

# PICKLES IN A JAR

by Sally Burgess, Forefront Families LLC

This morning we heard a delightful children's story at church. The children's Pastor came out dressed in a lab coat and wearing 'bottle end' glasses. Her name was Professor Bunsen Burner. She asked one of the children to come and be her assistant in the science lab. A large jar of pickles was placed on the table and the assistant was asked to remove one. She did this with care and once it was lying on the table, Professor Bunsen Burner placed an electrode in each end of the pickle. She connected the other end into a power source and asked for the lights to be turned off. Within about 10 seconds the pickle began to glow brightly. The Professor then explained that all the pickles in the jar were like children starting school for the New Year and that kids who believe in Jesus and His love should glow in the classroom. She then shared the Bible verse in Matthew Chapter 5 about the fact that God does not want us to hide our lights under a bushel. Instead, we should act how He would want us, and to be a

I wonder if we really take the time to show our children how to be Christians in front of others? Though they may learn parental values and expectations at home, they may not naturally transfer these principals to another setting without our supervision. A good way of training your child appropriately is to walk through specific scenarios with him. For example, say, "If the teacher asks you to stop your work and look at her, then stop immediately, put your pencil down and look at her. Tell him that if the teacher requests homework to be done by a certain time, then to do as he/she asks. Explain that the teacher has expectations of her students just like you do, and that obeying him/her immediately not only shows respect, but makes learning easier and A good way of training your child to behave faster, thus making school more fun and satisfying.

Explain to your child how to be a good school friend. Talk about the importance of standing by one another, helping one another learn, not gossiping behind a friend's back and about encouraging and caring about one another's feelings. True friends will want the very best for each other. These are the traits that Jesus shows us because He is a true friend to His children.

Christian children need to be an example, particularly amongst their friends. Saying, "NO" to situations they know are not healthy, to themselves or others, is important. They are outward-focused – anticipating others' needs and helping without being asked. They do not cheat, do not steal and they give time and things to others, because of the pleasure of doing that.

Tell your children about your student days. Tell them what you noticed about Christian students. Ask them about Christian kids that are acting appropriately that they may have seen at school and ask your child why these

kids stand out. Tell them how they can be just like that. Pray with your children before they leave for school so God is on their mind at the beginning of the day. Get them to tell you about difficult situations they are facing at school and talk about what Jesus would do.

God wants us to be an example, no matter what age we are. In fact, we are the only 'Jesus' that many people see and we have a responsibility to live as He would want us to and encourage our children to do the same.

If you have any comments or questions on this subject, please do not hesitate to contact us at [sally@forefrontfamilies.org](mailto:sally@forefrontfamilies.org). We invite you to also check out our website at [www.forefrontfamilies.org](http://www.forefrontfamilies.org) and our blog site at [www.forefrontfamilies.blogspot.com](http://www.forefrontfamilies.blogspot.com) for further assistance.