

# JOURNEYING WITH GOD & EACH OTHER

## SETTING TIME APART FOR DAILY FAITH FORMATION



LEADERSHIP MINISTRIES

## Letter from Tanya

Greetings! I am excited to bring you this newly created monthly newsletter for faith development at home, work, school, and play. We hope that the resources here might be used by:

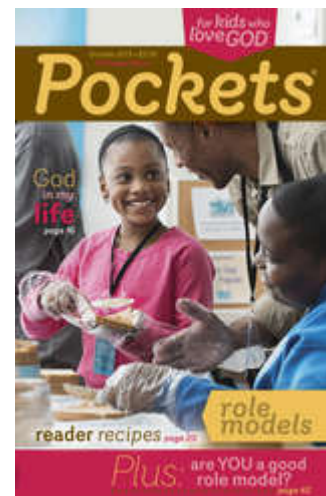
1. Church leaders as you encourage people to make living their Christian faith an everyday practice.
2. Families as you work to live your faith every day.

After receiving feedback from many church leaders and family members from around the connection, we have developed this resource with the hope that it will be useful for you and your family. Remember, families come in all different shapes and sizes. As a single person without children, I use many of these tools in my daily walk with God.

As you use this resource, please let me know what is working and what is missing. Share and invite others to subscribe too. Join the continuing conversation on our [Family Faith Formation Facebook page](#) and connect with us on Twitter via #famfaithform. Together we can support one another on this journey. You will find additional resources on our new [Family Faith Formation website](#) too!

Blessings to you and prayers for your ministry.

Grace & Peace,  
Tanya



### POCKETS IN THE HOME

Coming Soon! Monthly Ideas for you and your families as you use Pockets in your home to nurture your relationship with God and one another.

**Subscribe now** and be ready when the November issue of this newsletter is released. For more information about Pockets, check out our website at <http://pockets.upperroom.org>, email us at [pockets@upperroom.org](mailto:pockets@upperroom.org)

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## Pay Attention

### Symbol to look for:

Pumpkins remind us of all the good growing things in God's creation.



### Virtue to Practice: Gratitude

- What are you grateful for? Practice gratitude by telling God or someone else what you are grateful for every day.
- Where did someone show you gratitude? Pay attention when you see someone else practicing gratitude. Write stories in your journal. Take time to pray and thank God for these stories.

### God Encounters/God Sightings:

- **Journal:** Take a picture of people/things you are thankful for. Take time every day/week/month to write a letter to God, giving God thanks for all the blessings in your life.
- **Share:**
  - Twitter: Tell your family and friends how you experienced God. Share your story on Facebook, twitter, or instagram: @teustacegbod I experienced God when I was \_\_\_\_\_ (insert picture). #famfaithform
  - Facebook: **Family Faith Formation Page**

## Take Time



### Read Together:

**Scripture:** Read Luke 11:1-10 together.

**Recommended Book:** [Beautiful Moon: A Child's Prayer](#)

by Tonya Bolden and Eric Velasquez

### Wonder Together:

- I wonder what Jesus says about prayer.
- I wonder if this prayer sounds like something we say in our church.
- I wonder what this Scripture/story tells us about God.
- I wonder what this Scripture/story says about us.
- I wonder what you pray for.
- I wonder how God helps you live a holy life- loving God and loving neighbor.

### Pray Together:

When you see pumpkins, stop and give thanks, saying: "God, thank you for

call us at 615-340-7333.



## FEEDBACK CORNER: WHAT'S GOING ON IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD?

### Songs of Praise from the Car

Some of my quietest, most focused time with my son is in the car. I pick him up from daycare and we drive the 20 minutes home. I know when we get in the house, the race toward dinner will begin. I usually ask my son, "How was your day?" and "Did you have fun?" He's a year and a half, so I don't get much of a response.

Lately, I've been trying a new intentional practice. When I get back in the car with Caleb, I turn off the radio or whatever podcast I've been listening to. I ask him "Did you talk about God today?" (It's a Christian daycare.) He says "God??" in that tiny, high voice of a toddler. Then I sing to him. I've been singing to him since he was in the womb, but I'm trying to be intentional about memorizing hymns. I almost always know the tune to a hymn, but not the words. So I've written

things that grow.”

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### Do Holy Work Together

**Loving God:** Every day or once a week, gather together and share your highs and lows. Thank God for being with you during these times.

**Loving Neighbor** (Outreach Suggestion): Family prayer ministry-- Have everyone in your family identify someone he or she wants to pray for. Have family members write a letter to those people to let them know you are praying for them this month. Ask them if there is anything specific they want you to pray for. Every week, encourage family members to reach out to these people to let them know you are still praying for them. (Instead of a letter, your family member might choose to draw a picture to send or to make a phone call.)



down the words to a favorite hymn on an index card and put it on a spot on my dashboard that's not especially distracting. And then I sing to him on the way home. I sing the hymn I'm memorizing two or three times. I tell Caleb that when I sing "Lamb" in the song, it's another name for Jesus, as well as a baby sheep; and then he shouts "Baa!"

I have memories and hymns that I know from my mother singing to me. I want to give Caleb those memories and that innate knowledge and comfort that comes from singing about God's love and care for us, God's people. And so, I write out words. I sing them over and over to my toddler son. We use our 20 minutes to praise God and Jesus. It's my special practice with my son in that quiet car time.

~ Submitted by: Amy Sigmon  
(Belle Meade UMC,  
Nashville, Tennessee)

*Have an exciting faith story to tell? Do you have a family faith practice you want to share? Let us know! [E-mail us](#) and maybe your story will appear in the next issue of the newsletter.*

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### Bless Each Other

Blessing for families: (Make the shape of a cross on your family member's forehead or hand while saying these words)

- (Make a vertical line) God loves you.
- (Make a horizontal line) God's with you.
- (Look your family member in his/her eyes) God listens when you pray.
- (Hug your family member) I am grateful for you.



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# Pockets

### FEATURED RESOURCE

Pockets® is a 48-page devotional magazine for children ages 6-12, published by The Upper Room®. Launched in 1981, the magazine began as a response to parents and grandparents who wanted a devotional magazine especially for children. The magazine is



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issue.) Pockets is designed for the personal use of children to help them grow in their relationship with God. The magazine is distributed by individual subscriptions and standing orders to churches, which provide the magazine to the children in their congregations. Pockets includes full-color photos, stories, poems, games, mission-focused activities, daily Scripture readings, non-fiction features, and contributions from children who read the magazine. Pockets receives regular feedback from a Kids' Advisory Board. Members of the board serve for one year. They evaluate each issue, suggest themes for future issues, and give input on various questions throughout the year. For more information about Pockets, check out our website at <http://pockets.upperroom.org>, email us at [pockets@upperroom.org](mailto:pockets@upperroom.org), or call us at 615-340-7333.



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