



the Parent LINK

Children's Ministry Edition



July 2011



FBC First Kids
First Baptist College Station



Get Serving This Summer!

The summer months usually mean fewer activities to track. That, combined with warmer weather and vacation time, makes summer an ideal time to serve. Start small, looking to your children's passions for volunteer ideas.

- If your kids are creative, have them make cards for neighbors.
- If your family enjoys nature, pick up trash at a local park or tend a community garden.
- To give back at church, clean pews, classrooms, or preschool toys.
- To keep children's skills sharp on summer break, have them write letters to homebound relatives or nursing-home residents.

Through fun, age-appropriate projects, children can see the immediate impacts of following God's command to serve one another

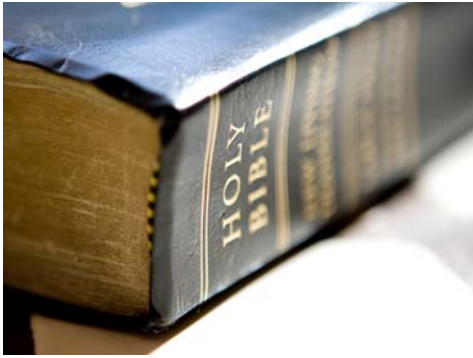
POWERSOURCE

ASK GOD:

1. To give each member of your family a spirit of service this summer.
2. To direct you to projects and people in need of assistance.
3. To work through your family members to bless the people you serve.

INSIGHTS

- Out of 1,000 U.S. households, one-third of all families and one-half of middle-class families said volunteering is a big part of their life. *(Gallup Poll)*
- 80% of teenagers reported being active in volunteer work if, as young children, they did some volunteering. *(Independent Sector)*
- Research shows the following benefits of volunteering: responsibility, leadership, critical thinking, problem-solving, self-respect, self-discipline, self-motivation, patience, tolerance, and good citizenship.



“God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.”
(1 Peter 4:10)

God created all of us—including children—to love by serving.

TEACHABLE MOMENTS

1. Pitch-In Praise—Let children know that the chores they complete at home are acts of service. Acknowledge their positive attitudes when they help around the house and yard without complaint.

2. Share the Wealth—When it's time to clean out the garage or closet, find people who can use your items. Together, take gently used clothing to shelters. Deliver books and toys to churches, schools, libraries, and hospitals.

3. Secret Service—To let children know that serving is its own reward, tackle some projects that allow you to remain anonymous. Then discuss what it feels like to help someone without being recognized. Remind children that everything we do is for Jesus, who knows our hearts and blesses our efforts.



After a volunteer experience, debrief your older children with these discussion-starter questions:

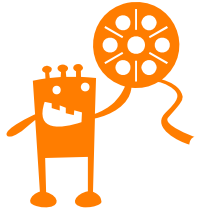
1. How did this activity make you feel? What was the best part of the experience, and what was the most challenging?
2. How did people react to what you did for them, and how did that make you feel?
3. What other ideas for serving can you think of? What are some more ways you can make a difference in the neighborhood? at school? at church? at home?

CHILDREN'S CAMP



JULY 25 - 29, 2011
for completed 3rd - 6th grade

Early registration deadline is July 6
SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE!



MEDIA MADNESS



MOVIES

Movie:
Zookeeper

Genre: Comedy

Rating: PG

Cast: Kevin James, Adam Sandler, Joe Rogan, Cher



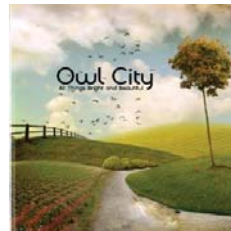
Synopsis: Andrew is a caretaker who's more comfortable with animals than people. When he decides to leave his job, the animals not only reveal they can talk, but they also help Andrew in the romance department.

Our Take: This film will attract kids who grew up watching *Madagascar*, but parents should note that it contains some rude and suggestive humor, as well as some foul language.

MUSIC

Artist: Owl City

Album: *All Things Bright and Beautiful*



Artist Info: Two years ago, Adam Young scored a hit with his electronic/synthpop song "Fireflies." Now this one-man band is turning to acoustic guitar and piano accompaniments for his thoughtful lyrics.

Summary: Many of Young's songs reflect his Christian faith, although he isn't labeled a "Christian artist." He says, "My faith is very important to me and is a very big part of who I am as an individual."

