



the Parent LINK

Children's Ministry Edition

April 2016



Pacific Church of Irvine

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www.pacificchurch.com

Help Children Solve Problems

As kids grow, they must negotiate peer interactions, make decisions, and learn new skills. Here are age-appropriate insights about problem-solving:

Ages Birth to 2: Young children are sensory-oriented and learn by imitating. Offer choices and model problem-solving techniques, such as different ways of stacking blocks or holding a cup.

Ages 3 to 5: Preschoolers are multi-sensory, solving as they touch and do. Allow time and space for problem-solving. Praise kids' efforts.

Ages 6 to 8: By this age, kids begin to learn in specific ways (auditory, visual, spatial, etc.), which will affect how they tackle problems. Encourage kids to employ these different approaches as they problem-solve, too.

Ages 9 to 12: Preteens observe how peers solve problems. Although they want to be independent, they often lack confidence. Tell kids you trust their abilities. Let them know failure is okay. Be available to discuss problems.



POWERSOURCE

ASK GOD:

1. To help you be a Christ-like example of how to deal with—and learn from—problems.
2. To reassure your family members that God loves them, no matter what they're facing.
3. To help your kids trust God, not themselves, for answers.

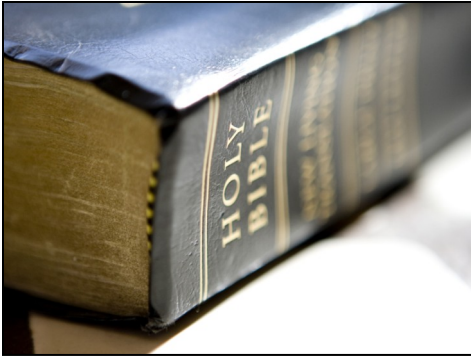
INSIGHTS

- In a survey of more than 1,000 children ages 9 to 13, 35% said they worry "a lot" about making mistakes and messing up. Another 33% said they worry a lot about friends and their problems. The good news is that 75% of kids say they want and need their parents' help when they're struggling.

(KidsHealth KidsPoll)

- When given training in appropriate ways to solve problems, children of all ages show improved social skills, as well as increased impulse control and patience.

(thinkingpreteen.com)



TEACHABLE MOMENTS

1. **“I Can’t” Jar**—When children say they can’t do something, write down the problem and pray about it together. When the problem or obstacle has been overcome, put the slip of paper in the jar as a visual reminder of what God helps us accomplish.
2. **Calm and Collected**—Model for children how to react to bad or scary news. Don’t use worst-case scenarios or exaggerate risks just to make a point. Instead, provide accurate, age-appropriate information. Empower kids and give them a sense of control by brainstorming solutions with them.
3. **Stand Together**—Remind children that everyone has weaknesses and that God puts us in families to support one another. Practice using “I” statements to speak out for what you need, whether it’s help or hugs.



“I thank and praise you, God of my ancestors, for you have given me wisdom and strength. You have told me what we asked of you and revealed to us what the king demanded.” (Daniel 2:23)

Although King Nebuchadnezzar’s astrologers said his dream was “impossible” to interpret, Daniel received answers from God in a vision. Then the king praised God!

Start a conversation about problem-solving by asking these questions:

1. When you can’t figure out something, how do you feel? How do you usually react, and why?
2. Where do you look for answers to your problems?
3. What lessons have you learned from dealing with different problems? What have you learned about yourself in the process?

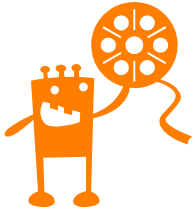
FAMILY EXPERIENCE

Use these fun activities, adapted from Group’s *Hands-On Bible*, to show how God helps us solve problems:

• **Falling Walls**—Read aloud Joshua 6:1-20, when God knocks down the walls of Jericho without force. Say: “Does this sound impossible? Let’s try it!” Break graham crackers into fourths and spread marshmallow creme on one side of each section. Stack the crackers on top of each other, using the creme as cement. Line up several stacks to form a wall. Say: “Let’s shout at our wall as loudly as we can.” Afterward, ask what happened. Say: “That’s right—nothing! It isn’t easy to bring down a wall with just noise, but God did it. God is awesome!” As you eat each section of the wall, discuss times when you need God’s power. Close in prayer, asking God to help you with all your problems and challenges.

• **Strength to Fly**—Ask: “Ever wish you could fly?” Read aloud Isaiah 40:31. Say: “That verse isn’t talking about people flying. But it’s a promise that if we trust God, he’ll give us new strength.” Have family members each try this cool trick as a reminder to trust God when problems arise. Stand in a doorway. Press the backs of your hands against the door frame as hard as you can. Count to 25. Then move away from the doorway, relax your arms, and discuss what happens. Say: “You found new strength! When you stopped pressing so hard, your arms wanted to fly up. God promises to renew our strength when we trust him, even when we’re tired and troubled. Next time things gets tough, just remember that God promises to give us new strength.”





MEDIA MADNESS



MOVIES

Title: Zootopia

Genre: Animated

Rating: PG

See complete review at

<http://www.pluggedin.com/movie-reviews/zootopia>

Animals have become quite civilized even Judy signs up for the Police Academy. She can sniff the bad guys out. She is a hard worker no doubt.

MUSIC

Artist: Shawn Mendes

Album: *Handwritten*

Artist Info: 16-yr old teen idol from Canada.

See Complete review at

<http://www.pluggedin.com/music-reviews/album/shawn-mendes-handwritten>

Be careful this teen idol's lyrics contain new normal's: sleeping with boyfriend or girlfriend is normal. Consequences include dirty laundry. :(



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**FOR REVIEWS ABOUT
MOVIES, GAMES, CUL-
TURE, MUSIC, TV AND
MORE.**

Plugged In is a Focus on the Family publication designed to shine a light on the world of popular entertainment while giving families the essential tools to navigate and impact the culture in which they live in.

GAME REVIEW



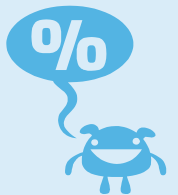
Lego Marvel Adventures

Lego games attempts to bridge the superhero-loving gap with Kinder, gentler action of the Lego block kind.

See complete review @

<http://www.pluggedin.com/game-reviews/lego-marvel-avengers>

QUICK STATS



- During tough economic times, 72% of families say they limit adult outings and activities but only 25% limit their kids' extracurricular activities. (Mamapedia)
- Child-care costs took up only 2% of the average family budget in the 1960s. But now they consume 17%, second only to mortgage or rent. (U.S. Department of Agriculture)

This page is designed to help educate parents and isn't meant to endorse any movie, music, or product. Our prayer is that you'll make informed decisions about what your children watch, listen to, and wear.



APRIL 2016



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	Debra@pacific church.com 949-552-6774 Ext 26					
3 Kids Church 9:30-10:45 Infant-5th grade.						
10 Kids Church 9:30-10:45 Infant-5th grade.	11 VBS Registration opens					
17 Kids Church 9:30-10:45 Infant-5th grade.						
24 Kids Church 9:30-10:45 Infant-5th grade.						