

March 2018

parenting CHRISTIAN kids



The Vision of St Peter's Children's Ministry is for all children to **DISCOVER** the love of Jesus.



Help Children Harness the Power of Prayer

POWERSOURCE

ASK GOD:

1. To remind your family members to converse with him regularly.
2. To show your children that prayer involves more than just asking God for stuff.
3. To help you include listening to God as part of your prayer time.

Prayer is many things: a privilege, a command, a blessing, and an active way to build our faith with Jesus.

"Prayer is the conversation of life," says Adam Stadtmiller, author of *Give Your Kids the Keys* (Regal). "Prayer is always available. Prayer is always the answer. Every issue in our life finds its solution and answer in prayer."

Stadtmiller emphasizes that prayer is for all people, no matter their age. "There's no difference between the importance of prayer in the life of a child and that of an adult," he writes.

Although prayer should be natural, it might not come naturally to children. Even Jesus' disciples needed to be taught how to pray; that's why

Jesus gave them the Lord's Prayer (see Matthew 6:9-13).

By modeling prayer in a variety of styles and settings, parents can teach children the following:

- Prayer involves ongoing conversational dialogue with our almighty yet approachable God.
- Prayer can be spontaneous or planned, short or long, loud or silent, for ourselves or for other people.
- Prayer involves praise, confession, and thanksgiving, not just requests.
- God is at work through our prayers and always answers them—though sometimes not how we want or after a long period of waiting.

Read on for practical ideas about putting prayer's power to work in your family.

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Pray Without Ceasing

As children's communication skills develop and grow, so does their ability to pray. Toddlers begin to understand that Jesus is their friend, so pray to him in simple language that relates to children's daily lives. Preschoolers become more aware of the world around them, so remind children this age that Jesus cares about everything that happens to them and to other people. By ages 7 to 9, most kids feel a need for God's help and strength—and are able to verbally express their thoughts and desires. Look up Bible verses about prayer together. Preteens begin to focus on relationships, so remind them of their value to God and of the fact that no prayers are insignificant or unworthy.

Lord's Prayer Ribbon For every family member, you'll need 4-inch ribbon strands in the colors below. Read aloud Matthew 6:9-13. Say:

- "Blue is the color of fathers. (Hold your blue ribbon.) Our father in heaven."
- "White is for holiness. (Tie white to blue.) Holy is your name."
- "Purple is majestic. (Tie purple to white.) Your Kingdom come, your will be done."
- "Green is the color of the earth. (Tie green to purple.) On earth as it is in heaven."
- "Yellow reminds us of wheat. (Tie yellow to green.) Give us this day our daily bread."
- "Red reminds us of Jesus' blood and forgiveness. (Tie red to yellow.) And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors."
- "Orange is for the darkness of evil. (Tie orange to red.) And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil."
- "Gold reminds us of heaven. (Tie gold to orange.) For yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen."

Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep

Give children each a white pillowcase and a fabric pen. Say: "This week at bedtime, let's pray for a different person each night."

Help kids each write a new name on their pillowcase nightly after they pray for that person.

Pop Up Prayers Create a prayer reminder using an empty 20-ounce bottle, plastic disposable plates, a permanent marker, glitter, corn syrup, and water. Cut six half-inch ovals from the plates. Write Family, Neighbors, Church, Our Government, World Problem, and Peace on the ovals, one per oval. Put the ovals and some glitter in the bottle. Fill it three-fourths full of corn syrup; top with water. Tighten the lid. Each day, shake the bottle and pray for what comes up first.

Anywhere Prayers Read aloud Jonah 2:1 and find unique places to pray as a family. Let each person find a spot (closet, car, treehouse, swing set). Then gather in those places for prayer, thanking God for always loving and listening to us—no matter where we are.

Spin the Prayer Bottle In this redemptive version of the game, the person spinning prays for whoever the bottle points to. After receiving prayer, that person spins the bottle and prays for the next person it points to. You also can play Spin the Prayer Person, where each player gets a turn being spun in a swivel chair!

**"Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere."
—Ephesians 6:18, NLT**



TEACHABLE MOMENTS

Prayers of Praise

You'll need a Bible, matches, a pillar candle, and small, individual candles with paper collars. In a darkened room, gather around a table that contains the pillar candle. Light it and say: **In Old Testament times, people prayed to God by giving him burnt offerings and sacrifices.**

Read aloud Hebrews 13:15. Say: **Now, instead of giving animals or grain to God, our sacrifices are our praises. God wants us to praise him by telling about the wonderful things he has done.**

Read aloud Psalm 66:1-5. Pick up a small candle, light it from the pillar candle, and complete this prayer: **God, I praise you for _____.** Invite others to take candles and do the same.

