



# parenting CHRISTIAN kids

September 2020



**LifeSpring Church**

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LifeSpringChurch.com



## Address Rebellion with Love

### POWERSOURCE

#### ASK JESUS:

1. To help you deal with rebellion in a loving, calm, and positive way.
2. For guidance as you set age-appropriate boundaries and rules.
3. To forgive you when you rebel against God and his laws.

After a summer of “freedom” and relaxed rules, September’s return to school and schedules often poses a challenge for children. On top of that, 2020 has been filled with new restrictions and limits that are tough for everyone to comply with and comprehend.

As the pandemic drags on, kids are likely to have more questions about why they need to stay home or wear masks, and why they can’t enjoy certain activities or venues that are temporarily shut down.

Although rules are set for our own good, following them isn’t always fun or easy. Because of sin, all humans rebel against authorities and against God. Children are no exception, as new parents quickly

discover. From a surprisingly young age, little ones begin asserting their independence by pushing back against limits and saying “no!” Just as God deals with our rebellion out of love, he instructs parents to raise and discipline children lovingly. That approach molds them into followers of Jesus who strive to obey God and respect other people.

Rebellion takes different forms as children grow (see the next page), so you’ll need to adapt your approach to rule-setting and discipline. No matter your children’s age, however, one of the most important things you can do is pray for them—and for yourself in the vital role of parent. Thank Jesus for each of your children by name, and ask Jesus to work in their hearts and lives, giving them a strong desire to always follow God faithfully.

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## TEACHABLE MOMENTS

### A Muddy Situation

Set out a dishpan full of mud with some coins mixed in. Tell family members to dig for coins, which they can keep. Don't let anyone wash up. Ask: **How did it feel to dig for treasure? Now that our search is over, how do your hands feel?**

Say: **Jesus tells about a boy who left his father to hunt for a better life. As I read, stand when you hear good actions and attitudes, and sit for bad actions and attitudes.** Read Luke 15:11-32. Review by asking people to describe times when they stood or sat. Ask: **What's so special about this father's love? What happened when the son wouldn't receive that love? How is that like the way your muddy hands feel? Who loves you the way this father loves his son?**

Say: **God loves us even more than this father loved his son.** Ask: **What's one way you know that God loves you?** Pray and then wash your hands.

## Staying on the Right Path

Use these strategies for dealing with rebellion as children grow:

**Birth to 2 years:** Accept that God gives even infants and toddlers unique temperaments. Provide lots of comfort, physical touch, and warmth.

**3 to 4 years:** Listen carefully, and respond to physical and emotional needs. Explore what upsets children. Model Jesus' love through affection.

**5 to 7 years:** Offer choices and clear consequences for disobedience. Balance your growing demands with warmth and reason.

**8 to 12 years:** Be consistent. Express trust, and praise kids for jobs well done. When kids fall short, ask what they can do differently next time.

**Commandments 2.0** As a family, work to reword each of God's Ten Commandments as a loving rule with positive purposes; for example, "Because I want you to be protected from religions that would mislead you, don't worship any other god besides me."

**Walking with God** Either trace one another's feet on paper or make footprint impressions with plaster of Paris. As prints dry, read Joshua 22:5 (NIV) and discuss what it means to "walk in obedience" with God. Also talk about what it's like to veer from God's path—and how he brings us back to his ways.

**Grace Abounds** During family devotions about people in the Bible who rebelled, address not only the consequences each person faced but also God's abundant grace. For example, King David paid a hefty price for sinning, but he asked for—and received—forgiveness.

**Going God's Way** Beforehand, use tape to mark start and finish lines at opposite ends of a room. Share times you've done the opposite of what you should have done. Gather on the starting line and say: "See how fast you can get to the finish line—but you must crawl or crabwalk backward. Go!" Read John 1:35-40. Ask: "How was

this game like or unlike following Jesus? When it's tempting to do the opposite, how can we live God's way?"

