



the Parent LINK

Children's Ministry Edition

October 2011



FBC First Kids
First Baptist College Station



POWERSOURCE

ASK GOD:

1. To help you keep the “end goal” of eternity always in mind.
2. To guide your important work of raising children who love and serve God.
3. To grow and nurture your children's faith—and your own.

Maintain an Eternal Perspective

Many parents live in survival mode, being pulled from all directions and juggling ever-increasing responsibilities. In the rush of school, work, and household activities, it's easy to lose our focus on what really matters: the eternal future of our children and ourselves.

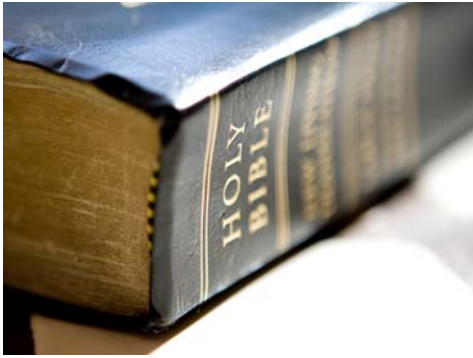
How can you be more tuned in to this “end goal” of spending eternity in heaven? Talk with your pastor or a valued friend to brainstorm what your kids need to know about God and when. Plan ways to incorporate Jesus into everyday life—and on an everyday basis. Make sure everyone's on the same page. Talk to your spouse, family members, and caregivers about your spiritual priorities, even if you think they already know them.

Then be intentional with your choices. Arrange your plans around the big-picture goal. If activities start to interfere with what's really important, reevaluate and rework your family's schedule. When faith becomes the top priority for your family, it'll also become the top priority for your children.

INSIGHTS

- 85% of parents of children under age 13 say they believe they have the primary responsibility for teaching kids about religious and spiritual matters. (Just 11% said their church is primarily responsible.) Yet a majority of those parents “do not spend any time during a typical week discussing religious matters or studying religious materials with their children.”

- Most people become Christians by age 12 or 13.
(Barna Research Group)



“I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.” (Philippians 3:14)

What are your goals? Are you trying to finish a project? potty-train a toddler? Today, take time to focus on the goal of spending eternity in heaven—a goal that’s reachable thanks to Jesus’ death and resurrection.

TEACHABLE MOMENTS

1. Before and After—Prepare for worship by playing the soft sounds of Christian music in your house. After church or Sunday school, ask children not only what they learned but how they can put the lessons into practice. Display and refer to take-home papers.

2. Pray Without Ceasing—Move prayer beyond the dinner table and bedroom. Pray for and with children as they head to school, when you’re driving and see an ambulance, or when a family member is discouraged or facing a challenge.

3. What’s Our Mission?—Together, craft a family mission statement. Decide what your worthy purpose, visions, and values are. Then have everyone commit to living that way, both privately and publicly. God will be placed at the center of your home not by chance but because you’ve purposed it to be that way.



Begin a conversation about goals for this life - and the life to come - by asking older children these questions:

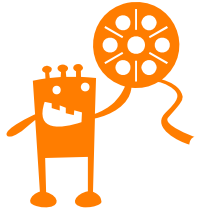
1. What are some things you want to accomplish or achieve during the next week, month, or year?
2. What are some ways to stay focused on a goal and not let obstacles get in your way?
3. What goals do you think Jesus wants us to set? How can he help us reach them?

CONGRATULATIONS

to our 1st Grade Bible
Presentation Honorees



Yuseop Choi, Noah Brown, Chaney Kay,
Katie McCaskill, Sophie Willis, Brian
Crosby, Ryanne Stahl, Greydan Allen



MEDIA MADNESS



MOVIES

Movie: *Princess and the Pop Star*

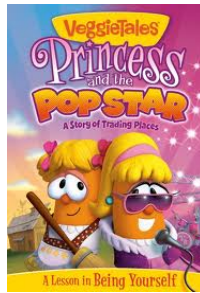
Genre: Christian cartoon

Running time: 50 minutes

Rating: Family-friendly

Synopsis: In this new “VeggieTales” DVD, farm girl Princess Poppyseed switches lives with her favorite pop singer, Vanna Banana. The girls realize that God lovingly designed each of their lives “as is” for a reason.

Our Take: Young “VeggieTales” fans will enjoy this lesson in being yourself. Preteens will gain perspective about trading places with musical heroes. All viewers will enjoy the high-energy music, including “You Never Are” by Dove Award-winning Artist of the Year Francesca Battistelli.



