

Parent & Youth *focus*

FINDING WAYS TO CONNECT PARENTS AND YOUTH
TOGETHER | LOOKING AT YOUTH CULTURE TODAY

GOING DEEPER



*You are invited to join us for
a special marriage event!*

**Friday, November 19th
6 pm**

\$10 per couple

*Includes dinner and guest
speaker Steven Voss from
Hannibal-LaGrange College.*

He will be sharing on “Going
Deeper in Your Marriage” - enjoy
a special night out and enrich
your marriage.

(No childcare provided)

**PLEASE SIGN UP IN THE
FOYER!**

Youth Group News

Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity. 1 Tim. 4:12

November! As we head at rapid pace into the holiday season, the youth group's activities have quieted down. We are continuing our in-depth look at youth evangelism, and are enjoying the time on Wednesday nights as we grow in our relationship with Christ and each other.

As we begin to prepare for Christmas, the youth and children will be preparing a nativity play to share at the church Christmas program in December. If you or your child is interested in a participating, please let Cheryl, Tiffany Athon, or Tabitha Cleaver know as soon as possible. All children and youth are welcome to participate!

There will be no youth group on Wednesday, November 24th for the Thanksgiving holiday.

I would like to really encourage parents to help their teens make time in their schedules to attend

youth group on Wednesday nights. We have a great group that meets for Sunday School, but the midweek time to focus on Christ is very important to the spiritual development of our youth. I know schedules are busy, but when we place God first in our schedule, He blesses the rest of our time. Encourage your child to place God first and set aside this time to gather with other believers and seekers, so that we can support, encourage one another, and grow together. I hope to see many more youth on Wednesdays in the near future!

The youth group appreciates your continued donations of cans—they help support the cost of youth camp scholarships, as well as our snacks and beverages for youth group and Sunday School! Cans can be placed in the back of Doug Athon's pickup truck on Sunday mornings. We are truly grateful for your support and blessing!

Parents Corner

Give Thanks Together



As we gather around our tables this month, it is easy to keep the focus on food and family. Here are some ways to encourage the practice of giving thanks to God together with your family this month, not just at the Thanksgiving table.

A great way for kids to learn the art of giving thanks is to create a paper tree or turkey. Each day, add a leaf or feather with something written on it that each family member is thankful for. By the end of the month, you will have a full tree or a turkey with many tail feathers! Samples can be seen here: http://www.makingfriends.com/fallcrafts/tree_thankful.htm and <http://www.dltk-holidays.com/thanksgiving/m-givethanks-turkey.htm> (This one is printable!)

You can also make a Thanksgiving garland. Use these printable strips to make a long chain to use as a decoration: <http://www.teacherhelp.org/images/Thanksgiving%20chain.pdf>

Have your kids consider the following question:

"If I could keep only the gifts I've thanked God for today, what would I have?" Ask younger children: "What do you want to thank God for today?" Encourage your family to add to the tree, turkey, or chain daily.

Memorize Bible verses on thankfulness throughout the month of November. This is something all family members can do together! Some suggested verses are:

- Psalm 100:4
- 1 Chronicles 16:34
- 1 Thessalonians 5:18

Focus on the Family's James Dobson suggests this tradition: Place several kernels of corn at each plate. At the start of the meal, drop the kernels in a basket as you each give thanks for God's goodness in the previous year, one thanksgiving for each kernel. Candy corn works well for this, too!

Do daily devotions together as a family, with thanksgiving or thankfulness as a theme. Rebecca Sahr from Lifeway reminds us that "It is an everlasting gift to teach our children that giving thanks is more than just a huge feast in November and a day off from school." The HomeWord Center for Youth and Family provides a guide to "30 Days of Thanksgiving: Cultivating a Grateful Heart". These 30 topics of thanks can be a great starting point for a daily family devotional throughout the month of November! <http://www.homeword.com/2010-days-thanksgiving-cultivating-thankful-heart-ta-a-1100.html>

The holiday season can be busy and stressful, but by taking time each day to give thanks, we keep the Focus on Christ, set an example for our children, and are reminded that in all things, even the busy holiday season, it is important to give thanks. Help our children learn that Thanksgiving is not just about turkeys and pilgrims, but the daily, simple blessings from God which enable us to live an abundant life in Him. Give thanks with a grateful heart!

**YOUTH &
FAMILY
MINISTRY
CALENDAR**

November 19—Marriage Dinner, 6 pm. \$10 per couple, please sign up in foyer.