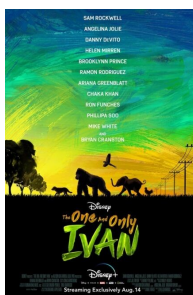
**Rules Roulette** Search online for outdated rules that were in communities and schools years ago—or that might still remain today. Share some funny rules with family. Then read Luke 16:17. Ask: "Why do rules exist? Why do they sometimes need to change? How does it feel to know that God's rules will never change?"

**Starting Over** As a family, choose an item to draw on an Etch-A-Sketch. Every 60 seconds, pass the toy to someone else. When it returns to you, start drawing and say, "Oops, I messed up!" Shake the toy. Say: "Sometimes we mess up by not following God's rules, but he lets us start over." Read Luke 15:11-32. Discuss how the prodigal son rebelled against his father but got a second chance.

**Map Treks** Hand out paper and pencils. Say: "Keeping your eyes closed, draw a map from our house to school, church, or a friend's house." After comparing maps, read Psalm 119:10. Ask: "How is the Bible like a map for our lives? How can the Bible keep us from wandering away from God?"

"So why do you keep calling me, 'Lord, Lord,' when you don't do what I say?"  
—Luke 6:46

## MEDIA MADNESS



### MOVIE

**Title:** *The One and Only Ivan*  
**Genre:** Animation, Adventure, Comedy  
**Rating:** PG  
**Cast:** Sam Rockwell, Angelina Jolie, Phillipa Soo, Bryan Cranston  
**Synopsis:** In this CGI/live-action film streaming on Disney+, Ivan the gorilla ponders life in captivity. He and other animals kept at an Atlanta mall form unexpected friendships while plotting an escape plan. The movie is based on Katherine Applegate's middle-grade novel, which won the Newbery Award.  
**Our Take:** *Ivan* explores themes such as hope, freedom, one's sense of home, and new perspectives. It also can spark conversations about when to question or challenge one's situation. Because the movie is inspired by a true story, the concept of animal abuse could upset some viewers.



### BOOK

**Title:** *Smile*  
**Artist:** Katy Perry  
**Synopsis:** Perry's fifth album—and her first since 2017—coincides with the birth of her first child. Though the title track has an upbeat sound and lyrics, the pop singer says it emerged from “one of the darkest periods” of her life, when she'd lost her smile. “This whole album is my journey toward the light,” she says, “with stories of resilience, hope, and love.”  
**Our Take:** “Daisies,” the lead single, talks about overcoming odds and defying expectations. On “Smile,” Perry expresses gratitude for renewed happiness, noting that “every tear has been a lesson.” Perry has been vocal about bouts with depression. Be aware: Some lyrics contain profanity or suggestive phrases.

## Games, Podcasts & Apps

### Jump Rope Challenge

This simple Nintendo Switch game, inspired by pandemic-related lockdowns, is free on the eShop until Sept 30. Using the Joy-Con, players make a bunny jump in time with them. Jump Rope Challenge makes a noble yet limited attempt to get gamers moving.

### Music Box

Using interactivity, this music-education podcast teaches children about fundamentals in fun ways. Episodes explore concepts such as meter and pitch, song-writing basics, and what different instruments sound like. Host Faith Murphy and special guests introduce listeners to a wide range of musi-

### WideOpenSchool

From the nonprofit Common Sense Media, this app offers a vast, organized collection of educational resources. Parents new to online learning or home-schooling will appreciate all the subject matter—for pre-K through grade 12—from sources such as Scholastic, National Geographic, and PBS.



## CULTURE & TRENDS

**Back to School?** Experts predict a sharp uptick in homeschooling this fall, with many parents leery of health risks or unhappy with hybrid-learning options. Only 3% of kids were homeschooled in 2016, but that's expected to rise significantly—and possibly become a lasting trend. (*Washington Post*)

**At-Risk Educators** Kids who *do* return to classrooms should be prepared to see new people at the helm. Almost one-third of U.S. teachers are 50 or older, putting them at higher risk for Covid-19. Those with pre-existing conditions or at-risk family members may sit out this year, and more than usual are expected to retire. (*various sources*)

