

# FAMILY FAITH BUILDER

## Character Lessons for Practical Application of Faith **Enthusiasm v. Apathy**



### Expressing Joy in each task as I give it my best effort.

According to Wiktionary.org the etymology of the word Enthusiasm includes a Greek source meaning “possessed by god’s”. In fact, a historical definition of the word is “possession by a god; divine inspiration or frenzy.” As Christians, we believe that the Holy Spirit is resident in our hearts, lighting it on fire with the passion of Christ. Enthusiasm is much more than excitement. Excitement is a result of something that happens around us. Enthusiasm is a result of something that has happened inside of us. It springs from the passion in our souls and connects us to our mission. We are, after all, a resurrection people with the promise of Eternal Life. If that doesn’t get you enthusiastic then nothing else that the church teaches will.

This month, get in touch with God’s fireworks in your heart and soul and share your enthusiasm with those around you.

### *To Practice Enthusiasm I Will:*

- be an energy-giver
- smile
- treat every job as important
- put my whole heart into what I do
- not be discouraged by failure

Any others appropriate to your family?

### *God’s Word on Enthusiasm*

*“And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.”*  
Deuteronomy 6:5

*“And in every work that he began in the service of the house of God, and in the law, and in the commandments, to seek his God, he did [it] with all his heart, and prospered.”*  
2 Chronicles 31:21

*“Whatsoever thy hand find to do, do it with thy might.”*  
Ecclesiastes 9:10

*“And ye shall seek me, and find [me], when ye shall search for me with all your heart. ....”*Jeremiah 29:13

*Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord.”*  
Romans 12:11

*“Work with enthusiasm, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people.”*  
Ephesians 6:7-17

*“Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind remain in me.”*  
Matthew 22:37

### **Zacchaeus Teaches Us about Enthusiasm**

In the Gospel of Luke, we see Jesus coming into Jericho surrounded by lots of people who wanted to see this Jesus that people were talking about. Zacchaeus was interested, too, but being short, he was unable to see much. He ran ahead of the crowd and climbed up into a tree so that he could see Jesus as he passed beneath. When Jesus was under the tree, he looked up and saw Zacchaeus and told him that he was going to stay at his house that night. Zacchaeus was overcome with Jesus invitation and quickly responded with a promise to mend his ways.

Zacchaeus actions teach us that we need to actively and enthusiastically seek out Jesus. That we need to receive him with joy and promise to mend our ways.



## ☺ Two Frogs In Cream

*Two frogs fell into a can of cream,  
Or so I've heard it told:  
The sides of the can were shiny and steep,  
The cream was deep and cold.  
"O, what's the use?" croaked Number 1.  
"Tis fate; no help's around.  
Good-bye, my friends Good-bye, sad world"  
And weeping still, he drowned.  
But Number 2, of sterner stuff,  
Dog-paddled in surprise,  
The while he wiped his creamy face  
And dried his creamy eyes.  
"I'll swim awhile, at least," he said-  
Or so I've heard he said:  
"It really wouldn't help the world  
If one more frog were dead."  
An hour or two he kicked and swam,  
Not once he stopped to mutter.  
But kicked and kicked and swam and kicked.  
Then hopped out, via butter!*

Author Unknown

POSTER IDEA:

## Enthusiasm

**Expressing Joy in each task  
as I give it my best effort.**



**“Each one must give as he has decided  
in his heart, not reluctantly or under  
compulsion, for God loves a cheerful  
giver.”**

**2 Corinthians 9:7**

**What expression do you  
wear on your face while  
you are working?**

Use this poem to illustrate the need for positive thinking. After reading it, you can demonstrate the making of butter. Label a mason jar or old mayo jar Enthusiasm and fill it half-full with room temperature heavy whipping cream. Pass the jar around and let each person shake it. It will take anywhere from 10 -30 minutes to form butter. Don't stop when it looks like whip cream. The butter will form and separate from the buttermilk that remains, if any. Drain the buttermilk off, stir in a pinch of salt and enjoy on crackers. You will make half as much butter as the cream with which you started. It should taste delicious, slightly sour, with no aftertaste. If it is bubbly, or smells yeasty or gassy, discard. While enjoying the butter talk about the physical shaking of the cream. Could you feel the enthusiasm of the project? Can you imagine being enthusiastic about something and sitting still and remaining quiet? Of course not! Our faith requires us to be enthusiastic about living and doing the will of God.



Dear Jesus,

We praise you for your goodness and mercy and thank you for the example of Enthusiasm in your life. You preached with heartfelt joy and passion. Guide us to be energy-givers that smile readily. Remind us to treat everything we do as important and to put our heart into all of our tasks. Teach us to not be discouraged by failure. Help us to act in all things in harmony with the will of the Father. Amen.

### Other ways to teach character in the home:

- Display the character quality and definition in a prominent place such as on the refrigerator or let each child decorate it for their bedroom door.
- At the dinner table ask if anyone noticed anyone (not just family members) demonstrating the character quality (or not demonstrating it).
- Point out news stories where character was or was not involved.
- During car trips, challenge the kids by describing scenarios and having them identify if it describes being the quality or being the opposite.
- Praise with character by recognizing the character quality involved rather than the achievement.

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For more activities that can be adapted for family use, visit  
[www.charactercincinnati.org/quality\\_resource.php?q=enthusiasm](http://www.charactercincinnati.org/quality_resource.php?q=enthusiasm)