



A PARENT'S GUIDE

to Making Faith Connections Using the Whirl: Leo & Friends DVDs

This guide applies to *Craft Crabs and Other Inspired Adventures: Volume 1*.

Welcome to the Whirl: Leo & Friends DVDs!

Each animated episode is designed to entertain kids with a story about Leo and his friends, as they have adventures, solve problems, and learn about faith together. Every episode is inspired by a story from the Bible. Check out the reference at the end of this guide to make these connections to Scripture.

Using Whirl: Leo & Friends With Your Child

The questions and activities in this parent guide offer flexibility, so your family can use it as you see fit. You can ask questions exactly as they are written—or tweak them a bit! Do the activities just as they are, or add your own flair, or substitute your own ideas. However you choose to use this guide and wherever (in the car, in the family room, at the park) you do so, remember the goal is open communication with your child. Leave space for tough questions. Allow some answers to be “I don’t know.” Let ideas linger as your family goes deeper with Whirl: Leo & Friends and seeks what God might be saying to you through it and your time together.

Discussion Questions

After watching some episodes of Whirl: Leo & Friends, start a discussion with your child using these questions:

- Which episode was your favorite and why?
- What happened in the episode? What was one problem the kids faced? How did they solve it?
- What was a lesson the kids learned? What was a lesson *you* learned from this episode?
- Which character did you like best and why? What made this character special?
- Which character was most like you? What made this character similar to you? How are you different?

- What is something your whole family could learn from this episode? How could this episode help your family to grow stronger?
- How does this episode help you understand more about God?

Activities

Prototype for a Better World

The Whirl character Leo hopes his inventions will make the world—at least his part of the world—a better place. Though his inventions don't always go according to plan, his intentions—mostly—are good and ought to get us thinking: What invention would we like to see that might make the world better? Why not design a prototype?

As a family, spend some time brainstorming an idea. What's *one thing* that would make the world better? (If you can't agree, toss your ideas into a hat and choose one!) Discuss what the invention would do and what problem it would solve. Then design it! Either sketch it out and leave it as a drawing or go the extra mile and *build* the prototype using materials from around the house.

Share:

Why would this invention make the world a better place? Even without this particular invention, how might we address the problem this invention seeks to solve?

Real and Imaginary

The Whirl DVDs mix the real (photographs) with the imaginary (drawings), resulting in fun, fresh ways to see the world. Take a stab at creating your own mix of real and imaginary. Find a photograph and make a large copy of it (black and white on your home printer will do). Now add your own sketches or colorings or stickers or 3-D objects to the photo. How does this change your view of reality? How does it enhance it?

Share:

How might the skill of being able to imagine something else in a picture help you imagine God's presence in the world?

What Were They Thinking?

Whirl episodes were created to help kids process their faith in ways that relate to real life. This means the stories don't always come to a tidy resolution. Characters sometimes make mistakes, say or do something unkind, feel angry or sad, and even struggle with their faith. Choose one or two of these moments from an episode, and ask your kids what the characters were thinking. Ask them if they have ever done or said something similar. Invite your child to imagine alternate endings. Then remind them that even when life is hard and even when we make mistakes, God loves us and forgives us.

Lines to Remember

Below are some lines from selected episodes. If you recognize the lines and can set them in context, feel free to do so. Otherwise, just read the lines with your child and ask: What's interesting about this? What questions does it answer? What questions does it raise?

"Holding a grudge doesn't help anything and it hurts everyone."
—*"The Postcard"*

"The last shall be made first and the first shall be made last."
—*"Funtopia"*

"You really care about the people you're trying to help. And that's inspiring!"
—*"World Skirting"*

"Church is supposed to be a safe, welcoming place."
—*"BURT"*

"Church is about encouraging one another, not tearing each other down with petty arguments. We're supposed to be rejoicing in the Lord and rejoicing in each other."
—*"Pizza Impasse"*

"Um, this says, 'Let God be in charge.' . . . It means you're supposed to open your hearts and let God lead you to serve others."
—*"Party Supremacy"*

"Our parents make us do things—like clean our rooms—so we're able to do things for ourselves. And so then we can help others. Because they love us and want us to spread our love to others."
—*"Tough Love"*

"It appears as if Her Excellency has forgotten the entire point of the food drive."
—*"Canned Drive"*

"You can't just rely on someone else being prepared."

"If we're unprepared when God calls us into action, then we've lost sight of what it means to be a Christian."
—*"Crash Tractor"*

"It was just basic physics."
—*"Exscream"*

"You can just taste the irony, can't you? People working so hard to reach out to someone while simultaneously turning their backs on someone else."
—*"Outcast Committee"*

"I thought repenting is part of preparing the way for Jesus."
—*"Rugged Remorse"*

"It's up to us. We have to fix [the world]. One person at a time."
—*"Jaded to the World"*

"They did things completely out of order!"
"I guess [Mary] had faith . . . that God would see her through it."
—*"Theologiautomaton"*

"People have all kinds of expectations. But I know I can never live up to all of them. All I can really do is trust that God will help me do the best that I can."
—*"Overwelcomed"*

"Sometimes you have to speak to people in a language they understand."
—*"Word to the Bird"*

"And God saw that it was good."
—*"Our Lot of Life"*

"Sorry, God. I keep trying to listen to you, but I keep getting distracted by someone who needs help."
—*"A Little Help Here"*

"I just had planned on being with one of my friends for this."
"I'm sorry I messed up your plan."
"Well, I guess it wasn't anything you did."
—*"Craft Crabs"*

"To remind each other that even though the world can be a harsh and scary place, God is with us. God brings us healing and makes us whole."
—*"Safety Suit"*

Reference

These selections from Scripture help you take the Whirl stories deeper. See if you can connect themes or lessons from the episodes to the passages below.

The Postcard

Matthew 18:21-35
The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

Funtopia

Matthew 20:1-16
The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard

World Skirting

Matthew 21:23-32
Two Sons in the Vineyard

“BURT”

Matthew 21:33-46
Rejection in the Vineyard

Pizza Impasse

Philippians 4:1-9
Rejoice in the Lord Always

Party Supremacy

Matthew 22:15-22
A Question about Taxes

Tough Love

Matthew 22:34-46
The Greatest Commandment

Canned Drive

Matthew 23:1-12
Humble and Exalted

Crash Tractor

Matthew 25:1-13
Ten Bridesmaids

Exscream

Matthew 25:14-30
The Parable of the Talents

Outcast Committee

Matthew 25:31-46
Sheep and Goats

Rugged Remorse

Mark 1:1-8
John the Baptist

Jaded to the World

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
Justice and Jubilee

Theologiautomaton

Luke 1:26-38
The Annunciation

Overwelcomed

Luke 2:22-40
Simeon and Anna

Word to the Bird

John 1:1-18
Jesus the Word

Our Lof of Life

Genesis 1:1-5
In the Beginning

A Little Help Here

1 Samuel 3:1-20
God Calls Samuel

Craft Crabs

Jonah 3:1-5, 10
Jonah in Nineveh

Safety Suit

Mark 1:21-28
Healing in the Synagogue