



April 2009
E-Newsletter



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Note from Pastor Preston

Why does our culture place such prominence on individuality and independence. We constantly hear about those who do solo trips in hot air balloons, or [row across the Atlantic](#) alone. I think this

translates to other areas of our lives that to do something by ourselves is the best and the ultimate achievement.

"We are noticing a widening chasm between children's belief in Jesus Christ and how that belief translates into living a Christ-like life. "

Whatever happened to the adage that "it takes a village to raise a child?" I perceive that the cultural push to "go it alone" and be a "successful individual" has per-

meated our families and our children's ministries. I have helped propagate this as a pastor by alienating parents from some aspects of children's ministry. Parents have also cultivated this by just "dropping" their children off at their KidZone ministry. But we are noticing a widening chasm between children's belief in Jesus Christ and how that belief translates into living a Christ-like life.

I am determined to help close this chasm and not only see kids enter into a relationship with Jesus, but live it out loud everyday, everywhere! This can only be done if we raise our children like a large family. I want to ask you parents, to form with me a partnership, a family. We must partner together, church and home, to see our children grow into the men and women that God has always planned for them to be.

None of us can do it alone. This newsletter is one small way in joining the church and your home. Please let me know ways we can be more effective together and join with us in this journey. Together we can make a difference,

Preston

The Good Book

In national surveys of adults, the [Barna Group](#) found:

- Most Christian adults rated themselves as strong in relationships but below average in Bible knowledge.
- Two-thirds of adults said they accept six well-known Bible accounts as literal truth. These include God creating the world in six days, Moses parting the Red Sea, Daniel surviving in the lions' den, David slaying Goliath, Jesus walking on water, and Jesus rising from the dead.

PowerSource

Ask God:

- To give your children a hunger for his Word.
- To help your children hide his Word in their hearts (see Psalm 119:11).
- To help family members apply the Bible to their daily lives.

Parenting Insights

Use these age-appropriate ideas from *Children's Ministry Magazine* to help tailor the Bible's message to your children's learning skills:

Ages 2 to 5

Preschoolers' attention span is only two to 10 minutes. They learn by touching objects and by repetition. Paraphrase Bible stories and highlight only main points.

Ages 6 to 9

By this age, children's attention span is 10 to 20 minutes. They think concretely and focus on people's actions. Provide more details and then let children share the passage in their own words.

Ages 10 to 12

By this age, most children have heard many Bible stories a lot. **They need to know, "So what?"** Offer modern-day applications because children learn more when they see how God's Word applies to them personally.

OpenTheBook

"Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path.... The teaching of your word gives light, so even the simple can understand."

Psalm 119:105, 130

The Bible shows us the way to heaven, as well as the way to live here on earth. Use every opportunity to introduce your children to God's Word.

Teachable Moments

1. **"The B-I-B-L-E"**—Many children absorb new information quickly through music. Plus, it's fun! At home or in the car, sing songs about Bible people and events. Many praise lyrics come directly from Scripture verses.



2. **Hide God's Word in Your Hearts**—If you want your children to memorize Bible passages, start simple and keep it fun. For longer Bible passages, family members can each memorize a different section.
3. **Act It Out**—If your children enjoy playing pretend and dress up, encourage them to act out various Bible stories. Read directly from the Bible and then help children search for fun props (a stuffed whale for Jonah, building blocks for the wall of Jericho, a doll for the baby Jesus, and so on).



"So commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these words of mine. Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. Teach them to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are **ON THE ROAD, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up." Deuteronomy 11:18-19, NLT**

The above passage from Deuteronomy is a command but also a wonderful privilege. As you teach your children about God and his Word, use these discussion-starters:

1. Why do you think God gave us the Bible? What makes it so special and important?
2. How do you know that everything in the Bible is true?
3. How can we use the Bible to get to know God better? How can we use the Bible to help us know how to live?
4. What are some of your favorite Bible verses or stories, and why? How can you share these with other people?

Instill a Deep Love for God's Word

During Jesus' earthly ministry, he encouraged people to bring their children to him, and he praised the qualities of childlike faith. More than 50% of Christians choose to follow Jesus between ages 5 and 9. So it's never too early to nurture this most important relationship. And you don't need a theology degree to help your children love the Bible. Here are some easy steps to spark a passion for Scripture:

Provide age-appropriate resources. Look for books and materials that encourage spiritual development. Take advantage of your local and church libraries, as well as experts at Christian bookstores.

