



Parents' Corner

By Edwina Neely

Our church theme for this year is, "Lord Show Us the Way," from Joshua 3:1-4. As God shows us the way, He brings peace into our hearts. When God made the world, He had a plan *before* He laid its foundation. As we go through life following God's plans for us, we can push stress aside. Everything we do should spread God's love.



Who said, "Back to School" shopping has to be stressful? It just takes planning *beforehand*. (This can be applied to any shopping experience.)

- Make a list of what you want to get. Check it twice.
- Decide where you will shop.
- Go over the list with your children, reading aloud each item and making sure they hear each one. If they want to add something to the list, they can do so with your approval. Make it clear that, if the item is not on the list, it will stay in the store.
- Script: "Today we are going to shop at _____ (state where) for _____ (review list)." Reiterate that you will purchase only items on the list.
- Decide to make a day of it with reasonable time limits.

I spoke with a parent the other day about back to school shopping. She shared that she takes advantage of school supply sales year-round. She also suggested making a gift basket of school supplies for the teacher. As a teacher I would have loved to have gotten a basket of school supplies so I could have extras for children who had none. Such a good idea!

Remember: these suggestions can be applied to any type of shopping. *Prepare before you shop*. It is always helpful to have the children review and repeat aloud the shopping list, thus avoiding the "I didn't hear you say that!" or "I thought you said..."

God gives us peaceful homes when we let Him *show us the way*. Once the children learn what's expected, no more stress!!

Warning: The strong willed child will test you to see if he/she can trust you to keep your word or if he/she can get *what is wanted*. The test may be in the form of a temper tantrum, pleading and begging for something else, calling you names, pulling on you, screaming, to name a few. You will breathe and gently remind the child of your agreement. If it gets out of hand you may have to leave and try shopping another day. No threats or bribes allowed. If you give in, you just failed the test. *Staying calm is the key!*