



the Parent LINK

Children's Ministry Edition



February 2013

First Baptist Church Pikeville

Quality Time Isn't Nice; It's Necessary

With his last hours, Jesus spent time with his closest friends. This wasn't anything elaborate—just a simple meal together. But in that time set aside to be together, Jesus showed his disciples how much he cared for them. He could have lavished them with material gifts beyond compare, or provided a meal and then gone about his business (he had a lot on his mind, after all)...but he didn't. Jesus knew well the irreplaceable value of spending time with those he loved. He knew his presence was what they craved more than anything and that time together encompassed the greatest expression of his love.

Much like the disciples wanted to be near Jesus, your kids want nothing more than time with you. Quality time is a love language everyone speaks—particularly kids. Start a new habit in February: spend more quality time with your kids daily. Investigate what makes your kids feel most loved and center your efforts there. Then, as Jesus did, you too can live out the greatest expression of your love.



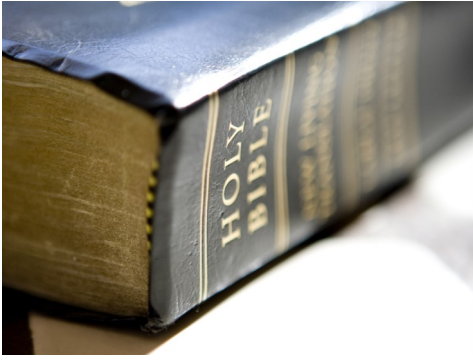
POWERSOURCE

ASK GOD:

1. To help you identify and rectify things that derail your family time.
2. For a practical strategy to protect quality time with your kids.
3. How to fight for your kids' future by making sure you're truly present now.

DIGITALLY DISTRACTED

We live in a time of incredible innovation, but there's a downside to all of the gadgetry—unprecedented distraction. Some of today's biggest diversions come in tiny packages: smartphones, tablets, mobile gaming devices—all of which can divert you to social media. We've never been more connected as a world—or further apart. When you're constantly linked to email or Facebook, how much is left for quality time with your family? Or your time with God? Unplug—intentionally—every day. Cyberspace will wait for you; your kids' formative years, however, won't.



“Three things will last forever—faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love.”
—1 Corinthians 13:13

TEACHABLE MOMENTS

1. The Greatest of These Is Love: The focus of Valentine’s Day is romantic love. This year, dig into the meaning of “agape” (pronounced “uh-GAH-pay”) with your kids. This Greek word best describes God’s love—the highest form of love. Agape has a deep, rich meaning: selfless, sacrificing, unconditional love. How does God show us that love? How can we show it to each other?

2. Better Than Cookies: Take your well-used cookie sheets and turn them into personalized memory verse visuals with your kids. Find black chalkboard paint at your local craft supply store and embellishments to add to the chalkboard frames. Paint the baking surface of the cookie sheet with chalkboard paint and allow it to dry completely. Then, glue embellishments around the outer edge to frame the chalkboard. Magnets work great for interchangeable decorations. With your family each week, decide on a memory verse and write it on the chalkboard, then put the chalkboard in a central location. Encourage each other as you practice the verse and store God’s Word in your hearts throughout the week. For design ideas and tutorials, go to pinterest.com and search “cookie sheet chalkboards.”

Share the Love

Dig into what makes your kids feel most loved and you’ll learn more about how to connect with them. Ask:

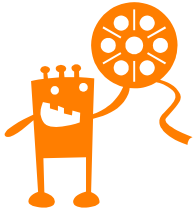
1. What are your favorite memories of things we’ve done together as a family? Why?
2. What makes you feel safe? loved? happy?
3. What could we do together to grow closer to God? How does staying close to God help our family love each other more?

FAMILY EXPERIENCE

Welcome to “Camp Living Room”! Remember the fun of building “forts” or “castles” with pillows and blankets as a kid? Build on that fun and take your kids on a tent-camping adventure in your living room—they’ll rave about it for weeks!

Together, transform a room in your home into an indoor campsite for the weekend. You can even set up an actual tent or build one out of blankets. Turn off the TV; create a makeshift fire pit with pillows, and let your kids get creative with a flameless representation of fire; cook your traditional camping foods; roast marshmallows over the stove; curl up in sleeping bags; play your favorite board games—you get the idea.

Before lights out, have your kids close their eyes and imagine you’re all sleeping out under the night sky and its blanket of stars. Ask, **“When you look at the night sky, what makes it beautiful?”** Pause, and let your kids answer. Say, **“Our eyes are drawn to the stars, the points of light God placed to shine bright in the dark. Because we love God, he’s put a light inside of all of us and we get to be like the stars in the sky. As we share God’s love with others we get to pass on the light—until there’s no more darkness. How can our family share God’s love and let our lights shine bright?”** Finally, tell your kids ways you’ve seen each of them share God’s love and how bright they shine. Say a prayer of thanks for your kids. Then, wish your little stars goodnight.



