



March 2020

parenting CHRISTIAN kids



**Eagle's Landing First
Baptist Church**
2400 Hwy 42 North
770-957-1355

Making the Choice to Be Kind

POWERSOURCE

ASK JESUS:

1. To help you be an example of kindness in all your interactions.
2. To remind your children to choose kindness in their thoughts, words, and deeds.
3. To help your family members put a stop to any bullying they may encounter.

The “Choose Kind” campaign is an outgrowth of the popular middle-grades novel *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio. The book addresses the tough topic of bullying, but the main message centers around the life-changing (and community-changing) power of kindness.

Treating other people with courtesy, care, and respect isn't always our first instinct. But as followers of Jesus, we can look to him as an example of how to interact with other people—individuals created and loved by God.

Anti-bullying initiatives in schools are making some inroads at boosting kindness, yet most kids will deal with teasing and taunting at some point. Older children may be

shunned from a group, known as relational bullying. Or they may face rude or even abusive behavior online, known as cyberbullying.

By emphasizing kindness from an early age, parents raise children who know how to treat people well, tell right from wrong, and enlist help if problems arise. And by explaining the biblical basis for kindness, you let kids know the true reason—and source—behind such behavior.

Kindness is key, but it's just a start. Galatians 5:22-23 lists eight other spiritual fruits that go hand-in-hand with kindness: love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Read on to discover how your family can sow, reap, and bear the fruit of kindness!



TEACHABLE MOMENTS

Kindness Counts

You'll need ice cubes and paper towels. Have family members each share a time they've been kind to someone. Say: **Kindness involves feelings and actions. Getting involved to help someone is the heart of kindness.**

Read aloud Luke 10:30-37. Say: **The priest and Levite may have been very caring guys who just happened to be too busy or scared to help. They may have felt sympathy, but only the good Samaritan expressed kindness. He set aside his own concerns to act and assist.**

Give each person an ice cube and a paper towel. Have them clench the ice over the towel while taking turns sharing a worry or problem (about five minutes). Then ask: **What was it like to listen closely when the ice in your hand was distracting you? How is this like putting aside our daily concerns and being kind? Say: Even when we're uncomfortable or stressed, God will help us show kindness and compassion to others.**

"Wear" Kindness Everywhere!

Has your family ever taken a challenge to engage in random acts of kindness? That's an exciting way to bless strangers and spread joy where it's needed most; however, kindness is meant to be much more than a random act. As Christians, we're to strive for *regular* acts of kindness—habits of compassion, empathy, and selflessness that become engrained in everyday life. Colossians 3:12 uses the imagery of clothing ourselves in kindness (as well as mercy, humility, gentleness, and patience). Use these family activities to teach the value of "wearing" kindness everywhere.

A Kind Touch Play a kind version of Tag, with "It" using a feather to tag people out. When someone is out, another player can give them a hug or high-five to bring them back in. Afterward, talk about the kind actions on display in the game—and how your family can put them into practice in daily life.

Seeing As God Sees Play dress-up, with a few family members in fancy clothes and jewelry, and others trying to look disheveled. Model your outfits. Then ask: "Who would you rather have as a friend? Why do we tend to treat certain people differently? Has your opinion about someone ever changed after you got to know them? Explain." Read aloud James 2:1-5. Ask: "How does God want us to treat people, no matter what they look like? How can we change someone's life through kindness?"

The Kindness of the Cross Have people each draw a smiley face atop a piece of paper. Say: "Pretend this is your child. Below the face, draw everything your child needs to have a loving, healthy life." Read 1 John 3:1. Say: "Caring for someone takes effort. God, our heavenly Father, takes care of us because he loves us." Show another paper filled with lots of angry faces surrounding a cross.

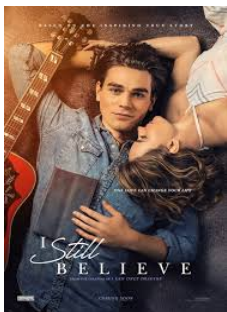
Ask: "Explain whether you'd hand over your child to a mad crowd to die on a cross. God chose to do that with his Son, Jesus, so we could live in heaven with him because he cares for us." Read aloud 1 John 4:7-10, having people stand and quickly sit at each mention of "love" or "God." Close in prayer, thanking God for kindly sending Jesus to save us.

