

September 2013

parenting CHRISTIAN kids



Church Logo
Information

POWERSOURCE

ASK GOD:

1. For a fresh view of the blessings in your life.
2. To help you watch for the sometimes subtle ways God shows up in your everyday.
3. To bring you comfort and relief through reminders of Jesus' presence.

Finding God in the Details

When was the last time you paused to marvel at the world around you? Every day there are new God Sightings—reminders of God in our daily lives—just waiting to be discovered. Like the person ahead of you in line who pays for your order—on a day you could really use the savings. Or the way your kids can put a smile on your face, even when life has you stressed. You'll also find God's fingerprints in the amazing order of the world. Did you know that worker bees, by the end of their lives, will have traveled a distance nearly

equal to flying around the world three times? (amazingfacts.org) Or that the largest mammals on earth, baleen whales, are sustained by the smallest sea animals such as krill?

There are of millions of incredible things that happen around us every day, all reminders of God's presence. When we think in those terms, it's easy to be reminded that every creature, every moment is infused with purpose and intention. God's marvels are so common that it's easy to lose our sense of wonder and be distracted by the mundane things in life. Quickly consumed with balancing finances, work, house chores,

and family to-do's, we can unintentionally overlook God's presence. We can miss out on daily God Sightings.

Challenge your family to examine the world around you and find at least one thing that's a reminder of God, and why, every day. You'll be refreshed and build on the faith foundation of your entire family as you discover God in some of the most unexpected places. Your kids will learn to hang onto their sense of wonder and grow a truly personal relationship with God. You can start with the example of the remarkable bee, or with an even more incredible God Sighting: the blessings you call family.

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TEACHABLE MOMENTS

Be a God Sighting

It's exciting and fun to watch for God Sightings around you. But it's even more fulfilling and faith-building when you take the opportunity to be a God Sighting for someone else. Cultivating these opportunities with your kids can result in the most spiritually enriching experiences of their lives. Check in with your children's minister about ways you can get involved within your church. Are there elderly church attenders who could use help with grocery shopping? Are there families in need of food, clothing, or a simple act of kindness? Each time you serve, ask your kids:

Explain what your feelings are about how we helped _____ (the people you served)? **Describe why you think you feel that way?**

Describe how you were a God Sighting today for _____?

Why do you think it's important for us to show kindness to others and treat them the way Jesus would?

What other ways can we be God Sightings for friends, neighbors, teachers, and everyone in our family?

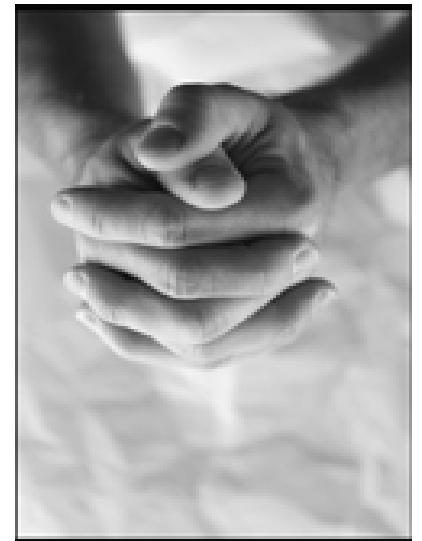
Making the Connection

A relationship is a connection, association, or involvement between people; it's an emotional or other relational connection between people. That's a plain, even boring, definition of relationships that you'll find in dictionaries. It's a bit flat and lifeless when you consider that the word accounts for one of the most important aspects of life. Today, with Facebook and other online platforms being a main connecting point, relationships can become about as surface-level as a dictionary definition—even with our family members. Through the global village of the Internet, people have never felt more connected—and never more alone. If our views of relationship and the way we bond with people around us are becoming less personal and more digital, perhaps our view of a relationship with God is changing, too. How can we make our involvement with God much more than a daily status update? And finally, since kids are growing up in this era of the not-so-real relationship, how can you guide yours in developing a rich connection with God?

1. Pray: Hands down, this is the best first step you can take toward any goal. Ask God how to improve your relationship with him, your family, and friends. Invest time in praying for your personal network and how you can best support the people in it. You might spend a few months in this prayer step before knowing how to move forward, and there's nothing wrong with that. Prayer connects you with God, involves God's grace in your life, and strengthens your bond. Keep sharing your daily God Sightings. Watch for God in the details of life, and invite him there.

2. Prioritize: Relationships truly are the most important part of life. They're where you'll find life quality and God Sightings galore. But, they do require effort and time. Don't jump into a thousand "catch-up over coffees" that'll leave you feeling overwhelmed. Concentrate on your relationship with God and those closest to you—and give them your best.

3. Pose—You're a Model: Take a deep breath. Your kids are very aware of the way you live. As you're working to improve your relationships, you're also modeling that important life goal for them. As you get to know God better, take your kids along with you for the discoveries.



"This same Good News that came to you is going out all over the world. It is bearing fruit everywhere by changing lives, just as it changed your lives from the day you first heard and understood the truth about God's wonderful grace."