MEDIA MADNESS



MOVIES

Title: Escape from Planet Earth (releases 2/14/2013)



Genre: Family/Comedy/Animated

Rating: Not yet rated as of press time.

Cast: Brendan Fraser, Jessica Alba, Sarah Jessica Parker

Synopsis: A soft-spoken blue alien named Gary sets out to rescue his brother, wife, kids, and ultimately his planet from the devious trap set by Earth's Area 51.

Our Take: This film comes from The Weinstein Company which has a short list of family films. Approach carefully; we recommend parents preview if possible and research reviews carefully.

MUSIC

Artist: Plumb (Tiffany Arbuckle Lee)

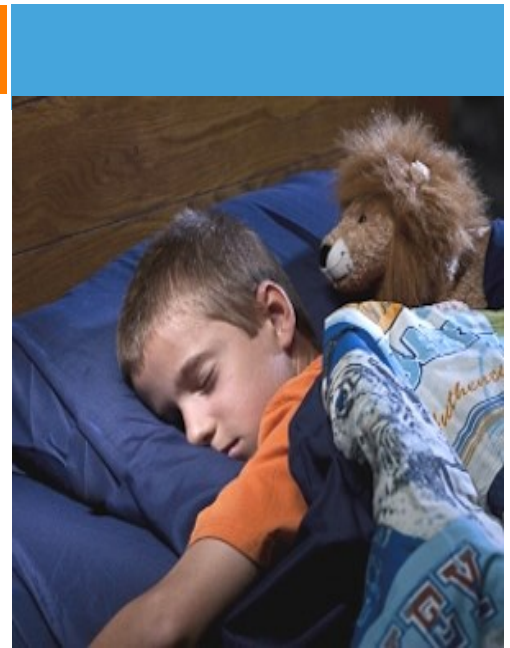


Album: Faster Than a Bullet (Releases 2/26/2013)

Artist Info: Lee's voice has been described as other-worldly, beautiful, and moving. Coupled with raw lyrics drawn from her life experiences and faith, her songs make an impression.

Summary: *Faster Than a Bullet* is Lee's 10th album. The currently popular single "Need You Now" is a good sample of her style and message.

Our Take: Lee's faith lives in her music, but she can be on the edgy side. Many of her songs are best-suited for preteens and older.



QUICK STAT

- Grownups aren't the only ones over-committed and tired. Results from a study in the United Kingdom reveal that kids ages 7 to 14 get 40 minutes less sleep each night and 2 hours less time playing outside than previous generations.

(Children's Ministry Magazine)



CULTURE & TRENDS

- If you spend much time watching the news, it's easy to get depressed over the stories of people hurting others. Kids are affected by what they see in the media, too. For help explaining to your kids why bad things happen in a world God loves, visit joniandfriends.org and click on the *Why Bad Things Happen* banner to download a helpful, free ebook.

- For an excellent example of how to encourage and come alongside your kids to use their gifts for good, check out what a father and his twin 11-year-old boys are doing to give back to kids in need at amonstertolove.com.

GAMES, SITES & APPS

Title	Content	Rating & Platform
Everloop	This is a social networking website designed for kids. Adults aren't allowed accounts, but parents can still closely monitor activity.	Best for preteens. User privacy and protection is a top priority.
Sly Cooper: Thieves in Time	This game sequel includes thievery as part of the challenge, but overall it offers kid-friendly fun parents will be comfortable with.	Rated E for Everyone 10+, by the ESRB. Available 2/5/2013; \$59.99 at most retailers.
Bible App	This fun, interactive app introduces kids to the Bible on your tablet: app.beginnersbible.com .	For kids 6 and younger. First story pack is free; \$1.99 for each following.

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.



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Happy Birthday! Emma I.	2
<p>3 8:30 , 11:00 and 6:30 Extended Teaching Care (birth -3years) 9:30 -Sunday School 6:30-Mission Friends (4-5 years) 6:30-Children In Action (1-6 Grades) Happy Birthday ! Aaron J.</p>	<p>4 Happy Birth- day! Isabella D.</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 6:30 E. T. C. (ages 0-3) 4 and 5 year old choir Children's Choir (Grades 1-6)</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>
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<p>24 8:30 , 11:00 and 6:30 Extended Teaching Care (birth -3years) 9:30 -Sunday School 6:30-Mission Friends (4-5 years) 6:30-Children In Action (1-6 Grades)</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 6:30 E. T. C. (ages 0-3) 4 and 5 year old choir Children's Choir (Grades 1-6) Happy Birthday! Christiana S. Holly B.</p>	<p>28</p>		