

parenting CHRISTIAN kids



LifeSpring Church

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Jesus Always Forgives and Forgets

POWERSOURCE

ASK JESUS:

1. To forgive your sins: the wrongs you've committed and the "rights" you've omitted.
2. To make forgiveness a key component of your family's life.
3. To help you model repentance and forgiveness for your kids.

During the season of Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday (March 6 this year), the traditional focus is on our sinfulness and our need for a Savior. Lent isn't a time to wallow in guilt but to humbly reflect, repent, and turn to Jesus, who always forgives us.

People of all ages often have a tough time forgiving others—or asking for forgiveness. Letting go of our hurt and anger when we've been wronged can be challenging. And admitting when we've messed up is rough on the ego.

Thankfully, Jesus provides us with complete forgiveness and also shows us how to live as forgiven and forgiving people. Through his death on the cross (another focus of the Lenten season), Jesus paid the price for our sins. The

Bible says God casts our sins "into the deepest part of the sea" (Micah 7:19) and remembers them "no more" (Hebrews 8:12).

Family life offers many opportunities to learn about and practice forgiveness. As Anne Lamott writes in her book *Almost Everything*, "If the earth is forgiveness school, family is your postdoctoral fellowship." Parents have the privilege of showing kids what it looks like to lovingly ask for and grant forgiveness. This helps children understand the importance of Jesus' gift of complete forgiveness—and his command to forgive others, even our enemies.

Read on for ways to explore the topics of sin and forgiveness with your family.

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TEACHABLE MOMENTS

All Clear!

Hand out calculators or use the calculator on your phones. Say: **Let's do some addition. Add $3 + 3 + 4 + 4 + 5 + 6 + 7$. What did you get? 32! Me too. Here's another one: Add $2 + 3 + 4 + 5 + 6 + 7 + 8$? What did you get this time? 35! Me too. One more: Add $7 + 9 + 4 + 6$. What did you get?** (Family members will say "26.") **Oh my, I must have added wrong. I got 25. Here, I'll just push the "clear" button and try again. Yep, it's 26!**

Say: **The "clear" button is one of the best things about calculators. If you make a mistake, it just wipes the screen clean and you can start over.**

Read Isaiah 43:25. Say: **When God forgives our sins, he doesn't even remember them. It's like God has a clear button, wiping out those sins forever. Jesus paid the price for our sins by dying on the cross. But because he rose again, God wiped away all our sins, like with this "clear" button. We can start over and don't have to worry about past sins.**

Forgiveness Is Divine

Because forgiveness is an abstract concept and only God can forgive perfectly, children's thoughts about forgiveness gradually mature over time.

Ages 3 to 5: Concrete thinkers process life in literal terms. Ask questions to help make connections. Give hugs and say, "I love you. I forgive you."

Ages 6 to 8: Children this age connect new ideas to old information. Help them make associations by modeling kindness in relationships.

Ages 9 to 12: Older kids begin to think abstractly but still rely on familiar experiences. Let kids ask questions, and value their thoughts.

Forgiveness Brings Healing Ask family members to consider times they've been hurt by someone's actions and been unable to forgive. Have them draw a symbol of each hurt on a bandage and place bandages on their exposed skin. Ask: "What makes it tough to forgive? How did it feel to be forgiven?" Read aloud Matthew 6:14. Say: "Jesus forgives all our sins and tells us to forgive people who sin against us." Remove the bandages and pray together for hearts that forgive and heal.

Spell It Out Down the left side of a chalkboard or piece of paper, write the word FORGIVE. Talk about what it feels like to be forgiven, and write one of those feelings by each letter; for example, Free, Open, Relieved, Grateful, and so on.

Press on With Forgiveness On one wall, tape a sign that says "Past" and on the other a sign that says "Future." Ask family members to think about good things from the past as well as things they regret. Say: "Try to cross the room walking backward, keeping your eyes on the past. If you bump into anyone, fall, or look back, you have to sit down where you are." Afterward, say: "It's good to learn from the past, but we shouldn't get stuck there and forget about God's forgiveness." Read aloud Philippians 3:13-14. Have

people cross the room again, this time facing forward. Say: "Let's live for Jesus, with our eyes on him."