Say: **The Bible describes God's glory as shining.** Read aloud Luke 2:9. Say: **This room is glowing because we've praised God through our prayers.**

Say amen and extinguish the candles.

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MEDIA MADNESS



MOVIE

Title: *A Wrinkle in Time*

Genre: Adventure, Fantasy, Family

Rating: PG

Cast: Reese Witherspoon, Oprah Winfrey, Mindy Kaling, Chris Pine

Synopsis: This film adaptation of Madeleine L'Engle's classic 1962 novel features Meg, an awkward 13-year-old. When her scientist father disappears, Meg, her brother, and a friend go on a space-traveling "tesseract" quest to find him. Three magical beings—Mrs. Whatsit, Mrs. Which, and Mrs. Who—offer wisdom and clues along the way.

Our Take: This coming-of-age story emphasizes personal courage and the importance of family. Older kids and sci-fi fans will marvel at the imaginative adventures and unusual characters. The film contains elements of peril.



TV

Title: *The Gifted*

Network: Fox

Synopsis: When their son becomes a mutant, a family must flee their ordinary lives and go into hiding. The family eventually joins a group of mutants fighting to survive due to society's prejudice.

Our Take: Various episodes of this adventure-based series are rated between TV-PG and TV-14, making the show questionable for preteens. The violence and action-adventure also may be too scary for sensitive viewers. However, the program addresses prejudice and society's reaction to people's differences that may help families talk about how to show kindness and love to everyone. Preview *The Gifted* before deciding whether to watch it with your kids.



CULTURE & TRENDS

Hair 101 for Dads Fathers who need a crash course in little-girl hair care—and in bonding with their little girls—can attend free workshops through Daddy Daughter Hair Factory. A dad began this nonprofit in 2015 to encourage strong relationships. (daddydaughterhairfactory.com)

Boy Bands Are Back The days of 'N Sync and One Direction may be over, but a new wave of boy bands is vying for young listeners. Groups such as Why Don't We, BTS, PRETTYMUCH, BROCKHAMPTON, and CNCO cover the musical spectrum, from Latin and Korean pop to groovy a cappella. (time.com)

QUICK STATS

Slowing Abuse Long-term, growing awareness of sexual abuse has led to a 65% decrease in child-related cases over the past 25 years. (nytimes.com)

Aim for 100 Children who spend fewer than 100 minutes each day doing moderate-to-vigorous physical activity are considered to have a "sedentary" activity level. (pediatrics.aapublications.org)

Extended Families Ten percent of U.S. children (more than 7 million) live with adult relatives other than or in addition to their parents. (grandfamilies.org)

Games, Sites & Apps

Detective Pikachu

In this adventure puzzle game for the Nintendo 3DS, players try to solve mysteries in the city with a talking Pikachu. A live-action film adaptation of this game is slated to hit the big screen next spring, with Ryan Reynolds voicing the Pikachu character.

TweenTribune.com

This learning-based site from the Smithsonian offers free articles about news, science, history, art, and more. Articles are available in different "lexile" (or reading) levels, so students from kindergarten to high school can benefit. Spanish versions also are available.

Love You to Bits

Preteens who enjoy solving puzzles will be drawn to this award-winning sci-fi adventure game. Players search the universe for parts of the main character's robot girlfriend after she was destroyed. The story promotes kindness. It's an app now, but will be available for PC and Mac soon. Rated for 9+.

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Fears of the Dark – Preschool

1. Let your child know that you take their fears seriously.
2. Give your child truthful information on topics such as death or war, and let them know you are willing to answer any questions.
3. Encourage your child to confront the object of their fear, such as dogs, one step at a time at their own pace. For example, perhaps start with pictures, then try a very small, gentle dog that is tied up, so the child decides how close to get.
4. Allow your child some control. For example, if they are afraid of intruders, make shutting and locking their bedroom window one of their night-time responsibilities.
5. Daily routines and rituals give a child a sense of stability and security, and may ease general anxiety.

Never fails: After an exhausting day at work, you are getting your child ready for bed and gently tucked in. You lean down to kiss his forehead softly and turn away to close the bedroom door. On your way out you flick the switch to his lamp off. Suddenly, there is uncontrollable sobbing and your child's rapid heartbeat. You stand in the doorway debating whether or not to go back inside and comfort your child or simply close the door and let him cry it out.

