



Parenting CHRISTIAN Kids

May 2017



Celebrate Children's Spiritual Milestones

POWERSOURCE

ASK GOD:

1. To help you nurture your children's developing faith.
2. To assure your children that he's with them as they grow.
3. To remind you to make your children's faith milestones special and memorable.

Marking children's physical "firsts"—from first steps to first words—is an exciting and cherished part of parenting. Even more important and worthy of celebration are spiritual firsts, or faith milestones.

These rites help children know that they're growing up as Christians and continually reconnecting to their faith family. Milestones also allow churches and parents to partner together to raise up lifelong followers of Jesus.

Spiritual occasions that warrant family celebrations include:

Baptism or Dedication Children are a gift from God, so we "give" them back by committing their lives to God. By witnessing a baptism or dedication, fellow church members agree to partner with parents to help raise children as Christians.

Receiving a First Bible When children receive God's Word, it's like their very own special love letter from God. He wants us to read the Bible and hold it in our hearts so we can live it out. Making a big deal out of getting a new Bible shows kids how important the book is to our faith and its growth.

Transition to the Preteen Years Leaving behind elementary school symbolizes that preteens are beginning to "own" their faith. During their spiritual journey, they'll decide whether to draw closer to God or reject him. Thankfully, God is always there—for kids and parents, guiding us throughout our faith walk.



Volunteer HIGHLIGHT

Welcome Back Krista & David!

We are so excited to welcome back team members Krista Denny and David Hosein to our Pier 23 class at our Tega Cay Campus.

In September of 2016, Krista was diagnosed with thyroid cancer.

From October through March, as Krista battled the cancer in her body through treatment and prayer, Krista and David both consistently told me how much they missed the classroom. Imagine it, they are going through one of the most challenging seasons in their lives and they are emailing me to apologize for not being able to be in class. I was personally blown away by their faith as well as their love and commitment to our precious 2 and 3 year olds at Lakeshore.

We are truly blessed at Lakeshore to have a team of Kids Ministry volunteers that don't just show up to babysit. Our team members understand and step into the responsibility and privilege God has given us to help support you and your family in raising godly children. Our team members both teach and love your children in such a way that they can't help but see Jesus!

Be sure to listen to our Easter Sunday message via podcast. Not only will you get a chance to hear Krista and David's inspiring testimony of hope, but I believe your own hope will be renewed in Jesus!

Jesus' resurrection happened so that you could see that the God who brings things that were dead back to life starting with Jesus, can do the same thing in your life!

Your Family's Faith Journey

At-home faith talks are vital for nurturing children spiritually. In Shift (Group), Brian Haynes offers these guidelines for family times with Jesus:

- Faith talks should occur regularly and be age-appropriate. Each week, set aside time to focus on biblical truth in a relational way.
- Faith talks should focus on God's Word. Read the Bible together, celebrate it, and apply it to all aspects of your daily lives.
- Faith talks don't have to be difficult or formal. Make them fun! For example, go outside on a hot day and compare standing in the sun and shade. Then read and discuss Psalm 121:5-6.
- Faith talks shouldn't depend on children's choices or attitudes. God instructs parents to be intentional about leading their kids spiritually.

Celebrate New Life After seeing a baptism, talk to your children about their own baptisms—or their desire to be baptized. Tell them Jesus washes away our sins. As a family, make handmade cards for newly baptized people.

God's Relevant Word Show children how the Bible applies to their lives. Talk about biblical heroes and how they both stumble and grow in faith. Tie Bible verses into kids' interests, from music and poetry to travel and adventure.



This month your child will come to the castle and learn stories about the King. The main focus is that God's got it. Your child will learn that God is always with them, God hears them, God gives them what they need, and God teaches them the way to go.

Memory Verse: "He is the great God, the mighty and awesome God." Deuteronomy 10:17

"Train yourself to be godly. For...godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come."
—1 Timothy 4:7-8, NIV

Lifelong Learners Preteens often feel as if they've outgrown Sunday school. Provide age-appropriate Bibles and devotionals for older kids who are forming their identity in Jesus. Help them anticipate the future, and assure them that Jesus is always with them as they grow.



This month 1-5th graders will learn HOW 2 handle many difficult moments in life. The Apostle Paul was an incredible example of HOW 2 live like Jesus, HOW 2 spread God's love, and HOW 2 change the world. Check out some of the Big Idea's for this month.

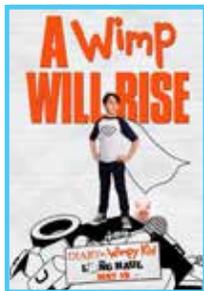
"I Won't Forget To Give God The Glory!"

"I Will Tell the World What God Has Done For Me!"

"Storms May Come & Storms May Go, But God Is With Me- This I Know!"

"Trust God And You Will See, From Attacks He'll Set You Free!"

MEDIA MADNESS



MOVIE

Title: Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Long Haul

Genre: Comedy, family

Rating: Not yet rated

Cast: Jason Drucker, Charlie Wright, Alicia Silverstone, Tom Everett Scott

Synopsis: Hoping to attend a gamer convention, Greg talks his family into traveling to his great-grandmother's 90th birthday party. Crazy road-trip antics result. This is the fourth "Wimpy Kid" movie but the first in five years, so the cast is all new.

