

September 2018

# 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](http://www.wcpc-tx.org)

## Use Jesus' Parables to Teach Biblical Truth

### POWERSOURCE

#### ASK JESUS:

1. To help you share God's Word with children in age-appropriate ways.
2. To bless your family's worship, study, and devotional times.
3. To help kids see how Jesus' teaching—and all of Scripture—is relevant to their daily lives.

As a master storyteller, Jesus used simple everyday objects and stories called parables to convey profound eternal truths. Through these parables, Jesus explained in ways that humans could understand the incomprehensible logic of God's kingdom.

Because Jesus knew his audience well, he was able to speak at their level. Jesus could have taught us about the kingdom of heaven with only commands and facts: "God values the lost," "Forgive because you are forgiven," and "Be prepared for my return." But he knew the truths of heaven wouldn't make sense to human minds.

Jesus knew we'd understand better if we could identify with a woman

frantically searching for a lost coin, a servant who'd been forgiven much yet refused to forgive a little, and bridesmaids who had (or had not) come prepared for a long wait. While our human nature causes us to identify with the jealous older brother in the parable of the prodigal son, Jesus calls us to open our arms as the father did...and come home with humility as the lost son did.

Jesus began or ended his parables by saying, in effect, "This is the point. If you get anything out of the story, get this." Despite any inconsequential details of each story, truth is involved—and Jesus clearly points it out.

Read on for ideas about reinforcing biblical truth to children through the use of Jesus' parables.

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## TEACHABLE MOMENTS

### God Speaks Through the Bible

Beforehand, print out the words of 2 Timothy 3:16-17.

Say: **Have you ever tried to see how long you could hold your breath? We'll do something kind of like that. But instead of holding our breath, let's see how far we can read something out loud in one breath.**

Read the passage aloud. Then have everyone take a deep breath and read the passage aloud as far as possible on one breath. Try several times, affirming everyone for their efforts.

Afterward, ask: **What do these verses say about the Bible? Why is the Bible important? How does God use the Bible to speak to us today? How else does God speak to us?**

Say: **Jesus told many parables, or stories, that used simple objects to teach lessons. If we listen and look closely, we can see Jesus speaking to us today, too. Praise God that he continues breathing his truth into our hearts!**

## Keep Watch for Biblical Truth

God's Word isn't stagnant, which means biblical principles shows up even in stories that aren't in the Bible. Movies, fairy tales, cartoons, stories, and songs can contain traces of the gospel message that are helpful for

introducing Bible themes. Discuss and debrief to help children discover the meat of the message. The Bible's truth supersedes any fiction, and it's vital that kids understand the difference. Emphasize the verse or passage that a story reinforces. Encourage children to identify forgiveness, faith, and

kindness in their lives. As a family, stay alert! The kingdom of God is here, and if we watch for it carefully, we can see God working in our lives and in the lives of others.

**Lost and Found** Set out a blanket containing several small items. Have family members study the items for 30 seconds and then close their eyes. Remove one item and hide it. Have everyone open their eyes, figure out what's missing, and search for the lost item. Play several times, rejoicing when an item is found. Read aloud Luke 15:3-10. Ask: "How did it feel to find each lost item? Why does Jesus celebrate when one of his lost children is found?"

**Seed, Seed, Grow!** Play this wet version of Duck, Duck Goose outside using a watering can and water. Have everyone but a "Gardener" sit in a circle. The Gardener taps people on the head while saying, "Seed!" When the Gardener says, "Grow!" and sprinkles a head with water, the Gardener puts down the can and runs around the circle to that person's spot. If the Gardener gets caught, he or she starts over. If the Gardener makes it to the empty spot, the person who was sprinkled becomes the Gardener. After playing, read aloud Mark 4:26-29. Ask: "What does a seed need to grow into a plant? What happens to a seed if it doesn't have water? What does God give us to help us grow closer to him?"

**Good Samaritan Relay** Choose a "hurt person" to lie on the floor across the room. Set out bandages and a cup of water. Take turns racing to the hurt person to apply a bandage and offer a drink. Time yourselves, and give each person a turn to be "hurt" and helped. Read aloud Luke 10:30-37. Ask: "How did it feel to help the hurt person—or to be helped? How would you feel if you were hurt and no one stopped to help? What does it mean to love our neighbors as ourselves? What can we do to help people in need?"

**Who's Invited?** Set out markers and blank cards or card stock. Say: "Make an invitation for any kind of party you want. Dream big and think about how fun your party will be." When everyone's done, sit in a circle. Say: "Pass your invitation to the person on your left. Look at the invitation you received and make up a weird or ridiculous reason for *not* coming to the party." Share excuses. Then pass the invitations again and invent new excuses. Ask: "How would you feel if *no one* came to your party?" Read Luke 14:16-24. Say: "Let's not make excuses to avoid Jesus! He wants us to accept his invitation to live in our hearts—and to be with him forever."

