

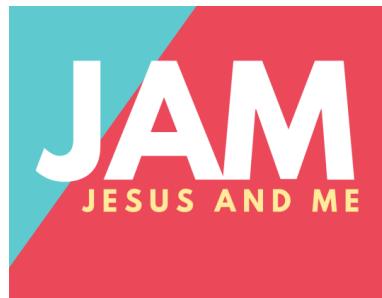


September 2020

parenting CHRISTIAN kids



SUNDAY
SCHOOL



FEARLESS



We're excited to announce that we will be having Kids Night Out, JAM, Fearless and offering In person Sunday School and a Zoom Sunday School option as well this Fall! Read the last page for details!

Address Rebellion with Love

POWER SOURCE

ASK JESUS:

1. To help you deal with rebellion in a loving, calm, and positive way.
2. For guidance as you set age-appropriate boundaries and rules.
3. To forgive you when you rebel against God and his laws.

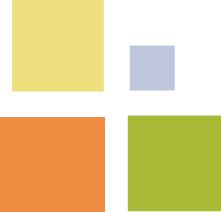
After a summer of "freedom" and relaxed rules, September's return to school and schedules often poses a challenge for children. On top of that, 2020 has been filled with new restrictions and limits that are tough for everyone to comply with and comprehend.

As the pandemic drags on, kids are likely to have more questions about why they need to stay home or wear masks, and why they can't enjoy certain activities or venues that are temporarily shut down.

Although rules are set for our own good, following them isn't always fun or easy. Because of sin, all humans rebel against authorities and against God. Children are no exception, as new parents quickly

discover. From a surprisingly young age, little ones begin asserting their independence by pushing back against limits and saying "no!" Just as God deals with our rebellion out of love, he instructs parents to raise and discipline children lovingly. That approach molds them into followers of Jesus who strive to obey God and respect other people.

Rebellion takes different forms as children grow (see the next page), so you'll need to adapt your approach to rule-setting and discipline. No matter your children's age, however, one of the most important things you can do is pray for them—and for yourself in the vital role of parent. Thank Jesus for each of your children by name, and ask Jesus to work in their hearts and lives, giving them a strong desire to always follow God faithfully.



Staying on the Right Path



TEACHABLE MOMENTS

A Muddy Situation

Set out a dishpan full of mud with some coins mixed in. Tell family members to dig for coins, which they can keep.

Don't let anyone wash up. Ask: **How did it feel to dig for treasure? Now that our search is over, how do your hands feel?**

Say: Jesus tells about a boy who left his father to hunt for a better life. As I read, stand when you hear good actions and attitudes, and sit for bad actions and attitudes. Read Luke 15:11-32. Review by asking people to describe times when they stood or sat.

Ask: What's so special about this father's love? What happened when the son wouldn't receive that love? How is that like the way your muddy hands feel? Who loves you the way this father loves his son?

Say: God loves us even more than this father loved his son. Ask: What's one way you know that God loves you? Pray and then wash your hands.

Use these strategies for dealing with rebellion as children grow:

Birth to 2 years: Accept that God gives even infants and toddlers unique temperaments. Provide lots of comfort, physical touch, and warmth.

3 to 4 years: Listen carefully, and respond to physical and emotional needs. Explore what upsets children. Model Jesus' love through affection.

5 to 7 years: Offer choices and clear consequences for disobedience. Balance your growing demands with warmth and reason.

8 to 12 years: Be consistent. Express trust, and praise kids for jobs well done. When kids fall short, ask what they can do differently next time.

Commandments 2.0 As a family, work to reword each of God's Ten Commandments as a loving rule with positive purposes; for example, "Because I want you to be protected from religions that would mislead you, don't worship any other god besides me."

Walking with God Either trace one another's feet on paper or make footprint impressions with plaster of Paris. As prints dry, read Joshua 22:5 (NIV) and discuss what it means to "walk in obedience" with God. Also talk about what it's like to veer from God's path—and how he brings us back to his ways.

Grace Abounds During family devotions about people in the Bible who rebelled, address not only the consequences each person faced but also God's abundant grace. For example, King David paid a hefty price for sinning, but he asked for—and received—forgiveness.

Going God's Way Beforehand, use tape to mark start and finish lines at opposite ends of a room. Share times you've done the opposite of what you should have done. Gather on the starting line and say: "See how fast you can get to the finish line—but you must crawl or crabwalk backward. Go!" Read John 1:35-40. Ask: "How was

this game like or unlike following Jesus? When it's tempting to do the opposite, how can we live God's way?"

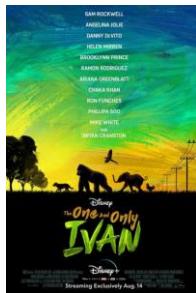
Rules Roulette Search online for outdated rules that were in communities and schools years ago—or that might still remain today. Share some funny rules with family. Then read Luke 16:17. Ask: "Why do rules exist? Why do they sometimes need to change? How does it feel to know that God's rules will never change?"