Everyone, from the youngest child to the oldest adult, experiences anxieties and fears at one time or another. Feeling anxious in a particularly uncomfortable situation never feels very good. However, with children, such feelings are not only normal, they are also necessary. Dealing with anxieties can prepare young children to handle the unsettling experiences and challenging situations of life.

Young children can get spooked by just about anything — the dark, the wind, or even a favorite stuffed animal. Or they seem to sail through a real frightening situation, only to become afraid of something days or weeks later. No matter how scared your child gets, childhood fears are usually nothing to worry about. They are normal emotions that help your children figure out how the world works.

Take a deep breath and try to understand why your child is afraid. Some other ways to handle fears are listed in the next column.

There is no doubt about it. Life can be scary at times for children. We cannot keep our children from everything they fear—nor should we even try, but we can help them learn ways to be brave. It is an important step to growing up.

Most children are afraid of the dark on some level – it is a very common fear of the unknown. To combat this fear, try teaching your child how to turn on lights around the house, and add a night-light to his bedroom. Allow your children to control the amount of light they have on when they go to sleep and gradually decrease it over time. Help your child understand darkness by going on a night walk together and discussing all the new and interesting things you can see when it is dark

Take some time to check out this month's video to see how you can deal with your child's fear..

<https://vimeo.com/parentministry/review/102090867/95aa561824>

PARTNERING
WITH
PARENTS

Fears – Elementary

Parents,

We all want our children to live life fully. One of the joys of childhood is the innocence that allows them to live with reckless abandon. As our children get a little older they begin to see the “real world.”

Accompanying that can be some real fears that take hold in their lives.

How do we as parents help them confront fears, deal with them, and move past them so that they don't control our child's mind? Take a look at this video to see an overview of helping your child deal with fear.

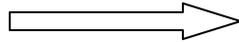
<https://vimeo.com/parentministry/review/84833565/5efe7b8422>

Reoccurring bad dreams, bellyaches before school, anxiety before a new event, and fear of the uncontrollable are some of the ways our kids are dealing with fear.

Even if their fear seems a bit illegitimate to us, you can guarantee it's very REAL to them.

So, instead of glossing over their fear or telling them, “Just don't worry about it,” we want to walk you through the best way to walk your child through fear, anxiety, and worry.

The best way to deal with fear is to OVERCOME it. Many of the emotions God has given us are from Him. However, fear is NOT one of those. 2 Timothy 1:7 clearly tells us God has NOT given us a spirit of fear. So instead of telling our kiddos, don't be afraid, here are some great tools for helping them overcome fear:

