



# **FAMILY MATTERS**

## **BELIEVING AND BELONGING**



**HIGHFIELDS  
CHURCH**

Welcome to this edition of family matters. This term in church we have been thinking about 'Believing and Belonging.' As parents our kids can belong to all sorts of clubs; rugby, football, netball, tennis, hockey, athletics, climbing, chess, book, cheerleading, fencing, circus, breakfast, French, film, trampoline, new age curling, cycling, relax, zumba kids, swimming, holiday, dance, choir, drama, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Cadets, Boys/Girls Brigade, art and science to name just a few. But the most important thing we need to teach our kids is belonging to God's family is best and how this works through the local church.

Inside this edition you'll find stories and studies about 'Believing and Belonging' that you can do as a family as well as some Bible verses to memorise and some creative ideas to help you get praying together.

My prayer is that here at Highfields church we will have strong families, rooted firm in what they believe and actively belonging in the local church

God Bless,  
James



Children and Families  
Worker,  
Highfields Church

### How to use your family resource

- 1) Choose some times in the week when the family resource will work for you. Maybe choose one or two slots in the week round a meal and try one of the bigger activities at the weekend. The most important thing is that it's a time that works for your family where everybody can get involved
- 2) Look through the resource and choose an activity that matches the time you have available and the members of your family. Some of the activities split nicely across the month and some you will have to work out what is best for your family
- 3) Pray that God will bless your time together, and make sure it's lots of fun!

# MEMORY MATTERS

It's great to learn verses from the Bible. See how the whole family can get on with learning these ones!

Whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life

**John 5:24**

Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God

**John 1:12**

The LORD is my strength and my shield, my heart trusts in him, and he helps me.

My heart leaps for joy,  
and with my song I praise him.

**Psalms 28:7**

If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

**Romans 10:9**

# TALKING MATTERS

Knowing what we believe is really important because it affects what we do. This month at 'The Core' discipleship group we were talking about what Christians should do about Halloween; below are some of the things that we talked about. Why not have a Chat about them together and think about your family response to Halloween.

Hear are some lesser known Phobias, but which one do you think is the right description (answers below);

1) Is Arithmophobia the fear of,

a) maths

b) numbers

c) teachers

2) Is Amaxophobia the fear of,

a) riding a bike

b) large things

c) being a passenger in a Car

3) Is Mageirocophobia the fear of

a) cooking

b) magic

c) cleaning

Can you guess what the top 5 fears of people today are? Let everybody in the family have a guess then check the answers on the bottom of the page to see if you are right!

## ANSWERS

Phobias :

1) b

2) c

3) a

Fears: 1) snakes 2) spiders 3) small spaces 4) heights 5) dark

# TALKING MATTERS

A lot of what happens at Halloween is aimed at scaring people. Tricks, films/TV and costumes will all try and make you afraid. But what does the Bible say:

‘For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline’

2 Timothy 1:7

So why don't we have to be afraid of these things? Think about what Jesus has done and this verse:

‘In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross’

Colossians 2:15

What then should Christians think about at Halloween, why not try this one:

Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honourable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise’

Philippians 4:8

What could you do to remember these things this month?

How about decorating your house with things that remind you of light instead of darkness

Or do something nice for those who are most scared of Halloween , like the older people in your street

Or have a celebration meal and invite round some of the people who live on their own from church

Or why not think of your own family idea and share it with us!



# STORY MATTERS

One of our fundamental beliefs is in the person of Jesus Christ. It's no good just saying we believe he existed or believe he did good things, we have to believe in what he said; and he said that he was GOD! Have a look at the accounts of the people below at the time of Jesus' death and think about what they believed about Jesus. You could read and talk about one a week and then finish by asking God to help you believe.

## THE TRAITOR

(John 13:21-30, Luke 22:3-6)

Judas had been there for it all. He had seen Jesus' feed 5000 people with a little fish and bread. He had seen people healed and heard all Jesus' teaching on God, heaven and himself! Yet when the time came he chose money over Jesus, and betrayed him!

