

Parenting CHRISTIAN Kids FEBRUARY 2018



Explore the Power of a Name

For parents, naming a child is a major responsibility. Many factors go into the decision: How does this name sound with our last name? Who else has the name? Is there any teasing potential? What is the name's origin or meaning?

In the Bible, names often have special significance. That's true of Jesus, whose name reveals that he will save his people from their sins (Matthew 1:21).

Other names for Jesus reveal his power and personality: Lamb of God, Light of the World, Bread of Life, True Vine, Living Water, Good Shepherd, the Word, the Truth, Cornerstone, Prince of Peace, Immanuel ("God with us"), Rabboni ("Teacher"), and more.

As children grow in their relationship with Jesus, they begin to understand the meaning of his names. They'll also discover that Jesus names them, providing an identity that's more significant than any label the world can offer. Jesus calls us

his children (John 1:12), his friends (John 15:15), his heirs (Romans 8:17), saints (1 Corinthians 1:2), his temple (1 Corinthians 6:19), new creations (2 Corinthians 5:17), and more.

When children claim their "new names" in Jesus, they're blessed with an identity the world can never take away. Knowing that they are precious lambs of the Shepherd and beloved children of God—who is love (1 John 4:8)—provides a foundation for lifelong faith and growth. Read on to discover more about the power of a name.

POWERSOURCE

ASK GOD:

1. To make his name known to your children.
2. To reveal himself to your family in meaningful ways.
3. To help your kids recognize the significance of God calling them his beloved children.

What's in a Name?

The names we use for God affect children's perception of him. To some kids, God is a magical being or an old man with a long white beard. Kids' questions at each age level offer insights into who they perceive God to be. Preschoolers may ask if God loves them and if he's like Daddy or another father figure. Talk about God in terms of your child's immediate experiences and activities. By age 4 or 5, children wonder where God is and how he made things. Share short essential truths, admitting that we can't know everything about God because he's so great. By ages 6 to 8, children are curious about things beyond their environment, and by the preteen years, they want to know why bad things happen. Be prepared for skepticism, ask follow-up questions, and assure kids it's good to keep learning about Jesus.

Name Meanings Get a baby-name book or find a website that explains name meanings. Help family members find out what their names mean. Ask: "Why are names important? What's it like to be called the wrong name? Can you imagine having another name?" Read aloud John 10:1-5 as a reminder that God knows each of us by name.

Naming Game Read a child-friendly version of the Creation account (Genesis 1 & 2) and talk about the important naming job God gave Adam. Ask: "If you were told to name all the animals, what names would you choose? Why?"

Seeing Stars Go outside at night and look at the stars together. Afterward, read aloud Psalm 147:4. Say: "The Bible says God knows how many stars there are and that he knows the name of each one. That's because God made all the stars. God knows our names, too—because he made us all. And he knows everything about us." Say a prayer, thanking God for naming and knowing us.

Good Name Game Stand in a circle to play this memory game. Say: "Let's take turns saying our names and something we like

to do, while acting it out. Before saying your name and doing your action, you must repeat the names and actions of the people before you." Keep adding actions until recall becomes too difficult. Then read aloud Proverbs 22:1. Ask: "What does it mean to have a good name? How can you make sure your choices and actions give you a good name?"

Who's Who? Write the names of Bible people on index cards—one per card. Tape a card on each person's forehead and display a master list of names. Then ask yes-or-no questions to discover your identity. Start out broad, such as "Am I a boy? Am I a girl?" Then get more specific, such as "Am I in Jesus' family?" "Did I build something?" To provide fodder for formulating questions, include factoids about each person on the list.

Name Freeze Put a beanbag on each family member's head. Say: "Walk around. If your beanbag falls off, you must freeze in place—until someone says your name and puts the beanbag back on your head." After playing, talk about why it's important to know others' names and to use them in kind ways.

TEACHABLE MOMENTS

Named With a Purpose

Beforehand, gather a variety of rocks and set out painting supplies.