Read to children and let them see you reading the Bible. Reading aloud is one of the best things parents can do for their children's development. So why not use that one-on-one time to read from God's Word? Also, model a love for Scripture by letting children see you read (and live) it regularly.



Partner with your local church. Parents and churches can work together to help children discover God's message of love and salvation. Talk to your pastor or children's pastor for ideas about nurturing your children's relationship with God.

Adapt as your children grow. Watch for cues that children have outgrown Bible storybooks. After reading with your older children, ask questions that encourage them to dig deeper into God's Word.



What's Playing at the Movies

Movie: *Hannah Montana: The Movie* (April 10)

Genre: Comedy, Family, Music

Rating: G

Cast: Miley Cyrus, Billy Ray Cyrus, Emily Osment

Synopsis: Ordinary girl Miley Cyrus, who morphs into pop star Hannah Montana, is having trouble juggling her busy life. When Miley becomes overwhelmed by **her alter ego, Dad whisks her away to the family's**

Tennessee hometown for some perspective. While there, Miley must decide which life to pursue.

Discussion Questions: When have you felt overwhelmed, and what **was the reason? If you could "reinvent" yourself, who would you become, and why?** Read Joshua 24: 14-15. Think of a time you had to choose between two different paths: How did you make your decision? How does God help you make decisions?



What Music I s Releasing

Artist: Mandisa

Album: *Freedom*

Artist Info: Now a contemporary gospel artist, Mandisa placed ninth on *American Idol* season five. She forgave judge Simon Cowell for making mean comments about her weight.

Summary: **Mandisa's second album contains up-beat praise, R&B, and pop tunes. Her strong alto vocals praise God in catchy anthems and ballads. The album's first single, "My Deliverer," celebrates Mandisa's freedom from a food addiction. In "Definition of Me," she sings, "Pretty is cool for a minute, but it will always fade away.... I want the beauty on the inside."**

Discussion Questions: Why are so many people focused on outward appearances? What is your definition of true beauty? Read 1 Peter 3: 3-4. What about your spirit makes you beautiful on the inside?



What Games Are Out

Title	Content	Rating & Platform
<i>Roogoo</i>	Players test their reflexes by guiding falling meteor shapes through a series of platforms. This game is similar to <i>Tetris</i> .	E; Xbox 360
<i>NASCAR Kart Racing</i>	Driving teams work together to win championships, racing on 24 layouts. Up to four people can play this fun game.	E; Wii
<i>Zubo</i>	Players "battle" by solving puzzles and completing humorous gags. This game will appeal to Pokemon fans. It contains mild cartoon violence and mild crude humor.	E10+; Nintendo DS

RATINGS: EC=Early Childhood, E=Everyone (ages 6+), E10+ (ages 10+), T=Teen (ages 13+)



Culture & Trends

What's happening right

now that may affect your children and family:

- Thanks to the recession, now more families are enjoying home-cooked meals together. Food trends for 2009 center around comfort, value, and simplicity. (NPR)
- In the last decade, the number of stay-at-home dads has tripled. (Newsweek)

Quick Stats

- 75% of U.S. households now forbid smoking. **That's up from 43% just one decade ago.** (U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- Each day, an estimated 4 million children post content to the Web. (netlingo.com)



- Every week, MySpace deletes 25,000 profiles of **users who don't meet the site's minimum-age requirement of 14 years.** (netlingo.com)



KIDZONES

April 2009

			1	2	3	4
			<i>April Fools Day</i>		Remyx—JV Girls Lock-In 6-8 graders	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
KidZones 9:00 & 10:30		AWANA Grand Prix 6:00		Tabernacle Performance 6:30pm	Tabernacle Performance 6:30pm	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Easter Water Baptism KidZones 9:00 & 10:30		AWANA 6:15			Remyx—JV Boys Lock-In 6-8 graders	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
KidZones 9:00 & 10:30 <i>Amazing Family Race meeting after 2nd service</i>		AWANA 6:15				Men's Breakfast 7:30am
26	27	28	29	30		
KidZones 9:00 & 10:30	Basic Process 6:00pm	AWANA 6:15				



If you are looking for a place to serve here at North Ridge Church we have many wonderful and rewarding opportunities within Kidzones. We offer training as well as an opportunity to serve where God has gifted you in a variety of ministry areas on Sunday, Tuesdays, and throughout the week. If you or if you know someone who is looking for a place to plug in and be involved please [contact me](#) and consider going through the Basic Process on April 27th.