



Your steering team:

Mops mentors:

Cindy Clair 224-7239

Brenda Gortmaker 945-0997

Coordinator:

Trish Sargent 224-4338

Hospitality:

Jenn Oedekoven 224-1616

Jeri Fosheim 567-3395

Jessica Willms 224-4620

Creative Activities:

Megan Herbert 945-0603

Julie Schnettler 494-0369

Discussion Group TL:

Melissa Choate 224-8138

Moppets:

Sara Ogan 494-0390

Verda Johnson 224-0283

Finance Team Leader:

Amy Kropp 776-0311

Speaker Coordinator:

Angie Moran 224-6286

Publicity:

Sylvia Swartz 224-2672



Does Your Spouse see Jesus in you? –Matthew J White

It's 5:21 in the morning, and the alarm goes off. I roll over and hit the snooze button in hopes of just nine more minutes of sleep before the day begins. At 5:24, my two-year-old quietly – his version of quietly, anyway – enters the room and approaches the bed. I pretend to still be asleep so he'll walk to the other side and crawl in with Anne (Failure #1).

Once in bed, lan, our youngest son, starts in with his two-year-old version of whispering. I roll over and pull the covers tight to subtly tell Anne and lan to keep it down (Failure #2). After a few minutes in that position, I realize he's not going to be quiet or lay still – which both of us have asked him to do several times. I groggily slither out of bed and head for the closet to get dressed so I can take lan downstairs.

When I get downstairs, I pull out some muffins and milk for lan and then head to the basement to watch whatever is on TV at 5:30 a.m. so I can lie down for a few more minutes. I decide I'll get Anne's coffee in a little bit (Failure #3).

In just seven minutes, I've failed to show my wife love in the same way Jesus loves me! It may seem harsh to beat myself up like this, right? Wrong! If I was really intentional about loving my wife like Jesus loves me, I would have 1) hopped out of bed to try and catch lan before he woke Anne; 2) taken him into the closet with me while I got dressed, so not to bother his mom; and 3) started the coffee and made Anne a cup so it was waiting when she got up to get in the shower.

Did you see yourself in my situation? If you don't have kids or it's been some time since you were there, you can make up another circumstance. This same mentality, where it's much easier to do the selfish thing, can creep into every part of your day. But, Jesus has set an example for us to follow. And, the first place he wants us to put this into place is in our marriage. The Bible very specifically compares Christ's relationship with the church directly to the relationship between husband and wife. And as we examine the characteristics of Jesus, we discover exactly what we must do so our spouse will see Christ in us.

It's not just about being unselfish. If you really want your spouse to see Jesus in you, you have to genuinely put into practice an attitude of becoming more like Christ in everything you do. This is not a simple, one-time event; it is an everyday struggle. It's not easy to act like Jesus in every situation. In fact, it's notably difficult. We live in a world where it's much easier to do what feels good or take the easy way out. But, becoming more like Jesus involves [sacrificial love](#); it takes a [servant's heart](#); it means [forgiving when it's not easy to forgive](#); and it takes a concerted effort toward [humility and self-forgetfulness](#)!

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Ingredients:

- *12 oz can pink lemonade concentrate
- * 1 cup raspberry sherbert
- *12 oz can lemon /lime soda

Instructions:

- 1) In pitcher mix the lemonade concentrate with the recommended amount of water.
- 2) In a separate pitcher, combine sherbert with 1 cup of lemonade mixture.
- 3) Add the soda, stir and serve!

Makes 3 cups



Ingredients:

- 1 18 1/4-ounce box white cake mix (plus eggs, water, and oil, as directed on box)
- 1 3-ounce box strawberry-flavored Jell-O
- 1 16-ounce package frozen sliced strawberries, thawed and drained
- 1 cup butter, softened
- 3 1/2 cups powdered sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- Red or pink candies

Instructions:

To begin, heat the oven. Meanwhile grease and flour two 8-inch baking pans, one round and one square, as directed on the cake mix box. Add the Jell-O to the cake mix, then prepare the mix as directed on the box. Fold half of the strawberries into the batter. Pour the batter into the prepared pans and bake according to the package directions. Remove the cakes from the pans and allow them to cool completely on wire racks.



To make the frosting, beat the butter, sugar, and vanilla extract until light and fluffy. Add the remaining strawberries and beat until well combined.



Cut the round cake in half and place the two semicircles against two sides of the square cake, as shown. Spread on the frosting and decorate to your heart's content with the red or pink candies.

A Hearty Dessert!



Discussion group pointers for every type of personality!



Here are a few helpful reminders for our discussion groups. Challenge yourself to follow these simple tips while in your discussion group!

"The best discussions occur when everyone has an opportunity to share. If you are a naturally talkative, discipline yourself to speak no more than four times. If you are naturally shy, speak up at least twice. Be honest, woman who are unwilling to be honest sacrifice bonding and growth. When other women make themselves vulnerable, show yourself worthy of their trust and keep confidences within the group."

From: Dee Brestin's special instructions for discussion groups

Upcoming times to get together:

- Coffee with Verda!
Thursday mornings 9-11am. Just bring yourself and your kiddos! Verda provides breakfast!
- MOPS playgroup every Thursday morning @ CBC gym 10-noon.

Watch calendar and emails for actual dates and cancellations!

Mommies Online

Monthly Picks:

- *Kiddio.com
- *Familyfun.go.com

John 13:34 "A new command I give you: **Love** one another. As I have **loved** you, so you must **love** one another.

1 Corinthians 16:14 Do everything in **love**.

Psalm 86:5 You are forgiving and good, O Lord, abounding in **love** to all who call to you.

Psalm 31:7 I will be glad and rejoice in your **love**, for you saw my affliction and knew the anguish of my soul.

February Craft Corner ~ Familyfun.go.com

Materials:

- *Small bag of candy
- *Paint pen or marker
- *Twist ties
- *Ribbon

Instructions:

- 1) Close a small bag of candy with a twist tie. With a ribbon Tie it to the handle of a toy shovel.
- 2) Use a paint pen or permanent a markerto write your message at the base of the shovel, just below the bag of candy.

Message Ideas:

- *You've got the scoop on me!
- *I dig you!
- *Here's the scoop on Valentines Day!
- *It's Valentines Day—Dig it!!





February Birthdays

Keather Roth: Feb 25

Angie Moran: Feb 26

*Happy
Birthday!*

RANDOM BITS of INFORMATION:

****Are you interested in being even MORE involved with MOPS?! Then have we got the perfect place for you. On the Steering Team! We are recruiting steering members for the 2010-2011 MOPS year. If you are interested contact Trish Sargent @ 224-4338.**

**** Our 2nd “spontaneous” event was held last Friday evening. Moms got together for a yummy dinner out at La Minestra and then went to see the movie “Dear John”. It was a wonderful evening out with just the ladies! If you haven’t yet made it to one of our spontaneous events you still have one more chance to do so! Your small group leaders will be contacting you with more information!☺ Stay tuned for details!**

February 2010	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
	1	2 MOPS Steering 9AM	3	4	5	6	7
	8	9 MOPS 9 AM	10	11 MOPS Playgroup 9am	12	13	14  Valentines Day!
	15 *No School*	16 MOPS fitness classes start @ Anytime Fitness 6:15pm	17	18 MOPS Playgroup 9am	19	20	21
	22	23 MOPS 9AM	24	25 MOPS Playgroup 9am No School- Conferences Keather Roth	26 No School- Conferences Angie Moran	27	28