

**Kids'**

**Adventure**

**Express**

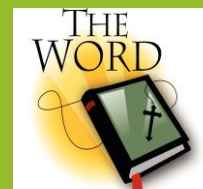
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October 2011

**Kids' Adventure  
Klub Newsletter**



## POWERSOURCE

### ASK GOD:

1. To help you keep the "end goal" of eternity always in mind.
2. To guide your important work of raising children who love and serve God.
3. To grow and nurture your children's faith—and your own.

## Maintain an Eternal Perspective

Many parents live in survival mode, being pulled from all directions and juggling ever-increasing responsibilities. In the rush of school, work, and household activities, it's easy to lose our focus on what really matters: the eternal future of our children and ourselves.

How can you be more tuned in to this "end goal" of spending eternity in heaven? Talk with your pastor or a valued friend to brainstorm what your kids need to know about God and when. Plan ways to incorporate Jesus into everyday life—and on an everyday basis. Make sure everyone's on the same page. Talk to your spouse, family members, and caregivers about your spiritual priorities, even if you think they already know them.

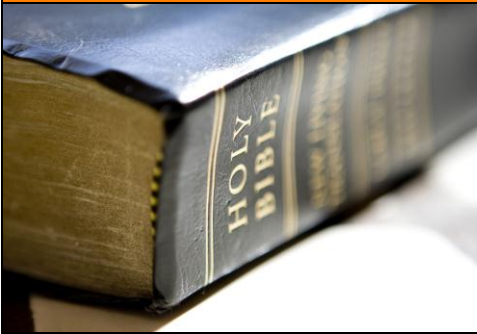
Then be intentional with your choices. Arrange your plans around the big-picture goal. If activities start to interfere with what's really important, reevaluate and rework your family's schedule. When faith becomes the top priority for your family, it'll also become the top priority for your children.

**"The Greatest Gift"  
Christmas Family Worship Service  
Sunday, December 11th at 9:00 & 10:30 AM**

**Practices for anyone who would like to participate aged kindergarten through adult will begin on Tuesday, November 8<sup>th</sup> from 6:15-7:15 PM. Practices will run for 5 weeks.**

**If you have additional questions please contact Stacey Van Zeyl at 847-543-7259, [yecats77@hotmail.com](mailto:yecats77@hotmail.com).**

**(More announcements on the last page)**



“I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.” (Philippians 3:14)

What are your goals? Are you trying to finish a project? potty-train a toddler? Today, take time to focus on the goal of spending eternity in heaven—a goal that’s reachable thanks to Jesus’ death and resurrection.

## TEACHABLE MOMENTS

**1. Before and After**—Prepare for worship by playing the soft sounds of Christian music in your house. After church or Sunday school, ask children not only what they learned but how they can put the lessons into practice. Display and refer to take-home papers.

**2. Pray Without Ceasing**—Move prayer beyond the dinner table and bedroom. Pray for and with children as they head to school, when you’re driving and see an ambulance, or when a family member is discouraged or facing a challenge.



**3. What’s Our Mission?**—Together, craft a family mission statement. Decide what your worthy purpose, visions, and values are. Then have everyone commit to living that way, both privately and publicly. God will be placed at the center of your home not by chance but because you’ve purposed it to be that way.

## Begin a conversation about goals for this life—and the life to come—by asking children these questions:

1. What are some things you want to accomplish or achieve during the next week, month, or year?
2. What are some ways to stay focused on a goal and not let obstacles get in your way?
3. What goals do you think Jesus wants us to set? How can he help us reach them?

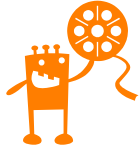
## FAMILY EXPERIENCE

Keep your family focused on Jesus with these activities.

• **Cleansed Hearts**—Together, carve a happy face into a pumpkin. Remove the seeds and place them in a bowl inside the pumpkin. Say: “This pumpkin represents our hearts before we accept Jesus’ gift of forgiveness.” Have family members take turns reaching inside the pumpkin. Say: “The cold, wet seeds are just as yucky as our cold hearts are before we join God’s family. Once you invite Jesus into your life, though, he cleans out your sin, just like cutting open a pumpkin and scooping out the yucky seeds.” Throw away the seeds. Say: “Jesus makes our hearts happy so God’s love can shine out from us to a dark world.” Place a candle inside the pumpkin and light it. Close by reading Matthew 5:16.



