

parenttalk

 Gospel Light

all we need

Advertising constantly tells us that we need something! Because our culture is driven by pressure to buy more, our children and we need to understand the difference between things we *need* and things we *want*. Here are simple ways to gain clarity.

- Have thanksgiving often! Invite your children to look around and name things they can see for which they want to thank God. (To keep it interesting, ask children to name items by color, by initial letter sound or by shape.) Looking at what we *do* have and thanking God for it help us clarify the difference between need and want.
- When your child points out an item he or she wants, let your child know you understand his or her feelings, but at the same time help your child know that we can't have everything we want. "You really do want that toy. It looks like fun to play

with. I know it can be hard to want something. It's good to know that God helps us have what we need."

- Keep in mind that your child's wish list may grow if he or she hears frequent comments from you about the things you want. The attitude you model in your conversation about possessions will be reflected in your child's words and actions. Look for opportunities when you can briefly talk with children about needs and wants. "People didn't always have cars. They rode horses or walked. We can go places with a car. We can take the bus or subway. We can ride our bikes or walk."

When we and our children understand what our needs are and bring those needs to God, we can be confident in His goodness. He has promised to supply *all* of our *needs*!

