



ADVENTURES IN MOTHERING

"... how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ..." EPH 3:18

The Ticket

October 2008

One day my husband and I were at a baseball game. (We have a local Minor League team in the area and love to go to the games) Since it was our anniversary hubby sprung for good seats-right behind home plate. Yeah they were a bit expensive but it was fun to be so close to the action. You could actually SEE that a ball was a ball and a strike a strike. (It was cool) The game soon lost interest to me for while we were at the game I noticed a man look around cautiously then walk down to an unoccupied seat a few rows in front of us. (I actually knew this guy, he was a nice enough guy, looked nicely dressed) Hubby continued to watch the game, I continued to watch the guy for something wasn't "quite right" about the way he was acting. About 10 minutes later a security guard walked over to the guy and asked to see his ticket. He talked for a minute indicating the seat, it was almost as if he was saying "no one else is using it why can't I?" The security guard shook his head and the guy just got up and walked away. You see he didn't have a ticket to sit where we did. Our seats were bought at a price, and the security guard knew who belonged in our section, he didn't need to see our tickets again for you see we had already shown them to get in so he knew us.

Our seats in heaven are bought at a price as well. You can't sneak past the security guard. He'll ask to see your "ticket" Why do you deserve to be there? What will you tell him? That you saw an empty "seat" and just thought you'd come and visit? Will you tell him that you are a good person and you deserve to be there? I tell you those answers won't cut it. Just like the guy at the baseball game, you need to pay for the "good seats" and a "seat" in heaven is bought at a price—and it's too expensive for us to pay. So Jesus paid it for us. Jesus freely gave up his life on the cross, so that by accepting Him in our lives as Savior, admitting we need him, and Lord, being able to say "not what I want Jesus, what you want", by this acceptance our "ticket" is bought in heaven. I pray that you won't try to get into the game without a ticket; that you will allow Jesus to purchase one for you, for when Jesus buys the "ticket" you get the "best seat" in the house and the game lasts all eternity.

By: Betsy Burnett



*"...how long, how wide,
how high and how
deep is the love
of Christ"
Ephesians 3:18*



WEFC HARVEST FESTIVAL!

Please join us on Friday, **October 31, 2008** from 5 - 8 as we have some Fall Fun! We will have a climbing wall, bounce house, pony rides, petting zoo, a children's skit, games, live music and **TONS OF CANDY!**

This event is free to the public. All festivities will be located right here at Westfield Evangelical Free Church! Costumes are optional, but please no scary costumes! Call Cheryl at 572-0073 or dcstonge@verizon.net for more information.



MOPS is a ministry of Westfield Evangelical Free Church
 568 Southwick Road, Westfield, MA 01085
 (413) 562-1504
www.westfieldefc.com
 Service time is Sundays 10AM
 (Childcare/Sunday School is provided)



Extraordinary Moments with God **By: Sharon Jaynes**
August 2008

"For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened"
(Romans 1:21 NIV emphasis added).

Flutter. Flutter. Bang! Flutter. Flutter. Bang! Momma and Papa Bluebird danced in front of our sunroom windows, trying frantically to break through the glass barrier. Time and time again they banged their feathered heads against the panes. What were they pursuing? Where were they trying to go? What had caught their eye? Why were they so persistent? I wanted desperately to help them solve their dilemma, but I couldn't figure out what the dilemma was. After three days of this featherbrained, frenzied activity, I decided to put myself in their position, get a bird's eye view, and examine the situation from their perspective. I stepped out onto the patio, stood in front of the windows, and there it was. In the reflection of the glass was mirrored their birdhouse, some thirty feet behind me. Mr. and Mrs. Bluebird's lovely cedar shingled home with decorative finial, sat on a tall pole nestled under the protective branches of an old oak tree. Their bed and breakfast came equipped with an adjoining spa - a concrete birdbath surrounded by fragrant rose bushes, bursting with red blossoms and a carpet of white annuals. But instead of being satisfied with their high rise estate, they were banging their heads against the pane, striving for a mirage, a mere reflection. Amazingly, a few times they turned around, soared to their home, and crawled through its opening for a reprieve. But before long, they were dive bombing into the glass again, trying to gain entrance into an illusion of something better.