Don't Hide Sin! Wrap masking tape around a rock and write "sin" on it. Have family members close their eyes while one person hides the rock. Then have everyone else search for it. Repeat several times. Then ask: "What was it like to hide the rock? To search for it?" Read aloud Numbers 32:23. Ask: "Have you ever had a sin discovered even though you tried to hide it? What happened? What does God want us to do when we've sinned?" Use a marker to blot out the word "sin" on the rock. Close by reading aloud 1 John 1:9.

Good Riddance With highlighters, take turns writing down sins on a coffee filter. (Assist younger kids.) Say: "The Bible says when we confess—or admit—our sins, God always forgives us." Put a few drops of lemon juice on the writing and watch as the "sins" disappear. Read aloud Acts 3:19. Say: "The juice made the words disappear, just as God makes all our sins disappear when we say we're sorry. We may still have to deal with the consequences, or results, of our sins, but when God forgives sins, they're totally gone. Hooray!"

But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.
—1 John 1:9

MEDIA MADNESS



MOVIE

Title: *Dumbo*

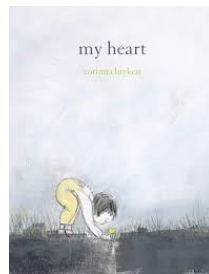
Genre: Family, Fantasy

Rating: PG (for peril/action, thematic elements, and brief mild language)

Cast: Eva Green, Colin Farrell, Danny DeVito, Michael Keaton, Alan Arkin

Synopsis: Director Tim Burton brings this 1941 Disney classic back to the screen with a lavish live-action version. As a family's circus faces financial ruin, characters learn about love, loss, and the pros and cons of standing out.

Our Take: Farrell says the beloved tale of a big-eared flying elephant tackles the timely topic of social bullying and reveals the importance of "inclusion, acceptance, kindness, and support." After watching the movie together, discuss how Jesus wants us to treat others, including people who are different from us.



BOOK

Title: *My Heart*

Author: Corinna Luyken

Synopsis: With vivid phrasing and tender drawings, this picture book encourages young readers (ages 4 to 8) to take special care of their heart—and to listen to its messages and needs: "My heart is a window. My heart is a slide. My heart can be closed...or opened up wide." Luyken also wrote and illustrated *The Book of Mistakes*, about the creative process.

Our Take: Because this book conveys the value of empathy as well as self-care, it will spark important discussions about emotions and interactions. Parents can talk with children about a range of feelings and how to deal with them constructively. Though the book isn't faith-based, parents can readily tie in such concepts as the Golden Rule.

Games, Sites & Apps

Storm Boy

In this short video game, based on a 1964 children's book, a boy runs along beaches to rescue orphaned pelican chicks. Text from the story appears, plus mini-games to play. Despite childlike imagery and ease of play, the game is rated E10+ for mild violence (a bird gets shot).

The Past & the Curious

A museum educator and his guests tell interesting unsung stories from history in this podcast. Topics are family friendly, ranging from trains and spies to cartooning and ballooning. Listeners can record their own 30-second segments for possible use on a future episode.

Froggipedia

Apple named this the top iPad app for 2018. With 3D AR (augmented reality), users discover frog anatomy with no dissection necessary, earning kudos from animal rights groups. Older children interested in science and nature will enjoy learning about everything from life cycles to organ systems.



