



February 2010



Encourage Kids to Lovingly Obey

February brings lots of talk about love, but love is more evident through our actions than through our words. Children show love and respect by obeying parents, and Christians show love and respect by obeying God's commands. God gave us his laws because he loves us, and following them helps mold us into his faithful followers.

Love is at the "heart" of all God's commandments, including his two greatest: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind" and "Love your neighbor as yourself" (Luke 10:27).

The problem is that love and obedience aren't as easy as they sound. That's because we're all sinners who put ourselves ahead of others. Having a loving relationship with Jesus Christ is the only way we can be equipped to obey God and other people. Only through knowing Jesus and his love does the law lose its sin-causing power over us. Here are some ways to share that message with your children:

- While sharing that disobedience is serious and has consequences, also emphasize that God offers us his forgiveness—and we should do the same for other people who hurt us.
- As you read and discuss the Bible with children, reflect the bulk of Scripture: God's relationship with his people, who are constantly breaking his rules but then being restored by a loving God.



The Kids' Travel Guide to the 10 Commandments (Group) is filled with insightful, fun experiences about this topic.

Thou Shalt Remember

- In a survey of 1,000 children in Britain, 28% of kids ages 11 to 16 couldn't name even one of the Ten Commandments. Only 6% of children could name all 10. (Christian.org.uk)
- Americans didn't fare any better. Out of 1,000 Americans, more people knew the ingredients of a Big Mac and the names of the *Brady Bunch* children than knew the Ten Commandments. The most-recalled commandment was "You shall not kill." (ChristianPost.com)

PowerSource



Ask God:

1. To help your children express their love for God by obeying his commands.
2. To strengthen your children's trust in God's goodness.
3. To give your children obedient attitudes toward authority.

Parenting Insights

In *With All Their Heart*, Christine Yount Jones shares some of "the sweet rewards of saying yes to God" and lovingly obeying his commands.

1. **The result of obedience is joy.** Obeying God isn't a burden. Instead, it's uplifting to work in harmony with God rather than fight against him.
2. **Obedience brings a promise of blessings.** Although we don't obey just to gain God's favor, his Word promises blessings for our reverent obedience (for example, see Deuteronomy 11:13-15).
3. **Obedience demonstrates our love.** Convey to children that consequences aren't the sole point of rules. Instead, we should obey as a loving response to God, who loves us each unconditionally—and forgives us when we disobey.

OpenTheBook

"Oh, how I love your instructions! I think about them all day long. Your commands make me wiser than my enemies, for they are my constant guide."

Psalm 119:97-98

We often think of rules and laws as necessary evils. But each of God's commands has a purpose, whether it's to keep us safe or to bring him glory. These laws guide our steps each day, like a trusted, well-worn road map.

Teachable Moments

- 1. The Right Path**—Hide a Bible and make an easy map so your children can find the Bible in a few minutes. Give children the map and tell them to search for something special you've hidden. When children find the Bible, tell them that God's Word shows us what we need to do to follow him on the right path. Then read some "directions" and have children tell you if they're from the Bible or not. For example, "Love your enemies" (yes!); "Lie only if you have to" (no!).



- 2. Simon Says**—With younger children, play Simon Says, giving everyone a chance to be Simon. Then discuss what it's like to give directions and be "obeyed." Also talk about what makes following instructions easy or difficult.



"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**

Talking about and following God's commands help children learn about obedience (read the Scripture in the photo above). Start a conversation with these questions:

1. How do rules help us? Why is it important to have rules in a family, in school, and in society?
2. What makes you want to obey God? What makes you want to obey your parents or teachers?
3. Why is it sometimes hard to obey? What helps you obey, especially when it's tempting not to?
4. What good things happen when you obey?

Family Experience: Awesome Obedience

Together, explore the reasons for and the results of obedience. The first experience works especially well with younger kids.

- Extreme Blessings**—Form two groups: a "happy group" and a "sad group." Say, "When you hear your group name, show your emotion." (Practice a few times.) Say, "Everyone wants to be blessed by God and be happy. No one likes being sad. People will try anything to be happy. They sometimes even disobey God by stealing, lying, or being selfish. But doing these things only makes them sad."



Have family members form one group. Say, "The Bible tells us that extreme obedience to God brings us extreme blessing or happiness." Read aloud Psalm 119:34-35. Ask, "Why do you think this person wanted to obey God? Doing what God says to do makes us happy. Let's all show by our faces that we want to choose obedience and happiness."

