

parenting CHRISTIAN kids



The Woodlands Community

Presbyterian Church

4881 West Panther Creek Dr.

The Woodlands, TX 77381

phone: 281-363-2040

web site: www.wcpc-tx.org

Learning Healthy Independence

POWERSOURCE

ASK GOD:

1. To guide you as you nurture independence in your children.
2. To remind your family of the freedom from sin that Jesus offers you.
3. To help you model for your chil-

Early in life, children are wholly dependent creatures, relying on their parents for almost everything. A parent's job is to help kids become self-reliant and eventually become independent as they grow. But with independence comes increased responsibility. You can teach your kids to continue relying on God—even when they're independent from you.

Consider the stages of independence a child grows through:

- **Toddlers** A child's desire for independence begins at 12 months, not 12 years. Your toddler's "me do it!" autonomy may complicate daily routines, but continue to offer encouragement, supervised guidance, and assurance of your love as your child learns to do things on his or her own.

become more independent, they can also be less cooperative. They take increasing pride in making decisions. But they also find comfort in predictability. Help your kids by maintaining routines while letting them make some simple choices on their own.

- **Elementary Age** From ages 6 to 9, kids enjoy making more decisions. They also begin to learn that decisions have consequences. Encourage confident decision-making in your kids by asking open-ended questions, seeking their opinions, and trusting them with increasingly complex tasks.
- **Preteens** By age 10, most kids start taking ownership of their beliefs and values by analyzing and challenging what they hear. As they do, encourage them to talk with God about those things too.

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TEACHABLE MOMENTS

Free From Sin

Place bricks or heavy items in a shoebox and seal the lid. Have family members hold the box with arms outstretched as long as possible, and then pass it to the next person.

Ask: **What does it mean to be free? How are you free? Are you free to do whatever you want? Explain.**

Read aloud Romans 6:18. Ask: **What does it mean to be free from sin?**

Take the box. Ask: **How did you feel when you could pass this box on? How's that like being free from sin?**

Say: **Sin weighs us down, but believing in Jesus frees us from sin. The Bible says that once we're free from sin, we become slaves to righteous living. That means we have the freedom to worship God and serve him and other people.**

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Free to Grow!

While meeting kids' growing need for independence, parents engage in quite a balancing act. Either extreme of offering too few or too many freedoms can backfire—for kids and for entire families. When parents try to control children's behavior (through bribes, for example), they promote dependence rather than independence. And when parents avoid discipline because they don't want to stifle a child's independent nature, disrespect for authority often results. As you seek a healthy middle ground, consider each child's age and personality. Try some of these activities to emphasize the importance of being faithful and free.

Growing in Grace If your family uses growth charts or marks heights on a doorframe, make it a family affair. Read Luke 2:52, and talk about how Jesus grew. Ask children about the different ways we grow—and how growing can help us become more independent. Then talk about whether growing closer to Jesus makes you more independent from him or dependent on him and why.

How Do You Use It? Set out a tool or kitchen gadget, and have family members act out ways it could be used. Talk about what might happen if the item were used in a way it wasn't designed to be. Read aloud Galatians 5:13, then discuss different ways we can use our freedom to serve others.

Set Free Stand in a circle. Hold up a ball of yarn or string, and say it represents a chain. As you pass the yarn around the circle, have each person wrap it around one body part. When you're thoroughly entangled, read aloud Romans 6:20-23. Discuss what it's like to be tangled in sin, how Jesus sets us free, and ways we can receive the freedom Jesus wants to give us. Then untangle!

Follow the Leader Place several coins in a bag, and have each person take one out

jacks; those with a dime to hop around; those with a nickel to shout, "Nickel, nickel, buy me a pickle"; and those with a penny to shake someone else's hand. After several rounds, talk about what it's like to obey instructions—even when we don't want to. Read Hebrews 13:17. Discuss why God wants us to obey those in authority, even when we're grown.

Squirt Gun Volley On a hot day, tie a balloon to a pole and play tetherball, using water guns to move the balloon rather than your hands. Afterward, talk about why the tether is important to the game and ways the balloon is and isn't free, even though it's tethered to the pole. Read aloud Psalm 16:7-8. Discuss how God's instructions help us to keep tethered in life.

Live Out Your Liberty Show children a symbol of freedom relevant to your culture, such as a bird in flight or a broken chain. Read aloud Leviticus 25:10. Talk about why it's important to celebrate freedom. Then read Luke 4:14-19, and discuss how we can help others know about the freedom Jesus gives. Finally, use craft materials to create greetings cards with pictures on them that symbolize freedom. Give them to people as a reminder of their freedom in Jesus.

So Christ has truly set us free. Now make sure that you stay free, and don't get tied up again in slavery to the law.

MEDIA MADNESS



MOVIE

Title: *Minions*

Genre: Animation, Family, Comedy

Rating: PG

Cast: Sandra Bullock, Jon Hamm, Michael Keaton, Allison Janney

Synopsis: In this spin-off (and prequel) to the two hit *Despicable Me* films, the popular yellow creatures take center stage. After unsuccessfully serving a series of masters, the Minions sink into depression before deciding to search for a new one.



