



November 2013

# parenting CHRISTIAN kids



NEW LIFE  
FAITH CENTER  
WE'RE ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS

## POWERSOURCE

### ASK GOD:

1. For help accepting his grace, no matter your past sins and mistakes.
2. For guidance in showing grace to others.
3. How to be an effective example of grace for your children.

## Thanks to Grace

During this year's season of gratitude and counting blessings, consider the incredible gift of God's grace. It's a life-giving mercy that'll introduce you and your children to a deeper connection with God.

Understanding God's grace means acknowledging that we can do nothing to deserve or earn his love and mercy—but God gives it to us anyway. As your kids develop their sense of right and wrong, it's important that they also understand God's grace isn't

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based on how "good" they are. God doesn't only love good boys and girls. God loves all boys and girls, period. This certainly doesn't mean our actions don't matter or have an impact, but they don't affect God's unrelenting love.

In our culture, the mantra "you have to earn it" and the popular idea of karma reign supreme. It's no wonder people of all ages struggle to understand the concept of grace. We're told blessings or hardships come our way because of what we do. That message shames us and cultivates a sense of hopelessness because we're all bound to do wrong every now and then. None of us is perfect, and we never will be.

God's message for us in the Bible is quite different. **"For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. Yet God, with undeserved kindness, declares we are righteous" (Romans 3:23-24).**

When you allow God's grace into your life, you begin considering your actions and decisions as a response to God's grace and not as a track record of good or bad choices that decides your right to know God. God unconditionally loves you and each person in your family—that's a reason to give thanks!



## TEACHABLE MOMENTS

### Grasping Grace

Talk with your kids about a time you received unexpected forgiveness. Maybe you made a mistake you thought would cost you a friendship, and instead your friend forgave you. What was your reaction to forgiveness, and why?

Say: **Forgiveness is one example of grace-in-action.**

Ask your children to tell you about a time they've been forgiven. Then ask:

Say: **That's a lot like the grace God has for us. God will always forgive us when we ask him to, and he always loves us.**

Ask: **What are the good things that happened for you because of someone else's grace?**

What are good things that come from God's grace?

Pray together, thanking God for his grace.

## Where to Begin

As you set out to infuse your family life with the concept of God's grace and dig deeper into your own understanding, you'll quickly find it's a concept that can bring you incredible joy and overwhelm you at the same time. There are hundreds of books written about grace. Scholars and theologians have dedicated the better part of their lives to studying it and what it "looks" like. God's grace is captivating, deep and wide, and requires time to explore. To avoid being overwhelmed, begin by infusing your family life with grace. Focus on one thing at a time. A natural place to communicate God's grace is in how you choose your words when talking with your kids.

Here are three common communication pitfalls to avoid and things to say instead. When you're aiming for grace, watch for words that can evoke shame.

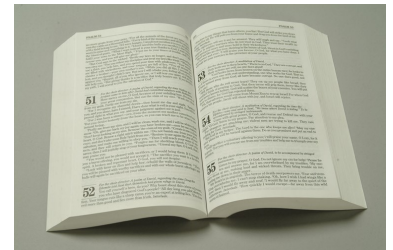
1. **"God loves good little boys and girls."** Or, **"Jesus loves it when you're good."** This can be misinterpreted by kids to mean, **"When you behave badly, God doesn't love you."** Instead, tell kids, **"God loves us always and we can show him we're thankful by following his directions."** This communicates God's unconditional love while encouraging kids to respond by following God.

2. **"You should pray."** Or, **"You ought to read your Bible."** Using "should's," "ought to's," and similar statements when talking to kids about following God's commands communicates an assumption that they're failing. Guilt and shame aren't healthy motivators toward a relationship with God. Instead say,

**"You could pray."** Or, **"You can read your Bible."** Using these invitational statements and modeling enthusiasm for good choices empowers your kids to make those choices on their own.

3. **"I don't like it when you . . ."** While this statement is most natural when addressing misbehavior, it's inherently negative. Instead, think of a good behavior opposite to what you're trying to correct and say, **"You're so helpful when you . . ."** This takes practice and might feel awkward at first, but correcting kids' behavior with positive language and alternatives communicates grace and generates long-lasting results.

*(Adapted from Children's Ministry Magazine)*



**"We believe that we are all saved the same way, by the undeserved grace of Lord Jesus."**

**Acts 15:11**

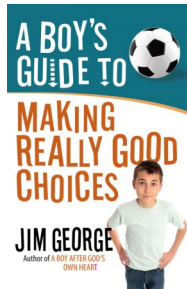


# MEDIA MADNESS



## MOVIES

**Title:** *Frozen* (Releases 11/27/2013)  
**Genre:** Animation/Action/Adventure  
**Rating:** This film was not yet rated at publication time.  
**Cast:** Kristen Bell, Alan Tudyk, Idina Menzel, Jonathan Groff  
**Synopsis:** *Frozen* is based on the Danish fairy tale, *The Snow Queen* by Hans Christian Andersen—but with many changes, most notably making the story about two sisters.  
**Our Take:** The focus *Frozen* puts on the bonds of sisterhood in this movie is commendable, but those who aren't fans of magic portrayed in kids' movies will give this one a cold reception. Expect the religious undertones (angels, Satan, prayer) of *The Snow Queen* to be downplayed in this theatrical retelling.



