

Hey! As a Mum, I sure need Jesus! There are so many demands on my time and my energy. It's easy to forget about God in all the little things of everyday life, and try and do it all myself. BUT I want to be a Mum with Jesus. The more I am a Mum with Jesus, the more I will be a Mum with joy, a Mum with peace, a Mum with patience, a Mum with wisdom, a Mum with kindness, a Mum with love... For me the 'with' suggests just 'being', being with Jesus, each moment of the day. How comforting to know that whatever I face Jesus is with me. I don't have to do it all myself. When my children are tired and whiney, God's

God Snippets 'Cast all your anxiety on him (Jesus) because he cares for you' 'cast' - throw off, deliberately or forcefully; get rid of. 1 Peter 5:6-7, Psalm 55:22, Philippians 4:4-7, Matthew 11:28

patience is there for me; when I'm tired, God's strength is there for me; when my boys both want the same toy at the same time, God's wisdom is there for me; when everything is happening at once, God's peace is there for me. I want to involve Jesus more and more in my daily life. I encourage you to do so too. Let's be Mums with Jesus.

Shape Pictures Cut circles, squares, triangles, arches, semi-circles etc from old scraps of material or coloured paper. Children can sort the shapes into piles, either by shape or colour, and then arrange them on paper to make shape people, animals, buildings, cars etc or just patterns. Glue to make a final picture.

Playdough You need: 2 cups flour, 1 cup salt, 4 teaspoons cream of tartar, 2 cups water, 2 tablespoons cooking oil, food colouring. Mix everything together. Whisk to get the lumps out! Cook over a medium heat. Stir continuously until it forms a dough (about 5 mins). Cool.

Kids can squash it and roll it; cut it with knives or biscuit cutters; squeeze it through a sieve or garlic press to make 'hair'; make imprints in it with forks, bottle tops etc; make people, animals, food; 'cook' it, using toy or real pans, plates, spoons; make birthday cakes and put real candles in...

Playdough can last for months if stored straight after play in an airtight container.

Baby Corner I remember when I came back from hospital after the birth of our 2nd child, David. Our first, Joshua, was waiting eagerly by the door. It was the first time I'd been away from him for the night, and when I got out of the car I expected him to run straight to me. He didn't! He ran straight past me to the car to find his new baby brother. He was so excited that baby had come!

It's special when older children are excited about new baby coming, and welcome them into the family. Here are some ideas I found useful in preparing my children for each new baby:

- Talk about baby coming, and how he/she is growing in your tummy.
- Let them help you get ready/wash/play with baby toys, clothes, pram etc
- Let your children put their hands on your tummy and talk to baby & feel the kicks. Your children can ask baby questions - a kick in response means 'yes', no kick is 'no'! Or they can put their ears on your tummy & 'listen' to baby!
- Nearer the birth help them make something special for the baby. For the birth of Samuel, our 3rd, Josh and Dave decorated boxes. Everyday they wanted to make something new to put into their boxes - pictures, cotton wool sheep, even some of their own special toys. As soon as he arrived home, Sam was presented with the boxes!
- Find a children's storybook about babies. My boys love 'Billy and the Baby' (Tony Bradman & Lynn Breeze, Collins Picture Lions, 1997). We had to read it over & over, and it really helped prepare them that Mummy would go into hospital and they would stay with Granny.
- Get your children used to Mummy having a rest in the day before baby arrives (tips on how in a future issue), so that 'less of Mummy' is not such a shock when baby arrives.
- Let your children come to a doctor's visits with you. Then let them play doctors on your tummy!
- Leave a special present for each child to open when you go into hospital.
- Pray for each child!

MUMS WITH JESUS Part 2

Aim Intimacy with Jesusrefreshing, desire, life, passion, joy, rest, strength...overflow to others...

How? Having a 'quiet time' is not the be-all & end-all of our relationship with God. I think we sometimes get hung-up on the fact that if we haven't had a 'quiet-time' for a while then that's it, we've failed and our relationship with God is going nowhere. Guilt quickly works its way in!

Firstly, 'there is...no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus...' Rom 8:1

Secondly, there is no 11th commandment, 'Thou shalt sit down with God and be quiet (no ringing phones, no crying children, no washing machines running, Amp Version) for one hour everyday.'

God knows we are Mums!! He knows all that comes with that! Jesus sometimes had the same problem of not being able to get away from it all! Matt 14:13 says that Jesus 'departed from there by boat to a deserted place by Himself. But when the multitudes heard it, they followed Him...'

Certainly it is good when we can 'get away' and be quiet with our Father. But truthfully, those times seem to be few and far between for most of us at the moment.

What's the answer? How do we maintain, and deepen, our relationship with God? How do we come back to that place of first love and desire, where, however tired or busy we are, we want to have time with Him?

A few thoughts:

'Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you' 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

'Your word I have hidden in my heart...' Psalm 119:11

'...put on love...let the peace of God rule in your hearts...be thankful...Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.' Colossians 3:14-17

'You shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul, and bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall teach them to your children, speaking of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. And you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates...' Deuteronomy 11:18-20

These verses talk about an 'all-the-time' walk & relationship with God - praise & worship, the word, prayer, thanksgiving, rejoicing as a lifestyle. Maybe this sounds even more daunting to you than having a quiet time!! Actually, it's not impossible; and in the next couple of issues of MKJ I will be sharing some practical ideas of how to live these verses. In the meantime, why don't YOU ask God how YOU can live these verses. *To be continued...*

Especially for homeschoolers - just found a great website: www.bbc.co.uk/schools/ Lesson plans, worksheets, games, revision notes & more. Follows the British curriculum. Pre-school to A'Level.

Mums.kids.Jesus by Joanna May Chee.

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