

# parenting CHRISTIAN kids



East Point Church of Christ

Children's Ministry  
epcofc.org

facebook.com/Eastpointchildren

## Grow 40 days of Daily Devotions

### POWERSOURCE

#### ASK GOD:

1. To help you nurture your children's developing faith.
2. To assure your children that he's with them as they grow.
3. To remind you to show your children how to "come near to God each day"

It takes two to have a relationship. You get to know people by talking with them, spending time with them, sharing and listening to their thoughts and ideas.

It is the same with God. To Grow in our relationship with God, we must talk with Him, spend time with Him, share our thoughts and ideas, and find out what are His thoughts and ideas are. The Bible calls this "coming near to God."  
"Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will - come near to you." James 4:7-8

Spending your time with God on a daily basis is not how Satan wants you to spend your time. He knows

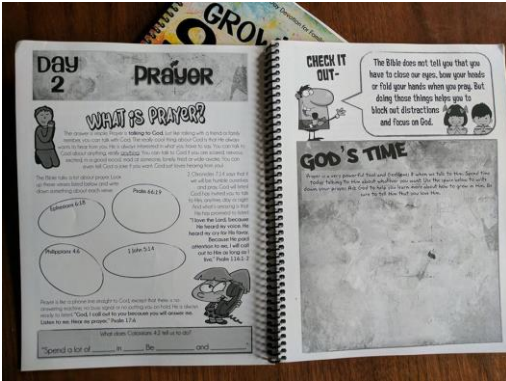
that if he can keep you away from God's word, he can keep you from growing in Christ. The only way Satan can stop us from getting to know Jesus better is if we let him stop us.

The next 40 days of of bible study is designed to help children Grow in their relationship with Christ. Each day your child will set aside a time to read their bible, learn scripture, and pray.

Remember you child has tickets to sign for each week they complete of their study to earn 3 stars and a prize each week.

Let's pray for our children and help encourage them to Grow with God.

# Your Family's Faith Journey



## TEACHABLE MOMENTS

### Come to Jesus

Place a 50-foot rope or hose in a circle around a chair. Choose one family member to be the “disciple,” and have him or her stand inside the circle. Everyone else, stand outside the circle.

**Say:** Some children wanted to see Jesus. But Jesus’ friends, the disciples, didn’t want the kids to bother him. Imagine Jesus is inside this circle and you want to reach him. When I say “go,” lift the rope and try to sneak under it. The disciple will try to touch you before you get through. If you’re tagged, sit down. You can be freed when someone else touches you. When you reach the chair, run back outside the circle. Ready? Go!

Take turns being the disciple. Then ask: **What was easy or hard about this? How did it feel when someone helped you get to “Jesus”?**

Read Mark 10:14. **Say:** Jesus wants us to come to him. **Ask:** How can we do that? **Say:** We can go to church, read the Bible, sing, and pray to Jesus. He’s always there for us!

At-home faith talks are vital for nurturing children spiritually. In *Shift (Group)*, Brian Haynes offers these guidelines for family times with Jesus:

- Faith talks should occur regularly and be age-appropriate. Each week, set aside time to focus on biblical truth in a relational way.
- Faith talks should focus on God’s Word. Read the Bible together, celebrate it, and apply it to all aspects of your daily lives.
- Faith talks don’t have to be difficult or formal. Make them fun! For example, go outside on a hot day and compare standing in the sun and shade. Then read and discuss Psalm 121:5-6.
- Faith talks shouldn’t depend on children’s choices or attitudes. God instructs parents to be intentional about leading their kids spiritually.

**Celebrate New Life** After seeing a baptism, talk to your children about their own baptisms—or their desire to be baptized. Tell them Jesus washes away our sins. As a family, make handmade cards for newly baptized people.

**God’s Relevant Word** Show children how the Bible applies to their lives. Talk about biblical heroes and how they both stumble and grow in faith. Tie Bible verses into kids’ interests, from music and poetry to travel and adventure.

**Lifelong Learners** Preteens often are eager to dig deeper. Provide age-appropriate Bibles and devotionals for older kids who are forming their identity in Jesus. Help them anticipate the future, and assure them that Jesus is always with them as they grow.

**Family Timelines** Tape a long piece of paper to a wall. Together, create a timeline of your family’s journey with Jesus using words, drawings, and Bible verses. Add marriages, birthdays, and milestones such as when a child started preschool or you moved. Include fun memories as well as challenges that affected everyone. Then discuss: “What are our best memories? What difficult events

have we faced? How did those make us closer to each other and to Jesus? How have we seen God’s faithfulness? What dreams do we have as a family?”