## QUICK STATS

**On the Move** More than one-fifth (22%) of Americans moved or know someone who moved due to the pandemic. Of the people who have moved, three-fifths (61%) relocated to a family member's home. (*Pew Research*)

**COVID Conundrum** Though 59% of parents worry that their kids are falling behind academically during the pandemic, only 44% of adults with school-age children are willing to send them back to school this fall. (*ABC News/Ipsos*)

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





# September

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Happy Birthday, Melissa Ziegler!	2	3	4	5
6	7 Labor Day	8	9 Happy Birthday, Charlotte Decker!	10	11 Patriot Day	12
13 Happy Birthday Jean Heatley! Grandparents Day!	14 Happy Birthday, Shelly Libby!	15	16 *Don't Forget! NEXT STOP DRIVE THRU 4-6pm	17	18	19 City Serve Begins
20	21	22	23 See You @ the Pole!	24	25	26 City Serve Ends
27	28	29 Happy Birthday, Bill Carle!	30			



# PEACEFUL SEPTEMBER

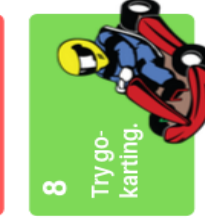
The Lord blesses His people  
with peace. *Psalms 29:11*

## SUNDAY MONDAY

6  
**READ  
A BOOK  
DAY**

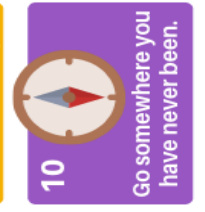


7 Where do  
pencils go on  
vacation?  
*Pencil-Vania*



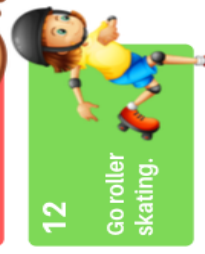
8 Try go-  
karting.

9 What  
does it mean to have  
peace with God?  
*Romans 5:1*



10 Go somewhere you  
have never been.

11 Tell me about  
the kids in your  
class. Who do you  
enjoy playing with  
the most?



12 Go roller  
skating.

13 What one prayer  
request does each  
person have for  
the week ahead?

14 ???  
Play a game of  
20 QUESTIONS.



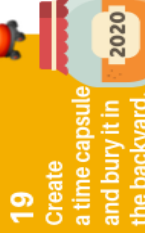
15 Write  
a story  
together.

16 **COLLECT  
ROCKS  
DAY**

17 When do you feel  
most at peace?  
When do you *not*  
feel at peace?

18 Make  
home-  
made pizzas.

19 Create  
a time capsule  
and bury it in  
the backyard.



20 One of Jesus'  
names is *Prince  
of Peace*. What do  
you think it means?

21 **MINIATURE  
GOLF DAY**

22 What has been  
your favorite part  
of school so far?

23 Make a family  
music video.

24 What did  
zero say to eight?  
*it's not a joke!*

25 Go through  
the house, gather  
up the "junk." Sell or  
donate some, throw  
the rest away.

26 **LOVE NOTE  
DAY**



27 Read Mark  
4:35-41.  
How can you  
have peace in the  
midst of a storm?

28 **GOOD  
NEIGHBOR  
DAY**

29 Create a family  
mission statement.

30 When did you feel  
peace even in a  
difficult time?

31 Create  
a family  
tree.



32



## SUNDAY SCHOOL ONLINE

- Go to LifeSpringChurch.com
- Connect  
Children's Ministry
- Parent Resources
- Sunday School Online

Once there you will find this week's lesson to include the Bible Story Video and Graphics to go with (Bible story picture, Story Point, Big Picture Q & A, Key Verse, Activity Pages & Coloring Sheet).

In agreement with our curriculum company the lessons will be available Saturday through Tuesday at noon.

## THE GOSPEL PROJECT

### September Sunday School Lessons

#### Jesus the Healer

September 6	Jesus Healed Ten Men	Luke 17
September 13	Jesus Healed a Woman and a Girl	Mark 5
September 20	Jesus Healed a Man Who Was Lame	John 5
September 30	Jesus Healed a Man Who Was Blind	John 9

#### Scripture

"Yet he himself bore our sickness, and he carried our pains; but we in turn regarded him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced because of our rebellion, crushed because of our iniquities; punishment for our peace was on him, and we are healed by his wounds."

