



November 2019

parenting CHRISTIAN kids



LifeSpring Church

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Help Children Hunger for God

POWERSOURCE

ASK JESUS:

1. To fill your family members with gratitude for God's blessings.
2. To help you all feel satisfied with everything you have.
3. To increase your hunger for Jesus and his Word.

Children, no matter their social class, often define themselves by their possessions and wants. Meanwhile, our materialistic culture insidiously distracts from what kids *really* need: to connect, to be satisfied, and to matter.

Ultimately, children want attention and relationships more than things. Through connections with Jesus and his followers, kids learn that they're special because of their identity in Jesus—and that only he offers eternal, priceless treasure.

In Matthew 6:33, Jesus says, "Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need." To give kids the wealth of God's kingdom in their hearts, we must let them experience spiritual hunger.

"I lose touch with my own body when I never allow myself to feel physical hunger," Phil Vischer writes in *Children's Ministry* magazine. The "VeggieTales" creator adds: "Likewise, our kids lose touch with their spiritual selves—their true selves—when they're never given the space to feel spiritual hunger. Space to ask big questions. Space to wonder. And space to feel (gasp!) *small*."

How do we help kids who are full of (or desirous of) earthly things hunger for the things of God? Parents can set a good example, have family devotions, pray with children, and engage in conversations that whet an appetite for Jesus. During this month of gratitude and "feasting" on God's blessings, use the food-themed ideas on the next page to satisfy kids' ultimate need.

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TEACHABLE MOMENTS

Faith Food

You'll need graham crackers, elf-shaped cookies, paper plates, vanilla yogurt, blue food coloring, and plastic knives. Put some blue food coloring in a large container of yogurt. Have everyone wash their hands.

Read aloud Matthew 14:22-33. Set out the blue yogurt and plastic knives. Give each person a plate with a graham cracker and an elf-shaped cookie. Show how to spread yogurt on the cracker to make a sea. Then have family members each place a cookie on the yogurt to represent Peter walking on the water. Pray to thank God for the snack and then eat it.

Ask: Why do you think Peter wanted to walk on water? Why do you think Jesus let him sink? What helps you believe in Jesus?

Say: Jesus helps us believe in him. We can do important things for Jesus. But first, we need to have faith in him. Don't doubt—believe!

Biblical Food for Thought

In 1930, missionary Frank Laubach sat on a hill overlooking a town in the Philippines where he felt called to share the Gospel. While reflecting on the task, he heard God say, "You must awaken hunger there, for until they hunger they cannot be fed." That hunger, sometimes called a "God-shaped hole," is a yearning for eternity and for answers to life's biggest questions: What is my purpose? Is this world all there is? Our world and its stream of distractions is intent on reducing children's hunger pangs for the divine, but you can remind them that Jesus wants our life to be otherworldly.

Edible Garden For discussions about God's creation or being thankful for food, create a colorful display of vegetable flowers and plants. With some imagination, cucumbers become flower petals, a celery stalk is a stem, and spinach becomes the leaves. Set out ranch dip and consume the art.

Tablet Treats While learning about the Ten Commandments, make tablets out of graham crackers, vanilla frosting, and raisins. As kids add each raisin, see if they can remember each commandment. This snack also works with lessons about Jesus teaching in the temple and Paul's letters to the church.

Cross Talk When discussing how Jesus died on the cross for us, make an edible object lesson with pretzel sticks and candy coating. Melt according to instructions and then dip pretzels. On paper plates or wax paper, connect sticks into cross shapes. When cool, enjoy.

Gone Fishin' Spread peanut butter or cream cheese on a paper plate. Fill another paper plate with Goldfish crackers and set it nearby. Have family members dip one end of a pretzel stick into the peanut butter or cream cheese. Then, using their pretzel "fishing rods," have them "catch" fish by touching the dipped pretzel ends to

crackers and picking them up to eat. (Avoid double dipping.) Use this to talk about following Jesus and fishing for people.

Prayer Necklace For a fun reminder to pray, string circle-shaped cereal onto thin licorice whips. Tie the ends together to make necklaces. During devotions, encourage family members to eat a piece of cereal as each prayer request or praise is shared.