Starting Over As a family, choose an item to draw on an Etch-A-Sketch. Every 60 seconds, pass the toy to someone else. When it returns to you, start drawing and say, "Oops, I messed up!" Shake the toy. Say: "Sometimes we mess up by not following God's rules, but he lets us start over." Read Luke 15:11-32. Discuss how the prodigal son rebelled against his father but got a second chance.

Map Treks Hand out paper and pencils. Say: "Keeping your eyes closed, draw a map from our house to school, church, or a friend's house." After comparing maps, read Psalm 119:10. Ask: "How is the Bible like a map for our lives? How can the Bible keep us from wandering away from God?"

"So why do you keep calling me, 'Lord, Lord,' when you don't do what I say?"
—Luke 6:46

MEDIA MADNESS



MOVIE

Title: *The One and Only Ivan*

Genre: Animation, Adventure, Comedy

Rating: PG

Cast: Sam Rockwell, Angelina Jolie, Phillipa Soo, Bryan Cranston

Synopsis: In this CGI/live-action film streaming on Disney+, Ivan the gorilla ponders life in captivity. He and other animals kept at an Atlanta mall form unexpected friendships while plotting an escape plan. The movie is based on Katherine Applegate's middle-grade novel, which won the Newbery Award.

Our Take: *Ivan* explores themes such as hope, freedom, one's sense of home, and new perspectives. It also can spark conversations about when to question or challenge one's situation. Because the movie is inspired by a true story, the concept of animal abuse could upset some viewers.



MUSIC

Title: *Smile*

Artist: Katy Perry

Synopsis: Perry's fifth album—and her first since 2017—coincides with the birth of her first child. Though the title track has an upbeat sound and lyrics, the pop singer says it emerged from "one of the darkest periods" of her life, when she'd lost her smile. "This whole album is my journey toward the light," she says, "with stories of resilience, hope, and love."

Our Take: "Daisies," the lead single, talks about overcoming odds and defying expectations. On "Smile," Perry expresses gratitude for renewed happiness, noting that "every tear has been a lesson." Perry has been vocal about bouts with depression. Be aware: Some lyrics contain profanity or suggestive phrases.



CULTURE & TRENDS

Back to School? Experts predict a sharp uptick in homeschooling this fall, with many parents leery of health risks or unhappy with hybrid-learning options. Only 3% of kids were homeschooled in 2016, but that's expected to rise significantly—and possibly become a lasting trend. (*Washington Post*)

At-Risk Educators Kids who do return to classrooms should be prepared to see new people at the helm. Almost one-third of U.S. teachers are 50 or older, putting them at higher risk for Covid-19. Those with pre-existing conditions or at-risk family members may sit out this year, and more than usual are expected to retire. (*various sources*)

Games, Podcasts & Apps

Jump Rope Challenge

This simple Nintendo Switch game, inspired by pandemic-related lockdowns, is free on the eShop until Sept 30. Using the Joy-Con, players make a bunny jump in time with them. Jump Rope Challenge makes a noble yet limited attempt to get gamers moving.

Music Box

Using interactivity, this music-education podcast teaches children about fundamentals in fun ways. Episodes explore concepts such as meter and pitch, songwriting basics, and what different instruments sound like. Host Faith Murphy and special guests introduce listeners to a wide range of musical styles.

WideOpenSchool

From the nonprofit Common Sense Media, this app offers a vast, organized collection of educational resources. Parents new to online learning or homeschooling will appreciate all the subject matter—for pre-K through grade 12—from sources such as Scholastic, National Geographic, and PBS.

QUICK STATS

On the Move More than one-fifth (22%) of Americans moved or know someone who moved due to the pandemic. Of the people who have moved, three-fifths (61%) relocated to a family member's home. (*Pew Research*)

COVID Conundrum Though 59% of parents worry that their kids are falling behind academically during the pandemic, only 44% of adults with school-age children are willing to send them back to school this fall. (*ABC News/Ipsos*)

September

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4 JAM Friday	5
6 Sunday School In Person 8:30 am Sunday School Zoom 9:30-10 am	7 Labor Day	8 JAM Tuesday	9	10	11 Patriot Day	12
13 Sunday School In Person 8:30 am Sunday School Zoom 9:30-10 am Grandparents Day	14	15	16	17	18 Fearless Friday	19 Kids Night Out (Group 2)
20 Sunday School In Person 8:30 am Sunday School Zoom 9:30-10 am	21	22	23	24	25	26 Kids Night Out (Group 3)
27 Sunday School In Person 8:30 am Sunday School Zoom 9:30-10 am	28	29	30			

We're looking forward to starting up of children and youth ministries this Fall! With so many changes in our world there is a lot going on and it's overwhelming with all the noise and mess for sure. Our focus this Fall with our Fall programs is to get back to basics, spending time together, praying and reading the Bible together, helping kids and youth understand that their identity is rooted in Jesus Christ and his love for them and all people. We want to help our kids and youth continue to grow in their faith and build lasting Christian friendships with one another.

