



# parenting CHRISTIAN kids



**The Woodlands Community  
Presbyterian Church**

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## Make Time for the 3 R's: Rest, Renewal, Reflection

### POWERSOURCE

#### ASK GOD:

1. To help your family value rest and incorporate quiet time into daily life.
2. To help you model healthy boundaries between work and rest.

As the school year ends, most families with school-age children breathe a sigh of relief that hectic schedules are ending for a while. Before you fill the “lazy” days of summer with nonstop activities, take a much-needed break to consider the many benefits of rest.

Children and parents all need permission and space to unplug, reflect, and be renewed. Denise Pope at Stanford's Graduate School of Education reminds parents that children of all ages need PDF—playtime, downtime, and family time—every day.

Younger children, Pope says, need free-form play, or “unstructured time when they can explore who they are, what kind of person they want to be, what it means to be a good friend,

[and] how to solve problems or navigate conflicts.” Older children need time to reflect and dream.

Rest is also key for children's faith development. God commands us to set aside the Sabbath day for rest and worship. God also reminds us to “be still” (Psalm 46:10) so we can know him and his will—and hear his voice. When children and families spend quiet time with God, they grow closer to him and become more comfortable engaging with him through prayer.

Learn from Jesus, who made time for rest and reflection after dealing with needy crowds. Hit “pause” often so you and your children can be refreshed and renewed.

Read on for more “restful” ideas!

## Find Power in Powering Down

Being constantly on the go takes a toll on children and families. Don't fall into the trap of thinking that work is the only virtue or that rest is a waste of time. Joanne Kraft, author of *Just Too Busy*, says God created us with a "Sabbath DNA," or a need for rest as part of our routine maintenance. She urges parents to resist the culture's "busyness" mindset by finding ways to rest, laugh, and eat together. Ideas include creating forts or comfy "nests," going on nature walks and picnics, enjoying a meal of just finger foods, singing together, and unplugging devices regularly. Kraft says there's no better way to honor God than by showing children how to take time to care for our bodies and souls—and to focus on him.



## TEACHABLE MOMENTS

### Don't Work Your Socks Off!

Set out an assortment of clean, balled-up socks. Have family members each choose three socks and then sit across from one another.

Say: **Let's try to juggle. Start with two socks and then try three. If you drop a sock, keep trying.**

Allow time. Then say: **Now let's juggle with the person sitting across from us. Try to keep as many socks in the air at the same time as you can.**

Afterward, ask: **What was it like to juggle alone? together? What made it fun or frustrating? When do you have to juggle lots of stuff in life? How does that make you feel?**

Read aloud Mark 6:31. Say: **Jesus knew it was important to take time for quiet and rest. When he lived on Earth, he "juggled" a busy schedule but still took breaks to be alone and to spend time with God, his Father.**

Close in prayer, asking Jesus to help your lives be less of a juggling act.

**Follow the Voice** Have one family member stand in the center of a room and keep his or her eyes open. Have everyone else scatter around the room and close their eyes. The person whose eyes are open should silently move around the room while saying "Come to me" every few seconds. The other people, while keeping eyes closed, should try to reach the speaker. After playing, read aloud Matthew 11:28. Discuss who we should come to—and what he gives us.

**Bubble Rush** For this outdoor game, you'll need bubble solution and wands, cardboard pieces or paper fans, and "start" and "finish" lines. Choose one family member to blow bubbles at the start line. Have everyone else work together to move the bubbles across the finish line, using hands, cardboard, or fans to keep bubbles airborne. Set a time limit so people must rush. Afterward, talk about times when you feel rushed—and what that's like. Read aloud Psalm 46:10 and share ideas for being still.

**Alone or Together** Play Hide and Seek, asking the person who hides to say a silent prayer to Jesus while hiding. As people find the hidden person, they should stay there and all crowd into the same spot. When

everyone arrives, lead them in a short group prayer, such as "Thank you, God, for a beautiful day!" After playing several rounds, discuss what it was like to pray alone and together. Read aloud Luke 5:16. Say: "Jesus helped many people, but he also took time to be alone and talk to God. Let's remember to seek God every day."

**Tune Out, Tune In** At the same time, play a TV, a radio, and a phone—and try to have a conversation. Then shut everything off and enjoy the silence for a moment. Ask: "Why is it tough to focus when there's too much noise? Why is it tough to hear God when too much is going on? How can we turn down the noise this summer so we can listen to God?"

