

FOCUS ON THE FAMILY

By Dr. James Dobson

HOME SCHOOLING MAY BE THE RIGHT CHOICE FOR YOUR KIDS

QUESTION: Don't you think home schooling might negatively impact the socialization process? I don't want my children growing up to be misfits.

DR. DOBSON: This is the question home-schooling parents hear most often from curious (or critical) friends, relatives, and neighbors. "Socialization" is a vague, dark cloud hanging over their heads. What if teaching at home somehow isolates the kids and turns them into oddballs? For you and all those parents who see this issue as the great danger of home education, I would respectfully disagree — for these reasons.

First, to remove a child from the classroom is not necessarily to confine him or her to the house! And once beyond the schoolyard gate, the options are practically unlimited! Home-school support groups are surfacing in community after community across the country. Some are highly organized and offer field trips, teaching co-ops, tutoring services, social activities and various other assistances and resources.

There are home-schooling athletic leagues and orchestras and other activities. Even if you're operating completely on your own, there are outings to museums and parks, visits to farms, factories, hospitals, and seats of local government, days with Dad at the office, trips to Grandma's house, extracurricular activities like sports and music, church youth groups, service organizations and special-interest clubs. There are friends to be invited over and relatives to



Dr. Dobson

visit and parties to attend. The list is limitless. Even a trip with Mom to the market can provide youngsters with invaluable exposure to the lives and daily tasks of real adults in the real world. While they're there, a multitude of lessons can be learned about math (pricing, fractions, pints vs. gallons, addition, subtraction, etc.), reading labels and other academic subjects. And without the strictures of schedule and formal curricula, it can all be considered part of the educational process. That's what I'd call socialization at its best! To accuse home schoolers of creating strange little people in solitary confinement is nonsense.

The great advantage of home schooling, in fact, is the protection it provides to vulnerable children from the wrong kind of socialization. When children interact in large groups, the strongest and most aggressive kids quickly intimidate the weak and vulnerable. I am absolutely convinced that bad things happen to immature and "different" boys and girls when they are thrown into the highly competitive world of other children. When this occurs in nursery school or in kindergarten, they learn to fear their peers. There stands this knobby-legged little girl who doesn't

have a clue about life or how to cope with things that scare her. It's sink or swim, kid. Go for it! It is easy to see why such children tend to become more peer dependent because of the jostling they get at too early an age. Research shows that if these tender little boys and girls can be kept at home for a few more years and shielded from the impact of social pressure, they tend to be more confident, more independent, and often emerge as leaders three or four years later.

If acquainting them with ridicule, rejection, physical threats and the rigors of the pecking order is necessary to socialize our children, I'd recommend that we keep them unsocialized for a little longer.

* * *

QUESTION: So, how can parents preserve their own peace of mind and maintain harmony during car trips and family holidays?

DR. DOBSON: Sometimes it helps to redefine the boundaries at the beginning of your time together. Let the children know exactly what you're doing and what's expected of them. If they still misbehave, respond with good, loving discipline right from the start.

No parent wants to be an ogre on vacation, but it helps to show a little firmness at the outset that can make the rest of the time together fun for the entire family.

Dr. Dobson is founder and Chairman Emeritus of the nonprofit organization Focus on the Family, Colorado Springs, Colo. 80995 (www.focusonthefamily.org). Questions and answers are excerpted from "Complete Marriage and Family Home Reference Guide" and "Bringing Up Boys," both published by Tyndale House.

Pray for our nation to seek God

...and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." John 8:32 Pd. Adv.

Lessons from the Heart

Thankfulness equals peace

By Pastor Jeff Tomson

According to the web site teachingaboutreligion.org, 76 percent of the United States population claims to be Christian. I am not going to get caught up in what the test of that is but I do want to point out one of the markers of a Christian, "thankfulness."



Tomson

We celebrate Thanksgiving historically and traditionally to give thanks to God for what we have received in the past year. Those that initially started the tradition gave thanks that they were still alive in a new rugged land. They knew they were more than lucky to have survived; they knew that the hand of God had been on them in that previous year. Today, I am afraid that the only thing we are thankful for is a long weekend, football, black Friday and maybe being with family.