This made me think of my own life and the many times I go flutter, flutter, bang- flutter, flutter, bang, striving for something that is just a cheap imitation of God's perfect provision for my life. Jeremiah 29:11 says,

"For I know the plans that I have for you, to prosper you, and not to harm you, to give you a future and a hope." And yet I argue, "Yeah, I know that God. I know you've provided me with this home and this job and with these particular gifts. But, well, I don't mean to sound ungrateful or anything, but I **really** would be happy if you'd give me a house like Mary's over there. And you know Beth, well I **really** would be happy if you made me a Bible teacher like she is. And you know Teresa? If I could just be as sweet as she is, I'd be satisfied. Then there's Laura. Now God, she has the prettiest blond silky hair. Could I just have hair like hers? Don't get me wrong, Lord. I do appreciate what you given me, but if I could just have....." Well, you get the picture.

Flutter. Flutter. Bang! Flutter. Flutter. Bang! The banging birds may have knocked themselves silly, but they also knocked some sense into my hard head. God has provided me with everything I need. As David, the psalmist wrote, The Lord is my Shepherd, I don't need anything! I can flutter about looking at the mirage of happiness in other people's windows, or I can nestle down in contentment and not get my feathers ruffled trying to get more. The way to keep from fluttering around from one mirage of happiness to the other is to stay close to home and be satisfied with my own nest, feathers, and chicks. I've learned that I'm most content when I'm at home in the Father's will, I'm nestled in His protective Branches, perched on the pole of His standard, nurtured by the Living water of His fountain, cleansed in the laver of the Holy Spirit, and beautified by the fragrance of the Rose of Sharon. And as Dorothy of Kansas once said, "There's no place like home."

Dear Heavenly Father, forgive me when I complain about what I don't have and when I am not thankful for what I do have. Help me not to be like the people mentioned in Romans chapter one who "did not give thanks." I do thank you for all the blessings You have poured out in my life. I love you so much. In Jesus' Name, Amen

MOPS REGISTRATION REMINDER

Please remember to register for the year with Beth Ryan (who sits at the front table as you walk into the MOPS room). This helps us keep track of how many children to expect each month and to make sure we have the appropriate number of MOPPET workers. Please also remember to pay your \$25 registration fee, if you are able, as soon as possible. Thank you in advance for your help!



What is MOPS?

MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) is a non-denominational Christian ministry program designed to nurture mothers with children from infancy through kindergarten. MOPS helps moms...and MOPS makes a difference in the lives of families. Visit MOPS.org for more information and resources on mothering preschoolers.

The MOPS International theme for 2008-2009 is **Adventures in Mothering**. The content for our year is focused on learning more about ourselves as we go through this crazy adventure called motherhood.
www.orgsites.com/malmopsofwestfield



Recipe: Caramel Peanut Butter Dipped Candy Apples

By: Rachael Ray, www.foodnetwork.com

Age level: 4 to 6 years Skill level: beginner
24 wrapped caramel candies (Kraft brand)
1/2 of a 14-ounce bag
2 Fuji apples
2 tablespoons lemon juice
1 cup water plus 1 tablespoon
2 tablespoons creamy peanut butter
Pinch ground cinnamon
(this is your **SECRET** ingredient)
Unwrap candies and place into a bowl.

Cut the Fuji apples into quarters and cut into each quarter to remove the core. Slice apples into 8 pieces per apple. Count for them and make sure they make even slices. You need 16 slices, total. Squirt some lemon juice into a bowl with 1 cup of water in it. Add the sliced apples and turn them around in the lemon water then drain them in a strainer or colander. Lemon juice is sour, but it's only a tiny bit on lots of apple slices.

The apples will still taste sweet and really good. The skin of an apple keeps them from turning brown before you cut them, but apples will turn brown once they are cut up and the air can touch their insides. Lemon juice is acidic. That means that it has special properties in it that can keep apples from turning brown.

