



# the Parent LINK

Children's Ministry Edition

## January 2012

Lord, Show us to strengthen our families



Help us to be courageous leaders in our families

Calvary Baptist Church  
3001 Loop 150 East  
Bastrop, TX 78602  
512-303-1697

Sunday School 9:30 am  
Morning Worship 10:50  
Children's Church 11:15  
Wed night 5:30—7:00

Transportation from S.T.A.R.S .available



## POWERSOURCE

### ASK GOD:

1. For guidance as you set appropriate rules and boundaries.
2. To help you deal with rebellion in a calm, positive, and loving manner.
3. To forgive you when you rebel against God and his commands.

## Deal With Rebellion Constructively

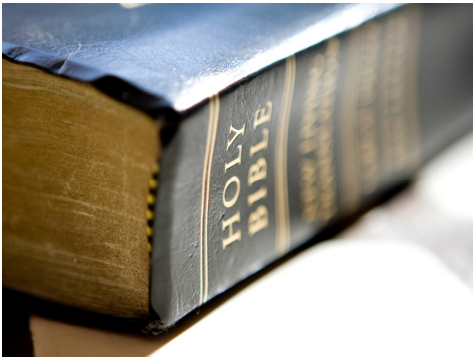
Because of sin, all of us rebel against authorities and God. As parents quickly discover, children are no exception. These little “angels” assert independence by rebelling against rules from a young age. But the Bible instructs parents to discipline children out of love, molding them into Christians who strive to obey God and respect other people. Use these strategies for dealing with rebellion as children grow:

- Birth to 2 years: Accept that God gives even newborns the ability to display unique temperaments. Provide lots of comfort and warmth.
- 3 to 4 years: Listen carefully and respond to children's physical and emotional needs. Explore what upsets them. Model Christ's love by giving kids affection.
- 5 to 7 years: Offer choices and clear consequences for disobedience. Balance your demands with warmth and reason.
- 8 to 12 years: Consistently enforce rules. Let children know you trust them, and praise them for a job well done. Evaluate tough situations and ask what kids can do differently next time.

### ***What's happening at Calvary for families?***

***Sundays 9:30am Sunday School ages birth to 100  
10:50am we join for family worship time  
11:15 Children's Moment with Mrs. Becky  
11:20—noon Children 's worship in Children's church  
while adults learn in sermon time with Pastor Richard  
5:30-7:30pm—Bible study with childcare available***

***Wed nights—Children In Action includes dinner at 5:30  
Wed night Adult and Youth Bible studies at 6pm***



***"Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and your plans will succeed."  
Proverbs 16:3***

"Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners"—and I am the worst of them all. But God had mercy on me so that Christ Jesus could use me as a prime example of his great patience with even the worst sinners.  
(1 Timothy 1:15)

God used Paul, who once persecuted Christians, to spread the news of God's grace and forgiveness.

## TEACHABLE MOMENTS

**1. When You Were My Age—**Share with children some of the rules you had to follow while growing up, whether they're different from or similar to your current household rules. Then discuss some ways rules are good for us, even when we don't like to follow them.

**2. God's Grace—**While discussing people in the Bible who made bad choices and faced consequences, be sure to emphasize God's grace, as well. For example, King David suffered greatly after sinning, but he sought—and received—God's forgiveness.



**3. Commandments 2.0—**Work together to reword each of God's Ten Commandments as a loving guideline from a loving God. For example, you may write, "Because I want you to be protected from religions that would mislead you, don't have any other gods except me."

## Discuss rebellion and obedience by asking children these conversation-starting questions:

1. What makes people rebel, or break the rules? Why is it sometimes difficult to do what we're supposed to do?
2. How is rule-setting an act of love? What should we do when a rule doesn't seem loving or when we disagree with it?
3. How does God respond to our sins and mistakes? How do you respond when other people break rules, and why?

## FAMILY EXPERIENCE

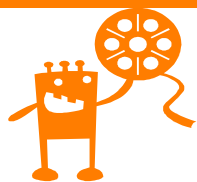
Use these activities to share the message that God wants us to follow and obey him.

**The Master's Voice—**Set up an obstacle course and have family members take turns trying to navigate it while blindfolded. Designate one person to give correct directions while everyone else shouts out wrong directions. Afterward, discuss what it was like trying to decide which voice to trust. Read John 10:1-5. Ask: "What makes it difficult to hear God's voice and follow his instructions? What are some ways God speaks to us and helps us learn to hear him?" Close in prayer, asking God to make you good listeners and followers of him.