## THE COWARD

(Luke 22:54-62)

Peter was one of Jesus' closest disciples. Previously Peter had declared that he would never leave Jesus' side but in this account we see him denying Jesus even to a little girl. What did Peter believe? What made him afraid? Think also about what he would become!

## THE COUNCIL

(Matthew 26:57-68)

The council were made up of the chief priests and the scribes, the religious leaders of the time. These people had studied the Old Testament and read the promises from God of the coming Saviour but rejected Jesus and wanted him dead

## THE POLITICIAN

(Luke 23:1-25)

Pilate was the Roman Governor who the council brought Jesus to. They needed him to give permission for Jesus to die. Pilate questioned Jesus a number of times and found that he did nothing wrong but still sent him to be crucified. What did his actions show he believed?

# STUDY MATTERS



Jude is our Ministry Apprentice with Family ministry for the year. Here she encourages us to think about 'belonging' from 1 Corinthians 12.

So often we talk about the body of Christ in the church. But what does it mean to be part of the body? How do we contribute to the body? Films such as *The Avengers* show us how the skills

and strengths of our favourite super heroes come together in epic battles that end in the defeating of alien creatures trying to destroy earth. Now, we may not be defeating alien creatures, but we can be united as a church, in the same way *The Avengers* come together; when we look for and utilise all the different strengths we have. 1 Corinthians 12:12-31 shows us that there are no insignificant members of the body of Christ. Because of the resurrection and the power of Christ that works within us, we are gifted people, brought together into one body, for one purpose. Try reading the passage as a family and answering the questions below.

How is the body like the church?

What does it mean to be part of 'one' body?

What would be the problem if we were all the same part of the body?

Why is it important to have more than one gift in the church?

How can we encourage harmony?

What gifts do you have that can help you serve God?

Ideas for other passages to study together:

Ephesians 4: 2-16; Romans 12: 3-8; Philippians 2: 1-4

# **PRAYER MATTERS**

A praying church is a strong church! So lets get every member of the family praying for our church. Why not start with one of the ideas below.

## **Play dough Prayer**

Grab some dough and get everybody to try and make a person or make one giant person as a family. Think back to 1 Corinthians 12 and how the church is like a body. Talk about the different bits of the body and thank God for all the different bits of our church. Pray that God would help us work well together like the body.

## **Video Prayer**

Why not watch the church video together at  
<http://www.highfieldschurch.com/media/>  
and pray for all the things that it says church is!

## **Build up/Knock down Prayer**

Get some blocks out and try building a big wall together. Think about Nehemiah in the Bible who went back to Jerusalem to build up the walls. Think about all the people and gifts needed to help. Or, if you have it, play a game of Jenga together and see what happens when you take too many pieces out. Thank God for the gifts and different people we have in our church to make it strong

## **Letter Prayer**

Don't forget to pray for our wider church. Why not pray for a mission partner and then send them a letter to tell them that you are praying for them as a family.



# PARENTING MATTERS

Many people have fed back that they found the '31 days of praying for your children' helpful so here it is again below. It's a great way to focus the things you want to pray for your children. If you missed it last time give it a go and share it with others in the family, maybe grandparents. If you used it last time it's great to continue praying so give another month a go!

