

LIVING GRACE
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LIVING GRACE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Raising Champions

Principal's Message: Helping Our Children Walk in the Light (Or "Be Truthful the First Time")

By Dr. Daniel L. Switzer

Over the years, I've recognized that parents sometimes train their children to lie to them through being consistently harsh with them. When children experience the harsh reactions of parents to their actions and if these harsh reactions occur often enough, children will develop a desire to hide their wrong actions from their parents out of a fear of harsh retribution. The Bible speaks of "the deceitfulness of sin." We all naturally desire to hide sin. However, we can discipline our children in such a way that they learn to bring their sin into the open and thus "walk in the light."



Ephesians 6:4 says, "Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord" (NIV). This training and instruction speaks of a process. However, a major way that we exasperate our children is by reacting to our children's actions in a harsh manner. Being harsh with our children in a reactive way is not Biblical training. Seeking to get our children to conform outwardly without addressing the need of the inner heart is not spiritual discipline.

True Biblical discipline of our children is a process that takes time to do it rightly and lovingly. I recall a time in which one of our children had committed a very serious offense against another person. When we initially confronted our child, my wife and I were careful to communicate our unconditional love toward him. We knew that if we came down harshly on him, that approach would not bode well for our continuing relationship with him. After our child confessed to the truth, we forgave him and then helped him to take responsibility for his action. We loved him throughout the disciplinary process.

Biblical discipline of our children is not a harsh reaction in an effort to get our children to conform externally; it is a loving process that addresses the need of the heart. Our first response to our children should consistently convey the love of Christ—the fact of our unconditional love for our children. Hebrews 12:5-6 conveys the heart of our Father God toward us his children: "And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons: 'My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son.'" True Biblical discipline incorporates unconditional love throughout the process in a way that the discipline encourages our children. They are encouraged by the fact that they have loving parents who care enough for them to provide good godly discipline.

As Hebrews 12 points out, this discipline includes the rebuke, which should not cause our children to "lose heart." The purpose of the rebuke is that our children understand that what they have done is wrong. **If our children are lying about what they have done, or shifting the blame on someone else, or making excuses for their actions, the rebuke has not achieved its purpose.** However, if our children respond to our loving rebuke with acknowledgment of what they have done through confession, then the purpose of the rebuke has been achieved.

1 John 1:9-10 instructs us as parents, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives." When our children confess their sin to us, we need to freely and quickly forgive them.

The Bible teaches that we are forgiven when we confess our sin. As parents, we need to train our children to be truthful about their actions—telling the truth about our sin is confession—and that as they confess their sin, they are completely forgiven!

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Supporting the Mission of Living Grace Christian School: Raising Up Champions for God



“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do” (Eph. 2:8-10).

Please share with your friends about Living Grace Christian School, a school where the parents, teachers, and children work together in positive Biblical teamwork and relationship to raise up champions for God—servant leaders of godly character who advance the cause of Christ and make disciples of all nations. Living Grace Christian School is committed to Christian Discipleship, Academic Excellence, and Godly Character Development. Families are encouraged to apply for financial assistance based on need.

Please pray about supporting LGCS in the following ways:

1. Praying for the school.
2. Becoming a prayer partner—the school is committed to having consistent prayer support through seeking up to twelve prayer partners who agree to pray daily for the school.
3. Helping families who cannot pay the full tuition to send their children to the school through the “Student Champions Fund.” We are committed to a ministry philosophy of “ministry over money” in which no family is excluded from the school due to financial hardship. Checks should be made out to Living Grace Christian School with “Student Champions Fund” written in the memo.
4. **Supporting the long-term establishment of the school through the “Living Grace Christian School Endowment Fund.” Contributions to this fund support the building of the expanded facility. Checks should be made out to Living Grace Christian School with “Endowment Fund” written in the memo. Also, we ask you to invite family and friends to give toward your child’s school expansion. Gifts can be made online at lgs.northgatecc.org—click on “Endowment Fund-Building Expansion.”**
5. Providing volunteer help at the school.

If you desire to help in any of these ways, please feel free to call or email Dr. Switzer.

