



March 2010



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)

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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 public ways.

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?

KINGDOM COURT MARCH 2010

Virtue: Honesty—choosing to be truthful in whatever you say & do.

Memory Verse: "The Lord detests lying lips, but he delights in men who are truthful." Proverbs 12:22

March 7th-Joseph's brothers lie to Jacob from Genesis 37

March 14th-Haman's plot to destroy the Jews from Esther

March 21st-Jesus and Zacchaeus from Luke

March 28th-Judas betrays Jesus from John

Food Pantry: Peanut Butter

Mission Project: Layette items for Nicaragua Trip

Monthly Home Court Assignment-The Lord's Prayer

PRESCHOOL SUNDAY SCHOOL MARCH

March 7th-A Widow's Two Coins (Mark 12:41-44)

March 14th-Joseph and His Brothers (Genesis 37-46)

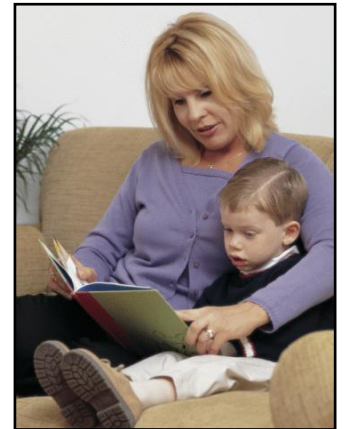
March 21st-David and Jonathan (1 Samuel 18-20)

March 28th-A Parade for Jesus (Mark 11:1-11)

Family Experience: Say What?

Encourage your family members to stay in constant communication with God by using these experiences from Group's Hands-On Bible:

- **Listen Up**—Read aloud Exodus 19:1-9, 16-25. Say: "God spoke to Moses in a powerful voice. But most people would never say they've heard God speaking aloud." Brainstorm ways God speaks to us today; for example, through the Bible, through other Christians, to our hearts. Read aloud John 16:13-15. Have family members each take a Bible to a place where they can be alone. Say: "Pray about school, home, a problem—anything! Open your Bible and read. Ask God to help you hear what he wants you to say." After 10 minutes, share your experiences. Say: "Sometimes God will speak to you loud and clear. Sometimes you won't even know God said anything until later. But God is talking. Just keep listening!"
- **"Excuse Me..."**—Talk about ways we get other people's attention these days and how it feels to fail to "connect" with someone. Then play this game to help you start thinking about God's voice. Have family members each think up a line from a movie or TV show. Then take turns saying the line using the same voice the character has. See who can guess the movie or show, as well as the character. Then ask: "How did you recognize the voices and programs?" Read 1 Samuel 3:1-10. Ask: "Why did it take Samuel awhile to figure out who was talking? What are some ways God gets our attention? How can we recognize God's voice?"



Mission Project 2010 Layettes for Nicaragua

WHPC will be sponsoring a short-term mission trip to Nicaragua June 10-19, 2010, which will include visits to hospitals to distribute layettes to mothers for their newborns. The Children's Ministry Department is partnering with the Mission Division for the collection of new or gently used items for these layettes. Specific items have been assigned by the following grade levels:

- Kindergarten: Onesies
- 1st Grade: Infant socks
- 2nd Grade: Soft baby washcloths
- 3rd Grade: Bars of Ivory soap
- 4th Grade: Receiving Blankets
- 5th Grade: Bibs

These items may be brought to Kingdom Court in bags marked "Layettes" any time on or before Mother's Day, Sunday, May 9th. It is especially fitting that the deadline for donations benefiting these Nicaraguan mothers and infants falls on Mother's Day. We appreciate your participation in honoring these mothers through your donations.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 3rd- Jessica Jukubik, Mary Hargett, Reece Coffey
- 4th- Evan Mento, Annika Monsivais
- 5th- Cassia Meditz, Joshua Tiah
- 6th- Marissa Shoemaker, Robert Key
- 7th- Paul Rock, John Stanley, Carson Cater, Carson Pepe
- 8th- Grey Patterson, Lauren Benzon
- 9th- Jack Pence
- 10th- Caroline Wernli
- 12th- Olivia Speltz, Bridget Bryant, Emma Utley
- 13th- Helena Monsivais, Avery Smitheal, Drew Trabue
- 14th- Megan Tullis, Rhett Burgess
- 15th- Mary Willis, Coston Bush, Blake Sbrocco, Kyle Barron
- 16th- Sarah Menefee
- 19th- John Nabors, Priya Alvarez, Garrett Wilbanks
- 20th- Reese Weatherford
- 22nd- Katherine Craig
- 23rd- Susie Panella
- 24th- Jordan Craig
- 26th- Kevin Odom, Henry Smith
- 27th- Chase Whites
- 28th- Jessica Ashby



Culture & Trends

What's happening right now that may affect your children and family:

- Parents are toning down children's birthday parties, due to the recession. Instead of hosting lavish events, more parents are letting their kids choose a special outing or meal. (msnbc.com)
- Children are more likely to get bullied when they struggle with nonverbal communication, reading nonverbal cues and coming up with options for resolving social conflict, researchers say. (livescience.com)

Quick Stats

- Children as young as 3 have negative bias against older people. Preschoolers who aren't biased have regular contact with senior citizens. (University of Alberta)



- About 1.3 million children under the age of 18 live with their grandparents. (healthychildren.org)

March 2010

	1	2	3	4	5	6
	BS Childcare		Children Choir Practices 5:15 Mangia-grilled Chicken,veggies, mashed potatoes Kids-Corn dogs	1 st Thursday Luncheon Childcare		Walk Thru The Bible In Blanco
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Kingdom Court 10:15	BS Childcare		Children Choir Practices 5:15 Bee Caves Bar- b-que brisket Fixins Kids-Hot Dogs			
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Kingdom Court 10:15	Springbreak Week No activities Scheduled		NO Choir Practice for kids NO MWM			
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Kingdom Court 10:15	BS Childcare		Children Choir Practices 5:15 Mangia-Lasagna Kids-			
28	29	30	31			
Kingdom Court 10:15 Kids choirs sing at 9 and 11:15 Palm Sunday Kids process at 11:15	BS Childcare		Children Choir Practices 5:15 Spaghetti, meatballs and sausage w/Salad and dessert			

March

Mar 7- Bottom Line: When you're not truthful, you hurt the people you should care about most.

Bible Story: Cover Up (Joseph's brothers lied to Jacob) Genesis 37:17b-36; 45:25-28

[Refrigerator Door](#)

[God Time Card](#)

Mar 14- Bottom Line: Lying to hurt someone else really hurts YOU.

(Bible Story: Backfire (Haman's plot to destroy the Jews) Esther 3; 4:8b; 5:6-10; 7:1-6; 9b-10

[Refrigerator Door](#)

[God Time Card](#)

Mar 21- Bottom Line: Truthfulness builds friendships; dishonesty tears the down..

Bible Story: Do Over (Jesus and Zacchaeus) Luke 19:1-10

[Refrigerator Door](#)

[God Time Card](#)

Mar 28- Bottom Line: You can lie so much you forget what matters.

Bible Story: Exposed (Judas' dishonesty) John 12:3-6; Matthew 26:14-16; 20-25; 47-50; 27:1-5

[Refrigerator Door](#)

[God Time Card](#)