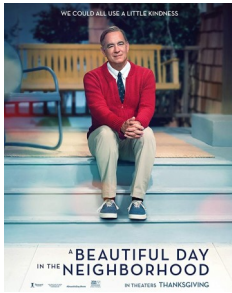
Cheesy Blocks Use cheese cubes to build structures from events in the Bible (tower of Babel, wall of Jericho, house built on the rock, and so on). Insert toothpicks to stabilize the structures, and let kids gobble up their creations later.

Ultimate Nourishment Prepare and eat slices of bread with honey. Read aloud Luke 10:38-42 and talk about Mary and Martha. Ask: "Which is more nourishing: bread or honey?" Say: "The Bible says Jesus is the bread of life. Jesus feeds our souls when we spend time with him. Busy bees make honey, which is sweet but not very nourishing. Being busy doesn't feed our souls." Ask: "How can you spend more time with Jesus, the bread of life, this week? How can we share his 'food' with others?"

Jesus said, "I am the bread that gives life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

—John 6:35

MEDIA MADNESS



MOVIE

Title: *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood*

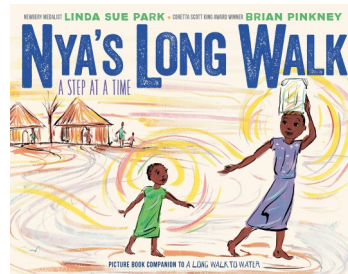
Genre: Biography, Drama

Rating: not yet rated

Cast: Tom Hanks, Matthew Rhys

Synopsis: *Frozen 2* is sure to thrill many young moviegoers in November, but this heartwarming biopic will inspire older kids and parents. Beloved children's-TV host Fred Rogers, also an ordained minister, developed a real-life friendship with a reporter who profiled him for an article about heroes.

Our Take: With its timeless messages of acceptance, encouragement, and understanding, this film can spark conversations about embracing our neighbors and their needs. It reminds viewers that feelings are important and that "every person is precious."



BOOK

Title: *Nya's Long Walk*

Author: Linda Sue Park

Synopsis: This picture book for ages 4 to 7 describes the two-hour journey a girl in South Sudan endures—with her younger sister—to obtain water for her family. It ends with the community receiving a clean-water well. Park, a Newbery Medalist, wrote the middle-grade novel *A Long Walk to Water*.

Our Take: Nya's ordeal introduces children to common struggles faced by people outside their own communities. Use it to discuss our blessings from God—including those we often take for granted—and how we can express gratitude. With older children, you can connect this story to Jesus being the water of life. Your family may want to donate to a clean-water charity.



CULTURE & TRENDS

New Recipe for Togetherness

Family breakfast is replacing family dinner, according to many busy parents and kids. Factors include people's availability in the morning and the limited menu options for breakfast. Experts say gathering around the table matters more than *when* it actually happens. (time.com)

Storytime Under Fire Public libraries have received backlash for offering Drag Queen Story Hour, with dressed-up folks reading to children. While the readers say they're celebrating the "gender fluidity" of childhood, critics say it's an attempt to indoctrinate young minds. (*various sources*)

QUICK STATS

Faith 101 Almost 70 percent of parents say they attend church to introduce their children to faith. (reachrightstudios.com)

Top Role Models Although one-third of children ages 6 to 17 consider social-media stars to be role models, the top spot still belongs to parents. (Mintel.com)

Keep It Down! Up to 40% of people have noise sensitivity, which is hereditary and has physical and emotional effects. (*various sources*)

Games, Sites & Apps

Pokémon Sword & Pokémon Shield

Set in the Galar Region, this pricey double-pack for the Nintendo Switch has new characters, new "battle mechanics," and even Poké jobs for gaining experience. The next-generation game is reportedly geared toward the franchise's growing number of younger fans.

Spare the Rock, Spoil the Child

Featuring "Indie Music for Indie Kids," this family-friendly syndicated show aims to "raise another generation of radio nerds." Bill Childs and his two children host and produce this podcast, where you'll hear everything from They Might Be Giants to Ella Fitzgerald.

Plague Inc.