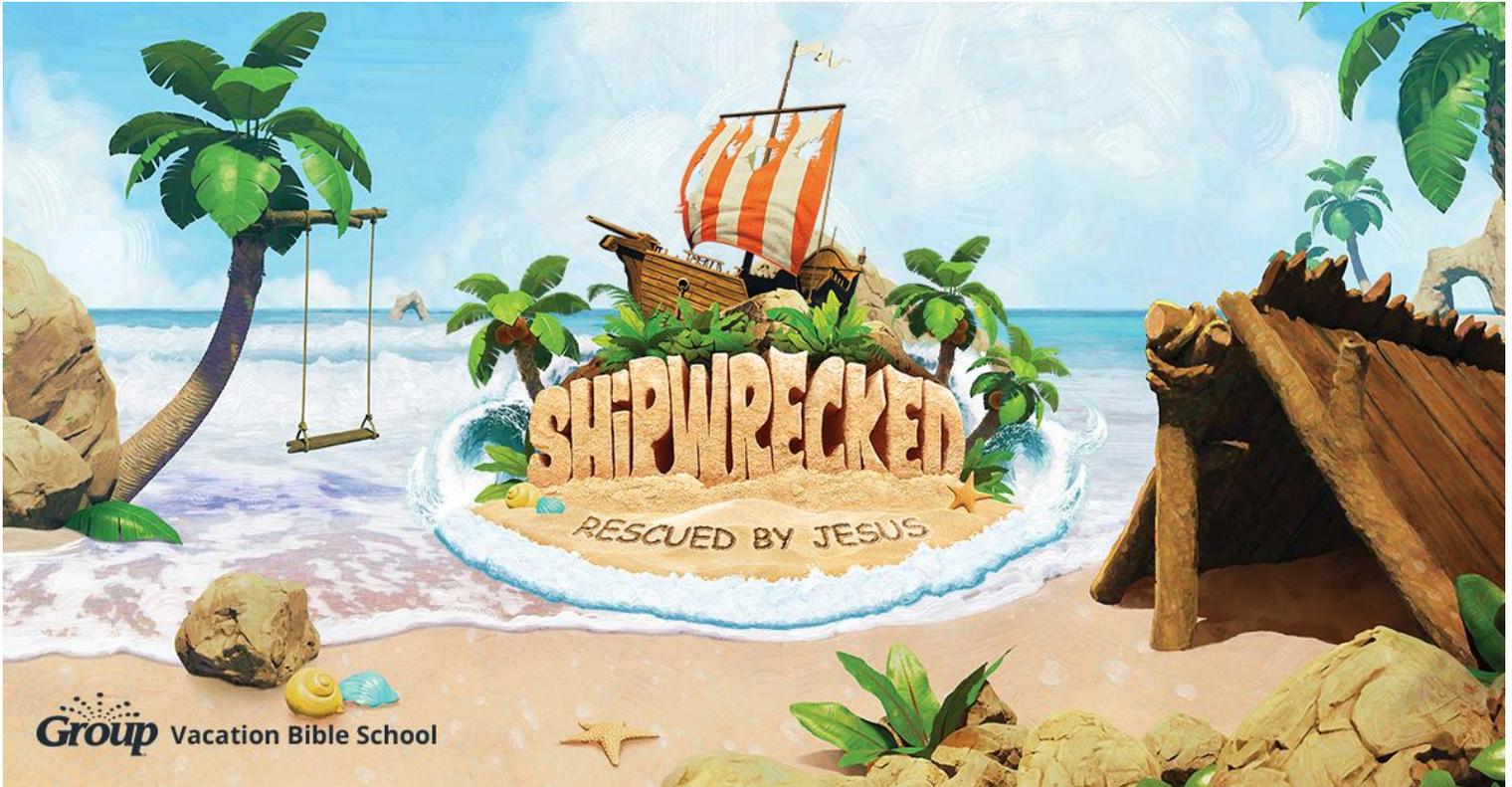


- Acknowledge the fear. Even if their fear seems silly to you, it's real to them.
- Respond to your child's fear with confidence. Memorize 2 Timothy 1:7. Say it over and over again until you and your child believe it. Children sense anxiety, so if you know they're feeding off your fears, get yours in check first.
- Replace the “stinkin' thinkin'” with good thoughts. Don't dwell on the fear (if it's a bad dream, don't ask them to describe the dream), this just fuels that anxiety. It's also not enough to tell them to STOP worrying. They need to REPLACE those thoughts with new ones. So help them figure out what to think about. Replace worry with a verse like the one in 2 Timothy OR Isaiah 41:10.
- Help the bad dream pass by thinking of a great vacation memory.
- For a child safety is developed through structure. Create routine for your family. Make sure it includes down time for great conversation, especially at night time

Care and Safety of your child -

Children's ministry has been training our volunteers who serve in the nursery, Sunday school, Kids church and Wednesday Night Connections on what we will do in case of inclement weather, fire, or active threats. Please know that next to sharing the love of Jesus with your child, and training our volunteers, keeping your child safe is a priority for us. We will be having some drills in regards to what to do in case of fire or tornados and active threats during worship times. We will do our best to make sure you know when we are going to practice. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to talk to Kathy Peters, Karen Clark or Shelli Carothers or any of our Children's Ministry Team (nursery workers, Sunday School leaders, etc.).

VBS



JUNE 11-14

9AM-12PM

AGES 4 THRU 5TH GR COMPLETED

VOLUNTEERS AND CHILDREN

REGISTER [HERE](#)

VBS VOLUNTEER POSITIONS

AV TECH - This behind the scenes leader is crucial to the production of VBS. This technician isn't afraid of technology, meets cues, can run our audio system and is flexible. (1 POSITION) RESPONSIBLE TEEN OR ADULT

BIBLE ELEMENTARY LEADER - This organized storyteller brings the Bible to life for groups of elementary age kids through interactive and engaging experiences, then helps kids apply the word of God to their own lives. (4 POSITIONS) ADULTS

BIBLE PRESCHOOL LEADER - This organized storyteller brings the Bible to life for groups of elementary age kids through interactive and engaging experiences, then helps kids apply the word of God to their own lives. (4 POSITIONS) ADULTS

CRAFT LEADER ASSISTANT - The assistant craft leader aids the crafts leader in managing and preparing materials and guiding kids through the process of making a variety of crafts. (12 POSITIONS) ADULTS AND TEENS

CREW LEADER – ELEMENTARY OR PRESCHOOL - The crew leader will lead a crew of small groups of kids. There's no preparation required. A good crew leader is a friend and helper for the kids and station leaders. They ask questions, take kids seriously and encourage them throughout VBS. (FOR AGES 18 AND OLDER 38 SPOTS)

