



October 2017

# parenting CHRISTIAN kids



The Woodlands  
Community  
Presbyterian Church

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## Help Kids Develop a “Thinking Faith”

### POWERSOURCE

#### ASK JESUS:

1. To help your children trust God, not themselves, for answers.
2. To help you be a faithful example of how to learn, evaluate, and problem-solve.
3. To guide your kids to make wise, God-honoring decisions.

You’ve likely heard the buzz (in some form) about “21<sup>st</sup>-century learning.” Instead of just memorizing facts, children are now learning how to think, critique, and synthesize (combine and apply) information. Collaboration and problem-solving are also key.

These learning strategies can help kids grow in their Christian faith, too. Teaching abstract concepts to younger children can be challenging, but experts say certain techniques help preschool- and elementary-age kids move beyond concrete thinking.

For example, sensory experiences, movement, interaction, and personal involvement all make concepts more real to young learners. Children hang new information onto previous bits of knowledge called “mental hooks.” Kids

need hands-on experience to build on those hooks. That’s why, rather than just call God a divine being, we also say he’s a father, friend, and provider. We “hang” God onto hooks kids can grasp.

Then as children’s cognitive abilities develop, they’re able to use “mental operations”—letting them think more abstractly about relationships or patterns of objects without the actual objects present. Asking kids solid, higher-level questions further enhances their critical thinking about faith issues.

As author Josh McDowell notes, “I needed to teach my kids to think, to think logically, to come to their conclusions. Because if there is always Dad’s answer, then they couldn’t develop convictions. ... We need to put our children on a quest for truth.”



## TEACHABLE MOMENTS

### On the “Grow”

With a marker, divide a sheet of poster board into four squares. Label the squares “Wisdom,” “Physically,” “Friendship With God,” and “Friendship With People.”

Read aloud Luke 2:52. Say: **Jesus was a child once and grew up. Let’s play a game to think about ways we grow.**

Stand back from the poster and take turns throwing a beanbag at it. The “thrower” then acts out one thing he or she can do to grow in that area. For example, “Friendship With People” could be sharing a toy. Try to guess what’s being acting out—no talking!

Afterward, ask: **Why was it important for Jesus to grow in these four areas? How can Jesus help you as you grow in each area? What’s one area you can ask Jesus to help you grow in this week?**

Say: **By strengthening your mind, your body, your friendship with God, and your friendships with people, you can grow up just like Jesus did!**

## Living and Learning

As children grow and learn, they must solve problems along the way. Here’s how that happens—and how you can help as a parent.

**Birth to Age 2** Young children are sensory-oriented and learn by imitating. Offer choices and model different basic problem-solving techniques.

**Ages 3 to 5** Preschoolers are multisensory, solving as they touch and do. Allow time and space for problem-solving. Praise children’s efforts.

**Ages 6 to 8** Kids this age begin to learn in specific ways (visual, auditory, tactile, etc.), which also affects how they tackle problems.

**Ages 9 to 12** Preteens observe how peers solve problems. They want to be independent but may lack confidence. Tell kids you trust their abilities. Let them know failure is okay. Also be available to discuss problems.

**Mobile Learners** Researchers agree that some of the most productive mental processing occurs when children are active and involved. So get up and discuss Jesus and faith while doing other activities as a family.

**The “I Can’t” Jar** When children say they can’t do something, write down the problem and pray about it together. When the obstacle has been overcome, put the slip of paper in a jar as a reminder of what Jesus helps us accomplish.

**Apply Always** While reading the Bible together, ask questions with specific applications; for example, “How can we serve our neighbors today?” and “What’s one thing you can do this week to show love?”

**Calm & Collected** Model for children how to react to bad or scary news. Don’t use worst-case scenarios or exaggerate risks to make a point. Instead, provide accurate, age-appropriate information. Brainstorm solutions together to empower kids and to give them a sense of control.