CULTURE & TRENDS

Stop Yelling! In what's being called a nightmare for parents, a new toy flying off shelves is called Yellies: The louder you yell at them, the faster they go! Sales of the Hasbro creatures tripled over the holidays, and new versions will be released throughout 2019—despite an outcry from parent bloggers. (*businessinsider.com*)

K-Pop Won't Stop South Korean bands such as BTS (all male) and BlackPink (all female) have become so popular that they're collaborating with American companies. Mattel's stock went up 9% when it announced a BTS toy line, and Puma is making BTS sneakers. K-Pop products are also popular at preteen-favorite stores such as Hot Topic. (*nbcnews.com*)

QUICK STATS

Mixing It Up Fewer than 10% of U.S. parents prefer to have all-male or all-female children. Research shows that parents with two or more kids of the same gender are more likely to try to enlarge their families. (*theatlantic.com*)

Health Concerns An estimated 18% of U.S. children live with a chronic health condition, and that number has been on the rise. The most common chronic conditions are obesity, asthma, and ADHD. (*aap.org*)

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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.



March

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 I'm A Christian Now 11:00-12:15 4th Grade Chew, Chat, & Play 12:30-1:30	4	5	6 Ash Wednesday	7	8	9
10 I'm A Christian Now 11:00-12:15 Daylight-Saving Time Begins	11 Papillion & Platteview Spring Break	12	13 Pack College Care Boxes 9:00-12:00	14	15	16
17 I'm A Christian Now 11:00-12:15 Father/Son Football Clinic (3rd-8th Grade) 4:30 Sports Sunday School 7:00-8:00 St. Patrick's Day	18 Plattsmouth Spring Break	19	20 Pack College Care Boxes 9:00-12:00 Spring Begins	21	22	23 Membership Class 9:00-11:00a.m.
24 I'm A Christian Now 11:00-12:15 Parent Baby Dedication Class	25 Bellevue Spring Break	26	27 Pack College Care Boxes 9:00-12:00	28	29	30
31 I'm A Christian Now 11:00-12:15 Parent Baby Dedication 9:30 & 11:00						



Recipe of the Month

Cheesy Chicken Taco Breadstick Dippers

Ingredients

- 1 cup finely shredded cooked chicken breasts
- 2 1/2 teaspoons Old El Paso Taco Seasoning, divided
- 12 ounces prepared pizza dough
- 1 1/2 cups shredded cheddar cheese
- 1/2 cup sour cream

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees and line a large baking sheet with parchment paper.
2. Place chicken and 1 teaspoon Old El Paso Taco Seasoning into a medium mixing bowl, stir to combine. Press your pizza dough into a rectangle filling most of the space on your baking sheet. Top half of dough with cheese then evenly place shredded chicken mixture over cheese. Top with additional cheese and fold dough over filled dough, pressing edges firmly to seal. Doesn't have to be perfect, just mostly sealed. Sprinkle with an additional 1/2 teaspoon taco seasoning and use a pizza cutter to cut 1 inch "breadstick" strips. Bake for 20-25 minutes, until cooked through. Remove and let cool for 5 minutes before separating into breadsticks. Place sour cream and 1 teaspoon taco seasoning into a small bowl, stir to combine and use for dipping.

Makes 8 servings.

This recipe was published @ <https://picky-palate.com/cheesy-chicken-taco-breadstick-dippers/>