Isaiah 53:4-5

#### Big Picture Question & Answer

Why did God create people?

God created people to worship Him, love Him, and show His glory.

## Recipe of the Month



### Apple Cinnamon Pancakes

#### Ingredients

- 3/4 cup milk
- 1 1/2 tablespoons vinegar
- 1 cup flour
- 3 tablespoons sugar
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon (if you really love cinnamon you can add another 1/2 teaspoon)
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 egg
- 2 tablespoons oil

#### Apple Topping

- 2 tablespoons butter
- 2 apples, peeled, cored, and diced
- 2 tablespoons brown sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/3 cup maple syrup

#### Instructions

1. Preheat a skillet to medium-high heat (275 degrees).
2. Whisk together the milk and vinegar and allow to rest for 5 minutes.
3. While milk is curdling, whisk together flour, sugar, baking powder, baking soda, and salt in a large bowl.
4. Whisk egg and oil into milk. Add wet ingredients and stir until combined (don't over-mix, it should still have some lumps).
5. Spray skillet with cooking spray. Use 1/4 cup measuring cup to pour batter onto skillet. Cook about 2 minutes until bubbles form and the edges start to look "dry". Use a spatula to flip the pancake and cook another 1-2 minutes on the other side. Set pancakes aside and repeat with remaining batter.
6. Add butter, apples, brown sugar, and cinnamon to a medium sauce pan. Stir over medium heat 3-5 minutes until apples are very tender. Stir in syrup. Serve apple topping over warm pancakes.

Recipe from: [www.lecremedelacrumb.com](http://www.lecremedelacrumb.com)



**REALKIDS**  
*Life*

**LSC PARKING LOT**  
**Wed Sept 16 4-6pm**

**DRIVE THRU**

- School Survival Guides
- Ice Cream Treats
- Opportunity to Bless Others (donate mac n cheese, spaghetti noodles & sauce)
- And more



- 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.  
See their website for more ideas: [focusonthefamily.com](http://focusonthefamily.com)
- 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 1:**

- 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 Gift Bundle!**





NEVER MISS ANOTHER  
**FOCUS ON THE FAMILY  
BROADCAST**



**GET THE APP FREE!**

Audio programs and resources to:

- Strengthen your marriage
- Equip you in raising your kids
- Bring your family closer to Christ

# THANK YOU

Thank you LifeSpring Church Family for the absolute privilege of serving you for the last 20 years! These 20 years have flown by as I have lived out my calling by God to invest in the spiritual lives of children and families! It's because it is something I love and feel passionate about.

I look back on these 20 years and recognize how blessed I am to have had this opportunity to lead and serve the families of LifeSpring. What a joy to see kids journey with Jesus, grow in their knowledge and faith, start their careers and families, and continue to serve the Lord!

My commitment to each of you is to continue to serve you and minister to you as the Lord leads, guides, and ordains in the days and years to come. Please know that I am here to come alongside you in whatever way I can. Feel free to contact me by phone (402-292-4546) or email [kwallace@lifespringchurch.com](mailto:kwallace@lifespringchurch.com)

I love you all and miss you terribly. Hope to see your faces in the near future.

**Kelly Wallace**  
Children's Minister & Office Administrator



\*\*\*\*Interested in a resource: email [kwallace@lifespringchurch.com](mailto:kwallace@lifespringchurch.com) and see if she has it or could purchase it for church member use.\*\*\*\*

# FAMILY RESOURCES AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

You have approximately 936 weeks from the time your child is born until he or she graduates from high school.

It goes by fast, and we want to make sure resources are quickly within your reach as you navigate how to raise a child in faith.

We pray this list will be a blessing to your family as you each take your next steps toward Jesus!

