



August 2010

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## Our Faithful God Builds His Church

With Buzz, your children continue to discover that God is faithful. One way he's faithful is that he uses his followers—and the talents he's blessed them with—to grow the church. Before ascending back to heaven (Matthew 28: 19-20), Jesus commanded us to “go and make disciples of all the nations.” But he didn't leave us to do this work alone. He promised, “I am with you always.”

You don't have to be a grown-up to help build God's church. People of all ages have a role to play in his family. In fact, children are often more comfortable talking about their faith than adults are. Here are some ways to encourage your young faith-builders:

**Get creative.** Use imaginative play to help young children discover how they can tell about God. Help them retell a Bible story to each other or sing a song about God to their stuffed animals.

**Show your talents.** Have a neighborhood or family talent show to help children identify their God-given abilities. Then discuss ways they can use those talents to spread God's Word.



**Invite others.** Watch for special church activities or programs that will appeal to visitors, and invite other children and families to attend with you. Or you could “adopt” a family who's become disconnected from your church and work on building relationships with them.

**Vacation with a mission.** Include faith-sharing and service in your summer outings. Use some of your “down time” to lift up other people in need of God's love.

### How We Share Our Faith

- Older church attenders prefer not to talk about their faith, believing their life example is sufficient. Young people say a common barrier for sharing their faith is that it's often difficult to talk about God in ordinary language. (ncls.org)
- Among adults, the most popular faith-sharing method is praying with someone in crisis. Young adults prefer to use ongoing discussions (in person and online) with friends. They tend to avoid confronting or preaching. (barna.org)

PowerSource



### Ask God:

1. To help you encourage your children to share their faith.
2. To show you ways that your family can build God's church together.
3. To encourage you to find new uses for your God-given gifts.

### Parenting Insights

These age-level insights from *Children's Ministry Magazine* describe how children's faith and faith-sharing develop:

#### Ages 2 to 4

Preschoolers understand that God wants us to obey him by telling others about Jesus. Their lack of social inhibition and growing ability to emphasize allow them to express their faith easily.

#### Ages 5 to 8

School-age children have a good understanding of the gospel message, as well as rapidly expanding vocabularies. They also realize that not everyone knows about God's love.

#### Ages 9 to 12

Older children have coherent communication skills, as well as concern for their community and world. They can be motivated to share their faith as a way to make an impact.

## OpenTheBook

**"And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere...to the ends of the earth."**

**Acts 1:8**

God blessed the early believers' efforts to spread his Word, and he'll help and bless us, too.

### Teachable Moments

1. **Aim First**—Play Frisbee together and ask what you had to do to catch the disk—and to make sure other people could catch it. Read Romans 10:14-17 and talk about who you can "aim" the gospel at this week.



2. **Calling All Helpers**—Fill a box with heavy books and see how many family members are needed to move it. Read Acts 2:1-6 and discuss God's gift of a helper, his Holy Spirit. Share ways you need the Holy Spirit to help you share your faith.
3. **Missionary in the Mirror**—Talk to your children about how God calls everyone to share his love with other people—and how important it is to follow that call. Then tell your kids you're going to introduce them to a missionary. Let each person, one at a time, peek into the mirror to see the special missionary—themselves!



**"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**

**Talk to your children about how they can obey their faithful God by building his church. Start by asking these questions:**

1. Why does God ask for our help in telling others about him? Why do you think some people keep God's good news to themselves?
2. What's the most important message you'd like to share about God—and who do you want to tell?
3. How can you use your talents and gifts to help build God's church and spread his Word? How are you a missionary for God every day in your own family, school, and town?