• **Goal Tenders**—You’ll need some bowls and buttons. Try tossing the buttons into the bowls from 3 feet away. Then discuss your success with this goal. Say: “Sometimes we have to try several times to achieve our goals. But God gives us each a special goal to strive for. Listen to what it is.” Read aloud Philippians 3:12-14. Say: “Our goal is to become what God wants us to be. We can’t achieve that in one year, but we keep striving toward the goal.” Move a bowl closer to you. Say: “Let’s take turns tossing a button into this bowl and saying one way we’ll try to become what God wants us to be; for example, reading your Bible, praying, singing songs to God, or showing love and kindness to others. Remember to strive for that goal every day, week, month, and year.”



# MEDIA MADNESS



## MOVIES

**Movie:** *Princess and the Pop Star*

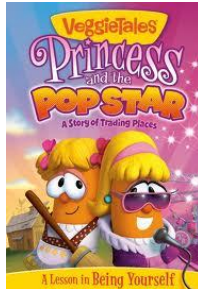
**Genre:** Christian cartoon

**Running time:** 50 minutes

**Rating:** Family-friendly

**Synopsis:** In this new “VeggieTales” DVD, farm girl Princess Poppysseed switches lives with her favorite pop singer, Vanna Banana. The girls realize that God lovingly designed each of their lives “as is” for a reason.

**Our Take:** Young “VeggieTales” fans will enjoy this lesson in being yourself. Preteens will gain perspective about trading places with musical heroes. All viewers will enjoy the high-energy music, including “You Never Are” by Dove Award-winning Artist of the Year Francesca Battistelli.



## MUSIC

**Artist:** Needtobreathe

**Album:** *The Reckoning*

**Artist Info:** This rock band from South Carolina has had hits on mainstream and Christian charts, as well as several songs on TV shows and ads. They’ve been opening up for Taylor Swift on the North American leg of her sold-out *Speak Now* tour.

**Summary:** In their fourth studio album, Needtobreathe combines their powerful sound with experimental recording ideas. The first single, “Slumber,” encourages listeners to wake up, sing, and dance.

**Our Take:** Needtobreathe is a good choice for fans of bluesy folk rock who want to hear a variety of heartfelt, positive messages in their music.



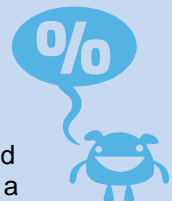
## CULTURE & TRENDS

- Experts say it’s more important than ever to nurture children’s creativity. Researchers blame standardized testing for declines in children’s ability to produce unique ideas and express humor and imagination. But there are encouraging signs that kids are expressing creativity outside the classroom, through digital media and free play. (*msnbc.com*)

- Companies are turning kids into walking billboards. Disney hands out “Disney Baby” onesies in maternity wards, a California restaurant gives kids free arcade tokens for wearing its shirts, and a cereal company in the U.K. pays kids \$400 to wear its clothing on their most-scheduled days. (*various Internet sources*)

## QUICK STATS

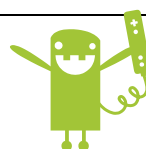
- Kids ages 6 to 9 get an average of \$4.45 a week for allowance. But out of 480 families surveyed, only four said they use allowance as a way to teach tithing and saving. (*kidsmoney.org*)



## GAMES, SITES & APPS

Title	Content	Rating & Platform
<i>Jerry Rice &amp; Nitus’ Dog Football</i>	This family-friendly game features a team of canine athletes, led by a human quarterback. It’s a fun way to introduce children to football.	E; Wii
<i>Hole in the Wall</i>	In this party game, which requires a Kinect motion-sensing device, players try to fit through shapes carved in a wall that moves toward them.	E; Xbox360
<i>Savings Spree</i>	This fun, age-appropriate app teaches kids to make smart decisions about money—and shows how those decisions will affect them in the future.	For ages 7-12; available at <a href="http://www.msngen.com">www.msngen.com</a> for \$2.99

This page is designed to help educate parents and isn’t meant to endorse any movie, music, or product. Our prayer is that you’ll make informed decisions about what your children watch, listen to, and wear.



# September 2011

## How will you help sow the seeds of faith?

We need your help to make our mission to **Invite**... all children to experience the love of Jesus; **Nurture**... them through the creative teaching of God's Word; and to **Send**...them out to reflect Christ in their daily lives, a reality. **Volunteers are ALWAYS welcome!** For more information, please stop by the Children's Ministry Team Office.

### Teach Us to Pray Rotation

**Cooking/Science:** We will use pretzels as a teaching tool about prayer. Also, we will explore various ways to pray.

**Art:** For the art rotation, the children will learn that prayer is talking to God which helps us to feel closer to Him. We can talk with God at any time, about anything through our prayers. The children in PS-K will be making a prayer bracelet by threading beads onto a pipe cleaner. They will choose each bead to remind them of a specific person or event for which to pray.

The 1st-5th graders will focus on the Lord's Prayer. To help learn the prayer, they will add it to a praying hands silhouette in front of a "stained glass window" made from construction paper.