CREW LEADER ASSISTANT ELEMENTARY OR PRESCHOOL -The assistant crew leader serves as a secondary crew leader. They help manage supplies, get the crew from station to station and help with experiences for their crew. A good assistant crew leader is attentive, patient, and always looking for ways to help without being asked. (TEENS AGES 12-17 38+SPOTS)

GAMES LEADER - The energetic and organized individual is in charge of leading groups of elementary age kids in fun physical activities and discussions. You don't need to be an Olympian, you just need to be organized, energetic, and fun loving. (3 POSITIONS) 18 AND OLDER

GAMES LEADER ASSISTANT - The assistant game leader aids the games leader in preparing and leading fun and noncompetitive activities. You can expect lots of hard work, fun, and high-fives.(9 POSITIONS) TEENS

NURSERY DIRECTOR FOR VOLUNTEERS CHILDREN AGES 0-3 -Lead our youngest children (under age 4) and assistants of our VBS volunteers during the week. Sing songs, eat snacks, lead a short Bible story, make crafts, play and pray! Everything will be there for you! (2 POSITIONS) ADULTS

NURSERY DIRECTOR ASSISTANT FOR VOLUNTEERS CHILDREN AGES 0-3 Assist our youngest children (under age 4) of our VBS volunteers during the week. Sing songs, eat snacks, lead a short Bible story, make crafts, play and pray! Everything will be there for you! (5 POSITIONS) TEENS

PHOTOGRAPHER - Take pictures during VBS - crews, action photos. Must have your own camera. Provide us with a smart card or transfer pictures onto a CD. (2 POSITIONS) ADULTS OR RESPONSIBLE TEENS

POWER POINT OPERATOR - Running Power Point during VBS at opening and closing each day. Willing to assist in other areas in between opening and closing. (1 POSITION) ADULT OR RESPONSIBLE TEEN

REGISTRATION ASSISTANT - Assist the registration leaders the weekend before getting nametags and class lists assembled. Assist with registration Monday and Tuesday mornings of VBS. (5 POSITIONS) ADULTS

SET UP CREW - Help set up after late church Sunday, June 11. (30 POSITIONS) ALL AGES - FAMILIES WELCOME!

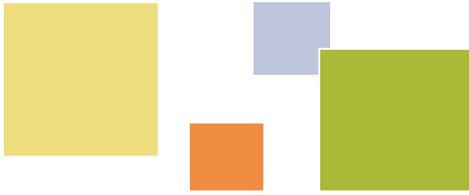
SNACK LEADER ASSISTANT -The assistant snack leader aids the snack leader in organizing materials and any prep work required for preparing and delivering the snacks, assists with getting the snacks out to the children at the tables. (10 POSITIONS) ADULTS AND TEENS

SPECIAL NEEDS ASSISTANT - Assist one on one with our children with special needs. (6 POSITIONS) ADULTS OR RESPONSIBLE TEENS

TAKE DOWN HELPERS - Help to Take Down Set after closing on Thursday night JUNE 14 (20 POSITIONS) ALL AGES FAMILIES ARE WELCOME!

WHEREVER HELP IS NEEDED - This is the place where you don't really care where you serve, you just want to join in the fun and help where the need is the greatest.

PRAYER TEAM - come together OR on your own to pray for VBS participants and volunteers and staff. (6 positions)



March

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Worship 7pm	2 JAM (Jesus And Me) Room 2131 9am	3 Worship 6pm CPP 10am FATHER DAUGHTER DANCE 5:30-8PM
4	5	6 CPP (Child Protection Program) 6:30PM Library	7 Lent Service 12:15 & 7pm Wed Night Connections 5:45-6:45 Dinner at 5:15	8 Worship 7pm	9  Break Begins!	10 Worship 6pm
11 Spring Forward Daylight Savings Begins Worship 8 & 10:45 Multi generational SS at 9:30	12	13	14 Lent Service 12:15 & 7pm No Wed Night Connections	15 Worship 7pm	16	17 Worship 6pm  Happy St. Patrick's Day!
18 Worship 8 & 10:45 Multi generational SS at 9:30	19	20  Spring begins	21 Lent Service 12:15 & 7pm No Wed Night Connections	22 Worship 7pm 	23	24 Worship 6pm
25  Worship 8 & 10:45 SS 9:30	26	27 Baptism class 7pm	28 Wed Night Connections dinner at 5:30 Classes at 6:30-7:45	29 Maundy Thursday Worship 12:15 & 7pm	30  Services 12:15 & 7pm	31 No Worship



Easter April 1st