

WELCOME TO.....

Thank You For Joining Us @ The Ridge!

If this is your first time visiting Church @ The Ridge, please be sure to stop by Guest Central to meet Pastor Steve Whipple and his wife, Kim. If you need to pray with someone, counselors are available after each service left of the stage near Guest Central. We're so glad you're here!

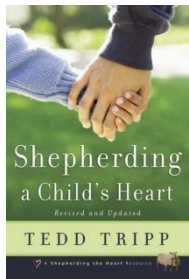
Regular Worship Time
Sunday Morning - 10:30am
Right Here At Austin Middle School

Year End Giving

Thank you all so much for your faithful and generous giving this year! If you have not done so, there is still time to give towards our ONE Offering. Please be sure that all contributions are postmarked by December 31st in order to be credited for your 2014 giving statement. You can also give through your bank's bill pay service or online at www.ChurchAtTheRidge.com.

Shepherding A Child's Heart Event

February 6th-7th



Dr. Tedd Tripp is coming to Church @ The Ridge! Dr. Tripp is the author of the popular child-rearing book, *Shepherding a Child's Heart* and co-author with his wife of *Instructing a Child's Heart*. This is a fantastic and rare opportunity to hear and learn from this well-known author so mark your calendars folks! More info to come!

The Ridge Christmas Family Devotion

Read the following poem from the video in the Christmas Eve service. Be sure to share this with your family tonight or even tomorrow morning.

THE CHURCH @ THE RIDGE

The Real Night Before Christmas

Tick tock, tick tock, tick tock. The tricky clock tick tocking
Each painfully long minute unlocking the tumble jumbley
can't close your eyes feeling
What will it be? When will it be?
Oh the anticipation, the watching, the wishing, and waiting
To let the wiggles and giggles and goose-bumps go.
To find, to see to finally know
What will it be? When will it be?
Oh the expectation! The what if's, the oh my's fairly shaking
Longing for this night's joy all year; That moment of hope so very near
Oh but would they, could they, imagine a gift so great?
A gift that compelled the whole world to wait
When a Heavenly Father gave all mankind; His Son, the One, Love defined
The magic of Christmas is more brilliant, you see,
Than a bag or a box tucked under a tree
The true love of Christmas really began,
When Holy God became wholly Man

Read *Isaiah 9:2* and *John 1:9-14*

Ask your children:

- What are you anticipating this Christmas?
- What do you think people were anticipating Jesus to be like before He came?
- Christmas is all about anticipating. Anticipating gifts isn't a bad thing, but is that all that we are looking forward to?
- What do you think heaven is going to be like? Are you looking forward to Jesus coming back to earth and taking His followers to heaven? That's what the Bible teaches us.

Jesus told his disciples that no one would know the time of His return, only God the Father. They lived the rest of their lives expecting Jesus to return any day. Do you think they would have lived differently if they knew that we would still be waiting 2000 years later?!

- If you lived anticipating Jesus to come back any day...with the same excitement you have about Christmas...how would it change the way you live?

Our life is all about anticipating Jesus return. Just like we are looking forward to Christmas, Jesus has something even more exciting than gifts under a tree. He offers us the gift of eternal life! **That is why Christmas matters.** Jesus came the first time to make a way for us to know God and to be made right with Him. Our sins are forgiven and our debt for sin has been paid. Jesus paid the price by dying in our place on the cross and conquered sin and death by rising from the grave!

That is the Hope of Christmas!