



Child Makeover - Part 1
By Rev. Rose-Marie Litwin
July 17, 2011
Psalm 127

How can our children get a Christ-centered makeover?

Our children get a Christ-centered makeover when God is the foundation of our families. *“Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labor in vain”*. (Psalm 127:1). The point here is that God cannot make over our kids when He is only a part of their life here at church. He must infiltrate our homes! He wants to be the foundation of our families, as well as the builder and designer.

In our society we are really good at outsourcing our kids. If we want our kids to play piano, we take them to piano lessons and over time, they play piano! If we want our kids to play soccer, we take them to soccer practice. The same is true with karate or dance. The problem is, many people treat Christianity the same way. *“Surely if my child attends the kids activities at church then they will become faith filled adults”* The problem is that it doesn't work that way. The church cannot do what God himself has ordained the family to do.

As families we must talk about and live out what is being taught on Sunday morning. Christ must be built into the very framework and structure of our families. Our kids, our family members must see God determining how we spend our time and money. Changing the way we treat our neighbors, and driving us to serve those less fortunate.

If I had to choose between a child either growing up in a family where God was a part of the home, integrated into everyday family life while growing up in a church that had nothing to offer kids and families OR growing up in a family that was a part of a thriving vibrant church with an amazing ministry for youth, but in a home where God is just not present. I'd go with the strong family every time! *‘Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labour in vain.’*

“The family is the place where principles, where faith, where walking with Christ in the real world is hammered and honed on the anvil of everyday living.”
Chuck Swindoll (<http://thinkexist.com> [accessed November 2007].)



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In other words, it is the place where character is taught and caught. It is where we learn that we are loved and cared for. It is where we learn that we have worth and have something to contribute. It should be where we learn that we can be forgiven when we have failed. It is where family members show one another what God is like and how He relates to us. It is where children learn obedience so that they will understand what it means to obey God. Home is where we learn who God is and learn to love him. Home is where we learn who we are and who others are. It's where we learn to live unselfishly with other people, taking them into consideration. All of this and much more, happens primarily within the family.

It's where God becomes real, where he becomes more than just a subject or a skill or a class. It's where He becomes the Lord of our lives. The child makeover must happen in the home!

Want some help? We continue to offer a number of "Faith@Home" opportunities starting with our new Children's Ministry format being rolled out in September. Information/ training sessions are being offered on **Thursday, August 11/11 @ 7:00-8:00PM** and **Sunday, August 28/11** after the morning service (lunch & childcare provided). You'll learn about our new Children's Ministry with its "Take It Home" focus, and our plans for regular "*Take it Home*" family events and milestone celebrations that will help you weave faith into every facet of your home life.

For newlyweds, young marrieds and those looking to bring Christ into the center of your marriage, plan to join Lino and Monica Braccio for their new "Love & Respect" Small Group beginning in September.

Be inspired, motivated and equipped to bring Christ into the center of your home, by getting and reading Mark Holmen's book Faith Begins At Home. It's a great summer read!

Excerpts taken from Mark Holmen and David Tiexeira "Take it Home; Inspiration and Events to Help Parents Spiritually Transform their children" Gospel Light, 2008, pg. 229-231

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