

November 2020

Children's Ministry Newsletter



"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. "

Deuteronomy 6:5-7

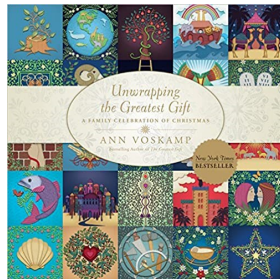
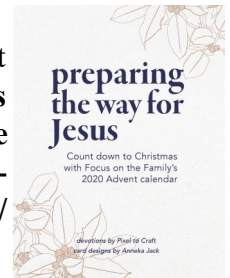
Awana Theme Nights

- * Nov. 4-Operation Christmas Child continues
- * Nov. 11-Last week of Operation Christmas Child
- * Nov. 18-Orange you glad Jesus loves you?
- * Nov. 25-No Club: Happy Thanksgiving!
- * Dec. 2-Wear green and red
- * Dec. 9-Bring a pair of gloves or mittens to give away.
- * Dec. 16-Wear your best ugly Christmas sweater
- * Dec. 23-Wear your pjs
- * Dec. 30-No club: Happy New Year
- * Jan. 6-100% Dues Night
- * Jan. 13-TBD
- * Jan. 20-Bring a can of soup for the food pantry
- * Jan. 27-Crazy Hair Night

Advent Season Resources!

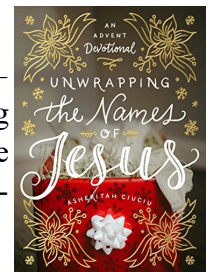
Even though many beloved Christmas events and traditions have been canceled this year, we still can gather as families for a daily or weekly advent celebrations. Here are a few resource ideas to get you started:

- Focus on the Family—A daily devotional for the Advent season, including a fun weekly activity for the family. **This print resource will be made available on the welcome counters at church starting this Sunday, but you can also download a copy at www.focusonthefamily.com/parenting/advent-calendar.**



- "Unwrapping the Greatest Gift" by Ann Voskamp—a daily devotional for the family for each day of December. Includes activity ideas to do with your family and questions to discuss.

- "Unwrapping the Names of Jesus" by Asheritah Ciuciu—This devotional provides a simple weekly Advent reading with questions you answer as a family. Also included are daily reflections that focus on the name of Jesus and suggestions for family activities.



Volunteer Appreciation

The last several months have been, to some degree, difficult for everyone, including our amazing children's ministry staff. In the coming weeks, give a shout out to the teens and adults who serve in your child's classroom. Simple things like an encouraging word from you or a note from your child go a long way!

Interesting Article: When Parents Feel Like We Are Mostly Failing Most of the Time

"I'm convinced the great majority of us feel like we are failing most of the time. We've got this deep gut feeling that our kids are spending way too much of their childhoods tapping on glowing glass rectangles. We feel a lot of guilt that our kids aren't spending more time playing in the great outdoors or reading great books. We feel frustrated that mostly they don't even want to.

As parents in this digital world, it's like we have planted ourselves and our families on a beach. Though the water is rising, we have convinced ourselves that we can somehow hold back the tide. But inevitably it just keeps creeping higher and higher up the beach until our best plans, like feeble little sandcastles, are swept away. There seems to be a kind of inevitability about it, that before long we'll all always be staring

at our devices. In fact, it seems like our devices have wills of their own, and this is exactly what they want. They want to dominate our lives. They want to be our main thing...

With all that said, here are a few principles I've been pondering and, in my own way, implementing within the family.

- Be the parent. God made you the parent, so you have both the calling and authority to lead your children.
- Take comfort that you are not alone... if you are struggling, have an honest conversation with a family in a similar age range and I think you'll hear that they are struggling just as much. That's strangely comforting.
- Be the example. Though we hate to admit it, much of our children's behavior is learned behavior.
- Distinguish between different forms of digital entertainment. Playing Angry Birds is not the same as listening to Audible... The trick is that both happen on the same device (and sometimes at the same time). So the concern is not that the device is being used, but how it's being used.
- Don't idealize your childhood. We can reminisce about our childhoods like they were so much better than our children's... But it is far more likely that we were wasting just as much time, even if in different ways.
- Focus lesson time and more on responsibilities. Kids of all

ages have certain tasks they need to accomplish, and I think it's wise to focus our attention on making sure they accomplish what they need to and that they accomplish it with some degree of excellence.

- Give them alternatives. If you take away your child's devices, you are now opening time that will need to be filled with something... So be sure to provide your children with alternative activities— the kind of activities they may actually want to do."

- Tim Challies

Read the full article at <https://www.challies.com/articles/when-parents-feel-like-we-are-mostly-failing-most-of-the-time/>

Sunday Mornings:

What will we be learning this quarter?

Pre-K & K: Good News: Jesus is God's Son. We will, of course, start with the Christmas story in December, and then continue in the early life and ministry of Christ.

Second Service

1st—4th grade: This quarter our Old Testament survey will take us through Daniel, Ezra, Nehemiah, and a number of the other minor prophets.

5th—6th grade: For the winter quarter we will be discussing identity—who they are and why it matters.

Third Service

For the time being, there is no third service. When third service returns, it may take a few weeks before third service children's ministry is up and running. Stay on the lookout for future updates.