MUSIC

Title: *E-MO-TION*

Artist: Carly Rae Jepsen

Synopsis: This 29-year-old Canadian singer-songwriter is best known for “Call Me Maybe,” her mega-hit from 2012. She gained fame by finishing third on *Canadian Idol* and being signed by the same label as Justin Bieber. Some compare her to pop music performers from the '80s. On *E-MO-TION*, her third album, Jepsen continues to sing about love and teenage longing.

Our Take: On songs such as “I Really Like You” (the new album’s first single) and “Run Away With Me,” it’s clear why Jepsen calls herself “a romantic at heart.” The album is



CULTURE & TRENDS

Pool Safety—Health experts are warning against the perils of DUBB, or “dangerous underwater breath-holding behavior”—intentionally hyperventilating before going underwater. DUBB can lead to drowning, which accounts for 10 deaths per day in the United States. (nbcnews.com)

Parent-Child Twinning—Moms and daughters often dress alike, but now moms and sons—and even dads and daughters—can match, too. Designers like Roberta Freyman are offering mini-me versions of swimwear, PJs, and accessories for stylishly adventurous families. (playgroundtalk.com)

Games, Sites & Apps

Story of Seasons

In this Nintendo 3DS farming simulation game, players produce crops, raise livestock, and learn how to manage inventories. Be warned, though, that characters include a tiny witch and a tiny goddess.

Quarked!

To teach kids and adults about subatomic physics, a professor and her team developed this website where visitors can play games, watch videos, and ask questions about the subatomic universe. The site is targeted to families with kids ages 7 to 12. It can be found at www.quarked.org.

Hunger Crunch

Recently named Facebook’s 2015 Social Good App of the Year, this game lets players fight world hunger while having fun. Groups can hold tournaments, with all proceeds going to feed hungry children. Created by the nonprofit Rice Bowls, the app is free but has some

QUICK STATS

Print vs. Digital—According to a survey by the Scholastic Corporation, the number of children ages 6 to 17 who’ve read ebooks at home or in school increased between 2012 and 2014. However, of those same children, 55 percent still prefer print books over ebooks—a 12 percent increase from 2012. (scholastic.com)

Happiness On the Rise—According to a survey by FamilyFun Magazine, when asked to compare their family’s happiness today to when they were

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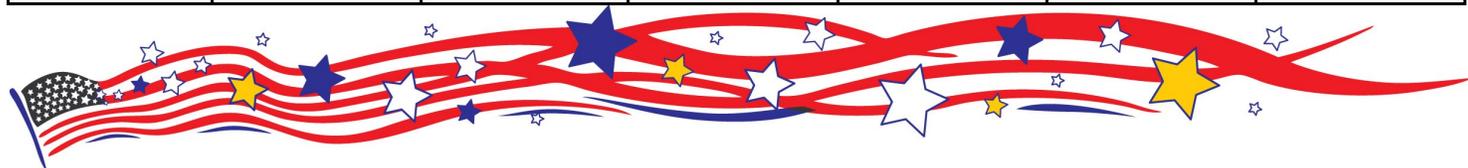
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This page is designed to help educate parents and isn’t meant to endorse any movie, music, or product. Our goal is to help you make informed decisions about what your children watch, read, listen to, and play.



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30-10:25am in 101			 SUMMER PLANS No Wed Movies Susan out 7/1-7/5		3 Star Spangled Salute at the Pavilion 8 pm join us at WCPC group seats	4 
5 9:30 am SS & 10:30 Worship 	6 Magic Monday 9:30-12:30 childcare by reservation CHEB rooms 307-309	7 VBS Planning 9:30-12 * 	8 VBS Planning 9:30-12* 4-6 Midweek Movies CHEB 301 6 pm Potluck Din-	9 VBS All Volunteer Mtg 9:30-12*, also CP Training after	10 VBS Planning 9:30-12 *	11
12 9:30 am SS & 10:30 Worship VBS set up 12-2	13 Beach Party VBS 9-12	14 Beach Party VBS 9-12	15 Beach Party VBS 9-12 No Midweek Movie	16 Beach Party VBS 9-12	17 Beach Party VBS 9-12	18 WCPC hosting Presbytery Mtg
19 9:30 am SS brunch Rehearsal in FH & 10:30 Worship	20 Magic Monday 9:30-12:30 	21	22 4-6 Midweek Movies CHEB 301 6 pm Potluck Dinner FH	23	24	25
26 9:30 am SS & 10:30 Worship	27	28	29 4-6 Midweek Movies CHEB 301 6 pm Potluck Dinner FH	30	31	



Children's Summer Sunday School 9:30-10:25 beginning and pick up in CE building rooms 101; 5th and 6th grade SS also in 101.
 Childcare for worship and under 3 Sunday school in Charles Hendricks Ed. Building rooms 307-309.



