



Parenting CHRISTIAN Kids JANUARY 2018



Cultivate Children's Curiosity and Creativity

Young children are savvy explorers, investigating God's creation with unbridled enthusiasm and fearless questions. Their imagination allows them to experiment with thoughts, feelings, and ideas. Imagination is also a powerful tool for discovering faith concepts. Without consistent opportunities, however, curiosity and imagination plummet by the preteen years.

Likewise, creativity often becomes less important to kids as they grow—and as they progress through the educational system. Yet that skill is an effective way to help children develop a relationship with Jesus.

"Kids can't literally hug Jesus or sit on his lap, [so] creativity helps bridge that gap," says Jeff White, author of Holy Wow (Group). Creativity lets kids "explore God and understand who he is, whether through art, music, food, drama, storytelling, or other forms of self-expression," he adds.

Jesus adored and welcomed little children; in fact, he instructs us all to have a childlike faith (see Matthew 18:3). That type of faith is trusting yet curious. It asks questions, seeks new insights, and wonders how Jesus would address challenges.

Nurturing children's curiosity and creativity provides a solid foundation for learning, living, and loving. The ultimate goal of an inquisitive, imaginative mind is to know Jesus so we can discover how to serve and love him—and other people.

POWERSOURCE

ASK GOD:

1. To bless your children with curiosity about God and the amazing world he made.
2. To help you remain curious and creative as you parent.
3. To reveal himself to your family members in meaningful ways.

Spark the Joy of Discovery

Spending time with children can be unpredictable—and can lead to many God-moments. Through their vivid imaginations, children become part of God’s unfolding story with a sense of innocence and trust that we lose as adults. There’s no rush to confront little ones with reality; that happens soon enough. Set aside criticism, competition, structure, and comparisons. Instead, emphasize praise, acceptance, freedom, insights, and smiles. Rushing squelches curiosity, so allow plenty of time for your children to make and share their discoveries. Welcome their questions, even if you don’t have all the answers. And remember to show curiosity yourself, because that mindset is contagious! Try these ideas for revealing biblical truths through imagination and creative exploration.

It’s a Draw Set out art supplies and draw, paint, or sculpt Bible events. Celebrate children’s creativity, and find opportunities to link their abstract art with God’s creation and his Word.

Action! Encourage children to engage with Bible events by acting them out together. After reading aloud from a children’s Bible or Bible storybook, dress up, role-play, and improvise dialogue. Allow embellishment and laughter.

Creative Creation Together, brainstorm things God created. Read aloud Genesis 1:27. Say: “Because we’re made in God’s image, we’re creative too!” Set out shapes cut from different colors of construction paper. Have family members design pictures of God’s creation (animals, flowers, people, and so on).

Curious Questions While reading the Bible together, encourage children’s curiosity by asking questions such as “How might [Bible person] tell about this event? What do you think he or she saw? smelled? tasted? touched? What other choices did this person have? What in these Bible verses do you want to do? What do you not want to do?”

Make Merry Create homemade tambourines and then make joyful noises of worship to God. Sing and dance, waving ribbons for extra effects. Older kids can write songs about a Bible passage.

STEM Stimulation Incorporate other subjects into Bible time. Use math to demonstrate 40 days of the flood, 40 days of temptation, or forgiving 70 times 7. Do research to find out what’s in a drop of pond water. Use blocks to build the Tower of Babel or the Temple.

Snacks Make Things “Stick” Research shows that snacks affect children’s memories because food connects to emotions. So make and enjoy Bible-themed snacks that tie into lessons. Use animal crackers, goldfish crackers, blue gelatin (for water), marshmallows (for sheep), and so on. Search online for easy recipes related to each lesson.

Everyday Examples Use a variety of household items to reinforce Bible truths. For example, place a dried-up sponge in a pan of water and discuss the changes that take place in us when we know Jesus. Pull some tissues out of a box and explain how the church is a bunch of people holding up one another.

TEACHABLE MOMENTS

Bubbling With Joy

You’ll need a Bible, a clear glass filled with carbonated soda water, raisins, and praise music.

Ask: **What kinds of things make you burst with excitement?**

Read aloud Psalm 100. Say: **God wants us to be filled with joy when we praise and worship him.**

Give each family member several raisins. Take turns dropping raisins in the glass while music plays.

When the raisins start bouncing around, say:

The raisins are reacting to a gas called carbon dioxide. Tiny bubbles form on the raisins, lifting them up. When a raisin reaches the top of the water, the bubbles pop, and the raisin sinks. Then the process starts again.

Ask: **How can worshiping God make us bubble up with joy?**

Close in prayer—and then dance to the praise music!

“O Sovereign LORD! You made the heavens and earth by your strong hand and powerful arm. Nothing is too hard for you!”
—Jeremiah 32:17, NLT

MEDIA MADNESS



Title: Know The Truth
Artist: Foursquare Worship
Synopsis: This album is full of songs straight out of the Word of God that mirror the heart of God for the church today.

This world is full of people searching for answers in all the wrong places, convoluted in their minds by the deceitful plans of the devil. Foursquare Worship's hope is that when your family hears this album that THE TRUTH WILL SEE YOU FREE.



