

CELEBRATION SUNDAY
MAY 23 ~ 9:45 – 10:45 a.m.

Sunday school classes from the 3-year olds through God Squad 45 will present an activity their class enjoyed and each student will receive a promotion certificate. Perfect attendance awards will also be distributed. Bibles will be presented to the 5-year old class, 2nd graders and 5th graders. This is a great time to thank the teachers who have diligently been in the classroom this past year. At the end of the program everyone is invited for punch and cookies in Fellowship Hall. Come and cheer on the kids!



EASTER EGG HUNT
April 3, 2010 ~ 10 a.m.—Noon

We will meet at the church. Bring one dozen filled plastic eggs for each of your children and an Easter basket. Questions? call Laurie Basil at 303-682-9417

COURAGE AWARD

Parents, we are looking for kids who have earned the Courage Award for this year. We are looking for kids who have demonstrated their faith without being told. This can be sharing their faith with a friend, doing a service project to raise money for disaster victims, or making a hard choice that reflects their commitment to God. Some example from the past---refusing to play a make-up game on Sunday because the child wanted to be in Sunday school, forgiving some one for not be included in an event where everyone else in the class was invited. Please let Alva Wiersma know so we can honor these kids on Celebration Sunday, May 23. **We want to surprise the kids, so please do not tell your kids.**



Great Date Night
Friday, April 9

Enjoy an evening out with your spouse, or if you are a single parent invite a friend to join you. Drop your child(ren) off at church at 5:45 p.m., and go for dinner, a walk, or whatever you can creatively do until 8 p.m. We ask that you bring a meal for your child. (Pack your own or bring a Happy Meal) **If the weather is good we will play outside so dress accordingly** Also bring a toy or game your child enjoys and would be willing to share (it does go home with you) as we have a limited number of toys. For children in the nursery you may bring pajamas. For older kids NO pajamas.



Central Children's Ministry
Children's Christian Education Committee Members
Alva Wiersma Director
Pattie Austin Amy Scott Laree Smith
Judy Schaefer Rachel Van Sambeek

Family Connections
"Central to Your Life"



Central Children's
Ministry

MARCH/APRIL/MAY 2010

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June 7-10
6 - 8 p.m.

Kick-Off Sunday
May 23 ~ 1:30 p.m.

Enter a world of amazing animals, fabulous fish, intelligent insects—we'll travel a long way upriver to discover this abundant rainforest! *SonQuest Rainforest* is based on five parables told by Jesus that will make a difference in each child's life every day. Kids will:

- **GET IT!** as they hear the truths of the **Parable of the Sower**,
- **GET FOUND!** as they hear Jesus tell the **Parable of the Lost Sheep**,
- **GET GOD'S LOVE!** as they listen to the **Parable of the Good Samaritan**,
- **GET PRAYING!** from the **Parable of the Friend at Midnight** and
- **GET GOING!** as they understand the **Parable of the Talents**.

Registration for VBS is \$12 which includes one CD per family. Register with a friend and the friend's registration is free. Scholarships are available.

We still need teachers and craft helpers. If interested see Alva.

Wednesday Night Live
What's Happening in April?

April 2 ~ SPRING BREAK

April 7 ~ **Backward Night** ~ Menu: chicken Parmesan, green beans, fruit, cake

April 14 ~ **Beach Party Night** ~ Menu: hamburger, potato salad, ships, ice cream sandwiches

April 21 ~ **Bowling Party** ~ Menu: pizza

Wednesday Night Live
Bowling Party
April 21, 2010

We will meet at Centennial Lanes, 110 9th Ave. Starting at 4:30 p.m. we will all have the opportunity to bowl, followed by dinner in their party room at 6 p.m. If you are not enrolled in WNL you are invited to the bowling party. The cost is \$4. If you are already enrolled in WNL there is no cost. Please sign up in Fellowship Hall or let Alva know so we will have enough food.



For families with children between birth and 6th grade. We plan events to build and foster relationships with families of young children.

GAME NIGHT ~ FRIDAY, MARCH 26
5:30 P.M. ~ FELLOWSHIP HALL

Bring an appetizer and a game. Nursery provided for children age 4 and younger; older children are invited to join in the fun!

LUNCH ~ SUNDAY, MAY 23
Following Worship ~ EDR/WDR

Join us for lunch, and Vacation Bible School Kick-Off. Experience a VBS day and take this opportunity to register your children for VBS. This is a great time to bring a friend to experience what VBS is all about. Registration for VBS is \$12 which includes one CD per family. Register with a friend and the friend's registration is free. Scholarships are available.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- March 26Crossroads Game Night 5:30 p.m.
- April 3Easter Egg Hunt 10 a.m.-noon
- April 9 Date Night 5:45-8 p.m.
- April 19Turn Off TV Week
- April 21 WNL Bowling 4:30-7:30 p.m.
- May 23 Celebration Sunday 9:45 a.m.
- May 23Crossroads Lunch Following Worship
- May 23Crossroads
- June 7-8 VBS 6-8 p.m.
- June 21-27 Music Camp

Guide Children's Media Choices

With the explosion of technology now available, it seems like children are always plugged in, zoned out, or wired for sound. They spend less time outside, have shorter attention spans, and are exposed to online dangers such as pornography. On the positive side, technology has expanded children's knowledge and opportunities. They learn teamwork, problem-solving, and communication skills. Technology has also boosted activism among today's young people.

