Ross Campbell

In this best-selling book, Dr. D. Ross Campbell reveals the emotional needs of a child and provides parents with the skill and techniques that can begin to help make your child feel truly loved and accepted. Learn to really love your child through every situation of child rearing from physical touch to discipline and from affirmation to spiritual nurture. 144 pages \$12.99

See also **How To Really Love Your Teenager** and **How to Really Love Your Angry Child**.

**The Five Love Languages of Children** by Gary Chapman and Dr. D. Ross Campbell

Every child (like every adult) expresses and receives love best through one of five communication styles. Find out which one of these your child speaks: quality time, words of affirmation, gifts, acts of service, physical touch. Discover how to express unconditional feelings of respect, affection and commitment that will resonate in their souls— and inspire them for the rest of their lives. 224 pages. \$14.99

**From Herald Press**

**Priority Parenting: Reclaiming Your Home for Heaven's Sake** by Steve Ganger

A very readable book with guidelines for reclaiming the home as a loving place. Ganger explores what makes a real home, over commitment in schedules, our hurried lifestyles, what God really intends childhood to be, and ideas for making your household a home that truly worships God. 128 pages \$9.99

**Parents—Passing the Torch of Faith** by John Drescher

Simple yet wise suggestions for parents who want to pass Christian faith on to their children. You will find practical ideas for managing family ties, priorities, prayer, electronic media and more. 96 pages \$7.99

**Seven Things Children Need** by John Drescher

This book discusses seven of the most basic needs of the growing child: significance, security, acceptance, love, praise, discipline, and God. A practical, personal, down-to-earth book for people who care about children and persons. 144 pages. \$9.99