## Family Experience: On a Mission

**Try these activities together as a family or, better yet, invite other families to join you:**

- **Scavenger Hunt**—Go on a missions scavenger hunt to collect items for missionaries. Beforehand, make a list of items such as nonperishable food, movies, CDs, books, toys, board games, toiletries, and so on. Set a spending limit and consider asking friends and neighbors for donations. As you hunt, discuss mission-related questions; for example, "Why do you think people want to become missionaries in foreign lands?" and "How can we build God's church without leaving our own country?" Afterward, assemble boxes that you can donate to missions organizations.
- **Body Building**—Visit a facility with a challenge course that's appropriate for your children or create your own obstacle course. Include activities that require working together and helping each other. After tackling the course, ask: "How did we work together to finish this course? When did people try to do things on their own, and how did that work out? When did you see or hear people encouraging one another?" Read aloud Ephesians 4:4-13. Ask: "Why do you think the word *one* is used so many times here? What special gifts are listed in this passage? What gifts do you use to help and serve others?" Say: "We're all one body, and we use our different gifts to help each other and to share about God." Conclude by sharing a snack and celebrating the unity that everyone experienced.





## What's Playing at the Movies

**Movie:** *Nanny McPhee Returns* (August 20)  
**Genre:** Family comedy/fantasy  
**Rating:** PG (for rude humor, some language, and mild thematic elements)

**Cast:** Emma Thompson, Maggie Gyllenhaal, Ewan McGregor, Ralph Fiennes

**Synopsis:** During World War II, an overwhelmed British mom tries to run the family farm, work, and raise three ornery children while her husband is away at war. When two spoiled cousins join the household, launching another type of war, Mom calls on Nanny McPhee to work some magic.

**Discussion Questions:** What responsibilities do your parents have? How do you make those roles easier or more difficult? Read aloud Colossians 3:20. Why is it tough to always obey parents and authorities? Why does it please God when we obey? How can our family work together better?



## What Music Is Releasing

**Artist:** Natalie Grant

**Album:** *Love Revolution*

**Artist Info:** Grant has won four Dove Awards in a row for female artist of the year. She also founded the Home Foundation, which helps female victims of human slavery and trafficking.

**Summary:** Grant's eighth album features her strong vocals and gripping, faith-inspired lyrics. About the first single, "Greatness of Our God," Grant says, "While my mind cannot begin to truly comprehend the greatness of God, neither can any of my doubts restrain his greatness. I'm so grateful that in these strange and scary times...God is in control."

**Discussion Questions:** What are some ways you know God is great? When and why do you doubt God? Read aloud Psalm 77:13-14. Would you ever want to be in control of our world—or of your life? How does it feel to know that God is in control of everything?



## What Games Are Out

Title	Content	Rating & Platform
<i>Backyard Sports: Sandlot Sluggers</i>	Players team up with a diverse group of neighborhood kids to play this arcade-style game with exaggerated animations.	E; Xbox, Wii, Nintendo DS
<i>Puzzle Agent</i>	While helping Nelson Tethers solve brain teasers, players replenish his supply of chewing gum. Some off-color humor.	Not yet rated; WiiWare, iPhone, iPad
<i>Despicable Me</i>	Players become Gru, the criminal mastermind from the hit movie, by planning heists with wacky gadgets.	E10+; Wii, Nintendo DS, PSP, PS2

**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:



- To prevent cliques and bullying, some schools, camps, and parents now discourage kids from having one best friend. (msnbc.com)
- Because of the recession, more day-care providers are offering flexible hours, reducing rates, and working out pay arrangements. (about.com)

## Quick Stats

- Parents keep their kids sharp in summer with:
  - 68%—Daily learning activities
  - 36%—Reading program
  - 12%—Summer homework
  - 10%—Nothing ("We need a break.") (momconnection.com)
- 22% of 7- to 11-year-olds who play video games have significant finger and wrist pain. Experts recommend frequent breaks and stretches. (ASHT)

# August 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
GoFish Backstage with the Bible VBS 5:30-8:30 pm	GoFish Backstage with the Bible VBS 5:30-8:30 pm	GoFish Backstage with the Bible VBS 5:30-8:30 pm	GoFish Backstage with the Bible VBS 5:30-8:30 pm	GoFish VBS and Carnival 5:30-8:30 pm		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Sunday KidZone 9:00 and 10:30 am						
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Sunday KidZone 9:00 and 10:30 am						
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Sunday KidZone 9:00 and 10:30 am						
29	30	31				
Sunday KidZone 9:00 and 10:30 am			<b>Go Fish</b> Live and in concert at BWC on Sept. 12 @5:30 pm			