Although children may seem like "experts" when it comes to technology and new media, parents are still responsible for supervising what their kids are exposed to—and for how long. Two keys are moderation and interaction. These tips can help you limit and monitor what your kids see and hear:



Strategically set up your equipment and schedules. Keep televisions out of children's bedrooms, and place the computer in an accessible family area. Make media time contingent on the completion of chores and homework. Plan alternate activities, including physical ones.

Establish digital-free zones. Agree on days and times (such as dinner, family night, Sundays, etc.) when no one—including adults—is allowed to check e-mail or use any form of media.

Watch and listen to TV shows, movies, and music together. Talk about the issues that come up. Tie them into faith and provide a biblical worldview for children to consider as they use technology.

What's Up in Our Wired World?

- The average young American spends nearly every waking minute in front of an electronic device. Kids ages 8 to 18 spend more than 7.5 hours a day using computers or smart phones or watching TV. And because they multitask, they pack almost 11 hours of media content into that time. (Kaiser Family Foundation)
- 87% of parents play video games with their kids at least occasionally. (Yahoo! Shine)
- 20% of young people admit they've engaged in "sexting"—emailing or receiving nude photos or videos. (Associated Press-MTV)



Ask God:

1. For wisdom as you oversee your children's media "diet."
2. To help your kids make good decisions about technology.
3. To show you ways to use technology in positive, family-building ways.

Parenting Insights

In *Children's Ministry Magazine*, online expert Tracy Carpenter explores some ways that technology is impacting young hearts and minds.

1. **Shifting relationships—**Although kids still belong to social groups, the emphasis is no longer on face-to-face gatherings. Preteens, wired for relationships, now think in terms of their "audience" rather than their peer group.
2. **Trying on identities—**Children express their developing personalities through social-networking sites and online role-playing. Preteens, emulating "cool," may try to outdo one another with suggestive images.
3. **Providing "TMI"—**Young people still forming judgment and boundaries are sharing too much private information in very

OpenTheBook

"Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in. ...Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit."

Revelation 3:20, 22

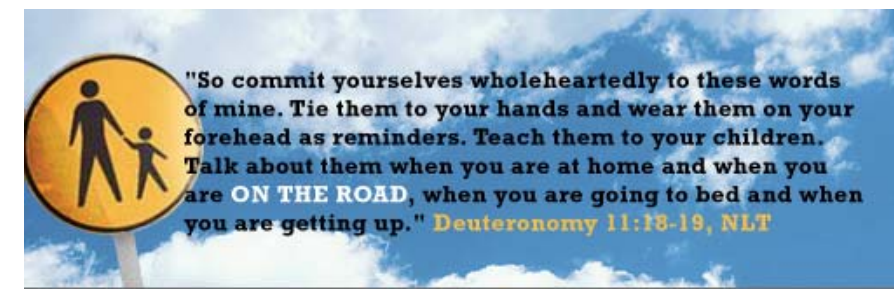
God may not be able to IM or text us, but he wants a relationship that goes beyond weekly worship. God is available 24/7 and—best of all—no special device is needed to talk to him!

Teachable Moments

1. **The Wired Word—**Challenge children to think how the Bible would be different if technology had existed in Jesus' time. How would a Twitter version of your favorite Scripture verse read? How would you describe one of Jesus' miracles to a friend via text message? If Jesus had a TV ad campaign, what would it look and sound like?



2. **Tech Commandments—**When you're establishing rules for media usage, involve children in the decisions. Ask them what "commandments" God might have set for online behavior and how we interact with others using technology. What would he have made off-limits, and what would he have encouraged? What age requirements or time constraints might he have established, and why?



Open the lines of communication about media and technology by asking your children these discussion-starting questions:

1. How does technology make life easier for you? How does it make life harder or more complicated?
2. What's a good number of hours to spend in front of electronic devices each day? How can you tell when you've overdone it?
3. What's your favorite way to use technology, and how would you cope without it?
4. What are some ways we can honor God with our media habits?

TURN OFF TV WEEK ~ April 19 - 25, 2010

It is coming soon. Are you going to join us and keep the TV off? Remember, any activity with the TV is off limits, including video games and watching DVD's. Google Turn Off TV Week and you will be surprised by all the information. Here are some suggestions for things to do.

- The weather is getting nicer, take a walk and look at the new life sprouting.
- Take a magnifying glass and explore the world from a different perspective.
- Memorize a Psalm.
- Walk thru a cemetery and find the oldest person and the youngest person.
- Try a new recipe.
- Build a model.
- Write a letter to your grandparents.
- Buy seeds and plant flowers or vegetables, or get the garden ready.
- Take bike ride.
- Play in a park where you have never gone before.

Every child who completes the week without TV will receive a coupon from Dairy Queen for a free small sundae. Keep the TV off for a month and get two tickets to a Rockies game.