



September 2019

parenting CHRISTIAN kids



LifeSpring Church

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It's Time to Get Growing!

POWERSOURCE

ASK JESUS:

1. To guide your children toward growth in all areas this year.
2. To help you model a growth mindset, especially regarding faith in Jesus.
3. To teach you to depend on God during the upcoming school year.

With a new school year on the horizon, attention turns to goals for learning and growing. To encourage academic improvement, many schools now emphasize what psychologist Carol Dweck calls the “growth mindset”—a belief that anyone can learn and grow with effort. Potential is unlocked when children believe they can learn from challenges and by working hard.

By contrast, a “fixed mindset” is a belief that one’s basic abilities and talents are predetermined. These kids (and adults) aren’t interested in learning how to improve because they don’t believe they can.

Dweck’s approach is relevant beyond the classroom; in fact, it applies to faith growth, to some degree. People with a

fixed mindset believe they’re bad and can’t change, that imperfections are shameful, and that if they face challenges, something must be wrong with their faith.

Those with a growth mindset, however, realize it’s okay to share their sins and struggles with others. They know that Jesus loves and forgives them no matter what, and they believe they can grow closer to Jesus by trusting him during life’s inevitable challenges.

One thing we *do* want to be fixed in kids’ minds is their innate, God-given value. God made us in his image and wants to be in relationship with us despite our shortcomings. Because we don’t have to prove our worth to God, we can focus instead on growing closer to him.

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TEACHABLE MOMENTS

Breakthrough!

You'll need see-through glass or plastic containers filled with water, foaming shaving cream, and blue and yellow food coloring. Say: **Sometimes life seems cloudy.** Have family members each squirt a layer of shaving cream over the water.

Ask: **When have you felt stuck or been discouraged?**

As people share, have them add a few drops of food coloring over the "clouds." Say: **When we face tough things, God is with us and encourages us.**

Read aloud Isaiah 41:10 and Joshua 1:9. Watch as the food coloring breaks through the shaving cream, creating streaks of color in the water.

Ask: **How is this experiment like life? How can challenges result in something good or positive?**

Read aloud Romans 8:28. Ask: **What are ways you can trust God during both good and tough times?** Pray, thanking God for always loving and helping us.

Positive Ways to Grow

Instilling a faith-growth mindset can be as simple as altering the praise and feedback you give your children. Follow these guidelines:

- Let kids know God already loves them—no matter what.
- Say the goal is to be best friends with God, not to appear good.
- Praise kids for the effort they put into resisting a temptation.
- Praise kids for getting to know God, not just knowing *about* him.
- Encourage kids to ask Jesus for help when they're struggling.
- Encourage kids to share their failures with trusted friends and adults.

Pressing On Gather origami paper, Glue Dots, and scissors. Download craft instructions from childrensministry.com/origami-star and make a sample ahead of time. Show family members the star and have them make their own. Offer encouragement and help, as needed. Read Philippians 3:12-15 and say: "Paul loved Jesus but still messed up. He pressed on, just as you did with this craft." Ask: "How can these verses help you press on, even when you mess up?"

Take Aim! For this outdoor game, divide a rectangular area in half. Play "volleyball" with an inflated balloon and squirt guns. Players can use unlimited squirts to move the "ball." Afterward, ask: "What was this game's goal? How did we work to reach it? What are some goals you have? Who helps you reach them?" Read Psalm 16:7-8. Say: "God instructs you and goes before you as you aim for goals!"

Growth Takes Time Fill clean baby food jars halfway with heavy cream. (You can add a marble, but use caution.) Secure the lids. Ask: "Does this look like butter? Do you think you can *make* it into butter?" Say: "Shake a jar while we talk." Read Matthew 17:14-20. Ask: "How much faith does it take to do the impossible? What tough thing do you need God's help with?"

Shake jars a few more minutes, until butter forms. Enjoy some on bread. Then discuss how it can take time to see God's miracles—and how we shouldn't give up!

Forward in Faith Clear obstacles from a room that can be darkened. Have one person stand as a lighthouse who whispers "Trust in the Lord" repeatedly. Lead everyone else into the room—with eyes closed. Say: "You have one minute to reach the lighthouse. When you do, open your eyes, lock arms, and join in the whispering." Play several rounds. Then ask: "How did it feel to find the lighthouse? How did it feel when time ran out?" Read aloud Proverbs 3:5-6. Say: "Let's trust God as we walk and grow in faith."

Ch-Ch-Changes Stand in a circle with hands behind backs. Have "It" stand in the center with eyes closed as you place a Bible in someone's hands. Have It open his or her eyes as people pass the Bible behind their backs. Whoever holds the Bible must briefly change his or her facial expression. It guesses who has the Bible, and if correct, that person becomes the new It. Read aloud Mark 4:3-20. Discuss how the Bible changes us and makes us more like Jesus.

"We are surrounded by a great cloud of people whose lives tell us what faith means. So let us run the race that is before us and never give up."