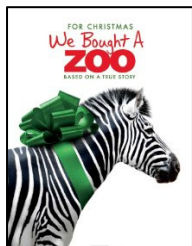
• **Family Footprints—**Make imprints of your feet as reminders to walk with God. You'll need a large sheet of black plastic, sand, plaster of Paris, water, and a mixing bucket. Pour 3 inches of sand onto the black plastic. Mix enough water into the sand so it'll hold a mold. Mix the plaster of Paris and water in the bucket according to the directions. Help each family member press a foot 2 inches into the sand. Carefully pour plaster into each footprint. The plaster takes 30 minutes to harden.



While prints are drying, read aloud Joshua 22:5 and discuss what it means to walk with God. Ask: "What ways do we rely on each other? What ways do you rely on God? How are these ways similar or different?" When the footprints have hardened, gently dig them out. Then display them in your yard or garden as reminders to obey and walk with God.



# MEDIA MADNESS



## MOVIES

**Movie:** *We Bought a Zoo*

**Genre:** Comedy, Drama

**Rating:** PG (for language and some thematic elements)

**Cast:** Matt Damon, Elle Fanning

**Synopsis:** After his wife dies, a father moves his family to a new home that comes with a struggling private zoo. The ensuing adventures help the family pull together and heal.

**Our Take:** Use this film, based on a real story, as a launching point to discuss challenges you've faced and overcome as a family.



## MUSIC

**Artist:** Rachel Chan

**Album:** *Go*

**Artist Info:** Rachel is the 15-year-old daughter of preacher and author Francis Chan.

**Summary:** Rachel's debut album addresses common struggles, such as disobeying parents. The song "Prove It" puts a "funny twist on what a godly relationship between father and daughter should look like," she says.

**Our Take:** Rachel's talent and boldness about her faith make her a positive influence on preteen music fans.

Give your child the gift of obedience.  
Teach them by example.



## CULTURE & TRENDS

- Studies show that religious identity and the friends you make at church lead to happiness. The close interactions, researchers say, are what contribute to feelings of well-being. *(American Sociological Review)*
- Music stations such as Radio Disney acknowledge that parents are now a core part of their audience. They're reaching out to people who grew up listening to those tunes. Marketers say a mixture of genres has led to Radio Disney's longevity. *(reuters.com)*

## GAMES

Title	Content	Rating & Platform
Fortune Street	Players move along a board, similar to Monopoly. They can choose to be a variety of characters and play on 15 different game boards.	E; Wii
Aqua Mania	This compilation of "sims" for water lovers includes My Sim Aquarium, My Ocean Sim, and three other games.	E; PC (\$4.99 at amazon.com)
Star Walk	With this GPS-based app, families can go on a walk at night and learn about stars and planets, with charts tailored to your location. (Use adult supervision.)	\$3 at itunes.com

## QUICK STATS

- As many as 10% of kids have an anxiety disorder. Experts recommend parents acknowledge feelings, provide plenty of down time, and encourage physical exercise and journaling. *(Dept. of Health & Human Services)*
- 71% of moms say they can't go more than a day without using the Internet. Meanwhile, 42% of children think their parents need to disconnect from technology more at home.
- *(parenting.com)*



Sundays are important at Calvary Baptist. **We come expecting something exciting from God** and we are rarely disappointed. When disappointment comes we find it is because we were not ready to follow His Word. Here at Calvary we are **not satisfied with playing Church.** We try with all we are to live like the Church. We are people who live our lives by **asking ourselves, What Would Jesus Do? And then do what He would do.** We are **not phony or pretentious.** We expect that mature Christians will want to **honor God in their talk, in the way they dress and most importantly in their actions.** You will find in our church people who give sacrificially of their time because the mission of sharing Christ is that important. We do not live perfect lives, there was only one perfect man who ever walked on earth and His name is Jesus. We are willing to laugh at ourselves and we enjoy doing things together. Calvary feels like family, the family of God and everyone is welcome. If God has been calling your heart, come visit with us and see if it finds a home here. Some of you may be going through situations that have kept you from total peace. Don't delay, **there is peace in the arms of Christ.**

**9:30 am** Sunday School—two adults classes, 4 age level classes for children and a youth class.

**10:50am** All family Worship

**11:00am** Children's Moment where we try to help the church experience the faith of a child.

**11:15am** Children leave for Children's Church where we build on the Sunday School lesson and learn how to apply it to our lives by using video clips, music, play and crafts.

**5:30 pm—7:30pm**—Adult Bible Study—Childcare provided. over the w

**Wednesday night**—Children in Action (CIA) 5:30—7:00pm We pick up students from STARS (you must give permission to the after school program) Let us know and we will gladly pick them up, feed them dinner and teach them about how children all over the world are just like us, they need Jesus. A \$3 donation is welcome to cover the costs of dinner.

If you have questions email me : [welovekids@calvarybaptistbastrop.org](mailto:welovekids@calvarybaptistbastrop.org)—Evonne Boggs, Children's Minister

Calvary Baptist Church  
Richard Shahan, Pastor

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strong families.**

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