Read from a children's Bible about people who received new names, like: Abram became Abraham, Simon became Peter, and Saul became Paul). Ask: Why do you think God gave these people new names? If God changed your name, what do you think it might be, and why?

Read aloud Matthew 16:17-18. Say: Jesus gave Simon a new name with a special meaning. "Peter" means rock, and Jesus planned to use Peter to help build his church.

Jesus has special plans for each of us, too.

Let family members each choose a rock. Say: Your rock is unique, just like you. Paint your name on your rock as a reminder that Jesus knows your name and has a purpose for you. Close in prayer, thanking Jesus for naming us as his friends and helpers. Then enjoy rock candy or rocky road ice cream.

"A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold." —Proverbs 22:1, NIV

MEDIA MADNESS



Title: Early Man
Genre: Animation, Adventure, Comedy
Rating: Not yet rated
Cast: Tom Hiddleston, Maisie Williams, Eddie Redmayne
Synopsis: Caveman Dug must unite his prehistoric tribe to save its home from a fierce enemy in this Bronze-Age comedy. Early Man is from the creators of Wallace and Gromit and Shaun the Sheep, and it's filmed in the same style and voiced by an all-British cast.

Our Take: Dug is a big-hearted optimist who has great ambitions for his tribe, despite its shortcomings. They must overcome challenges together to achieve more than they dream is possible. Discuss with kids the importance of having self-confidence and encouraging others.



Title: Checked
Author: Cynthia Kadohata
Synopsis: Young Conor is consumed with hockey—and so is his father. When the family's beloved dog is diagnosed with cancer, Conor puts hockey on hold so they can afford treatment for their pet. Kadohata, a self-described hockey mom, won the Newbery Medal for her first children's novel (Kira-Kira) and the National Book Award for The Thing About Luck.

Our Take: When Conor must take a break from hockey, he has several realizations about family and friends—and himself. Without his favorite sport, Conor wonders what defines him. Written for ages 10 and up, this book will spark discussions about priorities, talents, and relationships..

GAMES, SITES & APPS

Moss
This new virtual reality game for PlayStation 4 features Quill, a mouse who finds a magical stone and goes on an epic journey to find her family. Players work with Quill to explore new areas and solve puzzles. Rated E for Everyone, this game makes players feel as if they're in a storybook.

MarsPatel.com
The Unexplainable Disappearance of Mars Patel is a podcast mystery series performed by actual kids. It's a mix of Goonies, Spy Kids, and Stranger Things. Although the fast-paced storytelling is geared toward ages 8 to 12, entire families enjoy listening to this podcast together.

Mussila
This "musical monster adventure" helps kids learn music basics as they search for lost instruments and costumes. Players build skills as they progress through the fun curriculum-based game. Children can even record their own music. The app is geared toward ages 6 to 8.

Culture & Trends

Young Messengers Facebook sparked controversy by releasing a Messenger Kids app, targeted to children ages 6 to 12. Parents must approve what messages and photos kids send—and to whom. But some people say the social media giant is trying to hook new users before they're old enough to have a Facebook account. (nytimes.cm)

Low-Tech, High Demand
According to Pinterest, many of 2018's top toy trends are refreshingly screen-free and battery-free. Top-ranked "saves" on the site include wooden toys, permanent forts, and pom-pom crafts and décor. (pinterest.com)

Quick Stats

Failing Grades Although
90% of parents believe their grade-school children are at or above grade level in math and science, tests reveal that only about one-third meet that criteria. (belearninghero.org)
Speech Stats
Between 5% and 8% of children have difficulties with speech or language, and numbers have been on the rise. Some experts say screen-based gadgets are negatively impacting children's ability to develop communication skills. (various websites)

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.

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

Catawba- In February we will begin Godly Play at the Catawba campus. This is a special program designed just for your 1-5th graders. Based on Montessori principles, Godly Play helps children explore their faith through story, wonder, and play. Children will meet in the Catawba Boardwalk from 7-8pm.

