



the Parent LINK

March 2013

First Baptist Church Pikeville



POWERSOURCE

ASK GOD:

1. How to keep Easter truths close to your family's heart throughout the year as you focus on spiritual growth.
2. For guidance in ensuring your kids understand Easter is about Jesus.
3. For your heart to be refreshed in receiving Jesus' love.



Guiding Your Children's Faith Discoveries

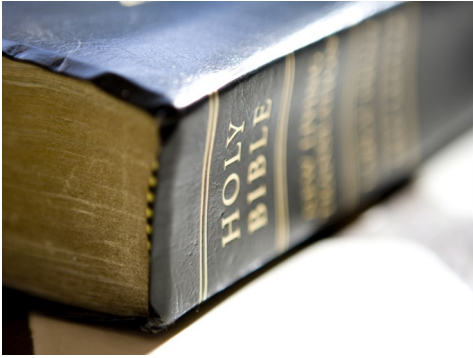
As you read through the Gospels, one of the most prominent aspects of Jesus' ministry is his teaching through parables. With great patience, he took time to put what he was teaching into terms his audience could easily understand. He kept it relevant and relatable. He made lofty, hard-to-wrap-your-head-around spiritual truths easier to comprehend—and people grew closer to him and God because of it. Jesus helped guide their faith discoveries so what they learned was cemented in their hearts and minds — because they made the discoveries for themselves. Take a moment to think about your personal faith discoveries. Which do you remember most vividly—and why?

Like Jesus, you can help your kids to grasp some big spiritual concepts and truly own their faith. Stay connected to their world and the things they're interested in. Then, watch for opportunities to draw spiritual parallels between events and aspects of their lives to guide their discoveries about God. When you help your kids engage God in their daily lives (not just at church), you pave the way for genuine spiritual maturity that'll stick with them into adulthood.

Keys to Impact

Here are keys to include in your faith discovery guidance:

- Engage in activities that tie into spiritual concepts. Get your kids moving and interacting, with purpose, as they learn. Keep focused on developing the spiritual tie-in to activities.
- When possible, include sights, sounds, and even smells to fully engage your kids. Stimulating kids' senses helps cement truths into their memory and cultivate richer understanding.



“For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.”
—Matthew 20:28

TEACHABLE MOMENT

Key Verse:

“Come to me, all you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.” —Matthew 11:28

Jesus Attraction

Read aloud Matthew 11:28 until you can say it by yourself. Jesus wants us to come to him. Here’s an experiment to show what that’s like:

Slide several O-shaped cereal pieces to the end of a piece of string with a knot in the end that keeps the cereal from falling off.

Rub a plastic comb on a wool sweater or your hair so the comb’s full of static electricity.

Carefully move the comb toward the cereal hanging on the string.

What happens? The cereal moves toward the comb, just like Jesus wants us to move toward him! What is it about Jesus that draws us to him? Why is it important to stay close to Jesus?

(Adapted from an activity in *My Hands-On Bible*; Group Publishing)

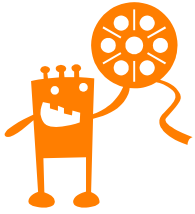
Family Faith Talks

With Easter at the end of this month, why not celebrate Jesus’ resurrection with a commitment to start a weekly Faith Talk with your family? Faith Talks are one of the building blocks to a family’s spiritual growth outlined in Group’s *Family Faith Celebrations: Faith Commitment* kit. A Faith Talk is a time intentionally set aside (and protected) for you and your kids to talk about a specific Scripture or passage in the Bible. Or you can dig into a faith topic, such as Jesus’ love for children, as it’s supported by various Scriptures. Family ministry expert Brian Haynes helped sculpt this step-by-step guide to starting this vital weekly habit with your family:

1. Schedule a time. Get ‘Faith Talk’ on everyone’s schedule and protect the time. If you track life via mobile device, schedule reminders of your weekly talks and devote yourself to sticking to it.

2. Find resources that’ll help you lead age-appropriate Faith Talks designed for your family’s season in life. Your church has great resources, possibly including this Faith Commitment Parent Guide, the take-home papers from your child’s Christian education class, and more. Check in with your children’s or youth minister for suggestions. You can also find suggested resources at group.com/family.