That may seem cynical but let us think about what being thankful really means. In Colossians 3:15-17 we are given instruction on living in peace and thankfulness is part of that equation.

Think about if you are thankful you do not think that you deserve more, in fact, you know that what you have is a gift not something that you should rightfully have. If we do not think that we deserve more, then we are satisfied and there is no reason to be in conflict to get more.

Another thing about thankfulness is that if you are singing songs of thanks and focusing on receiving a gift,

then it is hard to dwell on the negative things that have happened to you. That leaves no room for hate, revenge, envy, or lust; all things that lead to strife.

Thankfulness leads to Peace, not just in our actions but in our hearts. I know that this year there is uncertainty and worry about the war, economy and the state of health care. However, the question is what have you been given?

The best gift of all is eternal life. We neither deserve it

nor can do anything to earn it. If we are thankful for it and focus on that what do we have to be angry, envious or fight about?

Now back to that 76 percent, do you think that our nation reflects a thankful Christian population or one that is dominated by Sunday morning attendance and Friday night cravings?

Blessings for a Peaceful and Thankful Holiday season.

Jeff Tomson is the pastor at Living Faith Church in Florida.

Monticello church will bring Bethlehem alive with walk through adventure

Comet staff report

"Journey to Bethlehem," a walk through family adventure, is a reenactment of the city of Bethlehem as it looked, sounded and smelled over 2,000 years ago.

Zion Bethel Church in Monticello will present "Journey to Bethlehem" on Dec. 12 from 5 to 8 p.m. and on Dec. 13 from 2 to 5 p.m. A journey begins every 10 minutes.

The city of Bethlehem, constructed in the Zion Bethel Family Center gymnasium, comes alive with over 100 church members dressed and portraying Bethlehem citizens, including a tax collector demanding money, shop keepers selling their wares, beggars crying out for compassion, Roman guards, an innkeeper, and spinners. There will be musicians, performers, fish mongers, and a 12-foot tall synagogue. Over 30 market place booths may

be visited before reaching the baby Jesus and his parents.

"Journey to Bethlehem" is being staged at the Zion Bethel Family Center, located at the intersection of 3rd and Ohio streets (across the street from Twin Lakes High School).

There is no charge for admission for the adventure that is appropriate for all ages. Entertainment is provided in the Zion Bethel sanctuary while waiting to begin the journey.

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SW = Sunday Worship

SS = Sunday School

AMERICUS UNION NON-DENOMINATIONAL: Larry Williams, pastor. SW: 10 a.m.
BRINGHURST UNITED METHODIST: Rex Charles, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.
BROOKSTON CHURCH OF CHRIST: 206 N. Prairie Street, Brookston. Ron Guzman, minister. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10 a.m. & 6 p.m.
BUCK CREEK UNITED METHODIST: 4915 Ferret St., Buck Creek. Dwight Monical, pastor. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10:15 a.m.
BURLINGTON FIRST BRETHREN: 205 W. 8th St., Rev. Dr. Peter Roussakis, pastor. SW: 10 a.m., SS: 9 a.m.
BURLINGTON CHURCH OF CHRIST: Dave Osborne, Pastor. SW: 9:30 a.m., Bible Study (Thur): 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., SS: 10:30 a.m.
BURLINGTON UNITED METHODIST: SS: 11:00 a.m., SW 9:30 a.m.
BURNETTSVILLE FIRST BAPTIST: Second & Main, Burnettsville. SW: 10:00 a.m., SS: 11:15 a.m.
BURNETTSVILLE CHRISTIAN: Sixth & Washington, Burnettsville. John Wright, pastor. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:30 a.m.
BURNETTSVILLE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN: First & Main, Burnettsville. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:30 a.m.
BURROWS PRESBYTERIAN: SS: 11:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.
CALVARY CHAPEL CARROLL COUNTY: Wabash & Erie Canal Interpretive Center, Delphi. Eric Haley, pastor. SW: 10 a.m.
CAMDEN UNITED METHODIST: Dan Gottschalk, pastor. SS: 9 - 9:45 a.m., SW: 10 a.m.
CLYMERS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH: 4003 W 400S. Clymers Kevin Drane, pastor. SW: 10:30 a.m. SS: Same as worship.
COLBURN ROAD BAPTIST: Bill Cadle, pastor. SS: 10 a.m., SW: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.
COLBURN UNITED METHODIST: Pastor Clint Fink, SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10:20 a.m.
CROSSROADS COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN: 3570 E 200S, Bringhurst, Dan C. Butcher, pastor, SW: 9:30 a.m. SS: 10:30 a.m. Youth group 6:30 p.m., Bible study Wed. 6:30 p.m.
CUTLER PRESBYTERIAN: Jeff Brown and Ann Bingaman, lay pastors. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.

