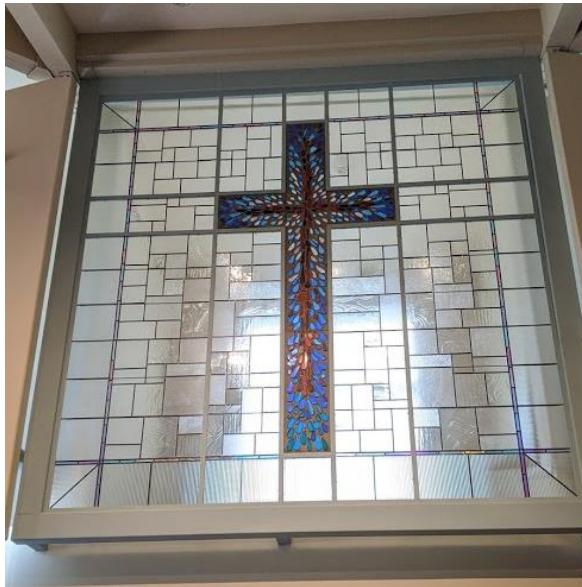


May 2020

parenting CHRISTIAN kids



**Kids Night Out, Saturdays
on Zoom at 5 pm**

**JAM, Fridays
on Zoom at 5 pm**

**Fearless, Fridays
on Zoom at 6 pm**

**Sunday School, Sunday
On Zoom at 10 am**

Turn to God in Uncertain Times

POWER SOURCE

ASK JESUS:

1. To protect your family members physically, emotionally, and spiritually during uncertain times.
2. To help you see evidence of goodness and kindness—and to be that evidence for others.
3. For renewed faith and strength through life's trials.

On earth, everyone faces seasons of trial, suffering, and unwelcome change. This spring, however, *all* of us are facing unprecedented levels of disruption, uncertainty, and fear—all at the same time.

The COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic—and the shutdowns and isolation it's causing—have forced families, schools, churches, and entire communities to make and adapt to changes in all aspects of daily life. The good news is that God remains steady and steadfast, ready to walk with us through what's being called "uncharted waters."

Children have specific needs during uncertain times, whether that's an emergency, illness, or family crisis such as divorce or job loss. Even

positive changes such as a planned move or a new sibling can disrupt schedules and affect relationships.

Though you can't control everything that happens to your family, you can minimize the impact of uncertainties. Make sure children have consistent relationships, which offer reassurance and familiarity. Model God's positive qualities of unconditional love and acceptance. Keep the same schedules and rules, as much as possible, to help kids feel safe. When new situations arise, tell children beforehand what to expect. Finally, encourage family members to share their thoughts and feelings about what's happening.

Read on for activities that convey important messages for uncertain times.

Remember: God's in Control!

During uncertain times, adults need to take care of their own bodies, minds, and souls, too. When parents are struggling, children notice—and often feel more anxious as a result. Remember these tips to give everyone a BREAK:

- Be an example. Try to handle stress in a God-pleasing manner.
- Relate. Spend time with kids, share a hobby, listen, and cheer them on.
- Educate yourself. Find out what stressors your children are facing.
- Ask questions. These help you understand needs and express care.
- Keep praying! Ask Jesus to work in kids' lives, especially amid trials.



TEACHABLE MOMENTS

Our Powerful Protector

Say: The Israelites, God's special people, were slaves in Egypt. The king, or Pharaoh, had worked the people so hard, they were tired. God told Moses to tell Pharaoh, "Let my people go!" Moses went 10 times, but Pharaoh refused. Each time, God sent a plague—something horrible—to Egypt. But God kept the Israelites safe from these plagues!

Re-enact the first nine plagues:

1. Blood—Put food coloring in water.
2. Frogs—Hop around the room.
3. Gnats—Make buzzing sounds.
4. Flies—Zoom around the room.
5. Sick livestock—Moo and moan on the floor, with limbs sticking up
6. Boils—Put red dots on your skin with washable marker.
7. Hail—Throw paper wads around.
8. Locusts—Nibble green snacks.
9. Darkness—Turn off all the lights.