## KID BIBLES

### 0-2

Say and Pray Devotions – Diane Storz  
The Big Book of Bible Stories for Toddlers  
The Beginner's Bible for Toddlers  
Baby's First Bible Box Set (board books)  
Baby's First Bible Stories (board book)

### 3-5

The Jesus Storybook Bible  
The Big Picture Interactive Storybook Bible  
Jesus Calling Bible Storybook  
My Awesome God Storybook  
The Story for Children  
Peanut Butter and Jelly Prayers  
The Beginners Bible  
Laugh and Learn Bible for Little Ones  
My Learn to Read Bible

## KID DEVOTIONS

### 2-5

God and Me!  
Minno - Stories Kids Love  
Jesus Calling, for Little Ones  
Age-Appropriate Bibles  
First Bible Basics

### 6-12

God and Me!  
Indescribable, Devotions about God & Science  
Superbook Videos  
Day by Day Devotions – Karyn Henley  
Jesus Calling for Kids  
Grace for the Moment: 364 Devotions for Kids  
Foundations for Kids: Bible Reading Plan  
The Purpose Drive Life Devotionals for Kids  
Notes from Jesus

## 6-12

Adventure Bible  
The Action Bible (Comic Version)  
Laugh and Grow Bible for Kids  
The Big Picture Interactive Bible  
Day by Day Kid's Bible  
Hands-On Bible  
Connect Bible

## 6-12

Mighty God Girls  
For Girls Only  
3-Minute Devotions for Girls  
You're God's Girl!  
Lies Girls Believe  
  
Gotta Have God  
The Ultimate Boys Book of Devotions  
3-Minute Devotions for boys  
A Boy After God's Own Heart

## FAMILY DEVOTIONS 6-12

God's Story (great for mixed ages of little and up)  
One Year of Dinner Table Devotions  
Jesus Calling, Family Devotional  
PrayerWorks: Prayer Strategy and Training for Kids  
The Very Best, Hands-On Kinda Dangerous Family Devotions  
Faith Family Talks: 100 Discipleship Activities and Conversation starters  
Cornerstones: 200 Questions and Answers to Teach Truth  
Step Into the Bible: 100 Family Devotions to Help Grow Your Child's Faith  
The One-Year Book of Family Devotions  
Sticky Situations: 365 Devotions for Kids and Families

## KID BOOK RESOURCES

### STORYBOOKS

Maybe God is Like that Too  
– Jennifer Grant

What is Heaven Like  
– Beverly Lewis

### ELEMENTARY

Left Behind: Kids Series  
- Tim LaHaye & Jerry B Jenkins

The Sugar Creek Gang Series  
- Paul Hutchens

**What is God Like**  
- Series by Dr. Craig

**Just in Case You Ever Wonder**  
– Max Lucado

**You are Special**  
– Max Lucado

**The Tallest of Smalls**  
– Max Lucado

**When God Made You**  
– Matthew Paul Turner

**Hermie** – Max Lucado

**How Full is Your Bucket for Kids**  
– Rath/Reckmeyer/Manning

**Giraffes Can't Dance**  
– Andreae/Parker-Rees

**God Made You Special**  
– Big Idea Books

**Only One You**  
– Linda Kranz

**It's Not Easy Being a Bunny**  
– Marilyn Sadler

**Wonderfully Made**  
– Joyce Meyer

**God Gave Us You**  
– Lisa Tawn Bergren

**The Prince Warriors Series**  
- Priscilla Shrier

**Theodore Boone Series**  
- John Grisham

### **DEATH AND GRIEF**

**God Gave Us Heaven**  
– Lisa Tawn Bergren

**The Memory Box**  
– Joanna Rowland

**Sam's Dad Died**  
– Margaret Holmes

**Molly's Mom Died**  
– Margaret Holmes

**Water Bugs and Dragonflies**  
– Doris Stickney

**Someday Heaven**  
- Larry Libby

### **SEXUALITY**

**How and When to Tell Your Kids  
About Sex (parent book)**  
– Stanton and Brenna Jones

**Good Pictures, Bad Pictures**



**You're All My Favorites**  
– Sam McBratney

**I'm Gonna Like Me**  
– Jamie Lee Curtis

**Pete the Cat Too Cool for School**  
– James Dean

**I Like Myself**  
– Karen Beaumont

**I Am a Rainbow**  
– Dolly Parton

**Jesus and His White Horse**  
– Jake McCandless

### **God's Design for Sex Series:**

Book 1

–The Story of Me (Ages 3-5)

