

10-9-14 Parenting Class—Class #4 Follow up (Traditions)

Class member: Asked question of kids...What things do you like about our traditions? Halloween songs to Christmas tunes and singing those songs are online. It was interesting learning the different things that mattered to my children.

Class member: For me, it was more of a “Wow! We have more traditions than I thought we did.” So now I will do what she did and ask my kids.

Class member: We did a Halloween party..bobbing for apples, pumpkin bowling, donuts on a string. I just like to remind them it's fun being a big family. I have 9 kids.

Class member: From this class I learned about Conference and making it a big deal. We didn't look forward to Conference as a kid. This year it landed on my kid's birthday. She said, “I can't believe my birthday is on Conference.” I have a new craft for each session. She thought it was the coolest birthday party she ever had. It was amazing.

Class member: I wasn't here for the class, but we have a tradition when school starts I make fresh homemade cookies for the full week when they get off the bus the first week of school. My brother started college and he is staying with us. He wanted us to make cookies for him. We put hot cocoa on the stove all October and the kids don't have to ask.

Class member: We have decided in our family we don't do Santa. I was thinking about what we do. We have a birthday party for Jesus on Christmas Eve. I didn't feel like such a party pooper.

It might be a good idea to have FHE and talk about what you do. It might change your focus.

Class member: When we have our family dinner we ask each kid 4 questions. What was good about your day today? What was hard about your day today? They are not allowed to say dinner. Who did you serve today? What are you grateful for? You have to think of something in your day. When we are rushing through dinner my daughter doesn't let us forget.

Class member: We all do presents to Jesus and what the things are we want to do for him. We pull out last year's list. We look back on the progress of what they have done and what they have accomplished.

Class member: My little boy started kindergarten. We started doing cold lunches. The first time I put a little note in there. He came home so excited about the note. The next morning I made his lunch and he wanted another note in there. It was such a simple thing, but it is becoming a tradition for him.

Class member: The thing that stood out to me was about Mom being happy for a tradition. My husband and I had a long flight and we talked about traditions. For us, it was more about cutting things out. At the end he offered up what he wanted to do to take it away from me.

It would be interesting to see what kids traditionally think Dad's are in charge of.

Class member: I listen to all the tradition ideas and want to do them all. My kids get 'ungrateful' when we aren't doing fun things because we do so many of the fun traditions all the time. Be careful of that.

If they start hitting that point, then you turn the tradition preparation over to the kids. This is your part of this now. You are teaching them that as they go into families they don't just happen. Now this gets to be you are in charge of this. What do you want me to help you do? I can pull out the recipe out for the sugar cookies...you get to bake them and get everything out.

Class member: I hate the Christmas holidays. I hate the commercialism. What I appreciated was that I thought this year is going to be different. Towards the end you said, "Come up with a service project and make it hurt to show they are thankful." They aren't real happy with me. They will get over it. Once we get into it they will love it.

Have any of you been in a ward council meeting? Put all the challenges out on the table. Then they divide out the responsibilities and tell them to take care of it and then come back and do it. At Christmas we do Christmas shopping, bake, treat plates, decorate tree, Christmas family. Make assignment to make them responsible. However, don't put them in charge of your painful project. It will be a project, but won't include pain. It is going to involve some complaining. Once they experience it the next time they do it they will be more on board.

Santa Claus...I am his biggest fan. My married children I still say, "You don't believe you don't get." That's probably because I'm hanging on to that. The truth is there is still a Santa...it might be a her instead of a him. When my children reached this age you pull the kids in and give them the assignment. I would assign my older ones one of the younger ones. You have to interact with this child. What is this child interested in? You

have 2 months to figure out this child and I'm willing to give you \$ and you are in charge of filling their stocking. Christmas morning guess where they go? They are so excited for the other person. It changes the focus for them.

Class member: I would always come back to the story of St. Nicholas about how he is a real person. I will explain that story.

I believe, but I have a fabulous picture of my Dad in a Santa outfit and we put that out.

Class member: If you want to receive you have to believe.

I start my Christmas January 2nd. I do Christmas all year long. I have a fully light Christmas tree upstairs in my family room. I wrap the presents under the tree. I have a quote that says, "Forever Christmas Eve".

Class member: I have a friend who would wrap them early. She assigned reindeer names to the tags. That morning they get told what their reindeer name was that year.

President Cobb favorite tradition...at night time after we put up our tree we put a candle light and Mom reads a Christmas story. We have our favorites.