- Love Rules**—Together, create an imaginary dangerous mission for your family to go on. Then set guidelines to protect one another (for example, "Don't feed the alligators"). Say, "God loves us so much that he gave us protective guidelines, the Ten Commandments, for our mission on earth." Read aloud Exodus 20:1-17. Then reword each commandment to explain why it's a loving rule from a loving God. For example, "Because I want you to be protected from religions that would mislead you, don't have any other gods except me." End in prayer, asking God to help you all obey him out of love.



What's Playing at the Movies

Movie: *Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning Thief* (Feb. 12)

Genre: Fantasy, Adventure

Rating: not yet rated

Cast: Logan Lerman, Pierce Brosnan, Uma Thurman

Synopsis: Chris Columbus directs this adaptation of the popular children's book series. A modern-day teenager learns that his father is the greek god Zeus—and right now the gods are angry. Greek mythology comes to life with *Harry Potter*-esque adventure as Percy and his friends solve a powerful mystery.

Discussion Questions: How have your parents shaped you? What do you think your life would be like if you had different parents or a different family? Why do you think people used to have so many gods? Read 1 John 5:21. How do some people worship lots of "gods" today?



What Music Is Releasing

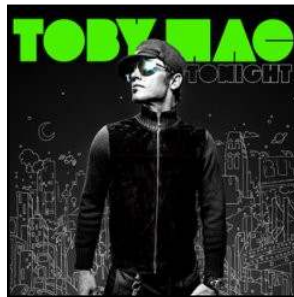
Artist: TobyMac

Album: *Tonight*

Artist Info: Grammy-winning Christian pop and hip-hop artist TobyMac (Kevin McKehean) was one of the first Christian rappers. He was part of the trio DC Talk, and as a soloist he's had six number-one singles. His music provides a positive alternative to secular rappers such as Drake.

Summary: TobyMac's fourth studio album is a mix of pop, rock, hip-hop, and funk. The first single, "City on Our Knees," hit number one shortly after its August release. In it, TobyMac sings, "If you gotta start somewhere, why not here? If you gotta start sometime, why not now?"

Discussion Questions: How well do you manage your time? What are some things you tend to put off, and why? Read Matthew 25:13. How does being a Christian affect your priorities?



What Games Are Out

Title	Content	Rating & Platform
<i>Mario & Sonic at the Winter Olympics</i>	Players go through trial runs and then compete in sports such as snowboarding, bobsledding, and ice skating.	E; Wii
<i>Polar Panic</i>	Players navigate through mazes of snow and ice to rescue bears and protect the environment. Mild cartoon violence.	E; PSP, Xbox 360
<i>The Legend of Zelda: Spirit Tracks</i>	In the franchise's newest installment, Link travels via steam train. Players solve puzzles and problems with inventive gameplay.	E; Nintendo DS

GAME RATINGS KEY: 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:

- Personal safety is more evident than ever before in children's movies. More characters are wearing seat belts and helmets and using crosswalks. (Associated Press)
- U.S. children are more likely to grow up with a pet than with both of their parents. (The Child: An Encyclopedic Companion)



Quick Stats

- Schoolwork and tests are kids' biggest problem. If they had five minutes to talk to President Obama, children said they would ask him to help ease their burdens at school. (Highlights magazine)
- Immunization rates are on the rise, with about 72% of children fully immunized as of 2008. Among only children, 81% have had all their shots. (Reuters)

February 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
			KM2 5:00-5:45 pm Portable #2 MPKids 6:00-7:00 pm Portable #3 Zone 56 6:30-8:00 pm Portable #6			
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
SS 10:00 am			KM2 5:00-5:45 pm Portable #2 Zone 56 6:30 - 8:00 pm Portable #6			
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
SS 10:00 am CC 11:15 am			KM2 5:00-5:45 pm Portable #2 Ash Wednesday Service 7 pm			
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
SS 10:00 am CC 11:15 am Zone 56 Sign Up Deadline			KM2 5:00-5:45 pm Portable #2 Zone 56 6:30 - 8:00 pm Portable #6			
28						
SS 10:00 am CC 11:15 am 2pm Zone 56 Rock Climbing						

SS= Sunday School

CC= Children's Church: Children's Ministry after the children's sermon for children 4 years to 2nd grade