DEER CREEK UNITED PRESBYTERIAN: SR 29 in Deer Creek. Dave Herron, pastor. SW: 10 a.m. Sundaes on Thurs. 7 p.m. (informal worship & ice cream)
DELPHI CHRISTIAN CHURCH: 315 E. Main St, Delphi. Rev. Andrew Paris, minister. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:45 a.m. Wed. Bible study: 7 p.m.
DELPHI CHURCH OF CHRIST: 405 Cottage Street, Delphi. Sunday Bible study: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 & 5 p.m., Wed. Night 7 p.m.
DELPHI COMMUNITY CHURCH OF GOD: 321 W. Main Street, Delphi. Rev. Virgil Moss. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.
DELPHI PENTECOSTAL: Hwy. 25 East, Delphi. Tim Stewart, pastor. Thurs. night Bible Study: 7:30p.m., SS: 12:45 p.m., SW: 2 p.m.
DELPHI UNITED METHODIST: Union & Monroe Streets, Delphi. SW: 8:45 & 11 a.m., SS: 10 a.m., Todd Ladd, pastor, Micah Hudson, youth pastor.
DELPHI WESLEYAN: North Union Street, Delphi. Dan Fisher, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.
FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH: SR 24 & Logan Street, Idaville. Jim Crown, pastor. SW: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m., Wed. W 6:30 p.m.
FAITH CHURCH OF CHRIST: SR 29, Burlington. Steve Cole, minister. SW: 9:30 a.m. & 6 p.m. a.m., SS: 11 a.m., Wed. Bible study 7 p.m.
FAITH LUTHERAN: CR 800 N, west of Hwy. 29. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10:10 a.m.
FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH: Hwys. 29 & 26, Middlefork. Jim Anderson, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.
FIRST APOSTOLIC CHURCH: U.S. 421 North, Tippecanoe Twp. Gilbert R. Ingram, pastor. SW: 10 a.m. & 6 p.m.
FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD: US 421N., Pittsburg. Brent Oliver, pastor. SW: 9:30 a.m., Wed. Family Night: 6:30pm, Adult & Youth Services Sun. Evenings 6pm.
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF CAMDEN: Paul Marcellino, pastor. Tue. 9:30 a.m. Women's study, SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:45 a.m., Monthly Youth Group
FIRST BAPTIST: Indiana & Franklin Streets, Delphi. William Glenn, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.
FLORA FIRST BAPTIST: 115 W. Columbia Street, Flora. Interim pastors. SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10 a.m.

