



PARENT NEWSLETTER 4 | 2016-17 GEMS SEASON

FRIENDS OF ALL AGES

When you were the age of your daughter(s), who believed in you before you believed in yourself? Who was it that drenched you in overflowing love and encouragement? Have you ever thanked this person for the difference he or she made in your life? The holidays, or any day, provide an opportunity to do just that!

Relationships between the generations matter—be it parent/child, grandparent/grandchild, and GEMS counselor/girl, too. God instructs the older generation to teach and train the younger generation what is good—to be loving, kind, self-controlled, and pure.

That's what the relationship-building ministry of GEMS Girls' Clubs is all about. And in every way possible, we want to encourage you in your critical role as faith-nurturers of the children entrusted to you.

We all need people in our lives who encourage us to love God, trust Him, and share His love with others. And if that's the gift you need most today, you'll find a friend at GEMS. Please walk into club with your daughter(s). Know how much we treasure her and would welcome the opportunity to get to know you, too!

BIBLE VERSE

His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation (Luke 1:50).

DID YOU KNOW?

There are 100 badges in the *Discovery Place Badge Book* (grades 4-6) that is available through GEMS Girls' Clubs. Page through the badge book with your daughter, and circle the badges she's most excited to try. Then set a goal for how many she'll complete this year. Plan a family celebration when she reaches her goal!

AT THE TABLE

One of the best ways to build relationships with God and one another is at the table. Research has concluded that eating family meals together increases children's chance of success in the world, a family's health, and our values in society!

The next time your family gathers around the table, use these theme-related table talk questions to get your family talking about the things of God:

1. If you could lead a group of people to do one thing for your city, what would you do and why?
2. What older relative do you look up to and why? Have you ever shared this with this person?
3. What is your favorite part of belonging to your family?

FAMILY FUN

Tradition: Does your family celebrate traditions during the holidays, birthdays, or other special occasions? If so, list them together as a family and share when they started and why. If not, start a tradition today. Examples: Use a special birthday hat or birthday plate that is used at birthday dinners (at home or in a restaurant!) Or purchase a small notebook for each family member. Before opening your Christmas gifts, have each person jot down 10 things they were thankful for in the previous year. Keep the notebooks with your Christmas decorations. Add to it each year!

Bless Your Socks Off! Who are people who have blessed your family's socks off this year? Make a list of unsung heroes, and then purchase socks and thank-you notes for each one. In the notes tell why they blessed your family's socks off, and then have the entire family sign the thank-you cards. Have fun delivering the unique and unexpected gifts!

Paper Chain: Create a paper chain with a purpose. Examples: Do a countdown (one link per day) toward a special event like Christmas or a trip to Grandma's house. Have family members write something they're thankful for or the highlight of their day and add it to each link or write a name on each link of someone your family is praying for. Hang the chain on your Christmas tree or in a family-shared space as a reminder to all!

