



May 2010



Children's Ministries Staff

Director-Cindy Gangstad
cindyg@whpc.org
 327-1116, ext 125

Assistant-Lisa Ruth Pullen
lisaruthp@whpc.org
 327-1116, ext 147

Supervisor Childcare and
 Preschool Sunday School
 Judy Crochet
judyc@whpc.org,
 327-8028

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
 HIGH SEAS EXPEDITION
 JUNE 7-10**

Morning: 9:30 to Noon
 Evening: 6 to 8:30 PM

Children 4's thru completed 4th
 Grade
 Cost: \$35 per child
 Discount: \$5 per child with parent
 volunteering all week

How to register:
 Visit the www.whpc.org website
 Click on the Upcoming date of June
 7th or Children's Ministries and
 then High Seas, follow the
 instructions to Register
 Participants!

What if I have a 5th grader?
 5th Graders have a separate VBS
 called Discover meeting the same
 week from 6 to 8. Register for
 Discover with the Youth
 Department!

I have a 3 year old, may they
 attend? Yes if you volunteer and
 attend with them all week!

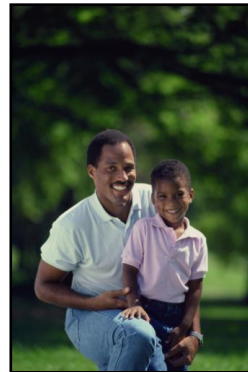
Live As Forgiven and Forgiving People

God created us perfect, in his image. But after sin entered the world, we needed a Savior. The good news of Easter is that Jesus died on the cross for our sins and then rose again. Because of his victory, we can have the free gifts of forgiveness and eternal life.

As forgiven people, God tells us to extend forgiveness to others who wrong us. That can be tougher than it sounds, especially when an offender doesn't seem repentant. But God will work on our hearts and give us a desire to forgive when we ask him for help.

Here are some insights about forgiveness from God and for others:

Children first learn what forgiveness is by experiencing it firsthand. As kids experience the feeling of being forgiven, they can begin to forgive those around them. Eventually compassion will compel them to forgive as Christ calls them to—whether or not the people who hurt them are sorry.



Forgiveness is more than just saying "I'm sorry." Forgiveness costs us something, just as it cost Christ dearly on the cross. When we forgive someone, we resist our urge to retaliate, to get even, to make someone pay for their mistakes. We become vulnerable as we allow that person back into our lives. And that's a big part of loving others.

As you help children understand forgiveness, let them know that they can fully experience Jesus' gift of forgiveness when they obey his command to forgive.

That's Not What the Bible Says!

Recent research from the Barna Group shows how people's beliefs stray from what the Bible teaches:

- 74% of adults don't believe that people are born sinful ("original sin"). Instead, they believe that "when people are born, they are neither good nor evil—they make a choice between the two as they mature."
- 42% of adults say Jesus sinned while he lived on earth.
- 50% of adults say anyone who "is generally good or does enough good things for others during their life will earn a place in heaven."

OpenTheBook

**"If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins."
Matthew 6:14-15**

God promises to forgive and forget our sins, but he also commands us to do the same thing for people who hurt us.

Teachable Moments

1. Practice Sincere

Apologies—Learning to apologize takes practice. Help children learn to say they're sorry through nonverbal means (drawing a picture, giving a hug, etc.). During family prayers, practice saying, "I'm sorry." Admit to Jesus that we make mistakes and are sorry; then ask for forgiveness together.



2. Find Healing—Read aloud Psalm 32:1-7. Discuss what caused David's heart to be sick and how he got rid of it. Talk about times you've felt bad after doing something wrong. Say: "When we confess our sins and tell God we're sorry, he forgives us and makes our hearts well."

3. Be an Example—When you do something wrong, let children see you apologize. Be specific about what you're apologizing for, and ask for forgiveness.

May 2010 Sunday School Updates

MAY Virtue: Patience—waiting until later for what you want now.

MAY Verse: Ecclesiastes 7:8 "The end of a matter is better than its beginning. So it's better to be patient than proud."

MAY Monthly Home Court Advantage: The 10 Commandments

Home Court Advantage Class: Blessing of the 2's and 3's

5th GRADE Graduation: May 23rd in Kingdom Court (Girls party that afternoon at the Jessich's. Boys party in June.) The teachers will send reminders about the parties.

100% Chance of Rain!

Don't miss the Children's Choir Concert 100%

Chance of Rain this Sunday May 2nd!

Performances at the 9 and 11:15 service.

Family Experience: Freely Forgiven

Dive further into the topic of forgiveness by using these easy but powerful activities from Group's Hands-On Bible.