**"Jesus...had compassion on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things."**

# MEDIA MADNESS



## MOVIE

**Title:** *Smallfoot*

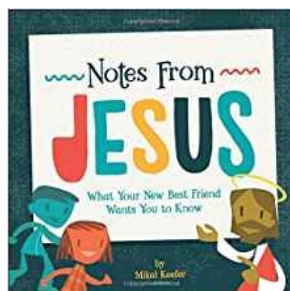
**Genre:** Animation, Adventure, Comedy

**Rating:** not yet rated

**Cast:** Channing Tatum, Zendaya, Gina Rodriguez, Danny DeVito, Common

**Synopsis:** In this 3D computer-animated comedy, a Yeti named Migo is convinced that the elusive creatures called Smallfoots (humans) really do exist. Migo tells a group of young Yeti about “a terrifying creature with perfect white teeth and breath that just smells all minty fresh, and the only hair it has on its entire body is on top of its head!”

**Our Take:** By turning the legend of Bigfoot upside down, this family-friendly film explores truth and why we believe or don’t believe something. It also addresses what’s considered frightening to different people.



## BOOK

**Title:** *Notes From Jesus*

**Author:** Mikal Keefer

**Synopsis:** This hardcover book, subtitled “What Your New Best Friend Wants You to Know,” is geared toward children and families who are new to the Christian faith. It has answers to common questions, inspirational Bible verses, and age-appropriate ideas for growing a relationship with Jesus. Playful illustrations fill the pages.

**Our Take:** By reminding children that Jesus enjoys their company and wants to have a lifelong friendship with them, this book makes Jesus personal and relatable. Kids will feel more comfortable sharing their lives with Jesus and will be reminded to keep learning more about him, too. *Notes From Jesus* makes a meaningful gift.



## CULTURE & TRENDS

**Endangered Species?** According to demographers, the family-planning habits of Millennials are making middle children extinct. Fewer couples want more than two children, and only 12% of women in their early 40s have four or more kids. ([usatoday.com](http://usatoday.com))

**Flipped Classrooms** If your child’s teacher has “flipped,” don’t flip out! More educators now ask students to watch videotaped lectures at home, reserving school time for completing assignments and activities. Teachers say flipped classrooms encourage active, collaborative learning and allow students to get more one-on-one help. ([various websites](#))

## Games, Sites & Apps

### Runbow

This fast, competitive game is now available for Switch, PS4, and Xbox One. Players race across platforms to touch a trophy. The challenge is that the game’s background color keeps changing. When it matches a platform’s color, the platform can no longer support a player.

### Dream Big

Hosted by third-grader Eva Karpman and her mom Olga, this family-friendly podcast features inspiring interviews with trailblazers, experts, and celebrities from a wide variety of fields. Eva’s goals are to help kids live their passion, realize their potential, and “take massive action.”

### RoosterMoney

This free app helps parents track allowance and chores, while teaching children the value of money. Kids can save toward goals and earn rewards, with parents overseeing what money goes in and out of their accounts. The app is designed for use with kids ages 4 and up.

## QUICK STATS

**Raking in the Dough** According to a poll of 10,000 parents, children ages 4 to 14 earn more than \$8 per week in allowance. For the top-paying chore of car washing, kids earn about \$12 per task. For help with managing allowances, see the app to the left. ([cnbc.com](http://cnbc.com))

**Literacy Boost** More than 85% of African-American fourth-grade boys aren’t proficient in reading. A new literacy program is stocking more than 100 U.S. barbershops with culturally relevant stories for young readers. ([barbershopbooks.org](http://barbershopbooks.org))

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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.





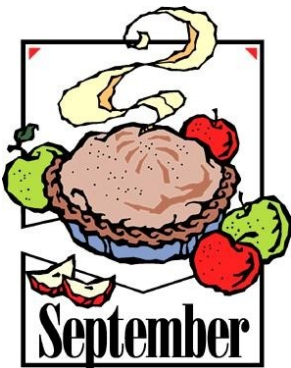
# september

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					<b>Fellowship for Parents of Preschoolers</b> 6:30 – 9 pm, rsvp to Susan	1
2 Last 10 am Worship, no SS	3 	4 <b>Back to School</b> ELP starts back 9-3 weekdays	5 <b>WAM</b> is Back! Chimes 4:15 Child Choirs 4:45 Dinner 5:30 Youth & Parent Study 6-7:30	6 All Ears Family Nite 6-8	7 <b>Tween Fun Friday Pool Party</b> 6-8 pm at Cassidy's	8 
9 Regular schedule of Worship 8:30 & 11 am Sunday School Kick-Off 9:45	10 MOM's MTG 9:30 Youth room ELP Staff MTG 12-2 FH	11  All Ears Parent MTG 9-3	12 <b>WAM</b> Chimes 4:15 Child Choirs 4:45 Dinner 5:30 Youth & Parent Study 6-7:30	13	14 ELP Board MTG 9-11 am	15  <b>Parent's Night Out</b> 5-8 pm rsvp to sduncan@wcpc-tx.org
16 Worship 8:30 & 11 am Sunday School 9:45 Youth Fellowship 12:20 pm	17 Mom's Mission Monday 9:30-12:30 rsvp for childcare	18 Session MTG 7 pm	19 <b>WAM</b> Chimes 4:15 Child Choirs 4:45 Dinner 5:30 Youth & Parent Study 6-7:30	20	21	22 
23 Worship 8:30 am Sunday school 9:45 am Worship 11 am <u>3rd grade Bibles &amp; Worship Class</u> K-2nd graders	24 New Mom's of Preschoolers Group 9am in FH Narthex rsvp to Susan for childcare in HEB 308-9	25	26 <b>Adult Luncheon</b> 11:30 FH <b>WAM</b> Chimes 4:15 Child Choirs 4:45 Dinner 5:30 Youth & Parent Study 6-7:30	27	28	29
30 <u>Mission Sunday</u> Worship 8:30 am Sunday school 9:45 am Worship 11 am						