**Wise Guys (and Gals)** Ask family members what they’d wish for if they were granted one wish. Then read aloud 1 Kings 3:5-9. Make

booklets out of folded paper, stapling the folded edge. Fill them with wise sayings (or drawings) you can teach one another—anything from “Treat others the way you want to be treated” to “Don’t shake a bottle of soda before opening it.” Browse through Proverbs for ideas. Add pages and ideas throughout the school year.

**Twenty Questions** Encourage interruptions and pause often while sharing biblical concepts with your kids. Let them share their thoughts and ask questions. You’ll discover whether they have adequate “mental hooks” (see page one) on which to hang new information.

**Be Strengthened** Read aloud Isaiah 40:31. Say: “If we trust in God, he will give us new strength.” As a reminder to trust God when problems arise, take turns trying a cool trick. Stand in a doorway and press the backs of your hands against the door frame as hard as you can. Count to 25, then step away, relax your arms, and see what happens. Say: “You found new strength! When you stopped pressing so hard, your arms wanted to fly up. God renews our strength when we’re tired and when life gets tough. Always trust God!”

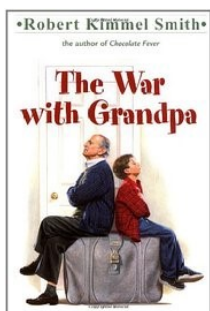
“I pray that...you will keep on growing in knowledge and understanding. For I want you to understand what really matters, so that you may live pure and blameless lives.”

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parenting  
CHRISTIAN kids

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Faith. Bold Love.

# MEDIA MADNESS



## MOVIE

**Title:** *The War With Grandpa*

**Genre:** Family, Comedy, Drama

**Rating:** Not yet rated

**Cast:** Robert De Niro, Oakes Fegley, Christopher Walken, Uma Thurman

**Synopsis:** When Peter's grandfather becomes a widower, he moves into his grandson's beloved bedroom. Peter plots outrageous schemes to try to get his space back, but Grandpa is very resourceful and has a few tricks up his own sleeve.

**Our Take:** This film, based on a novel by Robert Kimmel Smith, explores the challenges of family life and change. Although the situation is played for laughs, the movie can lead to important discussions about respecting our elders, selflessness, and personal space.



## TV

**Title:** *Raven's Home*

**Network:** Disney

**Synopsis:** Raven-Symoné has returned to television, this time as a busy divorced mother of preteen twins. The title character, who starred in *That's So Raven* 10 years ago, joins forces with her best friend to raise their kids. Raven's son has inherited her psychic gift and must learn to cope with that power.

**Our Take:** Be warned that part of the plot line revolves about visions and clairvoyance. The sitcom addresses a range of preteen troubles and explores different family structures and parenting styles. Preview the show to determine whether it's a fit for your family. Geared toward ages 8 and up.

## Games, Sites & Apps

### Arms

This cartoonish fighting game is for Nintendo's new Switch console. Players use detachable motion-sensor joysticks and can brawl with a variety of offbeat items. In just four months on the market, more than 5 million Switch consoles have sold, earning comparisons to Nintendo's last hit, Wii.

### Switchzoo.com

Kids can create their own unique animals, mixing and matching body parts, habitats, sounds, and more. Amid the fun, children also learn animal facts and explore topics such as diversity and species specialization. The site features 142 animals, as well as virtual field trips. Best for ages 5 to 9.

### Thinkrolls: Kings & Queens

This app from award-winning company Avokiddo features a variety of logic and physics-related puzzles. In a fantasy setting, young players learn strategy, problem-solving, and cause and effect. The app costs \$3.99 and is designed for ages 3 to 8.