Title: Hidden In My Heart: A Lullaby Journey Through Scripture
Artist: Scripture Lullabies
Synopsis: The Word of God is so very powerful, especially

in a form where it can easily be absorbed—that's why Scripture Lullabies is having a such a profound impact on listeners of ALL ages, not just the little ones! Whether you are two or 92, Scripture Lullabies will surely minister deeply to your soul with beautiful, breathtaking orchestrations that sound more like a movie score than what you might expect from typical nursery music.

Culture & Trends

Time Off for Pops More companies are following the example of tech giants by offering paid paternity leave. States such as California and New Jersey have formalized up to six weeks of paid leave for new dads. Many fathers, however, feel pressure not to take it. (cnbc.com)

One and Done To try to keep families safe on the road, a New York restaurant is enforcing a one-drink limit on parents who dine with their kids. (time.com)

Quick Stats

Tiny (Digital) Footprints About 92% of U.S. children younger than 2 already have an online footprint. Some parents even check the availability of domain names and social media handles when choosing baby names. (chicagotribune.com)

Up in Smoke Two-thirds of preteens and teens say the legal age for purchasing cigarettes should be raised from 18 to 21. (pediatrics.aapublications.org)

Adoption Trends In the past dozen years, international adoptions by U.S. parents have declined 77%. And for the first time on record, boys now outnumber girls among international adoptees, mainly due to changes in China. (pewresearch.org)

GAMES, SITES & APPS

I Got This!

In this active board game, players earn points by completing funny and sometimes tricky challenges. The tasks help build gross motor skills, critical thinking, coordination, and cooperative play. The game, available from Fat Brain Toys, is best for ages 8 and up.

brainson.org

This kid-friendly website offers information about a wide range of science-related topics. On a weekly podcast that mixes facts with humor, scientists discuss topics from planets to curious-looking creatures. Although the 15- to 30-minute episodes are silly, they capture children's interest.

Color Switch

In this simple, fast-paced game, players tap a ball through spinning, geometric-shaped obstacles by matching color patterns. The free app, for kids ages 4 and up, has 25 levels in six modes. Note that some ads attached to the app may be inappropriate or may freeze the game.

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.

30 FOR 30

Children's 30 Day Journey

30 for 30 is a simple journey that we are inviting our Lakeshore family to take part in throughout the month of January. This will not only help prepare your life and heart for all that God wants to do in and through you in 2018, but it will also help to unify us as a church family. Participating is super easy!

All you have to do is follow these three steps:

STEP 1: READ Get a life journal or download the reading guide from lakeshorecf.com, beginning on January 1st, spend 5 minutes each day reading the assigned verses.

STEP 2: PRAY Spend 1 minute each day to say the prayers listed on the Children's 30 for 30 card. You can find these cards in the welcome center at your campus or on your child's check in table. They are also available at lakeshorecf.com.

STEP 3: SHARE Take some time each day to share with someone what God is speaking to you. You can share this with your parents, brothers/sisters, and even your friends!

JANUARY LESSONS



Early Childhood: Preschoolers love showing us what they can do. They are full of WATCH THIS moments. This month we want to invite preschoolers to WATCH THIS as we do a few impressive things so we can lead them to the ONE who can do ANYTHING! The goal this month is to learn that Jesus is the one to watch, because JESUS CAN DO ANYTHING!

Memory Verse: "With God all things are possible." Matthew 19:26

Key Question: Who can do anything?

Bottom Line: Jesus can do anything.



1-5th Grade: This month we are beginning a new series called "Ouch!" It's all about some really powerful truths Jesus taught when he preached the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus said some things that made his followers say, "Ouch!" because they knew what Jesus said was so true, and when they thought about how they were living compared to how Jesus said they should be, it stung a little. It hurt them to see how far off they were from how Jesus said they should be living.

Watt's Up Truths:

January 7th: Even When I'm Treated Bad, I Know God Will Bless Me Good!

January 14th: I Will Do Whatever It Takes To Stay Away From Sin!

January 21st: God Is The Judge And I Am Not!

January 28th: Don't Hold On To Grudges- Make Things Right!

Check Out What's Happening JANUARY 2018

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

			NO SERVICE AT ANY CAMPUS			
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	Tega Cay Kids 6:30p Catawba Kids 7:00p	10	11	12
13						
14	15	16	Tega Cay Kids 6:30p Catawba Kids 7:00p	17	18	19
20						
21	22	23	Tega Cay Kids 6:30p Catawba Kids 7:00p	24	25	26
27						
28	29	30	Tega Cay Kids 6:30p Catawba Kids 7:00p	31		



1st Wednesday Of The Month Starting February

Our 1st-5th grade kid's leadership team will meet at 5:30PM- 6:30PM on the 1st Wednesday of the month at our Tega Cay Campus. All kids in 1st-5th grade are invited to this opportunity to learn more about serving and ways to get involved now. Our time together will include learning new worship songs, how to run lights, sound, and computer, as well as ways to serve one another.

Starting February 4th we are expanding to make more room and reach more people at Lakeshore. We are adjusting service times at two of our locations. The Tega Cay campus will be adding a second service and so the new start times will be 9am and 10:45am, the Catawba campus will be moving its start time from 9am to 10am, and the Gastonia service start time will stay at 10am.



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