



May 2019



## Preschool

Growing Authentic Followers of Jesus

Sundays  
9:30am/11:00am

Wednesdays  
6:30pm

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## TEACHABLE SNACK MOMENTS

Supplies:

Small twisted pretzels

White chocolate chips and/or semisweet chocolate chips

Sprinkles

Waxed paper

Cookie Sheet

Cover a cookie sheet with waxed paper. Place about ½ cup white chocolate and semisweet chocolate chips in separate microwave safe bowls. Melt chocolate in the microwave (about 2 minutes on medium setting). Stir to smooth any unmelted chocolate. Demonstrate how to dip the pretzel twists in the chocolate and lay them on the waxed paper. Assist your child as she dips pretzels. Shake the sprinkles over the pretzel before the chocolate sets. Place the cookie sheet in the refrigerator for a few minutes so the chocolate can harden. As you enjoy your pretzel snack, talk about how the folded “arms” of the pretzel remind us of folded hands when we pray, and that all the different colors of sprinkles remind us of all the different things we can pray about. Take a few minutes to pray together, thanking God for food and family.



## We Have the Hope of Heaven

Until children are about 5 or 6, it's best to talk about heaven as a place where they can live someday. Don't try to explain the spiritual or abstract aspects of heaven yet. As children grow, they'll begin asking more questions—especially why people go to heaven or hell when they die. If you don't have all the answers, be honest and research what the Bible says. Explain that Jesus wants everyone to live with him forever, and remind kids that people's actions don't send them to heaven or hell. Believing in Jesus is the only way to heaven, and it's his free gift to us.

**A Special Place** Say: **When we're friends with Jesus, we'll go to heaven someday. The Bible says heaven is amazing.** Have family members use modeling dough to create shapes of what they imagine heaven will be like. Say: **Matthew 6:20 says we'll have treasures in heaven. John 14:2 says heaven has rooms for many people. Revelation 19:1 says people in heaven shout praises to God. Revelation 21:3-4 says God lives with us in heaven and wipes away our tears. There's no more sadness or death in heaven. It's our forever home with God.**

**Transformed** When you see butterflies, discuss their lifecycle and how that symbolizes our rebirth in Jesus. Say: **After a caterpillar spins a cocoon, it begins a new life as a beautiful butterfly. Someday we'll die, but when we believe in Jesus, he gives us a beautiful new life in heaven. We'll be happy and free forever!** Draw or make butterflies as reminders of new life in Jesus.

**Headed to Heaven** Place a variety of small items on a tray. Say: **Look at these items and try to remember them all.** Have family members close their eyes while you remove one item. Then have them guess what's missing. Play several rounds. Read aloud Acts

1:8-11. Ask: **How hard was this game? What do you think about how Jesus disappeared in the clouds? Why do you think Jesus returned to heaven?** Say: **Jesus is preparing a place for us in heaven, but he's still with us today, in our hearts. Jesus is never missing.**

**A Work of Heart** On Memorial Day (or when there's a death in your family), make a reminder of people who've gone to heaven. Decorate paper squares, listing one person or group (such as soldiers) on each square. Tape squares to form a remembrance quilt. Say: **When people die, we miss them. The Bible tells us a reason to not feel so sad.** Read John 3:16. Say: **If we believe in Jesus, we'll go to heaven. What do you think we'll do there?** Pray, thanking God for people who've already gone to heaven.

**Crown Jewels** Make crowns out of construction paper and craft gems. Read aloud Revelation 21:10-11, 18-23. Ask: **Why do you think heaven is filled with gold, precious gems, bright light, and no darkness?** Read Revelation 2:10. Say: **We're children of Jesus the King; we're his heirs. That means we'll live in his kingdom of heaven.**

“For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.”

—John 3:16

## Prayer

### POWERSOURCE

#### PRAY TO JESUS:

1. Ask Jesus to remind your family members of his love and his promise of heaven.
2. Ask Jesus to help you tell others about him—and about heaven.

This month our Bible teaching is about prayer. Your preschooler will learn about Jesus and His prayers.

In three of the four sessions this unit, Jesus is not teaching by sitting down with people and saying, “Let me teach you how to pray.” Of course, that is important, but Jesus taught a lot about prayer by modeling it. He prayed with a big crowd thanking God for providing food (John 6:1-13). He prayed alone, asking for God's strength in facing the cross (Luke 22:39-46). Jesus prayed for God's protection and wisdom for His disciples (John 17:9, 20-23).

We all know preschoolers learn much more from watching us, seeing what we do and copying it, than by what we tell them to do. Have you ever experienced your child repeating what you said in a moment of frustration while driving? I sure did! It was more than a little humbling to hear unkind words I said repeated by a three-year-old.