- **Goodbye Sins!**—Say: "Think of a sin, or wrong thing, you've done." Then let each family member use a highlighter to write on a coffee filter a sin that he or she has committed. (Assist young children.) Say: "Now confess that sin to God and ask him to forgive you." Put a few drops of lemon juice on the writing, and watch as your "sin" disappears. Read aloud 1 John 1:8-9. Say: "The lemon juice made the writing disappear. When we tell God we're sorry for our sins, he forgives us. He makes our sins completely disappear from his sight! We may still have to deal with the consequences of our sins, but when God forgives a sin, it's gone." Close in prayer, thanking God for his amazing gift of total forgiveness.
- **Forgiveness Spelled Out**—Write the word *forgive* down the left side of a chalkboard (or down a piece of paper). Share with one another how it feels to be forgiven. Then write one of those feelings next to each letter; for example, Fresh, Optimistic, Relieved, Grateful, Invigorating, and so on.

Put the chalkboard in a place where everyone can see it during the coming week. Use it as a reminder to thank God often for his gift of forgiveness. Throughout the week, add to the list as you think of other words that remind you how forgiveness feels.





What's Playing at the Movies

Movie: *Oceans* (April 22, Earth Day)

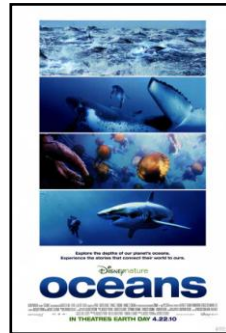
Genre: True-life adventure

Rating: G (some nature-related suspense and peril)

Cast: Nature

Synopsis: In a follow-up to *Earth*, DisneyNature offers a look below the seas, which cover three-fourths of our planet. The directors dive deep into life-sustaining waters, using new technology to offer stunning up-close views of nature, animals, and vanishing wonders.

Discussion Questions: What amazes you most about God's creation? What would you say to people who insist that no Creator was involved in making it? Read aloud Genesis 2:15. What responsibilities do we have to care for our planet? How is caring for our environment an act of love toward God and other people?



TEACH THIS SUMMER

Beginning May 30th the new summer schedule starts. Sunday School will be held during both Sunday Morning services. Volunteers are needed to teach 1 to 4 Sundays. You choose the grade (Kindergarten thru 4th), the hour and Sundays you prefer to volunteer. Or you may Volunteer one Sunday at both hours, only need to prep once! We want to give our current teachers a break so we need all parents not currently teaching to help us out. The sign up charts are posted in the downstairs entryway. Check your vacation schedule then stop by to see where you could help. For more information about volunteering this summer contact Cindyg@whpc.org!

WACKY WEDNESDAYS

Wacky Wednesdays (Fellowship Events for Children completed 1st thru 4th grade) will be held the four Wednesday afternoons in July. Sign up beginning June 1st outside the Children's Ministries offices.



Culture & Trends

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

- As part of the new health-care legislation, fast-food chains will be required to list menu calorie counts. Anti-obesity advocates hope this will spur chains to offer healthier options.
- The new buzz word "hyperlocalization" describes people looking for communities to belong to, as well as marketers connecting to families at home.

Quick Stats

- Short breaks can help with problem behavior. In a study of 11,000 third-graders, children given a 15-minute break to play and chat had better behavior ratings.
(Albert Einstein College of Medicine)



- More than half (51%) of moms say they listen to their kids more than their parents did. And 82% of kids say they give input about their mom's clothing.
(JustKid)

May 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
						1
BIRTHDAYS IN RED!						Reese Short
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
100% Chance of Rain! Children's Choir Concert at 9 and 11:15 Caroline Cheatham Luke Janice	Ava Wilbanks	Cate Boldrick	NEW MEMBERS CLASS 6 to 8:30 Briley Aunspaugh			Ryan Gaskamp Jeremy McMahan
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Kinga Parrish Story Whitaker	Marina Monsivais Eva Reistrup Jasper Sewell		NEW MEMBERS CLASS 6 to 8:30		Zoey Rew	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Home Court Advantage Class Blessing of the 2's and 3's - Room 146	Eliza Beall Katelyn Tullos Ms. Cindy	Ross Harvey Sophie Keiper	Macy Gomillion Aidan Perry	Jacob Gomillion	Cade Bradshaw Cade Helble	Grant Erwin
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
5 th Grade Graduation during Kingdom Court followed by a party for the 5 th grade girls Kay Lee Jenkins Andrew Roush Hudson Smith		Emmanuel Collingwood	Charles Cornell		Kate Cotter Brian Jessich	
30	31					
Bennett Siler	Owen Robertson					