"Mirror, Mirror" Read Colossians 3:17. Say: "Whatever we do or say, we can represent Jesus." Give each person an inexpensive pocket mirror. Use permanent markers to write the words of the Bible verse around the edges. Decorate the back of the mirror with words or pictures that remind you to be kind like Jesus.

Scoops of Kindness Use plastic scoops for outdoor play, or make one by cutting two inches off the bottom of milk jugs. Take turns scooping a tennis ball high in the air so another family member can catch it. Before each toss, shout out one way to show kindness to someone. Afterward, review all the examples you shared and read aloud 1 John 4:19-21. Say: "God wants us to love others, and one way we do that is through acts of kindness. We can be loving and kind to one another because God loved us first!"

God is kind to you, if you continue following in his kindness. If you do not, you will be cut off from the tree. —Romans 11:22, NCV

MEDIA MADNESS



MOVIE

Title: *I Still Believe*

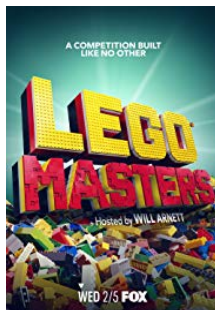
Genre: Drama, Music, Romance

Rating: PG

Cast: K.J. Apa, Britt Robertson, Gary Sinise, Shania Twain

Synopsis: This biopic from the creators of *I Can Only Imagine* tells the true story of Jeremy Camp, a young Christian music star whose first wife died of cancer. *Riverdale*'s Apa stars as Camp, whose powerful experiences with love and loss reveal God's faithfulness amid tragedy.

Our Take: For older children, preteens, and parents, this film will serve as a powerful reminder to trust God during tough times. Camp, whose hit single "I Still Believe" resulted from his personal struggles, says this movie "shows hope in the midst of pain."



TV

Title: *Lego Masters*

Network: Fox

Synopsis: In this new twist on reality-show competitions, Lego fanatics race to build intricate creations to impress judges. Although contestants are adults, young viewers will be drawn to the TV series to see how the design challenges turn out. Based on preview clips, host Will Arnett injects snark and sass into his commentary.

Our Take: This appears to be a family-friendly series, and, as a bonus, each episode stands alone well. Use it to spark discussions about creativity, risk-taking, and even deadline pressure. Ask kids how they'd approach each challenge. Then have fun together with your own building blocks.



CULTURE & TRENDS

Easing Eco-Anxiety Alarming headlines about climate change cause children emotional distress, experts now say. To avoid feelings of helplessness and despair about the earth's future, they suggest parents use age-appropriate language and emphasize taking practical steps to conserve resources. (*various sources*)

Crowning Achievement A growing effort to help end discrimination against black students is picking up legislative steam. California and New York recently passed the CROWN Act: Creating a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair, which protects students from discrimination based on hair style and hair texture. (*thecrownact.com*)

Games, Podcasts & Apps

Animal Crossing: New Horizons

The franchise's first title for Nintendo Switch heads to a vacation setting. Players get to customize a deserted island, build a dream home, and meet all kinds of new friends. Rewards for completing milestones come in the form of Nook Miles. Rated E for Everyone.

Be Calm on Ahway Island

These calm, kid-friendly stories teach emotional regulation and self-soothing. Weekly episodes, which strive to be inclusive, are ideal for bedtime. Some may balk at the mention of meditation, but the fun exercises (such as taking "dragon breaths") build helpful life skills.

Biba Playground Games

Outdoor play equipment becomes the site for children's real-life "missions," thanks to this free mobile app. By scanning augmented-reality tags in one of 5,000+ parks, players can blend digital and physical play. Reviewers say this app is a great way to get kids moving.

