

Dear Parents,

Thank you for allowing your child to be a part of spreading Contagious Joy! As they visit Care Facilities to perform for the residents, they'll find so much more than just the fun of performing. They'll get to see Jesus in action—both in them and in the lives of the precious residents they encounter. Our prayer is that this experience is life-changing for your children.

Your children will learn to interact with people of all ages and from all walks of life. They'll practice critical thinking and problem-solving as they visit and perform for the residents. The experience will increase their comfort with social interactions (a vital skill as they move into adulthood), especially with older generations. They'll develop a greater sense of purpose. And you'll see them be moved with empathy for the residents they meet!

Contagious Joy programs are designed to work for anyone who wants to serve, from a small group doing a skit to a larger group putting on a play. Either way, there are a few simple ways you can support your children in their mission to spread joy.

How to Help Your Kids Spread Contagious Joy

Attend the show. Over the course of practicing, preparing, and performing at a nursing home or care facility, you'll see your kids grow in confidence and faith. It'll be increasingly evident as you watch your kids perform and interact with the elderly. You'll love watching them! Parents are more than welcome at Care Facilities, and your kids will be excited to see you there.

Help your kids with their roles. They'll have lines to rehearse (please help them practice at home) and a character to get into. They may need your help putting together a costume or planning character details.

Get them to rehearsal. Youth leaders usually schedule several practices. If at all possible, have them attend each one. With everyone's busy schedules, there are often children who need a ride to practices, so if you can pick up and drop off kids, please let your leader know. They'll appreciate your help!

How to Help Your Leader

Contagious Joy plays and skits are so fun to be a part of! The leader orchestrates the experience, from assigning kids parts and helping them learn drama skills to being the ringleader on performance day. And there are plenty of ways you can be part of the experience too.

Here are some ways you can get involved:

- Volunteer as a co-leader so you can assist with practices and the performances
- Serve as the Sound Technician and help with songs between scenes
- Order and/or pick up flowers (to be passed out to the residents after the performance)
- Make Invitation Flyers to pass out to neighbors, friends, and family

- Help create backdrops, costumes, or props
- Offer to help during one or two practices
- Follow up with your children on their experience after their visit by asking:
 - Were you able to connect with any of the residents?
 - How do you see God moving in your life?
 - Would you like to visit with a resident one-on-one?

How Your Youth Leader Helps You

It takes a team of people to raise children today. Consider your leader as someone on your team.

While the youth are focused on bringing joy to care facilities, your leader is also focused on developing them and making sure they also know the love of Jesus. One of the ways they'll do that is by reading "The King's Love for His People" to your kids.

Children, especially teens, can get so caught up in the do's and don'ts that they can rebel and resent the rules their parents make. "The King's Love for His People" story teaches kids that God's love isn't about rules; it's about having a relationship with Him. Kids resent rules when they don't understand love.

This story will help them understand that going to heaven isn't about how good we are or how much we serve. It will help them understand that the only way to heaven (salvation) is by accepting Jesus' blood as payment for our sins.

When God's love becomes real in their lives, kids want to keep His commands (obey) out of love, not requirement. Because they love Him, knowing Jesus first loved them. In turn, they will want to love, honor, respect, and obey their parents too.

Your leader may read the story all at once or spread it out over each practice. The kids will be given a worksheet that encourages them to think about the love Jesus has for them and allows them to ask questions. This promotes an environment that allows the children to explore in their search for truth. With the challenges kids face today, searching for truth is important.

To help parents be prepared with biblical answers to some of the situations kids face today, we've put together a free resource for you. Check out [Questions Young People Ask](#) under Resources on our website.

*Sometimes we don't have answers to some of the questions our kids ask about God, and we may even have some doubts. However we know His Word is true. The most important thing to emphasize to our kids is that God is sovereign. There's so much that we won't understand about God. **Following what we do understand is putting love and faith into action.***

“The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law.”

Deuteronomy 29:29 NKJV

Our Prayer for Our Families

Lord, thank You for entrusting children to us. You know everything about us, and You know the challenges we face as parents. The challenges in this world are many, and the frustrations and defeats that parents often face can be overwhelming.

The subtle doubts and evil that is constantly trying to influence our children brings us to our knees crying out for help. God, give parents strength, wisdom, and protection. May we stand firm and hold fast to your righteousness. Strengthen us with integrity. Cover us with a hedge of protection as Your coat of armor.

Cover us with truth from Your word that we may discern what is good and seek it. May every Bible in every home be open! Help us to stand firm and bold on the side of truth-seeking guidance from our Father who knows us, loves us, and is always there for us.

Grant these parents favor and blessing as they instruct their children in your ways.

In Jesus' name, Amen.