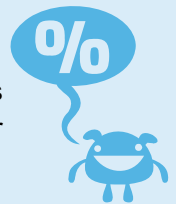
Our Take: Owl City is a good, inspirational alternative for kids who want to listen to popular new music that steers clear of offensive topics and lyrics.

CULTURE & TRENDS

- The dangerous "pharming" trend isn't just for teens anymore. Younger children are stealing their parents' prescription meds—especially pain pills—to get a buzz. (*National Institute on Drug Abuse*)
- Parents who frequently feel angry at or bothered by their children increase the risk of their kids becoming bullies. (*Pediatric Academic Societies*)

QUICK STATS

- 1 in 5 parents regrets the name they chose for their child (*today.com*)
- 42% of parents say high-tech distractions such as computers and cell phones are interfering with their children's active play time. Yet 53% of parents admit spending leisure time with their kids in front of a screen. (*YMCA's Family Health Snapshot*)



GAMES

Title	Content	Rating & Platform
<i>Wii Play: Motion</i>	Twelve party games allow players to twist and turn, using the new Wii Remote Plus controller.	E10+; Wii
<i>Portal 2</i>	In this popular puzzle-filled game, players use a "portal gun" to pass between openings in walls and kill nonhumans (without blood).	E10+; Xbox 360, PlayStation 3
<i>AnimalJam.com</i>	This virtual world is an online component to <i>National Geographic Kids</i> magazine. Kids learn about animals, play games, and chat with others.	Best for ages 10+ or strong readers; free, but offers perks to paid members

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.



COMING in JULY

- July 3** 11:00am Worship Service Only, No Evening Activities
- July 4** Church Office & Building Closed for Independence Day
- July 6** Early Registration Deadline for Children's Camp
After this date, camp cost will increase to \$245.
- July 7** Preteen Funday, 10:30am - 5:00pm, \$15 for completed 4th - 6th grade
Speedy's Fast Track in Houston. Pre-paid registration required.
- July 8** BV Bomber Picnic, Picnic @ 6pm/Game @ 7pm, \$15/person
Cost includes all-you-can-eat picnic and reserve seat game ticket. Registration envelopes located on the Family Ministry board or in the office. All are welcome. 3 and under free.
Bombers will donate a portion of all tickets sold back to the church!
- July 10** Praise and Prayer Service, 6:00pm in the Sanctuary
We will focus on the Lasara Mission Trip, the new fiscal year, and our new pastor.
- July 15** Parents' Night Out, 6:00 - 10:00pm, \$8/child for babies - completed 6th grade
WINTER IN JULY! Games, crafts and dinner included. Pre-paid reservation required.
Space only guaranteed until Friday, July 8.
- July 16** Men's Breakfast, 9:00am in the Sanctuary (RSVP required)
- July 17** Welcome Reception for the Allen Family, 3:00 - 5:00pm in the Fellowship Hall
Help us welcome the Allen's to our church and community. If you would like to bring a welcome gift, please consider a gift card to a local business or restaurant.
- Business Conference, 6:00pm in Room 1030**
- Children's Camp Mandatory Parent and Camper Meeting, 7:00pm**
Informational camp meeting. Final payments and forms are due at this time.
- July 19** Preschool Playday, 9:00am - 4:00pm, now open to all preschooler, \$12
A Day on the Farm. We will have a petting zoo, crafts and games all on the church grounds. Pre-paid reservation required.
- July 25 - 29** Children's Camp 2011: Take the Time * 3rd - 6th graders, \$215*
Mark your calendars for this week filled with Bible study, canoes, swimming, worship, crafts, recreation, and more at Trinity Pines Conference Center on Lake Livingston.
***After July 6 cost will increase to \$245**

COMING SOON

- Aug 2** First Kids Funday, 8:00am - 5:00pm, for 1st - 6th grade, \$15
Innerspace Caverns in Georgetown. Pre-paid reservation required.
- Aug 5** 6th Grade Send Off, Free
Event and times to be decided by the 6th graders at Children's Camp
- Aug 9** LAST First Kids Funday, 9:00am - 5:00pm, for 1st - 6th grade, \$22
Incredible Pizza Co in Conroe. Pre-paid reservation required.
- Aug 22** CSISD First Day of School
- Aug 24** Children's Ministry Wednesday Night Kick-Off, 6:30pm
Our fall kick-off for Mission Friends, Bible Buddies, and Bible Drill.



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