FLORA FIRST BRETHREN: 115 N. Washington Street, Flora. Dan Herendeen, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.
FLORA FIRST CHRISTIAN (Disciples of Christ): S. Center Street, Flora. Woody Slade, pastor. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:30 a.m.
FLORA GRACE BRETHREN: 103 S. Willow St., Flora. James Franklin, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m., Wed. Prayer Service: 7 p.m.
FLORA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH: 211 S. Center St, Flora. Charles Compton, pastor. SS: 9:15, SW: 10:15 a.m.
FLORA UNITED METHODIST: 107 E. Main Street, Flora. Rex Charles, pastor. SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10:15 a.m.
FLORA VALLEY VIEW SOUTHERN BAPTIST: Route 2, Flora. Bill Godbey, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.
GRACE MISSIONARY BAPTIST: 1101 Dreifers Ave., Delphi. Mark Ramey, pastor. SS: 10 a.m. SW: 11 a.m.
HICKORY GROVE CHURCH: CR 700 W., Jefferson Township, Ken Smith, pastor. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10 a.m.
HILLSIDE MISSIONARY BAPTIST: Hwy. 22, 2 miles E. of Burlington. Doyle Buckner, pastor. SS: 10 a.m., SW: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.
IDAVILLE CHURCH OF GOD: 11073 E 50 N, Idaville. Chris Murphy, pastor. SW 8:30 & 10:30 a.m., SS: 9:30 a.m.
JUBILEE FELLOWSHIP: CR 50 N, Flora. Scott Gamel, pastor. SW: 10:00 a.m.
LIVING FAITH CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN: 310N 250W. Jeff Tomson, pastor. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10 a.m.
LIVING STONE CHURCH: 54 Main St., Rossville. SS: 9 a.m., Fellowship: 9:45 a.m., SW: 10:15 a.m. Children's church available
LOCKPORT NON-DENOMINATIONAL CHURCH: East of Patton. Nord Zootman, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. Sun. Bible Study: 6:30 p.m.
LOWER DEER CREEK CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN: CR 300 N, SE of Camden. Guy Studebaker, pastor. SW 10:15 a.m., SS: 9:00 a.m.
OAK GROVE CHRISTIAN: 11810 N 900 W, Monticello. Interim pastor, Rev. Ashli Cartwright-Peak. SW: 10 a.m.
PINE GROVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH: Crooked Road, 1 mile E of Delphi. James Baughman, pastor. SS: 10 a.m., SW: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.

PITTSBURG MISSIONARY BAPTIST: John Wagner, pastor. SS: 10:00 a.m.; SW: 11 a.m.
ROCKFIELD HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH: 5490 North SR 39, Frankfort. Donna Enerson, pastor. SS: 9:45 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DELPHI: Main & Indiana Streets, Delphi. Rev. Bill McLean. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:30 a.m.
PYRMONT CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN: SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10:15 a.m.
RADNOR CHURCH: Ed Selvidge, pastor. SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10 a.m.
ROCKFIELD CHRISTIAN: Bob Cree, pastor. SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10 a.m.
ROCKFIELD PRESBYTERIAN: SW: 9:30 a.m.
ROSSVILLE BIBLE FELLOWSHIP: 16 Cason St., Judd Dickey, pastor. Sunday Corporate Prayer: 9:00 a.m.; Fellowship 9:30 a.m.; SW 10:00 a.m.
ROSSVILLE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN: 109 N. Plank Street, Rossville. Floyd Smith, pastor. SS: 9a.m., SW: 10 a.m.
ROSSVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH: 5434 W State Rd 26, Rossville, IN. John Evert, pastor. SS: 9 a.m., Fellowship: 9:45 a.m. SW: 10:15 a.m.
ROSSVILLE UNITED METHODIST: Main & Gaddis Streets, Rossville. Rick Jones, pastor. SS: 9:15 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.
SHARON AMERICAN BAPTIST: St. Rd. 29, Carrollton Township. Alan Wyatt, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:15 a.m. Wed. Bible Study 1st & 3rd Wed. 7 p.m.
ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC: 207 N. Washington Street, Delphi. Peter Vanderkolk, pastor. SW: 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
ST. MATTHEW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH: 1301 S. Washington St., Delphi. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.
ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN: Church & Cumberland Sts., Camden, 2 blocks West & 1 block North of SR218 and SR75. SW: 8:30 a.m.. SS: Same as Worship.
WHIRLWIND MINISTRIES: 869 N. 90 E., Burrows, Greg Britt, pastor. SW: 10 a.m. (574) 652-2280
YEOMAN UNITED METHODIST: David Harris, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.

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