Prayer Needs

As stated above, the school is committed to having consistent prayer support through seeking twelve prayer partners who agree to pray daily for the school. If you would like to be a designated prayer partner, please talk to Dr. Switzer. Obviously, we encourage everyone to be praying for the school—parents, teachers, students, and extended family.



Please pray for the following significant areas:

1. The spiritual life of all parents, teachers, and students, that our relationships with the Lord would be grace-filled and marked by integrity.
2. That parents, teachers, students, and Northgate congregants work together in positive Biblical teamwork and unified relationship.
3. Effective leadership and teaching, and a commitment to Christian discipleship, academic excellence, and godly character development.
4. Walking out our comprehensive plan for parent participation: pray that the teachers would effectively communicate with parents, be receptive and accessible to them, and treat them as partners in the educational process.
5. God’s provision for families, including financial and transportation needs.
6. Parents as they fulfill the role as their child’s primary teachers. Pray that parents would “reserve judgment” when their children give them a negative report about a school situation until they have the opportunity to talk with the respective teacher.
7. Excellent study habits, godly relationships, and prosperous health and safety for the entire student body.
8. Pastors and the larger Body of Christ to increasingly see the need to educate our children—the next generation of leaders in the Church—in a manner consistent with our Biblical beliefs.
9. Volunteers to help in the classrooms, office, and building.
10. Consistent financial support to help needy families to be able to send their children to the school through the “Student Champions Fund.”
11. The families of all the teachers, parents, and students.
12. That these children would know that God has a plan for their lives; that God would raise up these children to be champions of God—servant leaders of godly character who advance the cause of Christ and make disciples of all nations! **Thank you for your prayers!**



Helping Our Children Walk in the Light (Or “Be Truthful the First Time”)

(continued from page 1)

When questioning your children about what they have done, I encourage you to not focus on “Why did you do such a thing?” which leads to the giving of excuses. Instead, focus on “what did you do?” The answer to the “what” question is a confession. Often with confession come tears. While our goal is not to get our children to cry, often tears are an outward expression of the Lord watering our children’s hearts and working good soil in them. There is something that comes with telling the truth about what we’ve done that touches the heart, the person’s inner being. And that is what discipline should be about—helping our children to grow to be more like Christ.

After confession and forgiveness, we still need to follow through with an appropriate discipline. Because our children have admitted to the wrongdoing, they see the need for the discipline. In the process, our relationship of love and respect between parent and child has grown. James 5:16 says, “Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.” **The most powerful force against our children is not sin; it’s hidden sin. When our children bring their sin into the light, they are healed; and the power of that sin is nullified. What’s more, we can pray for our children in a powerful and effective manner.**

1 John 1:5-7 counsels us, “This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.” **If we don’t have the truth with our children, we have no fellowship with them—no relationship with them. If our children are not being honest with us, that means they’re hiding something from us. In actuality, they are hiding themselves from us, and we don’t have true relationship.** And if we don’t have relationship with them, our voice in their lives is severely limited. Let’s seek to talk with our children and take the time to discipline them through a loving process. In this way they will grow in their inner being toward the full stature of Christ.

December’s Godly Character Trait: Being a Promise Keeper

As we pray for our children and the school, I encourage you to refer to the “Prayer Needs” as given in this edition of *Raising Champions*. During December we are focusing on the character quality of Being a Promise Keeper, based on the Lord’s name of Immanuel, which means “God with us.” In Matthew’s account of Jesus’ birth, he writes, “All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ‘The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel’” (Matt. 1:22-23). Our Lord is the ultimate promise keeper. He keeps all of his promises, including His promise to send us His Son, the Savior of the world. Let’s encourage our children to be ones that walk in integrity through keeping their word.

Please intercede for the training of godly character in the students. May God’s presence and grace be upon you and your families!

Reminders

TUITION PAYMENTS TO SMART

Please remember that tuition payments are paid directly to the Smart Tuition Management Company. Tuition payments are due to Smart by the fifth of each month, August through May.

COLD WEATHER

Students go outside for recess whenever possible. With the colder weather, please be sure that your child is dressed warmly. On Tuesdays and Thursdays (P.E. days), students should continue to wear their P.E. uniform consisting of their p.e. t-shirt and all-gray sweatpants and all-gray sweatshirt. The regular school uniform is worn by students on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

SCHOOL PICTURES

If you have not done so already and desire to do so, you can still order your children’s school pictures. If you want to purchase an individual picture, a class picture, or the school picture, you can let Mrs. Perez know by emailing her at tessben@yahoo.com.