## CULTURE & TRENDS

**Recycled Clothes** Some students headed back to school this fall in "green" clothing—of many colors. Retailers such as Target and J.C. Penney now offer jeans and shirts made from recycled fabric and even plastic bottles. Tags touting "Responsible Style" attract eco-friendly consumers. (AP)

**The Honest Truth?** Take note: The new app Sarahah (Arabic for "candor") is exposing kids to online bullying. Known as the "honesty app," it allows anyone to comment on a person's social media posts and photos anonymously. Although Sarahah isn't recommended for children, it has no age restriction. (commonsensemedia.org)

## QUICK STATS

### Older Is Better?

Researchers say older mothers tend to thrive because they have more psychological and cognitive flexibility. A study of more than 4,700 families reveals that older mothers are less harsh regarding discipline, and their kids are less likely to have behavioral, social, and emotional problems. (nytimes.com)

**Screen Danger** A study of 4,500 children found that those who logged more than three hours of screen time per day had insulin-resistance levels that were 11% higher than those of kids who spent less than one hour a day in front of screens. (theguardian.com)

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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.





Trunk  
or Treat

Oct. 27th 6:00-7:30 pm

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 8:30 Worship 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Peace Offering received	2 Mom's Group Mtg 9:30-11:30 ELP Staff MTG 12-2:30 Unity in Diversity Series Begins 7-8 pm RSVP to Susan	3	4 WAM Chimes 4:15 Child Choirs 4:45 Dinner 5:30 Youth Bible Study 6-7:30	5	6 Tween Fun Friday Prep for Trunk or Treat Fellowship Hall 6-8 pm	7
8 8:30 Worship 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship CM Team MTG 12-2 pm	9 CISD & ELP Holiday Unity in Diversity Series 7-8 RSVP to Susan for childcare	10 ELP Book Fair all Week in FH Nartherx	11 WAM Chimes 4:15 Child Choirs 4:45 Dinner 5:30 Youth Bible Study 6-7:30 ELP Open House 6pm	12 11:30 am Youth Team MTG Youth Room 200 ELP Open House 6 pm	13 Parent of Preschool- ers Fellowship 6:30-9 pm RSVP to Susan for childcare, for location email Mike or Tara Devoley	14
15 8:30 Worship 9:30 Sunday School &Ministry Fair in FH 11:00 Worship4Kids 12:15 Dinner FH	16 Mom's Mission Mon- day 9:30-12:30 pm RSVP to Susan for childcare	17 Session MTG 7 pm 301	18 WAM Chimes 4:15 Child Choirs 4:45 Dinner by Under 18 Team 5:30 Youth Bible Study 6-7:30	19	20	21 Parent Night Out 5-8 pm childcare reservations to sduncan@wcp- tx.org
22 Mission Sunday 8:30 Worship 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship	23 Trunk or Treat Setup room 204, RSVP to Susan for childcare	24	25 Adult Fellowship Luncheon 12:30 WAM Chimes 4:15 Child Choirs 4:45 Dinner 5:30 Youth Bible Study 6-7:30	26  Trunk or Treat	27 Trunk or Treat 6:00-7:30 WCPK park- ing lot	28 Boy Scout Troop Sleep-over FH
29 Creation Care Sunday 8:30 Worship 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship & Worship Class	30 Mom's Book Study 9:30-11:30 RSVP to Susan for childcare	31 Halloween 				





Come to Sunday School

This Month in Sunday school:

1st & 2nd grade Sunday school rotation topic this month: **Moses: the Burning Bush and Wandering in the Wilderness** with Sparkhouse Rotation curriculum. Room 101

Pre-K-Kindergarten children will study **Moses** and start on a survey of Old Testament Bible stories using Walk with Me. Room 106

3rd & 4th grade children will follow the Bible passages used in worship, using **Whirl Lectionary** curriculum from Sparkhouse. They will study Jesus's teachings and parables in the Gospel of Matthew. Room 204

Tweens 5th & 6th grade will begin a two year study of the Bible with the Old Testament with Sparkhouse Connect curriculum in room 205.