KM2: Music ministry for 1st thru 4th graders

Zone 56: Ministry for 5th and 6th graders

UPCOMING EVENTS AT AUMC

- March 4** Vacation Bible School Planning Meeting, 7 pm
- March 6** Family Spirituality Conference FUMC Keller 10am-2pm
- March 28** Palm Sunday, Children Palm Processional at 11:15 service
- April 3** Family Easter Service 5:30 pm Easter Egg Hunt following
- April 4** Easter Sunday
- April 15** Registration Deadline for Created by God
- March 25-27** Created by God, human sexuality course for 5th & 6th graders
- June 21-25** Vacation Bible School 2010

Liz Edwards, Director of Children's Ministry
 9033 Ft. Worth Dr. Argyle, Texas 76226
 940-464-1333 liz@argyleumc.org



This ministry for 5th & 6th graders includes Sunday school and weekday praise, missions, Bible study, snack supper, & fun. We meet Sunday mornings at 10 am & Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8pm in portable # 6. If you have a 5th or 6th grader be sure they come get in the ZONE! **Feb. 28** we are going rock climbing. Sign up with Ms. Liz by **Feb. 21**.

Parents, we cannot do this ministry without you! Please contact Liz Edwards to sign up as a Zone 56 helper. 940-464-1333 or liz@argyleumc.org



Our Mission Possible Kids and Zone 56 have joined hands with tens of thousands of other children around the world who share the vision and dedication to empower communities through education in remote areas of Pakistan and Afghanistan. Our students are embarking on a Pennies for Peace campaign to broaden their cultural horizons and become members of a global family dedicated to peace.

How can a penny bring peace? A penny doesn't buy much in Argyle. But in the villages of Pakistan and Afghanistan, a penny can buy a pencil, start an education, and transform a life. In a region where terrorist organizations recruit uneducated, illiterate children, that pencil can empower a child to read, write, and learn. The Pennies for Peace program goal is to encourage children, who are ultimately our future leaders, to learn the value of philanthropy by collecting pennies for global peace. We are continuing to collect pennies through February. By the end of January we have already deposited \$316.12. That's enough to pay for one advanced student's scholarship for an entire year!! Keep those pennies coming!!!

CHILDREN'S CHURCH FEBRUARY SCHEDULE	
	11:15 Service
February 7	Communion
February 14	Russell & Tonya Newell 972-410-0205
February 21	Jamie & Carmen Goodson 940-725-0800
February 28	Matt & Jolie Friess 940-725-3218

ARGYLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MISSION POSSIBLE[®] kids

We're on a mission!

Our awesome Mission Possible Agents are having their monthly meeting on **February 3rd from 6-7 pm** in Mission Possible Headquarters, aka Portable #3. We will be making valentines for our troops & collect pennies for our Pennies for Peace outreach project. Learn more about our Pennies for Peace project later on in this month's Parent Link. All kids in grades 1-4 are invited to join us as we help change the world. For more information contact Beth Ward at 940-725-0291 or cbem@verizon.net



Created by God

March 25-27, 2010

We are pleased to announce that AUMC is participating in a *Created by God* weekend, March 25-27, 2010. *Created by God* is a human sexuality course for fifth and sixth graders, presented from a Christian view point. The goal of this course is not only to help our young people become more knowledgeable about their physical bodies, but more importantly, to open up the lines of communication between parents and their children on this extremely important issue.

As the UMC North Texas Annual Conference writes, "We realize we live in a society that influences our decisions and values. Our choice is not whether we will be educated about our sexuality, but in what environment that education will take place." No matter how sheltered we would like them to be, our children are constantly receiving messages from society about sexuality. *Created by God* provides a safe, loving environment for our students to feel free to ask caring adult leaders questions as they learn that puberty and sexuality are part of God's plan.

Our weekend will be held in conjunction with and at First United Methodist Church in Denton. We will be in joint large group sessions with FUMC Denton, but our small groups will be exclusively AUMC students and AUMC small group leaders. Deana Ferguson, a United Methodist Church *Created by God* certified instructor, will be our leader. Everything will be held at FUMC Denton, 201 S. Locust Denton, TX 76201 www.fumc-denton.com

Deana will be assisted by small group leaders from our church. Registration deadline is March 7th. The cost is \$35, payable to AUMC. As always, scholarships are available if needed. For more information, contact Liz Edwards at 940-464-1333 or liz@argyleumc.org

Family Spirituality Workshop

Sharing your faith with your children (and grandchildren)

Rev. Dr. Leanne Hadley

Saturday March 6 10 am-2 pm

First United Methodist Church Keller



Cost for the seminar (including lunch) is \$15 per person, \$20 per couple.

