



August 2018

parenting CHRISTIAN kids



FBCER
KIDS

WHAT
matters
most

What We're Learning:

Here is an overview of what we will learn during small groups & Kids Church.

August 5- John's Vision of Jesus

August 12- God's Warning to 7 Churches

August 19- Jesus on the Throne

August 26- Jesus Will Return

A Quick Word from Tyler

What Matters Most (Part 2)

In June I wrote an article with this premise— Jesus isn't just a part of you and your family's life but He should be your life. In Matthew 22, Jesus gave us the great commandment which is to "love God with all of our heart, soul and mind and to love others". Jesus is what matters most and we should strive to help our children understand that.

I know we live in a busy world where there can be many things that compete for the top priority in our family life. I want to provide some practical steps you can make to help your kids understand the importance of Jesus in their life.

Attend Church Faithfully. Jesus loves the church and so should His disciples. If we want our kids to understand the importance of Jesus then we should make it our goal to gather locally for worship each week. Some wise parents I know make church attendance an ex-

pectation in their home upfront so that their children know that if it is Sunday, they will be going to worship God with other believers. What does it communicate to our kids if we say that Jesus is important but we only attend church (which He loves) once a month.

I am not trying to guilt anyone into coming to church more often. Instead I am trying to help make the connection that if we want our kids to love Jesus above all else then we should put Him above all else with our schedule and make Sunday worship a priority.

A fun way you can even further exemplify the importance of gathering for worship weekly is by finding a church to attend while on vacation. By doing this you can help your kids realize that even though we are on vacation from our life, we are not on vacation from our faith. It further drives home the point that Jesus is what matters most. (and you get to try out a different church)

Faithful church attendance isn't the silver bullet but it is a great place to start. I will continue next month with several more practical ways that we can make living for Jesus the focus of our home.

In the meantime, evaluate your family's commitment to faithful church attendance? If you asked your kids if gathering weekly to worship God was important how would they answer?

If you know that your faithfulness to worship God with other believers isn't what it should be then let me suggest that August is a great month to make that commitment. Kids are heading back to school and going to be back into a routine. Add weekly church attendance to their routine. Let your kids know about this new commitment and begin living it out. You won't be sorry.

In Christ,
-Tyler

A Faith-Filled Legacy

Jennifer Buell, a former children's pastor in South Dakota, surveyed local fourth- and fifth-graders to discover who kids truly admire. She says, "I expected to see a lot of overlap in answers to the questions: 'Who do you most look up to and why?' and 'Who's your favorite celebrity?' I was wrong. Resoundingly, kids' answers to the first were family—parents, grandparents, and older siblings—with a healthy dose of teachers and friends. They attributed great qualities to these people, such as love, understanding, and trustworthiness, along with comments such as 'takes good care of me.' Jesus and God also made the top of kids' lists. Surprisingly, not a single child listed a celebrity as someone he or she most looked up to."



TEACHABLE MOMENTS

Honoring Grandparents

You'll need a Bible, colorful paper, and pens. Say: **Grandparents (or senior friends) have always been special—even in Bible times. Let's hear about a grandfather named Israel, a son named Joseph, and two grandsons.**

Read aloud Genesis 48:8-16. Say: **Israel blessed his grandchildren by making them happy. Ask: What are ways your grandparents bless or make you happy? What are ways you bless or make them happy?**

Hand out paper and pens. Say: **Let's bless our grandparents. Trace your hand on the paper. Above it, write "Hands down, you're the best!" (Help younger kids.) Now write a prayer of blessing in your hand outline. For example, "I pray that God will help you live a long life." Then we'll give these to our grandparents.**

To close, form a circle and put all your hands in the center. On the count of three, say, "Yea, grandparents!" and raise your hands as a prayer of thanks for these special people.

Working Together In large letters, print the words of Deuteronomy 6:4-9 on poster board. Cut into large puzzle pieces and mix up the pieces on the floor. Let kids and grandparents work on the puzzle together using the Bible as needed. When it's complete, have an adult read the passage aloud and say: "This is a reminder to love God all the time. Some of us are little now; some of us are older and have loved God for a longer time. God likes us to work together to learn about him."

Food for Thought Ask grandparents to select favorite recipes from their childhood. Buy the ingredients so grandparents and grandkids can prepare the dishes together. Have adults share memories related to the foods. While they eat, grandchildren can talk about memories related to their favorite foods.

So Uplifting Have a grandparent lie down on a blanket. Then have a child grab a corner and try to pick up him or her. Add a child to each corner for each new try. Then switch roles and have an adult try to lift a child on the blanket. (If needed, have another adult grab a corner.) Read aloud Deuteronomy 6:4-9. Ask: "Who was easier to pick up—a child or an adult?" Say: "It's easier for an adult to carry or lift a child. God gives adults the privilege of 'carrying' children

closer to him and his Word." Close by thanking God for grandparents who support us and our faith.

Make Him Known Read aloud Psalm 89:1. Give grandparents and grandchildren each a construction paper pennant and markers. Have them make a pennant that says something they believe about God's love. Once pennants are finished, have a grandparent and a grandchild trade pennants. Have each person complete this statement: "One way I will love God this week is by..."