—Hebrews 12:1, NCV

MEDIA MADNESS



MOVIE

Title: *Overcomer*

Genre: Faith-based drama

Rating: PG (some thematic elements)

Cast: Alex Kendrick, Priscilla C. Shirer, Aryn Wright-Thompson

Synopsis: A plant closure in town leads to changes for many people, including a high school coach who must switch sports. When the only runner who shows up for his cross-country team is a girl with asthma, they're both challenged to discover their new and true identities.

Our Take: This life-affirming film encourages viewers to "go the extra mile" for one another and to give Jesus first place in their hearts. It emphasizes that one's identity in Jesus matters most and that people who follow Jesus are to live out their faith daily.



TV

Title: *Molly of Denali*

Network: PBS Kids

Synopsis: The star of this new animated series is a 10-year-old Native Alaskan girl, voiced by a young indigenous actress. Molly's adventures help her learn about the 49th state's people and history. She uses the Internet and in-person interviews to discover what life was like for her ancestors. She also makes connections between their interests and her own.

Our Take: While exposing children to cultural diversity, this show encourages them to be curious about their own heritage. The episodes can serve as springboards for age-appropriate discussions (and research) about your family's history, stories, and traditions.



CULTURE & TRENDS

Earlier Puberty: It's Not Just for Girls According to a new study, more boys are now reaching puberty earlier—and one factor may be higher BMI (body mass index). Though the study has limitations, it points to another possible effect of America's obesity epidemic. (*JAMA Pediatrics*)

Catching the Vision To help kids set and focus on goals, some teachers and parents now use back-to-school vision boards. Assembling a collage of photos to represent reachable goals can be an effective way to develop grit—especially for visual learners. (*various sources*)

QUICK STATS

Every Day We're Hustlin' Almost half (48%) of parents of kids under 18 have a side job, working an extra 13 hours per week. And 27% of those with a side hustle say they're more passionate about it than they are about their regular job. (*bankrate.com*)

Stuffed! Although only 3% of the world's children live in the United States, they own about 40% of the toys purchased globally. Perhaps that's why one in 10 Americans rents off-site storage—at the average cost of \$400 yearly. (*uctv.tv; nytimes.com*)

Games, Sites & Apps

Cadence of Hyrule

In this rhythm-based "Zelda" spinoff for the Nintendo Switch, players must step (and fight) to the beat to progress through puzzle dungeons. The goal is to collect foes that look like musical instruments in order to defeat the enemy Octavo. Combat is cartoonish in this E-rated game.

Chompers

Kids will look forward to brushing their teeth thanks to this twice-daily podcast. Each episode features two minutes of jokes, stories, fun facts, and silly songs. Weekly themes range from dinosaurs and robots to cooking and interviews. Chompers, geared toward ages 3 to 7, also is available on Alexa.

Superbook Kids Bible

This free Bible app for young readers brings God's Word to life with the addition of videos, images, and interactive games. It also includes 26 episodes of the *Superbook* series, as well as "Superstreaks" that encourage readers to regularly engage with the biblical text.

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Group
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.

**Bring Your Bible to
Sunday School Month!**

September

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|----------------|---------|-----------------------------|----------|--------|--|
| 1 | 2 Labor Day | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 Chew, Chat, & Play 8:00-9:00am (Ferryboat, Rowboat, Paddleboat, Cruiseship) Grandparents Day | 9 | 10 | 11 Patriot Day | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 See You @ The Pole | 26 | 27 | 28 Membership Class 9:00-11:30am Childcare (Infants-6th Grade) by Reservation Only. Deadline for childcare is Sept. 22 |
| 29 City Wide Serve Day One service @ 9:30 Island 6 City Serve Noon-5pm | 30 | | | | | |

Save the Date
 October 27 Baptism | 4:00pm | Chapel

Upcoming Events

I'm a Christian Now

SUNDAY
OCT 6TH
@ 11:00
IN THE CHAPEL

AN 8-WEEK CLASS FOR 1ST-6TH GRADERS
The first class has a
required parent meeting.
Register at Welcome Hut by September 29



Recipe of the Month Apple Crisp

Ingredients

- 7 tart apples, peeled, cored, and sliced
- 4 teaspoons fresh lemon juice
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 cup rolled oats
- 1/2 cup butter, room temperature

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 375° F.
2. In a mixing bowl, combine apples, lemon juice, and vanilla. Toss to combine.
3. Layer apple slices in baking pan: Layer sliced apples in a 9x12-inch (or approximately the same size) baking pan.
4. Make topping: Combine brown sugar, cinnamon, and oatmeal in a bowl. Cut in the butter. Sprinkle sugar mixture over apples.
5. Bake: Bake at 375° for 45 minutes or until topping looks crunchy and the apples are tender.

Serve with whipped topping or vanilla ice cream. ENJOY!