CHRISTMAS PARTIES

On Thursday, December 22nd, we will be having class Christmas parties. More information will be forthcoming regarding these events celebrating our Savior’s birth.

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION!

Please remember to clip your BoxTops and have your children bring them to their homeroom teacher. This simple program is helpful to the school.

Also, we want to thank everyone who has registered their Giant cards for the school. If you are a new family to the school and have not registered with Giant yet, we encourage you to do so soon. If you need help, please see Mrs. Parr, Mrs. Diaz, or Dr. Switzer. Thank you!

Parent News

OUTSTANDING ATTENDANCE AT PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES! We want to commend the parents for their commitment to their children's education. At our recent parent-teacher conferences, we had outstanding attendance! Parents are encouraged to continue to emphasize those areas that are needful with their children in order to help them to maximize their potential, both academically and spiritually.

STUDENTS PERFORM ADMIRABLY IN SPELLING BEE! At the recent District Spelling Bee, Emily Parr placed second and Nehemiah Switzer placed third in the eighth grade competition. In the seventh grade competition, Jose Camacho placed first and Josue Escalante placed third. **Moreover, in the final spell-off of all sixteen finalists, Nehemiah Switzer placed fifth and Emily Parr placed first, winning our school's first-ever ACSI District Spelling Bee Championship! Both Emily and Nehemiah will represent our school in the ACSI Regional Spelling Bee on February 27th, in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.** We are very grateful to the Lord for our outstanding spellers! Congratulations on a job well done! Special thanks go to Dr. Switzer for serving as a spelling master, and to Mr. McFarlane, Mrs. Phillips, and Mrs. Holdbrook for driving and chaperoning.

INVITE FRIENDS TO REGISTER CHILDREN FOR SCHOOL! Please share with friends about our school. Share your testimony about what God is doing with your child. We are a school where the parents and teachers work together in positive Biblical teamwork to raise up champions of God. We are committed to Christian Discipleship, Academic Excellence, and Godly Character. Families are encouraged to apply for financial assistance based on need.

Student Champions Fund Drive Coming in January!

The school's annual Student Champions Fund Drive begins January 4th and ends March 15th. Many of our school's families receive financial assistance from the Student Champions Fund to be able to send their children to the school. **The Student Champions Fund is designed to help families who cannot pay the full tuition to be able to send their children to Living Grace Christian School.** Many schools have fundraisers that take up much time and effort on the part of the family such as candy and fruit sales. Instead of involving you in these kinds of efforts, we ask you to consider the value of this fund for its own merit. Therefore, we ask you to give generously to this fund as well as ask family and close friends to consider a donation.

During the fund drive, students are asked to bring in their envelope each Wednesday with donations from their parents, extended family, and friends. **Our goal this year is to raise \$17,000 to help needy families to be able to send their children to the school.** All funds contributed toward this fund will be used for this sole purpose. Thank you for prayerfully considering this offering as unto the Lord.

SEVENTH & EIGHTH GRADERS VISIT THE WASHINGTON NATIONAL MALL! On December 1st, the seventh & eighth graders visited the National Mall. They experienced many national landmarks: the Washington Monument, World War II Memorial, Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Lincoln Memorial, Korean War Veterans Memorial, and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial. Special thanks to our driver chaperones: Mrs. Gamez, Mr. Tiren, Mrs. Palacios, and Mrs. Toledo. **School Resumes Tuesday, January 3rd, after Christmas Break!**

December 2016

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22 <small>Christmas Class Parties 2:00 pm Midterms Come Home</small>	23 <small>Christmas Break! NO SCHOOL</small>	24
25 <small>Christmas Day!</small>	26 <small>Christmas Break NO SCHOOL</small>	27 <small>Christmas Break NO SCHOOL</small>	28 <small>Christmas Break NO SCHOOL</small>	28 <small>Christmas Break NO SCHOOL</small>	30 <small>Christmas Break NO SCHOOL</small>	31

"For I know the plans I have for you . . . plans to give you hope and a future" (Jer. 29:11).

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