**Safe & Dry** Have one family member hold an umbrella outside while others toss water balloons at him or her from about 20 feet away. Give everyone a turn under the umbrella. Afterward, ask: "How did it feel to face the balloons? What was it like to have the umbrella for protection?" Read aloud Psalm 28:7. Say: "When we get bombarded by busyness, God can shield us from feeling overwhelmed. God gives us joy when we seek shelter with him."

Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."

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# MEDIA MADNESS



## MOVIE

**Title:** *The Incredibles 2*

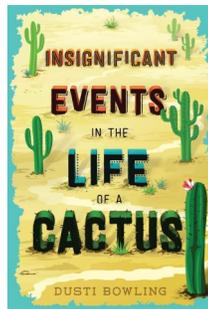
**Genre:** Animation, Action, Adventure

**Rating:** Not yet rated

**Cast:** Craig T. Nelson, Holly Hunter, Samuel L. Jackson, Sophia Bush

**Synopsis:** This long-awaited sequel picks up where the 2004 original left off, with the superhero Parr family going public and in danger. While Mom fights crime, Dad is at home with the three kids—and discovering baby Jack-Jack's superpowers.

**Our Take:** The original Pixar film was a hit that presented mature themes in a family-friendly way. The sequel is sure to have cartoon violence and peril, as well. Parents and kids can discuss traits that make the characters—and real-life people—unique,



## BOOK

**Title:** *Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus*

**Author:** Dusti Bowling

**Synopsis:** When her family moves to Arizona to run a theme park with a mysterious past, 13-year-old Aven must attend a new school and make new friends. Although Aven was born without arms, that doesn't slow her down. She befriends a boy with Tourette's syndrome, and the two support and encourage one another.

**Our Take:** This middle-grade book offers humor, inspiration, and a sense of optimism amid challenges. No matter what kids face, they'll learn about courage and not hiding your "light." Fans of *Wonder* and adventures such as *Holes* will especially enjoy this charming, memorable tale.



## CULTURE & TRENDS

**Free to Roam** Parents are starting to get legal protection for letting kids run free. More states are expected to follow Utah's lead of legalizing "free-range parenting" so kids can be unsupervised when appropriate. Parents won't face neglect charges for allowing kids to go places alone, wait in a car, and stay home by themselves. ([sltrib.com](http://sltrib.com))

**Rinsta vs. Finsta** If your kids have a real Instagram account, or "rinsta," they also might have a fake account, or "finsta." The fake account is under a different name and has a limited number of followers. While a rinsta is one's public persona, a finsta reveals photo fails and more unfiltered information. Experts advise caution when posting to social media, no matter the account. ([usatoday.com](http://usatoday.com))

## Games, Sites & Apps

### Scribblenauts

#### Showdown

This new entry to the "Scribblenauts" series is a multiplayer party game. Players create in-game objects that interact virtually. The games involve Wordy and Speed challenges. Eight sandbox areas let players have fun just

### IcebreakerIdeas.com

Filled with games and a wide variety of discussion questions, this site will get families talking. Some activities are for children, some for adults, and some for mixed groups. Topics include holidays, vacations, faith, hobbies, and more. Children are sure to enjoy the "Would you rather?" questions.

### Fruit Punch Music

This app, called Spotify for kids, is the first music-streaming platform for children. It offers a large library of kid-friendly songs from a variety of genres. Parents can block certain stations and set a daily listening limit. After a free 7-day trial, an ad-free subscription costs \$3.99 per month.

## QUICK STATS

**Pack Your Bags** Almost 40% of families have used vacation-rental sites, and 16% use them often. Millennials—about half of whom already have kids—use travel agents more than any other demographic. (*2017 U.S. Family Travel Survey*)

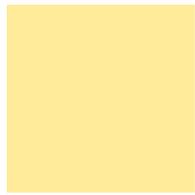
**Safety First** Some 3-year-olds are strong enough to fire a gun, and 75% of school-age kids can do so. Yet some states have gag laws that prevent doctors from discussing gun safety during well-child visits. ([time.com](http://time.com))

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Real. Bold. Love.

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.