PARENT BABY DEDICATIONS

Signup @ Welcome Hut
Table by October 20th
Membership Required

PARENT CLASS:
REQUIRED
OCTOBER 27
@ 11:00AM

DEDICATION:
NOVEMBER 3
@ BOTH SERVICES

SEPTEMBER

Bring Your Bible to Sunday School Month in Real Life Kids at LifeSpring

- Let's gear up for "Bring your Bible to School Day", by bringing our Bibles to Sunday School each Sunday the month of September.
- Sunday School class is a great place to bring our Bible to become even more familiar with it.
- This may develop the discipline of bringing our own Bibles to use in class every week.
- Teachers may have a special treat for Bibles brought to class! 😊



- Students (K-college) from across the nation will celebrate religious freedom and share God's love with their friends.
- This event is sponsored by Focus on the Family.
- It is designed to empower students to express their belief in the truth of God's Word— and to do so in a respectful way that demonstrates the love of Christ.
- Christian students can be a powerful voice of hope at their school!

LifeSpring Church Facebook Challenge for Bring Your Bible to School Day!

On October 3:

- Take a picture of your child with their Bible as they head out to school.
- Tag "Real LifeKids LifeSpring" Facebook page

You will have a chance to win a Family Pizza Night!

**Last year's
winner was**



**The Glotfelty
family!**

Volunteer Highlight

Christian & Robyn Thiede
They have led Worship KidStyle at LSC for 12 yrs. They currently lead Worship KidStyle at 9:30.

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

Every Sunday is full of energy, excitement, and spontaneity! It can be fun, serious, gratifying, and humbling all at the same time.

Why do you teach Sunday School?

Christian: I really feel that God puts a special calling in our hearts to teach the kids. I truly love and care about every child He gives me the opportunity to learn with each Sunday.

Robyn: I didn't grow up in church like Christian did. So I feel blessed to be able to teach kids at church. Sharing the Gospel with children is a privilege and high calling.

What is your favorite memory of teaching?

It's not really a "memory," but it is just a really neat feeling when we see kids today who we remember as such little boys and girls when we first met them in Sunday School 12 years ago. We are so proud of them when we see them volunteering, helping with teaching Sunday School, or going on mission trips.

What is your reward for teaching?

Christian: The smiles and high-fives from the children when they walk through the Worship KidStyle door or when we see one of them at the grocery store or school.

Robyn: My reward is looking out at the precious faces of the children in Worship KidStyle— they are learning God's word, and they are singing praises to God.

What is your favorite Bible verse?

Christian: Colossians 3:23-24, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving."

Robyn: Philippians 4:6-7, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Thank you,
Christian &
Robyn!
We
appreciate
you!



PARENTS

- can make a difference @ home!!!!
- be intentional with the Word @ 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

September Sunday School Lessons

Samuel and King Saul (Unit 10)

| | | |
|--------------|----------------------|---------------|
| September 1 | Hannah and Samuel | 1 Samuel 1-3 |
| September 8 | The Ark was Captured | 1 Samuel 4-6 |
| September 15 | Israel's First King | 1 Samuel 8-15 |

Great King David (Start of Unit 11)

| | | |
|--------------|--------------------|----------------|
| September 22 | David was Anointed | 1 Samuel 16-17 |
| September 29 | David Showed Mercy | 1 Samuel 24 |

Scripture (9/1-9/15)

"Lord, there is no one like you. You are great; your name is great in power."

Jeremiah 10:6

Scripture (9/22 & 9/29)

"Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your rule is for all generations. The Lord is faithful in all his words and gracious in all his actions."

Psalms 145:13

Big Picture Question & Answer (9/1-9/15)

Is anything or anyone greater than God?

No, God is greater than everything and everyone.

Big Picture Question & Answer (9/22 & 9/29)

How is Jesus the perfect King?

Jesus perfectly rules over the universe as the King of kings.



Dear LifeSpring Kids,

All of us at New Day Orphanage in Zambia want to give you a BIG SHOUT of THANKS for the gift you gave for our new bus. WOW! You did an amazing job in giving. Who won the contest? Was it the girls or the boys? We think that you all won!! Your gift will help us buy a new bus so that we can go on field trips, make trips to town, pick up teams who come to visit, and so much more. You are awesome! We hope that someday we can meet some of you.

Love, All the New Day Kids and family

PRAY 4 SAFESCHOOLS

The P4SS Campaign is a school prayer movement made up of students, parents, teachers, youth leaders and volunteers who are praying for school safety at their school as well as on school campuses Nationwide.

Join the P4SS Campaign and be a part of the 200,000 people praying for our Nation's schools by 2020!

Step 1

Open new text message

Step 2

Text phone number 555888

Step 3

Type "P4SS" in the body of the text message

Step 4

Texted prayers will begin the following Monday from the sign up date



LifeSpring Church Special Needs Feedback Session Sunday, October 13 | 12:30-1:30 pm

We are interested in gaining a better understanding of how we, as a church, can better support special needs children and their families throughout our various ministries and we need your input! If you are the parent, gusrdian, or family member of a special needs child, please join us on Sunday, October 13th, for a pizza lunch and feedback session following the 11:00 a.m. service. We plan to provide free childcare. There is no cost to attend this event; however, we will need a headcount to ensure that we have enough food and childcare providers. Please R.S.V.P. to keason@lifespringchurch.com.

