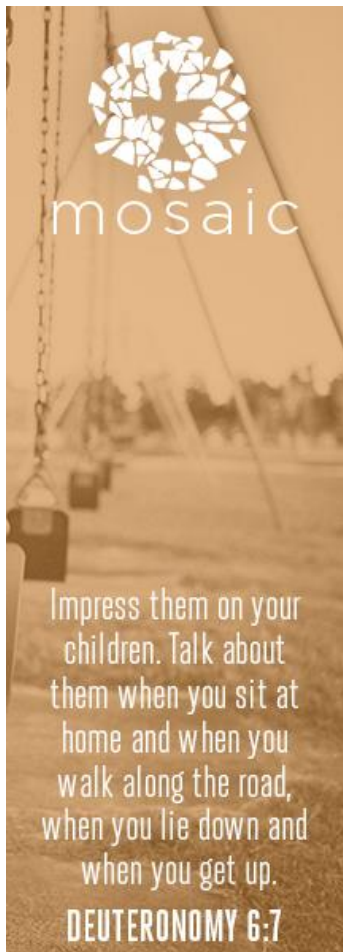




December 2015



Is God Calling Your Family to ENDURANCE for Him?

Susan Thomas, Early Childhood Director

We are told through the Word that God gifts us all for His Glory. I have always had a special place in my heart for children. There is something about the innocence and joy in the eyes of a child that draws me closer to God.

My husband and I have four children; three have graduated high school and are moving on into their adult lives. Our house was becoming way too quiet for me, so Chris and I started talking about where we felt God leading us in this next phase of our life. I talked him into coming with me to an informational meeting about Foster Care/Adoption sponsored by [The Call](#). I was ready to bring kids home that first night. Chris had grown up hearing stories from his father about being abandoned when he was 13 years old and left with an Episcopal minister to be raised. This abandonment had deeply impacted his life in ways that we only saw glimpses of from time to time. My heart for children, combined with his family background, strengthened our desire to help children who are going through things that are no fault of their own, and things we can only imagine.

We went through classes on how to care for foster children, CPR training, and dove into mountains of paperwork that took us months to complete. After several home visits, we were expecting our home to be opened for foster care. Instead, we were told they had lost our paperwork and we would have to start all over again. We almost gave up at that point. We couldn't imagine getting all this stuff together again. Through endurance and conviction, we were finally cleared to open our home 2 years after we began.

We took in four children during the first few months of our foster journey, each special in their own way. Then, DHS brought us a 5 month old baby boy. We had this little boy for 15 months and we fell in love with him. He became an outgoing, happy, loving little boy that brought joy into our home. Then, one night at about 9:00pm, DHS came to our house and told us they were removing him and placing him in another home with his brothers. It broke our hearts to say goodbye to this boy that we loved as our own. We talked about not doing foster care anymore. It hurts too much to love these kids and then have them leave. I know

Virtue of the Month

Join us this month as we pray **ENDURANCE** for our children.

Prayer:

Father, I pray that you would gently build endurance into <child's> life. Give <child> a heart that helps her to keep on pressing on even when she faces discouragement and is tempted to give up.

Scripture:

Let us not get tired of doing what is right, for after a while we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't get discouraged and give up. - [Galatians 6:9 \(TLB\)](#)

What's Happening?

DECEMBER & JANUARY:

Family Service

December 26 | 5:00pm
One service only
No children's classes

GAP: Grandparents as Parents

Starts in January
7:00-8:30pm
[Register](#)

Divorce Care

Starts January 20
6:00-8:00pm
[More Info](#)

Healthy Anger: Key to Effective Parenting

January 30
5:00-6:15pm
[Register](#)

this is everyone's worry about foster care, because you can't keep your heart from falling in love with these sweet kids. But Chris and I know in our hearts that God has called us to love these children for the time we have them and not grow tired of doing what is right. We are looking forward to seeing who God brings us next to love!

Where in your life do you feel God's call, but you know it will take endurance to see it through? Talk with your kids about how we make hard choices sometimes so that we can follow God's plan for our lives.

RESOURCES

TIPS

Here are some ways to teach and model *endurance* to your children, taken from [Grace Based Parenting, session 4](#)

1. Discuss one of their unfinished projects and then help them set a goal to finish it.
2. Take a twenty mile bicycle trip with them in one day. (Make it shorter for a young child)
3. Purchase a complicated model or Lego set and help them meet a timeline for completing it.
4. Have them read a classic book in a reasonable amount of time. Establish a reward for them when they are done.
5. Take them on a nature walk and discuss the plants that endure through cold winters and hot summers.
6. Read the book [The Miracle Worker](#) together and talk about the rewards of endurance.
7. Take them on a hike over rugged but safe terrain. Encourage them to not give up.
8. Have an accomplished musician or athlete talk with them about endurance.
9. Visit a physical therapy clinic where people are learning to walk all over again.
10. Open a savings account with them. Have them save a certain amount of money that you agree to match once they meet their goal. Talk to them about the value of endurance when it comes to compounding interest.

BOOKS

[Raising Kids Who Turn Out Right](#)

FAMILY DEVOTIONS

[Fun ways to get the conversation started on endurance](#)

MEDIA

[Adventures in Odyssey: Life Lessons - Perseverance](#)
[The Miracle Worker, with Anne Bancroft and Patty Duke](#)

Connecting Church and Family

**FAMILY
MINISTRY**