Save the Dates



IN THE WILD

VBS 2019

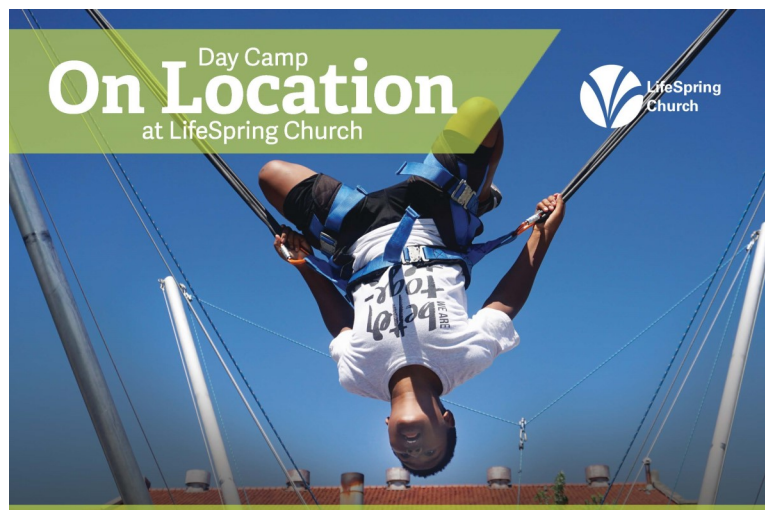
JUNE 24-28

8:25-NOON

Completed Kindergarten-5th Grade

Registration begins May 10

(Infants-PreK available for volunteers only)



Eagle Lake Camp | July 29-August 2

Ages 6-12 | 8:30am- 4pm, Mon-Fri

\$200 | Register @ eaglelakecamps.com/LifeSpring

Scholarships available!

Contact kwallace@lifespringchurch.com

**Sunday,
March 10**



Service/Mission Project
Packing College Care Packages
Wednesdays, March 13, 20, 27 (Over Spring Breaks)
9:00 am—Noon

A perfect service project with a short commitment and a large impact! During your school districts Spring Break, bring your school age children to the church to help pack up the College Care Packages and write a note of encouragement to the college/young adults from LSC! We want to mail soon to speak love and care as they enter into the final weeks of school and/or the long winter months come to an end, hopefully.

New: Pre-Teaching at Home

We desire to come alongside YOU, as the primary faith influencer in your child's life. We have decided to try something to aid and benefit this in each home. We will include the Bible lesson title and passage for each Sunday of the month in our Parenting Newsletter. We want this to provide you and your child(ren) the opportunity to interact with some basic questions in advance of the lesson. This is what we hope to see happen:

- ✓ Family reads and discusses the passage during the week and Sunday the teacher asks the children, "What did you learn at home this week?"
- ✓ Children come to class and delve in deeper with input and activities with their peers and their teachers and Sunday after church the parents ask the child(ren), "What did you learn with your class and teachers today?"

Life is busy—we hope this will help your family intentionally create times of equipping and transformation.

The Gospel Project

March Sunday School Lessons

God's People in Egypt

- | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| March 3 | Joseph Sent to Egypt | (Genesis 37) |
| March 10 | Joseph Explained Dreams | (Genesis 39-41) |
| March 17 | Joseph Saved His Family | (Genesis 42-46; 50) |
| March 24 | Moses was Born and Called | (Exodus 1-4) |
| March 31 | The Plagues and the Passover | (Exodus 5-12) |

Unit Scripture

"I have been the Lord your God ever since the land of Egypt; you know no God but me, and no Savior exists besides me."

Hosea 13:4

Unit Big Picture Question & Answer

Is there anything God cannot do?

God can do all things according to His character.

Volunteer Highlight

Terry Fletcher

She has taught Sunday School at LSC for 25 years. She is currently a "walkers" teacher @ 11:00am.

What are some of your favorite things about teaching and the kids?

"I love seeing their faces when they hear stories and are able to do "crafts." I love their way of being so innocent, how they are trusting of our love for them. Having a room full of energetic little ones is so much fun and keeps us on our toes."

Why do you teach Sunday School?

"I teach mainly because I felt called, in the beginning. Now I can't see my Sundays without being with the little ones and bringing Bible truths to them."

What is your favorite memory of teaching?

"That is a hard one. Would have to say it was when I was 16 and taught a room full of 1st grade boys. They were so hungry for something positive. Even though I had never taught that age and was a last minute sub, they were so attentive and full of questions."

What is your reward for teaching?

"Honestly, for me it is being with the children, having a part of their foundation. And knowing that for a little bit of time I get to love on them and give parents a little bit of time to be "fed"."

What is your favorite Bible verse?

"I have several, but my life verse is Jeremiah 33:3 "Call unto me and I will answer you and show you things that you do not know."

Thank You,
Terry!

We
appreciate
you!