3. Jump in. Leading Faith Talks may feel awkward at first, but you’ll find it becomes a time of the week filled with a wonderful connection with your kids. Don’t think it has to be perfect. Sometimes you’ll hit a home run, and other times you’ll put every kid in time-out after it’s over. It’s okay. Be flexible and roll with the punches. The good will solidly outweigh the bad in the long run.



MEDIA MADNESS



MOVIES

Title: Oz the Great and Powerful (Releases 3/8/2013)

Genre: Fantasy/Action/Adventure

Rating: PG

Cast: James Franco, Michelle Williams, Rachel Weisz, Mila Kunis

Synopsis: A prequel to the adventure of beloved Dorothy from Kansas in the classic *Wizard of Oz*.

Our Take: Though Disney produced this movie, the trailers reveal dark and scary elements that may frighten young children, as well as some sensuality. Rating details include “scary images and brief, mild language.” If possible, preview (or have a friend preview) this movie.



BOOKS

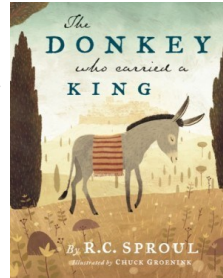
Title: The Donkey Who Carried a King

Author: R.C. Sproul

Publisher: Reformation Trust Publishing (2012)

Summary: A young boy, hurt by always being picked last for games at school, learns the most important lesson of all from the donkey who carried Jesus into Jerusalem.

Our Take: Sproul offers a unique and age-appropriate angle on Jesus’ arrival into Jerusalem, his crucifixion, and his return after death. A contemplative book for the family to read together on Easter—or any other day. Best for ages 7 to 11.



CULTURE & TRENDS

- Are you a “Pinner?” In the realm of social media, a fairly new website has been making waves and grabbing the attention of millions—pinterest.com. If you’re part of the “pinning” team (or even if you aren’t), visit pinterest.com/childrensmindmag for fantastic, “pinteresting” ideas for Easter and more.



QUICK STAT

- According to statistics reported at valuedopinions.com, Easter in America is becoming alarmingly less about Jesus and more about candy and egg hunts. When asked about Easter celebration plans, a mere 26% of those surveyed reported “going to church” as something they planned to do at Eastertime” and only 7% said church attendance on Easter took top priority.

GAMES, SITES & APPS

Title	Content	Rating & Platform
Animal Crossing: New Leaf	The next installment of the <i>Animal Crossing</i> “open world” games. Kids get to govern and “live in” virtual towns inhabited by talking animals.	Not yet rated; other games in the series received an E for Everyone. For Nintendo platforms; \$39.99.
Poptropica.com	A popular website designed by Family Education Network. Kids’ reading and comprehension skills get challenged through the activities and games.	Kid-friendly and safe. Basic account is free but advanced features require a monthly fee.
Meegenius!	A very popular e-book app for kids. <i>Meegenius!</i> dictates books for your kids and helps them with word recognition.	Available at iTunes. The app is free and most books range from \$1.99 to \$2.99 each.

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 play.



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
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)	4	5 Happy Birthday! Keaton G.	6 6:30 E. T. C. (ages 0-3) 4 and 5 year old choir Children's Choir (Grades 1-6)	7	8	9
10 Daylight Saving Time Begins 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)	11	12	13 6:30 E. T. C. (ages 0-3) 4 and 5 year old choir Children's Choir (Grades 1-6)	14	15	16
17 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)	18	Happy Birthday! Caroline F.	20 6:30 E. T. C. (ages 0-3) 4 and 5 year old choir Children's Choir (Grades 1-6)	21	22	23
24 Palm Sunday 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)	25	26	6:30 E. T. C. (ages 0-3) 4 and 5 year old choir Children's Choir (Grades 1-6)	28	29	30
31 Easter 8:30 , 11:00 and 6:30 Extended Teaching Care (birth –3years) 9:30 -Sunday School 6:30 -Kids Resurrection Celebration						



Vacation Bible School

**June 17-21 (Always third
full week in June)**

9:00AM-Noon

**Ages: 4yrs.-going into
the 6th grade next
school year!**