After each plague, shout: **Let my people go!** Close by praying: **Thank you, God, for protecting us during tough and scary times. Amen.**

Overflowing Oil Toss paper wads around a room. Give each person a bag and say: "You have a minute to collect as much 'oil' as you can. Go!" Toss out more wads, as needed, before calling time. Read aloud 2 Kings 4:1-7. Ask: "What was it like trying to fill up your 'oil jar'? How did it feel to get lots of oil? In what ways would you like God to bless you—and us?" Say: "When we're worried and tell God what we need, we can trust him to provide. At times, God gives us even *more* than we expect!"

Create a Smile File Stress is exhausting and removes our focus from life's many joys. Make a file, box, or journal where people can put pictures or notes about God's blessings. Then review it together when your family feels discouraged or overwhelmed.

God Seeks and Saves With younger children, unwind by playing a fun game of Hide and Seek as a family. Then talk about how God always comes looking for us and always watches over us.

Jesus Calms Our Fears Tape an outline of a boat on the floor and fill it with blue streamers or yarn pieces. Have family members sit in the "boat." Read aloud Mark 4:35-41. Then say: "These streamers

are water, and you need to toss them out so you don't sink!" As you stand nearby, make wind sounds and throw streamers back in. Afterward, ask: "How did you try to keep your 'boat' from sinking? Why can storms be scary? What other troubles might we need Jesus' help with?" Say: "Jesus' disciples were afraid of sinking. They needed help, so Jesus spoke to the sea and made it calm. We can call on Jesus when we're afraid, and he'll calm our fears."

Lick Life's Problems When life gets messy, spend one-on-one time with each child. If possible, go on a simple outing, such as to get ice cream, and let the child share what's on his or her mind. Then come up with ways you can stick together and face problems.

God Protects Daniel Adapt the swimming-pool game Mr. Shark for Daniel 6. Read that chapter aloud and choose a Daniel. He or she faces a wall, and others, the Lions, creep up and try to touch Daniel. If Daniel hears a noise, he turns and points at the Lion, who returns to the starting point while everyone shouts, "God protects Daniel!" If a Lion touches Daniel, have them hug and say, "God protects me!" Afterward, discuss the ways God keeps us safe.

"This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."
—Joshua 1:9

MEDIA MADNESS



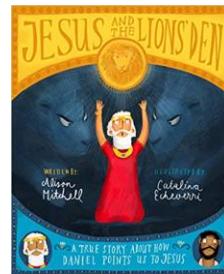
TV

Title: Jessy and Nessy

Service: Amazon Prime Video

Synopsis: Curious young Jessy has an unusual BFF: an ancient sea monster named Nessy. In this new G-rated series, the pair explore a range of questions common to preschoolers—from why the wind blows to how echoes work. Along the way, they meet new friends, learn to work in teams, and discover important life skills, including how to make people smile.

Our Take: This simple, upbeat TV show uses colorful mixed-media and fun music to keep young viewers engaged. It does have a touch of magic, as Jessy uses “inspectacles” glasses to conduct investigations—and to see her friend Nessy. The show should be a hit with curious young kids.



BOOK

Title: Jesus and the Lions' Den

Author: Alison Mitchell

Synopsis: As most Sunday school kids know, Daniel, not Jesus, was thrown into the lions' den. But this book reveals—in a child-friendly way—how the Old Testament lesson points to Jesus. Readers can search for hidden lion symbols as they discover the parallels between Daniel and Jesus.

Our Take: By making connections between the Old and New Testaments, this title helps readers understand that the gospel message is woven through the entire Bible. Kids learn about prayer, faithfulness, and God's sovereignty over everything. This book—and others in the “Tales That Tell the Truth” series—are geared toward ages 4 to 8.