—Colossians 1:6

MEDIA MADNESS



MUSIC

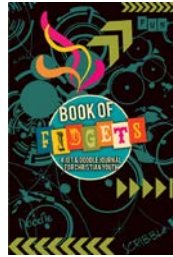
Artist: The City Harmonic

Album: *Heart* (Releases 09/03/2013)

Artist Info: The City Harmonic is a four-man band from Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. They're best known for their powerful Christian rock anthem, "Manifesto."

Summary: Their second, full-length album includes 13 new songs written with the band's style of challenging and captivating lyrics.

Our Take: The City Harmonic has a piano rock sound that you and your kids will enjoy. Some of the lyrics might have a depth your kids won't entirely understand, but the harmonies will hold their attention. Explaining the lyrics to your kids can open up some great faith conversations.



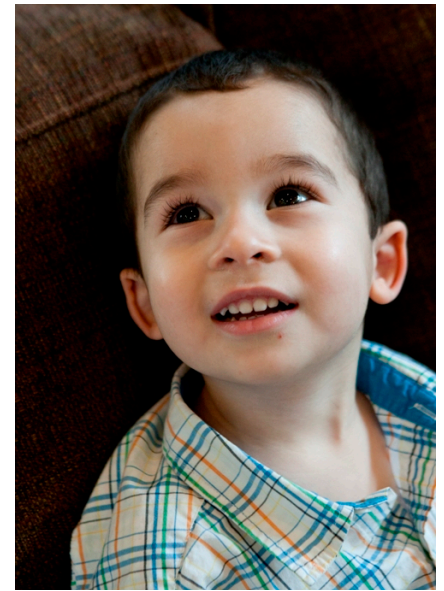
BOOKS

Title: Book of Fidgets: A Jot & Doodle Journal for Christian Youth (Releases in September 2013)

Publisher: Abingdon Press

Summary: An engaging and creative journal made to join doodling to learning about God. It's full of doodle prompts focused on Bible passages and study, holidays and special seasons (such as Easter and Christmas), and topics to help a kid explore and embark on self-discovery.

Our Take: This unique journal is best suited for older preteens. It would make a fantastic gift for a child heading into middle school—promoting active learning and using creativity as kids learn about God.



CULTURE & TRENDS

Taking kids outside to experience their surroundings while they learn increases academic performance and critical thinking skills, according to data compiled at nwf.org. Kids learning in an outdoor setting exhibit less stress and anxiety--and it's helpful in minimizing symptoms of ADHD.

QUICK STATS

Affirming Little Ones

The more specific you are in praising your toddler's behavior, the better. Kids who experience specific praise for their actions (rather than simply saying "good girl!") are more likely to take on challenges and problem-solve as they get older.

(Children's Ministry Magazine)

Falling TVs

There's been a significant increase in the number of children's household injuries from TVs falling off of furniture. With current appliance designs, TVs have become even more prone to toppling over. Make sure the TVs in your home are secured and stable.

(emaxhealth.com)

Games, Sites & Apps

Hasbro Family Game Night

A mix of classic board games that your family can play on the Nintendo Wii—with Mr. Potato Head as your guide. Rated E for Everyone by the ESRB. Best for ages 7 and up. \$30 to \$40 at most retailers.

Crayola.com/kids-playzone

A great website for your younger kids, ages three to six. It's loaded with fun coloring pages and games. Kids can turn themselves into a cartoon, write stories, and turn your family's digital photos into coloring pages. And, it's FREE!

Book Creator for iPad

A simple app that'll walk kids and grown-ups alike through building your own e-book. After creating your book, it can be read in iBooks, sent over email, or saved in iTunes. Designed for the iPad; \$4.99 at iTunes. Best for ages 8 and up.

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This page is designed to help educate parents and isn't meant to endorse any movie, music, or product. Our prayer is that you'll make informed decisions about what your children watch, read, listen to, and play.



September

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 Labor Day	3	4	5	6	7
8 Grandparent's Day	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16 Step-Family Day	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

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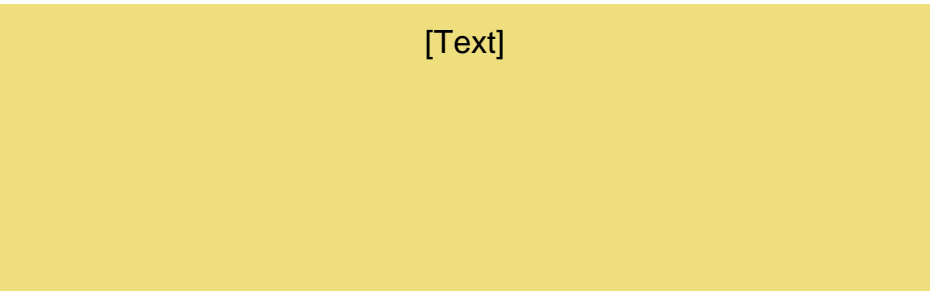
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