Add 1 tablespoon water and peanut butter to your caramel candies. Place candies in microwave oven on high for 2 minutes. Stir the dip with a rubber spatula. If the candy is not melted all the way, put it back in the microwave on high for another 20 seconds. Add a pinch of cinnamon to the sauce and stir. **DO NOT TELL ANYONE ABOUT THE CINNAMON!** This is your secret ingredient.

To serve, place drained, sliced apples next to your caramel and peanut butter dip and start dunking!



MOPPET WORKERS NEEDED

Calling all Grandmothers and Grandfathers! We need your help! Volunteer a few hours once a month to help in our MOPPET Program by reading a book, rocking a baby, helping with crafts, or playing games.

Please call Michelle Longey at 737-3377 if you are able to help.



MOPS COMMUNITY OUTREACH

November & December: Adopt a family for Christmas

January & February: Serve dinner at the Community Table in Westfield to the Homeless.

March & April: Spring Cleaning – donating items to the Bethlehem Houses & Lutheran Services.

Stay tuned for more info.



Raising Great Kids: The Bossy Preschooler

by Dr. Henry Cloud & Dr. John Townsend

September/October 2008, Vol. 11, No. 5, Page 13

Q: My strong-willed preschooler is so bossy. How do I teach him that his opinions matter, but also that he needs to respect others and may not have the last word?

A: A bossy preschooler is a mix of good news and bad news. The good news is, he's developing his voice and sense of self. The bad news is, he's attempting to verbally control everyone in his world! In Genesis 1:28, God instructed Adam and Eve to "govern" the world, or bring it under control. Although God's command doesn't include controlling each other, we all still have the tendency to do just that.

Now is the perfect time to help your son with this issue. As you guide his progress in developing confidence in his opinions, you also can teach him to recognize the difference between confidence and bossiness. Your challenge is to feed one trait and starve the other.

For example, when he says at dinner, "Vegetables are stupid," reply, "I know it's hard to eat things you don't like." You've validated his opinion, a positive thing to do. However, if he continues with, "I don't care, I don't like them, and they're stupid," you can say, "I understand you don't like them. And that's enough of that kind of talk. Let's talk about something else." If he doesn't stop, then tell him something such as, "It's not OK to argue about this. I heard you and understood you. I need you to stop trying to have the last word when I say it's over." If he keeps talking, say, "This is affecting our family time, and it's not OK. The next time you bring this up at dinner, I'll put you in a time-out (or whatever minor consequence tends to work for him) so you can learn it's not OK to have the last word." If he persists, you should follow up your warning with the consequence.

Let's review the above scenario. Your preschooler experienced a mom who loves him and validated his opinion. He also heard that his last-word tendency affects others and is not OK.

This helped him connect the dots about how his actions matter to others, which is a great thing to learn before entering a future classroom, career or marriage. And he saw that Mom will not get caught in the endless loop of nagging and threatening, but instead will follow through.

Your son may not have a clear idea of what bossy language and behavior mean. So make sure you communicate clearly and specifically about what is and isn't OK. For example, if he's trying to control playtime with a friend, explain to him, "When you told Sally she had to play with the stuffed animals, she already had changed games for you before, when you wanted to play hide-and-seek. It isn't OK to do that twice. I want you to tell Sally now, 'I'll play whatever you want to play.' And if you aren't willing to do that, playtime is over, and you won't have a playtime with Sally tomorrow."

A couple additional tips: The strong-willed preschooler generally will need several of these experiences to understand you love him and you mean what you say. Be patient and continue following through. And avoid attempting to change his behavior through guilt or empathy. Neither is an effective approach with preschoolers. You'll confuse him if you say, "When you argue, you make Mommy feel sad. You don't want to do that, do you?" Instead, be loving, fun, clear and consistent in following through with consequences.

God designed your preschooler to one day take his place in the world, asserting and adapting, giving and taking, speaking up and listening. And it will come to pass because of your work with him now, resulting in one of the greatest fruits of the Holy Spirit: self-control ([Galatians 5:23](#)).

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