## Parents with Preschoolers Fellowship Night!

**October 13th 6:30-9 pm**

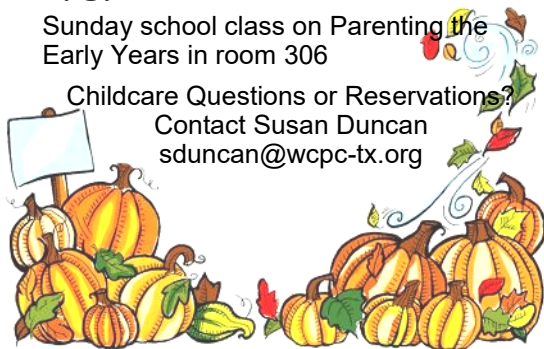
WCPC is offering childcare for a new Fellowship Group for Parents with Preschoolers. This new fellowship group is just for parents with children age 0-4 years old! We encourage you to invite your friends and neighbors who also have preschool or younger children to the fellowship. The parents with preschoolers group will meet once a month at a local restaurant TBA by email.

Please contact Tara or Mike Devoley for the meeting location at [tdevoley@yahoo.com](mailto:tdevoley@yahoo.com)

Sunday school class on Parenting the Early Years in room 306

Childcare Questions or Reservations?

Contact Susan Duncan  
[sduncan@wcpc-tx.org](mailto:sduncan@wcpc-tx.org)



## Sunday School



Children's Sunday School offering goes to The Children's Sunday School Offering goes to Heifer International this year. We are hoping to purchase a heifer with the Noisy Offering was collected in August.

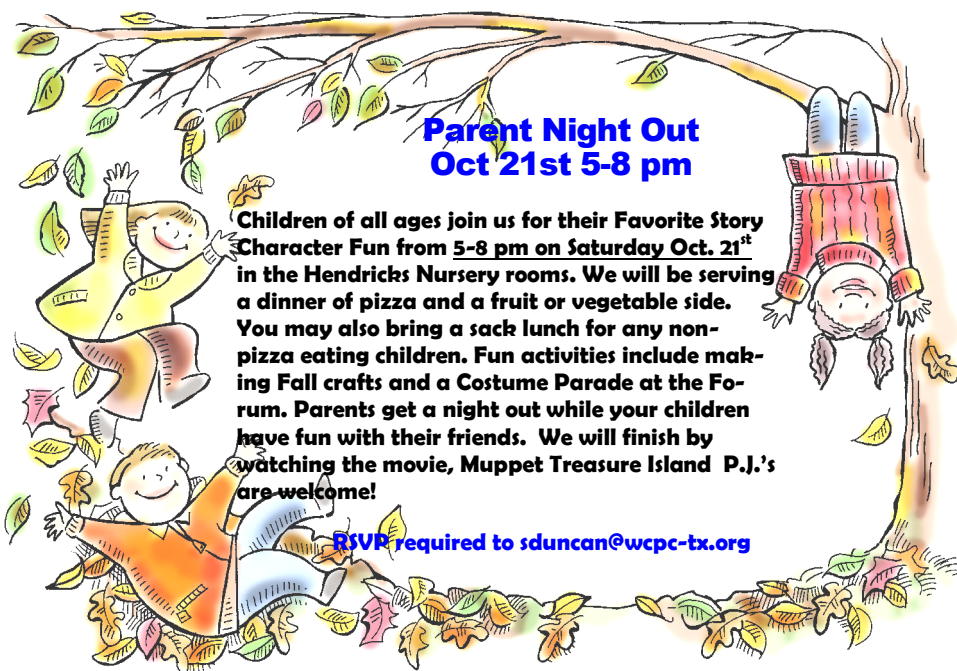
The children will also be learning more about the PSUSA offerings in SS starting with the Peace & Global Witness Offering in September.



**Worship4Kids for 3rd-5th graders** is a time for hearing and responding at their level to the Bible text. It is for school aged children 3rd-5th grade children and is on the 3rd Sunday of the month after the Children's Message **Oct 15th**. Children will return at the offering.