## BOOKS

**Title:** *A Boy's Guide to Making Really Good Choices* (Released October 2013)  
**Publisher:** Harvest House Publishers  
**Summary:** Author Jim George offers examples of choices boys are likely to face along with guiding questions to help them discover wisdom from the Bible. Best for 8- to 12-year-olds.  
**Our Take:** This guide as well as the girl's version, *A Girl's Guide to Making Really Good Choices* by Elizabeth George, is a great tool for helping kids understand how they can apply what they read in the Bible to everyday decisions. Remind your kids while they're learning how to make good decisions that mistakes (and their consequences) won't cause you or God to love them any less.



## CULTURE & TRENDS

### Time for Timeouts

This common disciplinary tactic can also help your child gain self-control—even at a young age. For instance, if your child is having a tantrum, leave the duration of the timeout up to the child and how soon he or she can calm down. This will allow your child to discover his or her power over the reaction to frustration or anger.

(kidshealth.org)

## Games, Sites & Apps

### Phineas and Ferb: Quest for Cool Stuff

Based on the popular Disney Channel cartoon. Kids will enjoy adventures with the two heroes and their zany inventions. Rated E for everyone by the ESRB. For Nintendo consoles and Xbox 360; \$29 to \$39.

### Spatulatta.com

Maximize the value of family time during meals by inviting your kids into the preparation. Find free recipes and other foodie fun for the entire family at spatulatta.com. Plus, there are recipes kids can make on their own so you can have a night off!

### Jim Henson's Chatter Zoo

An app designed for preschoolers' interactive learning. Children will develop their language and fine motor skills as they care for animated baby animals and more. Rated for kids 4 and up. Designed for iPhone and iPad; \$1.99 at iTunes.

## QUICK STATS

Up to 77 percent of children with inner ear defects show hyperactive behavior. Scientists are hoping by studying the defect, they can find solutions to the behavior.

(latimes.com)

A new survey of U.K. children finds that between school, additional lessons, and homework children are “working” for more than 54 hours a week. Experts say it's a sign of parents wanting a better future for their children. Do you agree?

(dailymail.co.uk)



## Fall Festival a Success

**Annual Event Provides Free, Safe Fun to the Entire Family**

On Saturday, October 25, 2013, New Life Faith Center hosted its annual Fall Festival. This free event was held from 4-6 PM and included carnival-style games, a large, inflatable obstacle course, trunk or treat, live music, and fresh, hot pretzels as well as cupcakes.

More than 60 children attended the Fall Festival and they and their families enjoyed a time of fun and games.



**CHILDREN'S  
MINISTRY**

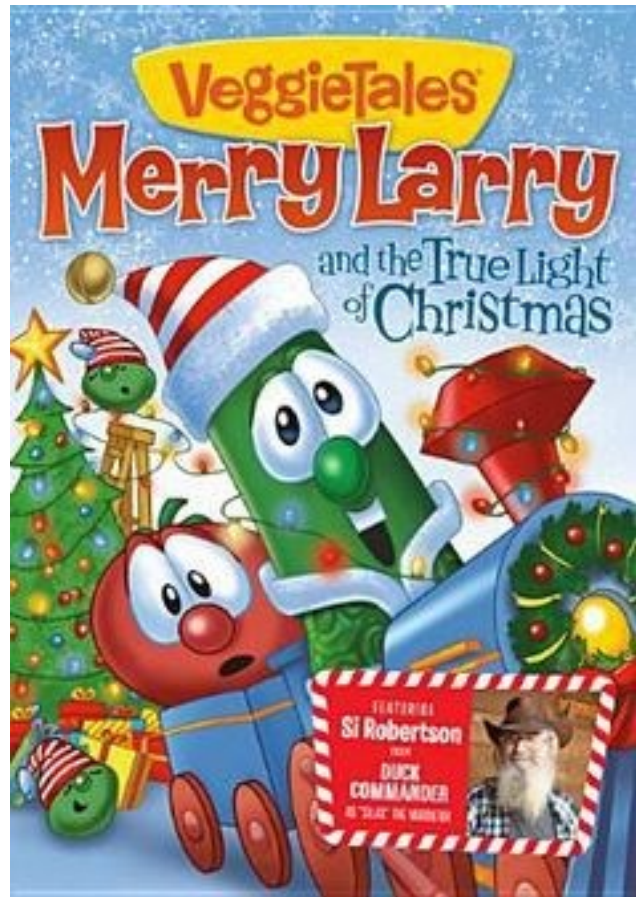
Each Sunday, children are welcome to participate in multiple worship opportunities including:

Sunday School (10 AM): Relevant Bible teaching in a small-group setting.

Children's Church (11 AM): Taking place during our morning worship service, children may participate in Children's Church. This worship time allows children the opportunity to experience God through word, song, and activities.

For more information, visit  
[www.newlifefaithcenter.org](http://www.newlifefaithcenter.org) or  
[www.facebook.com/newlifefaithcenter](http://www.facebook.com/newlifefaithcenter)

Movie Premiere Coming to NLFC



Join us for a Movie Premiere!

**New Life Faith Center** will host a free screening of Merry Larry and the True Light of Christmas on Friday, December 6, 2013.

Join us for a fun night for the whole family that includes fresh, hot popcorn and a great film featuring "Si Robertson" from Duck Dynasty as the narrator.

Merry Larry and the True Light of Christmas Premiere

Friday, December 6, 2013 | 6:30 PM

New Life Faith Center

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