In the Spotlight Arrange for grandparents and grandchildren to interview one another about their personal histories. Determine a recording format and set ground rules such as no interruptions and no commentary. Then brainstorm questions together. Examples include: What's your first memory? Who told you about Jesus? What did/do you like most about school? What's your favorite holiday, and why? What's your favorite book? What's your most treasured possession, and why? What's been your happiest moment?

"Let each generation tell its children of your mighty acts; let them proclaim your power."
—Psalm 145:4, NLT

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MEDIA MADNESS



MOVIE

Title: *Christopher Robin*
Genre: Animation, Adventure, Comedy
Rating: PG
Cast: Ewan McGregor, Hayley Atwell, Jim Cummings, Brad Garrett
Synopsis: In this live-animation film, Christopher Robin is a working-class family man who's lost his sense of imagination. When he meets his childhood pal, Winnie-the-Pooh, the bear helps Christopher see life's wonders through a new light.
Our Take: This family-friendly movie will introduce a new audience to Pooh and the entire band of friends from the Hundred Acre Wood. Expect some sad moments regarding growing up and the loss of innocence. Afterward, discuss what makes you happy—and how to find joy in life even during challenges and tough times.



TV

Title: *True: Wonderful Wishes*
Network: Netflix
Synopsis: True, a kind young girl, partners with pal Bartleby to help friends solve their problems. First, she tries to pin down each dilemma's cause, and then she uses her magical power to activate a Wish Tree. True doesn't always find a solution on the first attempt.
Our Take: This show, geared toward ages 3 to 7, has positive messages about caring and doing good deeds. The use of magic and wishes, however, can be confusing for young children and runs counter to the Christian faith. Remind kids that Jesus is our source of help and blessings—and that we can pray to him any time. Also discuss ways that kindness can impact a person's day and life.

Games, Sites & Apps

NMBR 9

This strategic board game is geared toward ages 8+. Players flip cards to reveal numbers and then must place tiles with those numbers in certain spots. The rules are simple, but the choices aren't. NMBR 9 isn't confrontational or ultra-competitive, and the game can even be played alone.

This Podcast Has Fleas

Starring Alec Baldwin and Jay Pharoah, this free podcast for kids features a rival cat and dog who have dueling podcasts. Other celebrities voice various household pets. The animals' silly antics make for enjoyable listening—for children as well as for parents.

Three Good Things

This digital happiness journal encourages users to end each day on a positive note, listing three good experiences. Entries are limited to 100 characters or fewer and can be shared on social media, if desired. This free app, created by a teenager, helps kids (ages 7+) focus on what's going right.

This page is designed to help educate parents and isn't meant to endorse any movie, music, or product. Our goal is to help you make informed decisions about what your children watch, read, listen to, and play.



CULTURE & TRENDS

Need a Lift? A ride-hailing service for kids is meeting the needs of busy families trying to navigate crazy schedules. HopSkipDrive offers rides for ages 6 and up, starting at \$15 for a single family and \$6 for carpooling. "CareDrivers" and vehicles are thoroughly vetted, and parents can track the ride live via an app. (hopskipdrive.com)

Not-so-Precious Juuls Schools are taking measures to combat the spreading health epidemic of vaping known as Juuling. The small, high-nicotine Juul device is now common in many middle and high school classrooms and bathrooms. Schools are revising discipline policies, adding prevention classes, and even banning flash drives because they resemble Juuls. (edweek.org)

QUICK STATS

Convenient But Costly More than 25% of the average family food budget now goes to easy-prep meals and grab-and-go foods. Families with kids at home spend more than \$200 per week on groceries. (rd.com; USDA)

Say What? About 20% of children have permanent hearing loss caused mostly by exposure to loud noise. But contrary to parental fears, earbuds have *not* been shown to be a major cause of hearing problems. (time.com)



August

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
9:30am 5 <i>Small Groups & Worship Service</i> 11:00am <i>Kids Church (Pre-k-4th), Small Groups(5th & 6th) & Worship</i>	6	7	8	9	10	11
9:30am 12 <i>Small Groups & Worship Service</i> 11:00am <i>Kids Church (Pre-k-4th), Small Groups(5th & 6th) & Worship</i>	13	14	15	16	17	18
Leadership Training Dinner Sunday, August 12 from 4pm-7pm www.fbcelreno.com/leaders						
9:30am 19 <i>Small Groups & Worship Service</i> 11:00am <i>Kids Church (Pre-k-4th), Small Groups(5th & 6th) & Worship</i>	20	21	22	23	24	25
Pastor's 10 Year Celebration Sunday, August 12 at 12:15			Family Kick-off Night Pizza @ 5:30 Event @ 6:30			
9:30am 26 <i>Small Groups & Worship Service</i> 11:00am <i>Kids Church (Pre-k-4th), Small Groups(5th & 6th) & Worship</i>	27	28	29	30	31	
			5:30pm <i>Dinner-Fried Onion Burgers</i> 6:30pm <i>Planted, Rooted & REFUGE</i>	First Night Back Kids, Pre-k thru 6th ,will begin a unit on Confidence		

New Group for Parents

Beginning on Wednesday, August 29 join Pastor Tyler in a group for parents with kids in the home. This group will be a place for parents to find encouragement and community plus parenting resources and help from the Bible and leading experts.

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parenting
CHRISTIAN kids

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