**Worship Class for K-2nd graders** is instruction on worship for children graduating from our nursery program. Children and their parents in Kindergarten-2nd grade, or any older children who missed it may participate. Children's Ministry created this program to help parents and the children adjust to the transition from nursery to worship and to prepare the children for participation at their level in worship. Children usually come the 4th Sunday of the month during the 11 am service after the Children's Message and meet in the Narthex of the Sanctuary with Susan. Contact Susan at [sduncan@wcpc-tx.org](mailto:sduncan@wcpc-tx.org) for more information.

Worship Class this month is Oct 29th The 2nd Lesson is on Order of Worship



## Parent Night Out Oct 21st 5-8 pm

Children of all ages join us for their Favorite Story Character Fun from 5-8 pm on Saturday Oct. 21<sup>st</sup> in the Hendricks Nursery rooms. We will be serving a dinner of pizza and a fruit or vegetable side. You may also bring a sack lunch for any non-pizza eating children. Fun activities include making Fall crafts and a Costume Parade at the Forum. Parents get a night out while your children have fun with their friends. We will finish by watching the movie, Muppet Treasure Island P.J.'s are welcome!

**RSVP required to [sduncan@wcpc-tx.org](mailto:sduncan@wcpc-tx.org)**

**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 forehead, and write them on the doorpost of your house and on your gates.

Deuteronomy 6:4-8





# Sunday Funday Family Outing to 7 Acres Farm, Conroe



5th

1-5 pm



## 7 Acres Farm for their Harvest Festival

4401 N. Frazier St., Conroe (between League Line Rd and 830)

Children and Youth all ages and their parents are invited to join us at 7 Acres Farm for old-fashioned harvest fun. Meet us at the farm on **Sunday Nov. 5th from 1-5 pm**. Basic admission for the field trip is \$7.50 per person (children 17 month and under are free). For an additional \$3-\$5 you have the option of adding a hayride, train ride, pony rides or a feed cone for the farm animals. Also a concession stand is available serving coffee, goodies and lunch foods for an additional charge. There are lots of activities included with basic admission like a petting zoo, western town, zip line, rock wall, and children's playground. We will bring snacks, water and fruit for the children or you can bring a picnic to the picnic area for your family.

Please RSVP to [sduncan@wxpc-tx.org](mailto:sduncan@wxpc-tx.org) so I can give the farm an idea of how many are coming.

### Seven Acres



Funds are always available to help with children's fellowship activities, just contact Susan for details. We want every child to be able to come!





## Fall Event: Trunk or Treat!

Grab your pumpkins and come to the church parking lot on Oct. 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm for Trunk or Treat!

Decorate your trunk with family friendly fall themes please! Set up your lawn chair and come to join in the festivities or to watch and support our young families by passing out candy. We have many ELP and ESL families that also join us. There are even prizes for the best trunks and we will supply extra candy if you run out! The best part—*we also have dinner*, hot dogs, chips and apples will be served!

**October 27<sup>th</sup>**  
**6:00-7:30 pm**

We start at **6 pm** with food and carnival games for the children while the trunks get decorated and we have popcorn and cotton candy for those monster munchies! We really need lots of volunteers especially those without children to help supervise food tables and carnival games and offer trunks for the treating!

There will be fall crafts and photo opportunities for everyone too! Trunks are decorated and ready to open at **7:00 pm!**

Enjoy the autumn weather and make plans to join us **October 27<sup>th</sup> for Trunk or Treat!**



**Princesses, Ninjas & Pirates all spotted at WCPC!**



## Children's Sunday School Teams Still Forming!



We are still recruiting teachers for the 1st & 2nd grade Sunday school classes. If this is something you can help us with please contact Susan Duncan 281-363-2040 or email [sduncan@wcpc-tx.org](mailto:sduncan@wcpc-tx.org) for more information. Where else can you make 15 lifelong friends in less than 5 minutes?

In his book, *Contemplative Youth Ministry*, Mark Yaconelli writes, "I'm convinced that many of us are Christians today because some person or group of people listened to us, saw us, received and delighted in us. This is the kind of presence our youth long for. This is the kind of presence Jesus embodied. This is the kind of presence we seek to incarnate in order to love young people into the faith."