Tega Cay- We have discovered throughout the years of Wednesday night ministry that we have a great opportunity to breakdown big spiritual Truths with children on their level in a small group setting. Small groups are powerful and provide a safe place for children to open up and ask questions about their faith. Beginning in February, we will focus on one major topic each month with our 1-5th graders. We will begin the evening by discovering what the Bible has to say about the topic and then we will split into small groups to unpack the topic and do hands-on application. In February we will be learning about Loving God and loving others. We will continue our First Look curriculum with our early childhood classes. Children will meet at the Tega Cay campus from 6:30-8:00pm.



Tonya Honaker deserves so much more than a small volunteer highlight in this month's newsletter. In reflecting on who she is and all she has done for SPLASH Children's Ministry, we are convinced that our children's ministry would not be what it is today without her. She has been a part of Lakeshore for sixteen years and has been teaching our 4-5 year olds twice a month for fifteen and a half years. She has also used her artistic ability to design and paint the SPLASH areas on all three campuses, as well as design and create stage designs and props for all of our retreats and events over the past several years. Tonya, we are so thankful for you choosing to use your gifts to serve Jesus and the kids! What you have sown will reap an everlasting harvest.

SUNDAY MORNINGS

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.

Please see the classrooms that will be available on each campus:

Gastonia:

Hallelujah Harbor (Birth- Age 4)
Boardwalk (1-5th grade)

Catawba:

Nursery (Birth-Age 3)
Hallelujah Harbor (Age
4-Kindergarten)
Boardwalk (1-5th grade)

Tega Cay:

Nursery (Birth- 18 months)
Pier 123 (19 months- Age 3)
Hallelujah Harbor (Ages 4- 5)
Boardwalk (1-5th grade)

FEBRUARY 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4 New Start Times Catawba 10A Gastonia 10A Tega Cay 9A & 10:45A	5	6	7 KIDS Crew 5:30P-6:30P Tega Cay Kids 6:30p Catawba Kids 7:00p	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 Valentine's Celebration Tega Cay Kids 6:30p Catawba Kids 7:00p	15	16	17
18 Getting To Know Lakeshore 2p-4p Tega Cay Campus	19	20	21 Tega Cay Kids 6:30p Catawba Kids 7:00p	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 Tega Cay Kids 6:30p Catawba Kids 7:00p			



1-5th Grade: This month we will finish our Ouch! Sunday series and begin a new series entitled, "Bugs." Kids have a fascination with bugs. Remember how many times you went running in the fields to catch lightning bugs or grasshoppers? Many of us never would have thought that BUGS could be used to teach us valuable lessons about the Bible. But it's true! This month we will journey through the land of insects and bugs to learn biblical truths in a creative and fun way!

Early Childhood: Jesus loves everyone is the sweetest news we will ever share with our children. This month we are focusing on the big and sweet love of Jesus. We will hear stories of how Jesus loved the woman at the well, Zacchaeus, the unloved woman, and Peter. What's wonderful about all the love Jesus showed these people is that He has the same kind of love for you and me too. We desire for our preschoolers to know that Jesus loves them so much and no matter what, He will never stop loving you.

Memory Verse: "Love each other as I have loved you." John 15:1



Getting to Know Lakeshore February 18th 2pm-4pm Tega Cay Campus

If your family is new to Lakeshore and you would like more information about who we are and where we see God taking us as a church, you want to make time to join us on Sunday, February 18th at 2pm. You will have a chance to meet and hear from Pastor Gil and Debbie along with some of our other staff. Pre-registration is necessary and can be done at lakeshorecf.com via the Events tab. Childcare will be provided.

Valentine's Celebration Tega Cay Kids 6:30p Catawba Kids 7p

Come celebrate Valentine's day with us with treats, games, prizes, and an awesome message about WHO love is. A prize will be given to the person who is dressed up in the most red, pink, and festive attire.

K.I.D.S. Crew Wednesday, February 7th from 5:30-6:30pm

Our 1st-5th grade kid's leadership team will meet at 5:30pm 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.

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