CULTURE & TRENDS

Decreasing the Distance During this era of social distancing, personal connections are more vital than ever. Technology such as Zoom is soaring in use, with many people home—and homeschooling. Virtual celebrations of birthdays and milestones have become quite creative. And old-fashioned phone calls and snail-mail are ideal for building bonds with grandparents and other relatives.

Community Kindness Tough times are bringing out lots of goodness and camaraderie, as neighbors reach out to offer assistance and cheer. Neighborhood teddy bear hunts, sidewalk-chalk messages, concerts, and vehicle parades show how “minor” acts spread major joy.

Games, Podcasts & Apps

Kanoodle Head-to-Head

In this puzzle-based game, two players race to arrange pieces to match a design on a card. If you’re too slow, your pieces go flying! The portable game has 80 challenges that build spatial-reasoning and problem-solving skills. Best for ages 7+, and a hit with parents, too.

Kids Ask Authors

Launched just before the pandemic hit, this short-session podcast from author and illustrator Grace Lin celebrates reading and writing. Lin asks fellow authors questions from young readers. Kids can submit their questions, book reviews, short stories, poems, and jokes, which are featured at the end.

Blinx

With this free app, families can share photos with their “in-crowd” members without leaving a digital footprint. You also can assemble individual “blinx” into “blinxbooks,” adding captions and audio comments, if desired. This alternative to social media is rated E for Everyone.

FREE HELPS

Devotions & Bible Activities

<https://tinyurl.com/safxgts>

<https://tinyurl.com/ukywxnk>

Helping Children Cope

<https://tinyurl.com/v4lynwe>

Explaining the News to Kids

<https://tinyurl.com/jv8l46a>

At-Home “P.E. With Joe”

<https://tinyurl.com/ragqo5z>

Mo Willems’ “Lunch Doodles”

<https://tinyurl.com/vzwy7en>

Loads of Virtual Tours

<https://tinyurl.com/qqxkmww>



May

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 JAM 5 pm Fearless 6 pm	2 Kids Night Out 5 pm
3 Sunday School 10 am	4	5	6 RSM Food Pantry 2-5 pm	7 National Day of Prayer	8 JAM 5 pm Fearless 6 pm	9 Kids Night Out 5 pm
10 Sunday School 10 am	11	12	13	14	15 JAM 5 pm Fearless 6 pm	16 Kids Night Out 5 pm
17 Sunday School 10 am	18	19	20 RSM Food Pantry 2-5 pm	21	22 JAM 5 pm Fearless 6 pm	23 Kids Night Out 5 pm
24 Sunday School 10 am	25 Memorial Day	26	27	28	29 JAM 5 pm Fearless 6 pm	30 Kids Night Out 5 pm
31 Sunday School 10 am						

We're all in this Together...

I keep thinking about that line from that silly musical, High School Musical and I really believe that we are all in this together. I heard someone say that we are all in the same storm, but different boats. I love that analogy, what an unprecedented time for our whole world. We are all in this storm and we are all in different boats. We might be with our families, friends, or alone. It is a storm none of us thought that we would be in. Some of our boats are prepared for this storm and we are hunkering down and doing pretty well. Some of our boats might be cracking and letting in water and we are scared. There are a thousand more analogies for the storm and the boat. There is one powerful story that comes to my mind when I think about our current circumstances and this analogy and that is the story of Jesus calming the storm. The story is in three of the Gospels, Matthew 8:23-27, Mark 4:35-41 and Luke 8:22-25.

Here is the story from the book of Luke that I want to share with you,

22 One day Jesus said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side of the lake." So they got into a boat and set out. 23 As they sailed, he fell asleep. A squall came down on the lake, so that the boat was being swamped, and they were in great danger. 24 The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Master, Master, we're going to drown!" He got up and rebuked the wind and the raging waters; the storm subsided, and all was calm. 25 "Where is your faith?" he asked his disciples. In fear and amazement, they asked one another, "Who is this? He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him."