Jesus taught about prayer and followed it up with actions in every day situations. I recently read a helpful book by Rick Osborne called **Teaching Your Child to Pray**. He encourages parents to keep it simple: “We need to teach our children to speak from their hearts, to use their own words, to talk about things that concern or interest them.”

I love it when I happen to be in a classroom when it is prayer time. Preschoolers have lots of interesting things they want to talk to God about from a hurt finger, to a sick dog, a friend moving away or a grandparent in the hospital. I am reminded that God cares about everything, even those things that we adults often deem unimportant.

If you are interested, I would love to share a copy of **Teaching Your Child to Pray** with you.

## MEDIA MADNESS



### MOVIE

**Title:** *UglyDolls*  
**Genre:** Animated musical comedy  
**Rating:** Not yet rated  
**Cast:** Emma Roberts, Kelly Clarkson, Nick Jonas, Janelle Monáe  
**Synopsis:** Free-spirited misfit dolls are each searching for an ideal human match. They leave UglyVille for the Institute of Perfection, where beauty and conformity are prized. Moxy, the group's leader, helps the UglyDolls feel good about being exactly who they are—flaws and all.  
**Our Take:** As a kid-friendly parable, this movie champions the value of individuality. Parents can add a biblical perspective, emphasizing that God makes us each different and special. Encourage kids to be proud of their unique traits and talents.



### MUSIC

**Artist:** *Halsey*  
**Synopsis:** Singer-songwriter Halsey rose to fame via Tumblr and has built a following for the past five years. Now 24, Halsey has gone mainstream, often appearing on TV and awards shows and ever-present on kids' playlists. Her single "Without Me" was a chart-topper, and she's working on her third album. Halsey's lyrics and videos are often dark and sexually explicit, featuring violent imagery and alcohol use.  
**Our Take:** Halsey has bipolar disorder and advocates for suicide prevention, which is admirable. She's also vocal about her bisexuality and struggles as a homeless teenager. The mature content in her lyrics and videos isn't a positive influence or appropriate for kids.

## Games, Sites & Apps

### Candygrams

This colorful anagram board game for two to four players involves luck and strategy. It's like a child-friendly Scrabble hybrid, with color-coding thrown into the mix. Candygrams helps kids develop word skills and can be played at different paces. It costs \$24.99 and is designed for ages 7+.

### Pants on Fire

In this silly game show, listeners become lie-detectors to decide which of two "experts" is real. On each episode, a child interviews two people to determine who knows their stuff and whose pants are on fire from lying. The podcast, geared toward preteens, teaches kids to be good question-askers.

### Kanopy Kids

To access the content available through this app, all you need is a library card. The kids' section is filled with a wide variety of animated books, educational videos, and TV series. Parents should oversee usage, though, making sure young users stay only in the Kanopy Kids section.

This page is designed to help educate parents and isn't meant to endorse any movie, music, or product. Our goal is to help you make informed decisions about what your children watch, read, listen to, and play.



## CULTURE & TRENDS

**Dolls With Disabilities** The 2019 line of Barbie dolls, out in June, includes a doll with a prosthetic limb and one with a wheelchair (plus a ramp for the Barbie Dream House). Mattel consulted a 13-year-old disability activist and medical experts for advice. Also debuting are dolls with "a new body type and braided hair texture." (*disabilityscoop.com*)

**Walk & Talk Therapy** A new mode of counseling is ideal for stroller-pushing parents. Some therapists now offer "on the go" sessions, walking alongside parents who either lack child-care or prefer to stay with their kids. Counselors say people tend to open up more while walking side by side, when eye contact isn't required. Plus, exercise releases mood-boosting endorphins. (*cnn.com*)

## RIGHTNOW MEDIA

Did you know that you have access to Rightnow Media through Magnolia Church? It's free and fun for you and for your family. A new parenting series that caught my eye is called "Engage" and is on "raising kids in a tech-obsessed social media world." For those of you who want quick results, like me, check out "Have a New Kid by Friday!" Let me know if it works!

Rightnow Media also has kid series, Bible studies, marriage, women and men, apologetics, and other great resources! Check it out at [www.magonline.com/children](http://www.magonline.com/children).

# May 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 <b>Women's Spring Tea</b> 2pm (Register for childcare online)
12	13	14	15	16	17	18 <b>Parents Night Out</b> 6pm—10pm (Register online)
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 <b>VBS Training</b> 12:30pm
26	27	28	29	30	31	
	<b>Memorial Day</b> (Church Office Closed)					