Sunday School In-Person (preschool-5th) (Previously known as Children's Church)

We're excited to offer in person Sunday School for our preschool-5th graders this Fall. Previously known as children's church, we are changing our children's church to Sunday School and will be offered each Sunday during our in-person services. After the children's message, the kids will go to Sunday school with Josiah down to the preschool courtyard. Parents can pick up their kids at the end of service. More information will be sent out to parents, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to Josiah at Josiahclcrsm@gmail.com.

(Sun) Weekly: Sunday School during our 8:30 am service



Sunday School Online Zoom (1st-8th) (9:30-10 am)

We're excited to offer an online zoom option for those that are not able to join us for in person activities. Sunday School online zoom will be for our 1st-8th graders this Fall. This will be offered every Sunday from 9:30-10 am. We will all start together and then break out into breakout rooms. More information will be sent out to parents, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to Josiah at Josiahclcrsm@gmail.com.

**SUNDAY
SCHOOL**

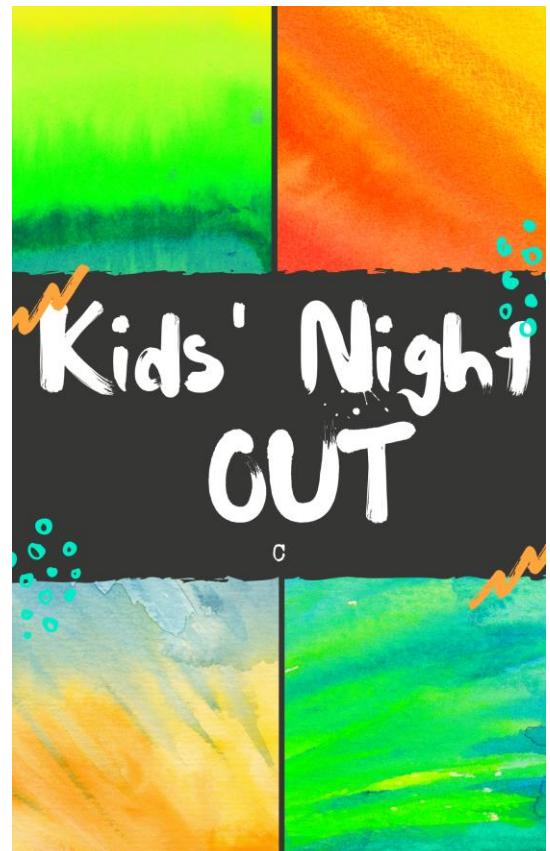
Join Zoom Meeting

<http://bit.ly/clcsundayschool>

Meeting ID: 890 0927 7418

Passcode: sunday

(Sun) Weekly: Sunday School



Kids Night Out (Pre and K)

We're excited to offer Kids Night Out (KNO) for all our Preschool and Kindergarten kids this Fall. We will be offering KNO the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Saturdays of the month. You may sign up your child for one KNO once a month, either 2nd, 3rd or the 4th of the month. We will be allowing a maximum of seven children per KNO. We will be meeting from 5:30-7 pm. More information will be sent out to parents, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to Josiah at Josiahclcrsm@gmail.com.

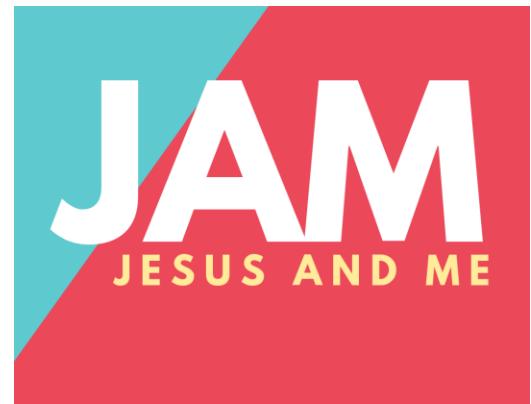
September

(Sat) 19th: KNO (2)

(Sat) 26th: KNO (3)

JAM (1st-3rd)

We're excited to offer Jesus and Me (JAM) for all our 1st-3rd graders this Fall. We will be offering JAM twice a month, Once on Tuesdays, and once on Fridays. You may sign up your child for one JAM once a month, either Tuesday or Friday. We will be allowing a maximum of seven children per JAM. We will be meeting from 5:30-7 pm. More information will be sent out to parents, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to Josiah at Josiahclcrsm@gmail.com.



September

(F) 4th: JAM Friday

(Tue) 8th: JAM Tuesday

Fearless (4th and 5th)

We're excited to offer Fearless for all our 4th and 5th graders this Fall. We will be offering Fearless on the 3rd Friday of the month. We will be meeting from 5:30-7 pm. More information will be sent out to parents, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to Josiah at Josiahclcrsm@gmail.com.



September

(F) 18th: Fearless Friday

RSM Cares Food Pantry
Shepherd of the Hills United Methodist Church
30605 Avenida de las Flores
Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688
Wednesdays Sept. 4th & 18th
10:30am-5pm



Come and be a part of this great service to the community of RSM and the surrounding communities in Orange County. This is a great way to lend a helping hand, during this challenging time. We sort, organize, and pass out groceries with members of our community to families and individuals. Distribution hours are between 2:00pm – 5:00pm. This is open to everyone! Come and help after school. There is always a need for helping hands!