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**Children's Sunday School 9:45-10:55** beginning and pick up in CE building rooms 101, 106, 204, 5th and 6th grade in 205, youth 200.

Childcare for worship and under 3 Sunday school in Charles Hendricks Ed. Building rooms 307-309.



**Sunday School for All Ages Resumes Sept. 9th with Kick Off**



## Children's Sunday School

This Month in Sunday school:

1st-2nd grade Sunday school rotation topic this month: **Creation** with Sparkhouse Rotation In room 101.

Preschool & Kindergarten children will study **Creation** and start on a survey of all 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 in room 204.

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



### Tween Friday Funday starts with a Pool Party on Sept 7th

Tweens (5th & 6th graders) and their parents, please join us for the first event of the school year. Contact Marnie Bush, mbush@gmail.com or Katrina Cassidy kcassidylaw@comcast.net for information and to be put on the tween parents email list.



The Children's Sunday School Offering goes to Food Missions this year. The Noisy Offering and VBS Pennies for Peanuts Offering raised over \$350 and counting for the Montgomery County Foodbank to purchase peanuts.

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



**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 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 for more information. Worship Class starts Sept. 23rd, the 1st Lesson is on Tools of Worship.

Questions about Children or Tweens Ministry or childcare?  
Contact Susan Duncan at sduncan@wcpc-tx.org



### Wednesday Afternoon Music Resumes!

School aged children 1st -6th grade join us for chimes from 4:15-4:45 in the sanctuary narthex .

Choirs start at 4:45 with Cherubs 2-4 years in 302, Angel Voices 5 yrs-1st in 301B and Alleluia 2nd-6th in 305.

Dinner is available at 5:30 in Fellowship Hall. After dinner, Childcare for parents with meetings or music rehearsals is also available with rsvp to Susan in rooms 307-308.

**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





## Parent Night Out !

### Fellowship for Parents of Preschoolers Sept 7th 6:30-9 pm

WCPC is offering childcare for a Fellowship Group for Parents with Preschoolers. This group is just for parents of children whose youngest are age 0-5 years old! We encourage you to invite your friends and neighbors who also have preschool or younger children the fellowship. The parents with preschoolers group will meet once a month at a local restaurant TBA by email.



Parents with Preschoolers

Please contact Sarah Parker or Rebekah Rydarowski for the meeting location at [ssnyder888@gmail.com](mailto:ssnyder888@gmail.com) or [rebekah.rydarowski@gmail.com](mailto:rebekah.rydarowski@gmail.com) and to reserve childcare contact Susan Duncan at [sduncan@wcpc-tx.org](mailto:sduncan@wcpc-tx.org)

### Also New Sunday Morning Study Smart Money, Smart Kids 9:45-10:50 am Sept 16th

Are you the parent of a young child? If so, please join us as we seek to learn how to bring God's will into our life as parents. We will learn with Rachel Cruze and Dave Ramsey how to raise money smart kids in a debt-filled world. We will meet on Sunday mornings this fall in HEB 306 Sept 16th and have the opportunity for fellowship together (childcare provided) on one Friday night a month!

Please contact Mike or Tara Devoley with questions [tdevoley@yahoo.com](mailto:tdevoley@yahoo.com)



Presentation of Bibles

### Presentation of 3rd Grade Bibles

Parents of *third graders* please email Susan and let her know if they will be able to receive their Bible in the service on Sept. 23rd. Any 3rd graders not able to be here will still be given their Bibles in Sunday school. The Bible Workshop for 3rd graders will happen during Sunday school on Sept 30th.

### PNO Sept 15th 5-8 pm

Join us for **Apple Harvest Fun** from 5-8 pm on Saturday **Sept. 15th** in the Hendricks Building 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 Apple crafts and playing apple games outside. We will finish by watching a movie about Johnny Appleseed. P.J.'s are welcome!



## Children's Sunday School Needs Volunteers!



We are recruiting volunteers to teach and help in the children's Sunday school classes. If this is something you feel called to help with please **contact Susan Duncan 281-363-2040 or email at [sduncan@wcpc-tx.org](mailto:sduncan@wcpc-tx.org)** for more information. We need 3 to 4 teachers for each age level; **1st & 2nd grade and 3rd and 4th grade classes** are especially in need of help! Volunteer groups of 4 or more rotate taking the lead and helping with Sunday school so everyone gets a Sunday off each 4 weeks. We also need floaters and substitutes. Please prayerfully consider helping this year in children ministry. Where else can you make 13 lifelong friends in less than 5 minutes?