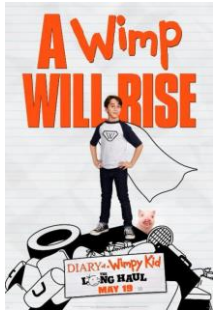
**Special Sheep** Draw a sheep shape on paper. Set out cotton balls and glue sticks. Have family members take turns holding up cotton balls and saying why each person is special. Then dip the cotton in glue and stick it on the sheep. Continue until you have a fluffy reminder that you are all God’s special sheep. Read Luke 15:3-7 and say Jesus is a good Shepherd who loves us, his sheep.

**God’s Path** On a map of your hometown or neighborhood, mark important spots such as your home, school, church, friends’ houses, and more. Highlight the roads your family uses most often. Read aloud Psalm 139:1-3. **Say:** “God always knows where we are, what we’re doing, and where we’re going. He has big plans for us as we grow and get to know him better. Jesus loves us and will always be with us.” With a red marker, draw a large heart around all the sites you’ve highlighted. Display the map as a reminder of God’s promises.

“Train yourself to be godly. For...godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.”

—1 Timothy 4:7-8, NIV

## MEDIA MADNESS



### MOVIE

**Title:** *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Long Haul*

**Genre:** Comedy, family

**Rating:** Not yet rated

**Cast:** Jason Drucker, Charlie Wright, Alicia Silverstone, Tom Everett Scott  
**Synopsis:** Hoping to attend a gamer convention, Greg talks his family into traveling to his great-grandmother's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday party. Crazy road-trip antics result. This is the fourth "Wimpy Kid" movie but the first in five years, so the cast is all new.

Young fans of the popular book series will enjoy seeing the Heffley family in action. The film lends itself to discussions about decision-making, family unity and conflict, and how much control kids should (and do) have over their lives.



### BOOK

**Title:** *Stef Soto, Taco Queen*

**Author:** Jennifer Torres

**Synopsis:** Middle-schooler Estefania "Stef" Soto is embarrassed by her Mexican-American family's food truck and tired of the teasing she endures because of it. When the business is threatened, however, she fervently defends it—and also learns to embrace her cultural identity.

This heartwarming realistic fiction, geared toward grades 3 through 6, explores conflicting loyalties between family and friends. Young readers will consider the role of cultural heritage and the importance of tradition. They'll benefit from seeing how Stef finds her voice amid conflicts and challenges.



### Happy Campers Summer is quickly approaching!

To Sign up for Silver Maple go to [silvermaplecamp.com](http://silvermaplecamp.com)

First Session is July 9<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> and day camp will be that Wednesday. For any question please see Dean Foster.

### VBS June 11-15<sup>th</sup> from 6-8:15 pm

At East Point's VBS your child will turn into a GALACTIC STARVEYOR. As kid's focus their telescopes on marvels painted in the sky by the creator, they will discover wonders among wonders. With games, singing, science experiments, crafts, and more this will be a week your child will never forget.

On Thursday night the whole family is invited to our Family Night Bash with free food, petting zoo, face painting, The Bug Lady, bounce house and more.

register now at [epcofc.org](http://epcofc.org).



## Games, Sites & Apps

### Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild

This new title from the acclaimed series is for the new Nintendo Switch console. For players, Hyrule is an open world waiting to be explored. They must battle enemies, hunt wild beasts, and gather food and equipment for the journey. Rated E10+

### TheKidShouldSee This.com

Parents can sign up (for free) to receive 8 to 12 videos per week tailored to curious kids. Many videos emphasize STEAM-related topics and spark conversations about the world around us. All videos are appropriate for young viewers, but the content isn't dumbed down.

### Clarify\* by Playbac

This video-news app from the inventor of BrainQuest explains news stories and current events in fact-based, kid-friendly language. The timely videos end with discussion-starter questions that families can use. The first week is free, but after that a subscription costs \$1.99 per week.

This page is designed to help educate parents and IS NOT 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.



# May 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Week 2 of Grown	2	3	4	5	6
7 Jesus Met Nicodemus	8 Week 3 of Grow	9	10	11	12	13
14 Mother's Day Baby Blessings	15 Week 4 of Grow	16	17	18	19	20
21 Jesus and John the Baptist	22 Week 5 of Grow	23	24 Tribe of Judah Play	25	26	27
28 Jesus met the Samaritan women at the well.	29 Memorial Day  <b>Last week of Grow!!</b>	30	31 Tribe of Zeb Play			