1. Salvation—"Lord, let salvation spring up within my children, that they may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory." (Isa. 45:8; 2 Tim. 2:10)
2. Growth in Grace—"I pray that my children may grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." (2 Pet. 3:18)
3. Love—"Grant, Lord, that my children may learn to live a life of love, through the Spirit who dwells in them." (Gal. 5:25; Eph. 5:2)
4. Honesty and Integrity—"May integrity and honesty be their virtue and their protection." (Ps. 25:21)
5. Self-Control—"Father, help my children not to be like many others around them, but let them be alert and self-controlled in all they do." (1 Thess. 5:6)
6. Love for God's Word—"May my children grow to find Your Word more precious than much pure gold and sweeter than honey from the comb." (Ps. 19:10)
7. Justice—"God, help my children to love justice as You do and act justly in all they do." (Ps. 11:7; Mic. 6:8)
8. Mercy—"May my children always be merciful, just as their Father is merciful." (Luke 6:36)
9. Respect (for self, others, and authority)—"Father, grant that my children may show proper respect to everyone, as Your Word commands." (1 Pet. 2:17)
10. Biblical Self-Esteem—"Help my children develop a strong self-esteem that is rooted in the realization that they are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus." (Eph. 2:10)
11. Faithfulness—"Let love and faithfulness never leave my children, but bind these twin virtues around their necks and write them on the tablet of their hearts." (Prov. 3:3)
12. Courage—"May my children always be strong and courageous in their character and in their actions." (Deut. 31:6)
13. Purity—"Create in them a pure heart, O God, and let that purity of heart be shown in their actions." (Ps. 51:10)

14. Kindness—"Lord, may my children always try to be kind to each other and to everyone else (1 Thes. 5:15)
15. Generosity—"Grant that my children may be generous and willing to share, and so lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age." (1 Tim. 6:18-19)
16. Peace-Loving—"Father, let my children make every effort to do what leads to peace." (Rom. 14:19)
17. Joy—"May my children be filled with the joy given by the Holy Spirit." (1 Thes. 1:6)
18. Perseverance—"Lord, teach my children perseverance in all they do, and help them especially to run with perseverance the race marked out for them." (Heb. 12:1)
19. Humility—"God, please cultivate in my children the ability to show true humility toward all." (Titus 3:2)
20. Compassion—"Lord, please clothe my children with the virtue of compassion." (Col. 3:12)
21. Responsibility—"Grant that my children may learn responsibility, for each one should carry his own load." (Gal. 6:5)
22. Contentment—"Father, teach my children the secret of being content in any and every situation, through Him who gives them strength." (Phil. 4:12-13)
23. Faith—"I pray that faith will find root and grow in my children's hearts, that by faith they may gain what has been promised to them." (Luke 17:5-6; Heb. 11:1-40)
24. A Servant's Heart—"God, please help my children develop servant's hearts, that they may serve wholeheartedly, as if they were serving the Lord, not men." (Eph. 6:7)
25. Hope—"May the God of hope grant that my children may overflow with hope and hopefulness by the power of the Holy Spirit." (Rom. 15:13)
26. Willingness and Ability to Work—"Teach my children, Lord, to value work and to work at it with all their heart, as working for the Lord and not for men." (Col. 3:23)
27. Passion for God—"Lord, please instil in my children a soul that 'followeth hard after thee,' one that clings passionately to You." (Ps. 63:8)
28. Self-Discipline—"Father, I pray that my children may acquire a disciplined and prudent life, doing what is right and just and fair." (Prov. 1:3)
29. Prayerfulness—"Grant, Lord, that my children's lives may be marked by prayerfulness, that they may learn to pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers." (1 Thess. 5:17)
30. Gratitude—"Help my children to live lives that are always overflowing with thankfulness and always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." (Eph. 5:20; Col. 2:7)
31. A Heart for Missions—"Lord, please help my children to develop a desire to see Your glory declared among the nations, Your marvellous deeds among the peoples." (Ps. 96:3)

# CHRISTMAS MATTERS

Christmas is a great time for families to spend time together and with God. But instead of us releasing a Christmas edition of Family Matters we are encouraging Families to get hold of a copy of 'A Christmas Family Godventure'. It's a great book full of loads of ideas for helping your family to work through the Christmas story together. Its just like Family Matters but a bit more shiny, and it comes with stickers! Plus if you order through the church

you get your copy for the bonus price of £3 (usually £6). Send your order through to [james.pope@highfieldschurch.org.uk](mailto:james.pope@highfieldschurch.org.uk).