In this bleak simulation game, the goal is to infect the entire world with a sickness before doctors can find a cure. Although the app doesn't contain any vulgarity, sexuality, or gore, the concept is quite dark and intense. Rated E for everyone, the app does have some educational aspects.

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Real. Bold. Love.

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.



November

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 Daylight-Saving Time Ends Parent Baby Dedication	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11 Veterans Day	12	13 Membership Class 6:30-8pm	14	15	16
17 Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Dedication (Both Services)	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 Bellevue Together Giving Tree Begins Christmas Decorating 5:30-8pm	25	26	27	28 Thanksgiving Day Office Closed	29 Office Closed	30

Recipes of the Month

Fruit Cornucopias

Ingredients

- 4 waffle cones
- 1/2 apple sliced
- 2 mandarin oranges peeled and segmented
- 1 cup of grapes

Directions

1. Fill cones with apples, mandarin oranges, and grapes. Place on serving platter for serving.



Thanksgiving Turkey Fruit Tray

Ingredients

- 1/2 Bartlett pear sliced in half lengthwise
- 1 apple cored and sliced
- 2 mandarin oranges peeled and segmented
- 2 kiwi peeled and slices
- 10 red grapes
- 4 green grapes
- 3 matchstick carrots
- 2 mini chocolate chips

Directions

1. Place pear on serving plate.
2. Layer apples, oranges, kiwi, and grapes around pear to form turkey's feathers.
3. Place carrots under pear to form its feet.
4. Cut other carrot into 3 pices on pear to form arms and a beak, and use chocolate chips for the eyes.



The 7 Antidotes to the 7 Deadly Sins!!

Antidote	Sin
Humility	Pride
Intimacy	Lust
Spirit Controlled	Gluttony
Giving	Greed
Contentment	Envy
Action & Intentionality	Sloth
Kindness	Wrath

- ◆ What did you learn?
- ◆ How did you grow spiritually?
- ◆ How did the weekly flyer help you discuss these antidotes from God's word?

Share with us on Real Life Kids LifeSpring Facebook or email kwallace@lifespringchurch.com

Family Movie Night The Best Christmas Gift Friday | December 6 | 6:00-7:30pm



Come and enjoy walking tacos and refreshments during the movie in the Worship Center. Show time approximately 58 minutes followed by cookies and hot chocolate in the Chapel.

Volunteer Highlight

Jacob Mallow

He has been a Student Assistant 3 Years. He currently helps in 2nd Grade at 9:30.

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

My favorite thing about teaching is being able to get the kids engaged. I love when kids come up to me in public or not in the classroom and say, "HI MR JACOB!!"

Why do you teach Sunday School?

I originally started because my mom made me, but I decided to keep coming back because I realized the positive impact I was having on the kids.

What is your favorite memory of teaching?

My favorite memory is when a kids mom came up to me and told me how much I meant to her son because of my involvement in the church.

What is your reward for teaching?

My reward for teaching is when I see kids come back week after week.

What is your favorite Bible verse?

My favorite Bible verse is Jeremiah 29:11

Thank you,
Jacob!
We
appreciate
You!!



Parents

- ◆ Can make a difference at home!!!
- ◆ Be intentional with the Word at home!!!

"Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness."

Matthew 6:33

"Behold, children are a gift of the Lord..."

Psalms 127:3a

Two verses that remind us that priority should be placed on two things in our lives and homes:

His kingdom & Children!

- ◆ Be encouraged to pre-teach the Sunday School lesson each week!
- ◆ Invest in the spiritual life of your child!

The Gospel Project

November Sunday School Lessons

Wise King Solomon

November 3 Solomon Asked for Wisdom 1 Kings 2-3

November 10 Wisdom for God's People Proverbs;
Ecclesiastes;
Song of Songs

November 17 Solomon Built the Temple 1 Kings 6-8

November 24 The Kingdom Divided 1 Kings 11-12

Scripture

"If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God— who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly— and it will be given to him."

James 1:5

Big Picture Question & Answer

What does God know?

God knows everything about the past, present, and future.

LSC Sickness Guideline

- Winter is Upon Us!
- The flu/sick season comes with it.
 - Note the chart below.
- Keep in mind many individuals have compromised immune systems.
- Staying home or going home when sick is the best way to protect others.