Our Take: Young fans of the popular book series will enjoy seeing the Heffley family in action. The film lends itself to discussions about decision-making, family unity and conflict, and how much control kids should (and do) have over their lives.

Songs

1) **I Came For You- Planetshakers.** We introduced this song last month to our 1-5th graders. It is about putting aside all distractions, worshipping the Lord, and inviting the Holy Spirit to come and speak to each one of us.

2) **Deep Cries Out- William Matthews.** This is a fun song for the whole family that we will be introducing in May. Ezekiel 47 talks about the river of God and this song is a response to that, that we should commit to walk in the river and go wherever God is going. When we do that our response is to jump, dance, and sing because God is so good!

3) **He Has Won- Elevation Church Kids.** This is another fun song that we will be introducing in May to our Hallelujah Harbor Class and 1-5th graders. It is about how God has won the victory over the enemy and with Him we can win too!

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, read, listen to, and play.

Culture & Trends

New Zoos Now that the Ringling Bros. circus has disbanded and SeaWorld is phasing out its orca shows, zoos are the next animal-based attraction facing changes. A reported new "unzoo" approach involves taking people to the animals and providing more space for animals to roam, often above visitors' heads. (various sources)

Happy Campers If you're not yet comfortable sending your children to summer camp—or just want to share in the fun—check out the family sessions being offered by many groups. It's a popular strategy for getting away together without worrying about meals or hotels. (empowher.com)

Quick Stats

Faked Out Fewer than 45% of U.S. kids ages 10 to 18 said they could accurately tell which stories in their social-media feeds were fake. Nearly one-third said they've shared fake news before realizing it. (Common Sense Media)

Movie Violence PG-13 movies have 23% more gun violence than R-rated movies do. (Pediatrics)

Step It Up Pokémon Go players walk an estimated 2,000 extra steps daily, compared to people who don't play the game. (healthday.com)

GAMES, SITES & APPS

Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild

This new title from the acclaimed series is for the new Nintendo Switch console. For players, Hyrule is an open world waiting to be explored. They must battle enemies, hunt wild beasts, and gather food and equipment for the journey. Rated E10+

TheKidShouldSeeThis.com

Parents can sign up (for free) to receive 8 to 12 videos per week tailored to curious kids. Many videos emphasize STEAM-related topics and spark conversations about the world around us. All videos are appropriate for young viewers, but the content isn't dumbed down.

Clarify* by Playbac

This video-news app from the inventor of BrainQuest explains news stories and current events in fact-based, kid-friendly language. The timely videos end with discussion-starter questions that families can use. The first week is free, but after that a subscription costs \$1.99 per week.

Easter Outreaches 2017

On Saturday April 1st and 8th, we had the privilege of blessing our Gastonia and Catawba communities with a free Easter Party that included giant inflatables, free snow cones, popcorn, games, crafts, prizes, and the real Easter Story. With the support of 80 volunteers from our Lakeshore Family, we were able to host over 150 KIDS along with their families.

We had the opportunity to invite 41 visiting families to our Easter Service.

Special THANKS to EVERYONE who helped make these events possible through prayer, providing/stuffing eggs and candy, volunteering time both before and during the events, and for attending! Lakeshore is BLESSED to BE a BLESSING!



"I just wanted to tell you how wonderful the Easter egg hunt was this year. You all had so many things to do for the kids and they really had a fun time. All your staff and volunteers are really great. Thank you (and Lakeshore Church, of course) for all your efforts to create such a great event!!"

"The Easter Party was AWESOME this year! It was great. I love the new games and bounce houses. It has really grown through the years. Great planning and good execution. We all had a great time."



Check Out What's Happening

MAY 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Tuesday Talks Women's Gathering Tega Cay Campus 6:30P	3 Food Pantry Give	4 National Day Of Prayer	5 1-5 Grade GAME NIGHT 5:30P-8P Tega Cay Campus MPC	6
7 Getting To Know Lakeshore	8	9	10 Dress as your favorite movie/ tv character	11 Playtime at the Park Trailhead Park 1p-2:30p	12	13
14 Mother's Day	15	16 Playtime at the Park Allison Park 11A-1P Bring your own lunch!	17 Beach Night	18	19	20
21 Baby Dedication	22	23	24 Playtime at the Park Walter Elisha Park 9 - 11 A Favorite Theme Night	25	26	27
28 Move Up Day Rising 1 & 6 Graders Move Up	29 Memorial Day	30	31			

Cinco De Mayo Game Night - 1st thru 5th graders are invited to join us for a night of nachos, snow cones, games, and prizes! Register at lakeshorecf.com

Park Playdates - Join us at one or all of our park playdates! This is for all ages. Locations are as follows:

Allison Park - Baxter Village, Trailhead Park - Lakeshore, Walter Elisha Park - Fort Mill.

To SIGN UP for Getting to Know Lakeshore or Baby Dedication - Contact Pastor Jenny Dirmann and jdirmann@lakeshorecf.com

For more information or upcoming events at Lakeshore Christian Fellowship please check out Lakeshorecf.com/events.