Book 2

–Before I Was Born (Ages 5-8)

Book 3

– What's the Big Deal? (Ages 8-11)

Book 4

–Facing the Facts (Ages 11-14)

### **God Made All of Me**

(sexual abuse prevention)

– Justin and Lindsey Holcomb

### **It's Great to be a Girl**

– Dannah Gresh

### **It's Great to be a Guy**

– Jarod Sechler

## **PARENT RESOURCES**

### **BOOKS**

**Praying Circles Around Your Children**

- Mark Batterson

**5 Love Languages of Children**

- Dr. Gary Chapman

**(Help your kids take the 5 Love Languages test for kids!)**

**Parenting with Love and Logic -**

**Foster Cline**

**Talk Now and Later: How to lead kids through  
life's tough topics**

- Brian Dollar

**6 Ways to Keep the 'Little' in Your Girl**  
- Dannah Gresh

**Spiritual Parenting: An awakening for today's families**  
– Michelle Anthony

**Grace Based Parenting: Set your family free**  
- Tim Kimmel

**Screamfree Parenting: How to raise amazing  
adults by learning to pause more and react less**  
– Hal Runkel

**Sticky Faith:  
Everyday ideas to build lasting faith in your kids**  
– Kara Powell and Chap Clark

**Faithful Families: Creating sacred moments at home**  
- Traci Smith

**Give Them Grace:  
Dazzling your kids with the love of Jesus**  
- Elyse Fitzpatrick

**The Tech-Wise Family: Everyday steps for putting  
technology in its proper place**  
- Andy Crouch

**Parenting Beyond Your Capacity**  
- Reggie Joiner & Carey Nieuwhof

**Parenting is Wonder-Full**  
- Sue Miller & Holly Delich (great for new parents!)

**Intentional Parenting:  
10 Ways to be an exceptional parent in a quick-fix world  
- Doug & Cathy Fields**

**Don't Miss It: Parent every week like it counts  
- Reggie Joiner & Kristen Ivy**

## **PARENT RESOURCES**

### **WEBSITES**

#### **Rightnowmedia.com**

Over 20,000 Biblically-based videos on topics like marriage, parenting, youth, recovery, leadership, finances and much more.

#### **Phaseguides.com**

An 18-part series of concise and interactive journal-style books that simplify what parents need to know about each phase of a kid's life and give them the opportunity to discover more about their children—so they can make the most of every phase.

#### **PursueGod.org/family**

Hundreds of family topics you may be thirsting for.

#### **D6family.com**

Devotional magazines for every member of your family. Blogs on all parenting topics. Book recommendations.



## **FocusOnTheFamily.com**

Great podcasts and articles on many topics. Family activities through Clubhouse and Clubhouse Jr. Also, check out the PluggedIn site which is full of movies, tv, music, games, books and streaming!

## **FaithAtHome.com**

Resources and devotions for everyone in the family!

## **SeedsFamilyWorship.com**

Resources for kids and family; songs, videos, devotions, scripture challenges, and more!

## **Parenting-101.org**

Life can be complicated and distracting, but if you can focus some time every day to connect your child to your heart, they will grow up emotionally healthy and will be able to trust you, trust God and have great relationships throughout their life. You can do it, we can help!

## **ParentingForFaith.org**

Equipping parents with tools and podcasts.

## **PODCASTS**

**God Centered Mom**

**The Compassionate Caregiver**

**The Confident Parent**

**Daily Radio Bible for Kids**

**Mindful Parenting in a Messy World**

**Parenting without Power Struggles**

**The Tilt; Parenting Podcast**

**Focus on Parenting**

**Parenting for Faith**