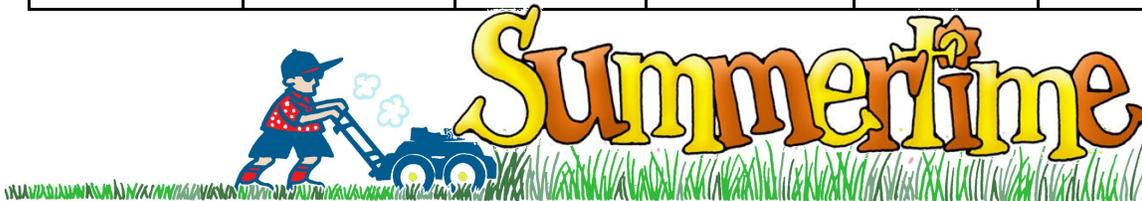
June



Welcome, Summer!



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
						Family Promise starts in HEB
3 9:45 SS all classes in Children's ED building 11 am Worship	4 VBS Work Day 9:30-12 in room 304, childcare by rsvp in 101	5	6 Pool Fellowship 5-7 pm at Ridgewood Pool, bring passes	7	8	9
10 9:45 SS all classes in Children's ED building 11 am Worship	11 VBS Work Day 9:30-12 in room 304, childcare by rsvp in 101	12	13 Pool Fellowship 5-7 pm at Ridgewood Pool, bring passes	14 	15 Preschool Parent Fellowship 6:30-9 pm childcare by rsvp in room 101	16
17 9:45 SS all classes in Children's ED building 11 am Worship	18 VBS Work Day 9:30-12 in room 304, childcare by rsvp in 101	19	20 Pool Fellowship 5-7 pm at Ridgewood Pool, bring passes	21	22	23 PNO Cooking Fun 5-8 pm in HEB rooms 307-9 rsvp to sduncan@wcpc-tx.org
24 9:45 SS 101 & 105 Children's ED building 11 am Worship	25 VBS Work Day 9:30-12 in room 304, childcare by rsvp in 101	26	27 Pool Fellowship 5-7 pm at Ridgewood Pool, bring passes	28	29	30



Summer Childcare

**Children's Summer Sunday School 9:45-10:50** drop off and pick up in CE building **room 101** for 3-8 years. Completed Third-Sixth graders summer SS in **room 105**.

Childcare for worship and Sunday School for under 6 years in Children's Ed. Building **during Family Promise in June will be in rooms: 101 Penguins, 102 Blue Birds & 100 Owl room.**

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# Wednesday Afternoon Pool Gatherings

Every Wednesday in June!  
5-7 pm at Ridgewood Pool

Pack your kids, your suits, and a picnic dinner or grab fast food for yourself and join us Wednesday evenings at the pool to swim, eat and socialize! No RSVP needed – just come when you can!

NOTE: Regular pool fees apply



Summer PNO Dates: June 23<sup>rd</sup>, July 28<sup>th</sup> & August 18<sup>th</sup> all from 5-8pm.

Email reservations to:  
sduncan@wcpc-tx.org



## Sunday School



Thank You to our Wonderful Children's Sunday School Teachers this past year:

Tricia MacDonald, Mary Emerson, Linda Conner, Amy Formolo, Robin Ward, Cindy Looney, Nita Purcell, Betsy Whitehead, Audrey Keim, Karen Seefeldt, Katrina Cassidy, Kristi Martin, Marnie Bush, and Ginger Fray

Godly Play Storytellers: Stephanie Keiser, Amy Weaver, Sarah Martin

Subs: Daniese Peck, Chris Susany, Erin Michaelis, Carrie Bucki

### Children's Summer Sunday School Topic:

Learning about our Mission Partners and practicing VBS Bible story dramas



9:45 Sunday School  
11:00 Worship

Room 101 for 8 years & under  
Room 105 for Completed 3rd -6th grade



### VBS Work & Planning Meetings:

June 4th, 11th, 18th, and 25th and July 9th-13th all starting at 9:30 am in room 203. Childcare available in room 101 and 102 by reservation in advance to Susan.

Needed: Empty plastic nut butter jars. Labels are fine left on.

ALL VBS Volunteer's Meeting & Blast Off Brunch is July 12th 9:30-12 in the Fellowship Hall. Child Protection Training will be offered after the meeting at 11 am.

Please reserve childcare with Susan for all meetings at

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