Mid-Week Movie & Meal

Showing
Wednesdays:

4-6 pm Movies in
Hendricks Building rooms 301, 302,
306

6 pm Picnic-Themed Potluck Meal in
Fellowship Hall (Sandwiches, Salads,
Fruits, Chips, Cookies Etc.)



**July 1st No Midweek Movies for the
July 4th Holiday Week**

**July 8th All Audiences: Sword in
the Stone or Pixar's Brave Tweens:
Nanny McFee**

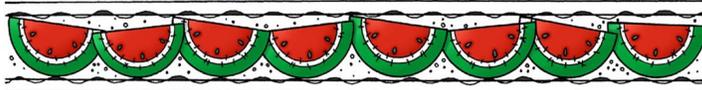
**July 15th No Midweek Movies for
VBS week**

**July 22nd Showings: All Audiences:
Rio or Penguins of Madagascar
Tweens: Night at the Museum**

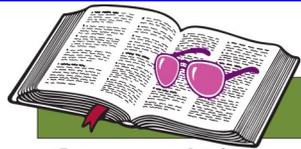
**July 29th Showings: All Audiences:
Paddington or The Lorax Tweens:
Harry and the Hendersons**

**August 5th: All Audiences: Mulan
or Over the Hedge Tweens: Andre**

**August 12th: All Audiences: Mada-
gascar or Planes, Fire & Rescue
Tweens: Shrek 2**



Sunday School



Summer Worship
Schedule

9:30am Sunday
School

10:30 am Worship



VBS Volunteers: Child Protec-
tion Training offered on July 9th
after the All VBS Volunteer
Meeting at 9:30 in the Sanctu-
ary.



VBS Work & Planning Meetings:

**July 7th-10th all starting at 9:30 am
in room 203. Childcare available in
room 102 & 101 by reservation to
Susan.**

**July 9th ALL VBS Volunteer's Meet-
ing 9:30-12 in the Sanctuary.**

Please reserve childcare with Susan
sduncan@wcpc-tx.org

Child Protection Training will
be offered July 9th.



Children's Sunday School Rotation
Bible Topic for July: **How Can I Help
in my Neighborhood?**

9:30 am every Sunday in July in
Room 101 and in the Children's Edu-
cation Building. **No Sunday School
in August.**



Needed: pool noodles Props to borrow
for the week of July 13-17: surf
boards, inflatable beach toys, umbrel-
la & stand, beach chairs, towels.



Summer Childcare

Summer Magic Mondays:

**July 7th & 21st 9:30-
12:30pm.** Email reservations
to Sduncan@wcpc-tx.org or
Kim Falcone.

Children's Ministry Mission Statement: To nurture all to experience the
unique joy of being a "child" of God.

... You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your
soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you
today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when
you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you
rise. Bind them as a sign to your hand, fix them as an emblem on your fore-
head, and write them on the doorpost of your house and on your
gates.

Deuteronomy 6:4-8

End of Summer Get-Together



POOL
PARTY!



Dive In!

Church-wide End of Summer & VBS Pool Party!

Who: Babies, Toddlers, Preschool, School Age, Tweens, Jr. & Sr. High Youth, Adults, and Prime Timers! Everyone in the church from 0-100 years!

When: Sunday August 16th 6-8 pm

Where: Ridgewood Pool on Interfaith Way

(straight out from WCPC's main parking lot, Panther Creek entrance)

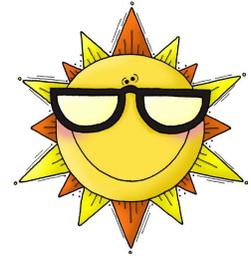
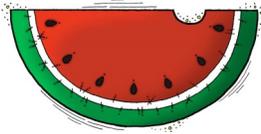


Bring snacks to share:

Family Last name starting with A– K bring chips, savory snacks or finger foods

L-Z fruit or sweets- finger foods

Also both groups bring a large bottle of water,
soda, tea, or lemonade to share!



AUGUST

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 No Sunday school in August 10:30 Worship	3	4	 5 4-6 Midweek Movies CHEB 301 6 pm Potluck Dinner FH	6	7 	8
9 No Sunday school in August 10:30 Worship	 10 Magic Monday 9:30-12:30 Child-care by reservation CHEB rms. 307-309	11 3rd & 4th Servin' Safari 10-3	12 Servin' Safari Copperwood Party 5th-8th Last 4-6 Mid-week Movies CHEB 301 6 pm Potluck Dinner FH	13 Servin Safari 5th-8th graders	14 Servin Safari 5th-8th graders Tweens Lock-In	15 PNO Growing with God 5-8 pm childcare by reservation to sduncan@wpc-tx.org
16 No Sunday school in August 10:30 Worship End of Summer Pool Party 6-8pm 	17	18	19	20	21	22
23/30 No Sunday school in August 9-10:30 CE Meeting on 23rd 10:30 Worship	24/31 24th CISD starts  Back to School	25	26 Wednesday Afternoon Music Resumes! 5:30 dinner  <i>Sing with the LORD with the harp; with the harp and the voice of a psalm.</i> <small>Psalms 93:1-5</small>	27	28	29-