QUICK STATS

Parental Perspectives Christian parents of minors are more likely than their kid-free counterparts to express high levels of compassion for the poor (55% vs. 48%), for criminals (13% vs. 7%), and for people who've wronged them (18% vs. 11%). (*barna.com*)

Taking Leave Though only about 16% of U.S. workers are eligible for paid family leave, more companies and states are championing that benefit. Some businesses now even offer leave for new grandparents. (*hrmorning.com*)



March

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Reg Sun Activities	2	3	4 Kidsplay 9am Splash 7pm Wed Childcare 7pm	5	6	7
8 Reg Sun Activities Daylight-Saving Time Begins	9	10	11 Kidsplay 9am Splash 7pm Wed Childcare 7pm	12	13	14
15 Reg Sun Activities	16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18 Kidsplay 9am Splash 7pm Wed Childcare 7pm	19	20	21
22 Reg Sun Activities	23	24	25 Kidsplay 9am Splash 7pm Wed Childcare 7pm	26	27	28 Preschool Family Drive- In Movie 5pm
29 Reg Sun Activities	30	31				

The Joy (and responsibility) of Discipling Our Children

Parents desire many things to be true of our children as they grow and mature. For example, we want our children to be loving, respectful, caring, productive, motivated, resilient, happy, and more. All are good things and worthwhile goals and require some measure of our time and attention as we instruct and train our children toward these goals. But consider these words:

I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth. 3 JOHN 1:4

As parents, our first priority must be for our children's spiritual development. One way to do this is to develop a regular time of Biblical instruction at home. So what does that look like? At its core, family devotions are simply setting aside a designated time in family life in which to be devoted to God together. Here's some practical tips:

- Have a regular time set for devotions.
- Keep track of the time – stretch your child's attention span, but don't exasperate it.
- Choose a regular place – with few distractions. (Cell phones off, TV off, games off!)
- Begin with prayer.
- Hold an actual Bible in your hand so your small children can see that the Word of God is an actual book.
- End in prayer.
- Share a special snack and let everyone share what is in their hearts.

Family Devotions

Truth:78

truth78.org

Preschool Contact Information:

Lori Kurz: Preschool Director

lori@eagleslanding.org

770-778-6641

SAVE THE DATE

PRESCHOOL Family Drive-In Movie Night March 28th 5:00pm

Join us for a night of family fun and bonding with your kids. Your children will enjoy decorating their own car, feasting on Drive-In foods and spending time with Mom and Dad.

All activities are FREE, but you will need a ticket to attend. Pick-Up your movie tickets at the Preschool Kiosk.



Parents...PLEASE

REMEMEBER!

Label all items with your
child's name on them.

KidsPlay

Mother's Morning Out Program

Registration for 2020-2021 Program will open on March 1st. This program is for 2 Months Old to 4 Years Old
eagleslanding.org/preschool/kidsplay
Space is limited, register today!!

CAMP 323



PRESCHOOL HALF DAY CAMP
JUNE 8 – JUNE 12, 2020
9AM – 12NOON
4YRS – COMPLETED K5
\$25.00

Each Child will receive a

- Camp323 T-shirt
- Camp323 Water Bottle
- Mid-Morning Snack

Activities

- MOVE IT: Recreation
- MAKE IT: Painting/crafts
- LEARN IT: Bible/Music
- CREAT IT: Science

Registration Opens MARCH 1ST

eagleslanding.org/camp323/

Volunteer Opportunities

Our volunteers are the reason for the success of Camp 323! Here are some things to keep in mind before you register:

Thinking of volunteering in Half Day Camp? Here's something you will need to know. Preschool Half Day Camp (9am-12noon)

- We will provide childcare until 12 noon for any of your own children that are under the age of four (by September 1)? Be sure to register for the Preschool Half Day program so that you will be done in time to pick up your younger children.
- Most of the adult volunteers are placed in a classroom (Half-day) The classrooms usually have ten children and two adults.
- Plan on attending the training session on **June 7th at 5pm.**
- We prefer to only use volunteers who are associated with Eagle's Landing First Baptist Church or Eagle's Landing Christian Academy. We like to know our volunteers. However, we have had many incredible volunteers from outside of our organization. Please do not be offended if we ask for a recommendation from your pastor or you get a phone call from our staff.