MUSIC !

Artist: Needtobreathe

Album: *The Reckoning*

Artist Info: This rock band from South Carolina has had hits on mainstream and Christian charts, as well as several songs on TV shows and ads. They’ve been opening up for Taylor Swift on the North American leg of her sold-out *Speak Now* tour.

Summary: In their fourth studio album, Needtobreathe combines their powerful sound with experimental recording ideas. The first single, “Slumber,” encourages listeners to wake up, sing, and dance.

Our Take: Needtobreathe is a good choice for fans of bluesy folk rock who want to hear a variety of heartfelt, positive messages in their music.

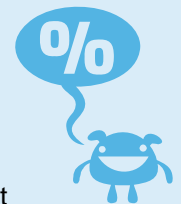


CULTURE & TRENDS

- Experts say it’s more important than ever to nurture children’s creativity. Researchers blame standardized testing for declines in children’s ability to produce unique ideas and express humor and imagination. But there are encouraging signs that kids are expressing creativity outside the classroom, through digital media and free play. (*msnbc.com*)

- Companies are turning kids into walking billboards. Disney hands out “Disney Baby” onesies in maternity wards, a California restaurant gives kids free arcade tokens for wearing its shirts, and a cereal company in the U.K. pays kids \$400 to wear its clothing on their most-scheduled days. (*various Internet sources*)

QUICK STATS



- Kids ages 6 to 9 get an average of \$4.45 a week for allowance. But out of 480 families surveyed, only four said they use allowance as a way to teach tithing and saving. (*kidsmoney.org*)

GAMES, SITES & APPS

Title	Content	Rating & Platform
<i>Jerry Rice & Nitus’ Dog Football</i>	This family-friendly game features a team of canine athletes, led by a human quarterback. It’s a fun way to introduce children to football.	E; Wii
<i>Hole in the Wall</i>	In this party game, which requires a Kinect motion-sensing device, players try to fit through shapes carved in a wall that moves toward them.	E; Xbox360
<i>Savings Spree</i>	This fun, age-appropriate app teaches kids to make smart decisions about money—and shows how those decisions will affect them in the future.	For ages 7-12; available at www.msgen.com for \$2.99

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 OCTOBER

Oct 2 - 9 **Family Promise Host Week**

Family Promise of Bryan-College Station, Inc. is an area-wide, volunteer-based, non-profit organization that supports families by providing shelter, meals, and support services to homeless families. We provide a safe environment in which families can stay together and become self-sufficient. If you are willing to help be an overnight host, cook meals, drive the vans, play with kids - contact Aren Murray today!

Oct 9 **FREE Faith@Home Seminar w/ Pastor Mark Holmen**

Sponsored by Focus on the Family, Faith@Home, and D6 Conferences

4:00 – 7:00pm at First Bryan

This very popular and well received two and a half hour seminar at FBC Bryan will inspire, motivate, and equip parents to reestablish the home as the primary place where faith is nurtured. Come ready to gain lots of practical ideas you can begin implementing immediately to bring faith practices into your home life. This conference features:

- Facing Our Faith@Home Condition*
- Creating A Faith@Home Vision/Plan*
- Building a Unique Faith@Home Lifestyle*
- Welcoming Faith@Home Partners*

Limited free childcare will be available for children birth-6th grade from 3:30-7:30pm at FBC COLLEGE STATION.

To Register for this FREE event: Contact Heather with your family name and how many will be attending.

To register for the limited childcare: Contact Heather by 5:00 pm Monday, October 3 with children's' names and ages

Church Business Conference, 6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall

Oct 10 **CSISD Student Holiday**

Oct 16 **National Boss' Day**

Oct 30 **First Fest: TAILGATE EDITION * FREE**

5:00 - 7:00 pm in the outer parking lot

Help make this event the talk of the town! Free carnival-style games, food, candy, moonwalk, and more.

WE ARE NOW ACCEPTING CANDY DONATIONS for First Fest!

Please drop off your individually-wrapped candy donations in the drop box located outside the church office. THANK YOU!!!!

COMING SOON

Nov 11 **Parents' Night Out, 6:00 - 10:00pm, \$8/child**

Open to all children, babies - 6th grade. A Sock Hop theme featuring games, crafts, and dinner! Space is only guaranteed until Friday, November 4. Pre-paid registration required.

Nov 20 **Church-Wide Harvest Banquet, 6pm in the Sanctuary**

Please contact the church office to make your reservation for this annual event to thank God for our bountiful harvest and blessings.