**Cinema:** The younger grades will watch the video, "Veggie Tales: King George and the Ducky." In this video, the children will see the tale of King George and his affinity for rubber duckies. When the greedy king spies a new ducky in a boy's tub, he goes ballistic, sending the child to the front lines of the Great Pie War. Of course, there is a silver lining and King George sees the error of his ways. After the video, the children will discuss forgiveness and talk about how forgiveness is a key part of the Lord's Prayer. Next they will create an Itsy, Bitsy Lord's Prayer book, and they also will complete a picture puzzle of a young girl praying. The older children will listen to the sounds of a conch shell and discuss the wondrous creations the Lord has given us. They then will discuss the connection between faith (i.e., believing in God through His wondrous works while not being able to see, touch or feel Him) and the ability to pray. If we have faith and can see Him through His wondrous works, then the children will feel more comfortable praying to Him. After this discussion, the children will create poster boards of the Lord's Prayer. They will use supplies from nature to adorn their poster board (e.g., leaves, small stones, bark, etc.).

**Games/Storytelling:** Prayer is talking with God. There are many ways to talk with God and many different kinds of prayers. Jesus taught his disciples to pray and gave them an example we still use today. We call this example the Lord's Prayer. Children will discover the Bible tells us that Jesus was a man who frequently talked with God. The disciples were curious about how Jesus prayed and he taught the disciples a special prayer. Christians today still pray this prayer; it is called the Lord's Prayer. Talking with God helps us feel closer to God and we can talk with God at any time about anything. There are many ways to pray-bubbles, popcorn, circles. It's so important to understand the words of the Lord's Prayer, so there's a matching game with plain language.

## Announcements

### **Congratulations!**

The mission of Family Ministry is to partner with the parents of children, birth through 5<sup>th</sup> grade, in their child's faith journey. One of the promises parents make at their child's baptism is that they will place a Bible into their child's hand. We had the honor and privilege to give 11 children their own Adventure Bible for young readers and truly partner with parents. These are incredible stepping stones for all members of God's family!

**The children who received a Bible are:** Elijah Baugh, Kyle Carpenter, Sage Coleman, Grant Fadlovich, Sam Flory, Tyler Glowinski, Chase Mittlestaedt, Trey Sato, Dylan VanZeyl, William LaCroix, Madeline Fullerton & Coleman Pagac.

I had the opportunity to highlight 5 Bible Verses in each child's Bible, 3 in the Old Testament and 2 in the New Testament. My challenge to both children and parents was to find those verses and then show them to me the following week so that they could pick out a little gift from the treasure box in my office. Going forward the children are encouraged to bring their Bible each week to Kids' Adventure Klub. I will keep you posted on how they did next month 😊!

### **Kids' Adventure Klub**

We are off to a great start! We have over 75 children registered and learning about the "B-I-B-L-E...That's the Book for Me," Bible Teachings of the Shema, and the Beatitudes and then later this month we will learn Teach us to Pray the Lord's Prayer. Make sure to stop by the wall in the hallway to check out our children and how God made them special! We are so very blessed!

A very special thank you to Tom Strenger for helping us with supplies for our new preschool room. The change to having children visit centers during the rotation lesson has helped our young ones adjust very nicely!

### **Are you Hungry? We feed you in more than one way!**

Join us for the next rotation workshop lunch on Sunday, November 13th following the 10:30 AM worship service. Kids' Adventure Klub feeds you with the information, knowledge, and support that you need to be able to easily feed the word of God to both yourself and the children of Joy! Have any questions? Contact Cheryl O'Neill at 847.362.4569 or email [Cheryl.oneill@joylutheran.org](mailto:Cheryl.oneill@joylutheran.org). Sign-up sheets for volunteering will be available at the meeting. We need you and our kids need you!

### **"The Greatest Gift" Christmas Family Worship Service Sunday, December 11th at 9:00 & 10:30 AM**

Christmas is coming and so is our reminder of the greatest gift, Jesus. Practices for the Family Worship Service happening Sunday, December 11th at both services will begin on Tuesday, November 8th. Practices will run for 5 weeks from 6:15-7:15 PM. This is for anyone who would like to participate aged kindergarten through adult. During the practices we will go over lines for speaking parts along with the non-speaking acting parts, and will sing a few songs. Kids' Adventure Klub children will start music the end of October in order to learn some of the songs too. In addition, the choir will be participating in this worship service. Any interested adults are welcome to join their practices Tuesdays from 7:30-9:00 PM.

If you have any questions, please contact Stacey Van Zeyl at 847-543-7259 or [yecats77@hotmail.com](mailto:yecats77@hotmail.com).