If we don't pass on our faith to our children, who will? Join us for this enlightening seminar as Rev. Hadley shares ways that we can pray as families, create family rituals, and seize those teachable moments to share our faith. Her passion and love for children is evident in her ministry. This is a day you don't want to miss! Kelli & I have both attended seminars with Leanne Hadley and she is excellent. We both highly recommend this seminar.

Rev. Dr. Leanne Ciampa Hadley is an Ordained Elder in the United Methodist Church and a specialist in the area of Children's Spirituality. She is President and Founder of First Steps Spirituality Center in Colorado Springs (www.1ststeps.net). In December 2007, she received her Doctor of Ministry in the area of spirituality and children and teens from United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio. Reverend Hadley has published several books, DVD's and videos through Abingdon Press, Group Publishing and privately through First Steps.

Registration Deadline is March 1st. Contact Liz for more information.

The Beatitudes

Rotation Sunday School February 7-28, 2010



Scripture: Matthew 5:3-12

Memory Verse: *Now then, my children, listen to me; blessed are those who keep my ways.*
Proverbs 8:32

This month we will be learning about The Beatitudes that Jesus gave at the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount. These eight “Blessed Are...” statements proclaim God’s favor towards those who aspire to live according to God’s kingdom.

We don’t often hear the word “beatitude” in modern conversation, but Webster’s Dictionary defines it as “supreme blessedness”. When we talk about being blessed, we often translate “blessed” as “happy”, but a more accurate definition would be “being divinely favored.”

With the Beatitudes Jesus gives us a very different way of thinking about things. These are not the people we might immediately think of being “supremely blessed”, but discussing these attributes gives us a great opportunity to talk with your child about the differences between God’s kingdom and the kingdoms of this world.

Rotation Schedule

	K	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th
Feb. 7	Art-105	Movie-108	Movie-108	Drama-106	Computer-100
Feb. 14	Movie-108	Art-105	Art-107	Computer-100	Drama-106
Feb. 21	Drama-106	Computer-100	Computer-100	Movie-108	Art-105
Feb. 28	Computer-100	Drama-106	Drama-108	Art-105	Movie-108

Teachers: Older 2’s and 3’s (3 by Dec.31, 2009), Rm. 103, Kelly Perritt, Kelly Hawkins & Carly Hawk. Pre-K, Rm 104, Cyne Hindman & Jennifer West. Rotation shepherds: Kindergarten, Nicole Hackett; 1st grade, Dona & Bill Perkins; 2nd grade, Jo Ellen Bergstrom; 3rd grade, Kathy Wright & Tammra Allison; 4th grade, Tracey Portz & Chris Funck. Movie: Darren & Stacie Schnabel, David & Jennifer Bullock, Steve & Shannan Christo, Roger & Sue Santone; Computer, Steve & Mary Betzhold, George & Kelly Dunham, Drama, Harold & Dana Ratcliff, Jeff Bergstrom; Art-Mark Robison & Kelli Stoops; Zone 56, Portable 6, Tom & Pam Keenan, Julie Sheridan.



VBS 2010

Be prepared to blast off **June 21-25** for our out-of- this- world 2010 Vacation Bible School! Through daily missions, our space cadets will see space like never before, gain a new perspective on our planet Earth, and learn easy "green" earth tips they can practice at home. This cosmic combination of faith and fun is all about helping our cadets connect with our awesome God. Our first planning meeting will be **Thursday, March 4th at 7 pm**. Please come join us plan this important ministry for our church and our community



SUMMER CAMP- The Methodist Church offers several great summer camps for kids completing grades 3-5. The camps are at Bridgeport Camp and Conference Center, located on over 200 beautiful acres just 40 miles west of Denton. Children's camps offered this year are: **July 17-21; July 22-26; July 27-31, and August 9-13**. There is a children's music camp **June 8-12** and a special needs camp for children ages 9-14, **June 8-12**. Cost is \$275 if paid before **February 28** and \$259 after that date. *Please note that these camps fill up fast.* To register and for more information see www.bridgeportcamp.com