What a powerful testament to what Jesus did and still does in our lives today. Jesus's closest friends were terrified. Even though Jesus was with them. He proved himself time and time again.

I think about my own life and how time and time again Jesus has done incredible things in my own life. Sometimes I feel that in those moments, just like the disciples, I am beyond grateful, but then the next storm happens, and I am worried again. We have an incredible loving God who loves us more than we know.

This storm that we are in is bigger than we have ever seen, but it is not bigger than God. We might be in our boats longer than we want and we might experience some cracks and we might even have seen some boats no longer strong and floating, we might be in the raging storm in the waves and might know some people that are there as well.

I know for myself, there are some who are in boats in much worse shape than me, others that are in better shape, but it's the same storm. As I sit in my boat, I can choose to listen to my fears take over and convince me that I am going to drown. I can also choose something else, something I believe is better, I can choose to remember our father's promise, "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you." Deuteronomy 31:6.

No matter what happens to my boat, because the truth is I can't control what this storm will do to my boat, but I can choose how I want to respond, and I am going to respond with love, hope, and kindness. I am going to choose to be courageous and trust that God our Father will never abandon me. That doesn't mean that I don't think anything bad will happen to me, but it does mean that I continue to love loudly, live boldly and give graciously as God has called me to do, today, tomorrow and as long as I have the opportunity to do so.

-Josiah Canto- Director of Youth and Family Ministry

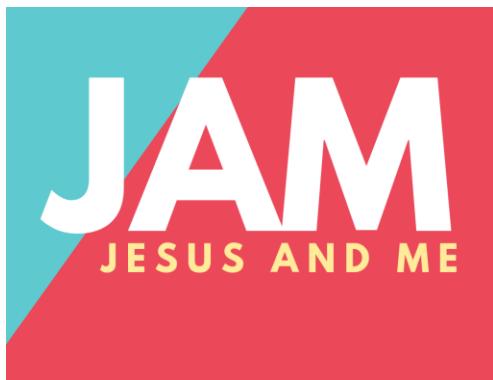
Virtual Sunday School For Ages Preschool – 5th grade

Weekly on Sundays at 10 am

Each Saturday we will be emailing a Sunday school lesson that you can do with your children on Sunday. Join us for a 20-25-minute zoom time where we will share our highs and lows with each other and a time of prayer and a Bible verse.

Here is the ZOOM link:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/568141491?pwd=UEltaUEza292d1RGTEdBWkpxUTdiZz09>



Virtual JAM: 1st-3rd Grades

Weekly on Fridays at 5 pm

We will be connecting weekly on Fridays with a Bible verse, a craft and fun games led by our youth!

Here is the ZOOM link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/79603107639?pwd=c3dPMW9SVnJPUU00UXVrRk8yS1d1Zz09>

Virtual Fearless: 4th-5th Grades

Weekly on Fridays at 6 pm

We will be connecting weekly on Fridays with a Bible verse, a craft and fun games led by our youth!

Here is the ZOOM link:



<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/78857132673?pwd=dzk3UGx1MTFSYWtIT2xJbC9ySFE5dz09>



Virtual Kids Night Out: Preschool and Kindergarten

Weekly on Saturdays at 5 pm

We will be connecting weekly on Saturdays with a Bible verse, a craft and fun games led by our youth!

Here is the ZOOM link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/71916110312?pwd=Wkt6bG8xanV4Z01kbzhOQUJjUjlxZz09>

RSM Food Pantry

Wednesdays, May 6th & 20th

2 pm-5 pm

The RSM Food Pantry is open to all families and individuals. This is a place where you can come and get food and fresh produce. We're here to help and provide families during all season of life, no questions asked, if you need help you're more than welcome to come and get some food :)

Located at the Shepherd of the Hills United Methodist Church, 30605 Avenida de las Flores, RSM.

