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Parent p.7-9 Calendar p.10

**Websites**

Church

[www.ibcfam.org](http://www.ibcfam.org)

Children

<http://www.ibcfam.org/l-a-m-b-s-of-god/index.html>

Youth

<http://www.ibcfam.org/thrive-student-ministries/index.html>

Young Adult

<http://www.ibcfam.org/young-adult-ministry/index.html>

**Facebook Links**

Church

<https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=immanuel%20baptist%20church%20-%20san%20angelo>

Children

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/291264247931912/>

Youth

<https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=thrive%20student%20ministries%20ibc>

Young Adult 1

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1163055163717410/>

Young Adult 2

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/214790948905380/>

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San Angelo, TX 76903

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Immanuel Baptist Church

Family Ministry Newsletter

September 2017

Prayers for the 2017-2018 School Year

Back to School
<http://media1.razorplanet.com/share/516382-9159/resources/1259793_backtoschoolprayer.pdf>

Prayers for Parents to Pray over their Children
<http://media1.razorplanet.com/share/516382-9159/resources/1259794_31DaysofPrayer.pdf>

Prayers for Children to Pray over their Parents
<http://media1.razorplanet.com/share/516382-9159/resources/1259795_TheChildrensGuidetoPrayingfortheirParents.docx>

Prayers for Couple
<http://media1.razorplanet.com/share/516382-9159/resources/1225177_30DaysMarriagePrayersEbook.pdf>

**Next Generation Discipleship starts Sunday September 10 at 6pm contact Josh FMI**



**Nurture Positive Friendships**

For many children, a highlight of back-to-school season is reuniting with old friends and making new ones. Friends are vital to emotional and social development. Through friendships, kids learn to relate, respect, share, make decisions, and set boundaries. Having friends also boosts self-esteem by making children feel supported.

Unfortunately, peer conflicts, mistreatment, and even bullying occur even among young children. The National Education Association says 160,000 kids miss school each day because they’re afraid of bullying, attacks, or intimidation. The example you set at home can help children develop kindness, love, and respect while maintaining a healthy sense of self.

**Show selfless love.** Help children make the connection between how Jesus loves and cares for us and how he wants us to love and care for one another. Make the Golden Rule a priority in your home (Matthew 7:12).

**Agree to disagree.** Children need to hear that it’s okay to have different opinions; after all, God made us each different. But it’s never okay to hurt or mock someone with words or actions.

**Know everyone matters.** Focus on activities and behavior standards that are positive, fun, and rewarding in order to help children find the acceptance and recognition they seek. Guiding kids toward loving themselves is key to helping them love other people.

Read on for more friend-focused ideas!

POWER**SOURCE**

**ASK JESUS:**

1. To guide your children into positive, productive friendships.

2. To show your family members how to love and befriend one another.

3. To give your kids the strength to stand up and speak out against bullying.

As children grow and change, so do their friendships and interactions:

**Grow As Faithful Friends**

**Ages 2 to 4:** Young children depend on others to help them develop social skills. Schedule playdates and use praise to reinforce good behavior such as sharing. Help children refine their negotiation skills to resolve conflicts. Give them ideas about what to say to playmates.

**Ages 5 to 8:** Kids this age are learning to choose their friends. Their self-image is strongly related to other people’s opinions of them. To help a bully, emphasize respect and model how to handle conflict without anger.

**Ages 9 to 12:** Parental authority diminishes, and kids want to be with their friends more. Discuss the qualities of a good friend and the down side of cliques and gangs.

**Good Reflections** Let babies and toddlers see themselves and their playmates in mirrors. Point to reflections and say names so kids can attach names to others.

**Stick With Love** Buy stickers with messages about friendship, and let children pass them out to friends. Read 2 John 5-6 and talk about what it means to love our friends.

**Nice to Meet You!** Sit in a circle with family members and practice “introducing” yourselves as if you were meeting new friends. Read aloud Acts 2:42-44 and explain that the first Christians gathered to share about Jesus and their lives. Ask: “What are some ways to get to know somebody new? Why is it easier to be a Christian when you have good friends who are trying to follow Jesus too?”

**Friends Rock!** Play Rock, Paper, Scissors. After each round, the winner reveals a favorite thing (food, TV show, and so on). Then ask: “Which was more fun: telling something about yourself or learning about the other person? Why is it important to learn the likes and dislikes of our friends? Why does Jesus want us to care about our friends?” Read aloud Philippians 2:4. Say: “To be a true friend, we must know what makes our friends happy. The more we know about someone, the easier it is to offer friendship and support.”

**Our Forever Friend** Read aloud John 15:15 and talk about what it means that Jesus is our friend. Discuss ways Jesus has helped you and how he shows us to be friends to others.

**All Are Invited!** When kids feel left out or are excluded from a party, talk about how life isn’t always fair or equal. Read aloud Luke 14:7-14 and discuss ways to include people and not exclude.

**Friendship Is a Gift** Together, make crafts such as friendship bracelets that children can give to their friends. Read aloud Acts 20:35 and discuss how giving is a key—and fun—part of friendships.

**Friendship Chain** Have family members stand in a line. Give the first person a roll of crepe paper. People will take turns threading the paper around their head, across their chest, and around both legs. If the paper breaks before you’re all connected, start again! Then discuss how families are connected as friends.

TEACHABLE
**MOMENTS**

**Supportive Friends**

Set out two piles of index cards (six cards per pile), a bag of popcorn, and a bag of sugar cubes. Say: **Let’s create two six-story buildings. One will have layers of popcorn between the floors, and the other will have layers of sugar cubes between the floors. Ready? Go!** (Allow time.)

Ask: **Which building was easier to build? Which do you think will stand stronger and sturdier? Why?**

Read aloud Luke 10:25-37. Ask: **In what ways did the Samaritan support the hurt man?**

Say: **If we don’t support our friends, those friendships may tumble.** Have family members blow on the popcorn tower to tumble it. **But when we support our friends with kindness, understanding, and love, we know our friendships will stand strong.** Let everyone blow on the sugar cube tower, which should remain standing.

Close in prayer. Thank Jesus for friends and ask for help to support them.



**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, read, listen to, and play.**

MEDIA **MADNESS**



**Carrotia**

This cooperative board game for up to six players involves creating mazes with tiles. The “master rabbit” must navigate to the exit in a certain number of steps while avoiding owls and hawks. The game also can be played untimed. Designed for ages 8+.

**Text2Speech.org**

If your child needs to have large chunks of text read aloud to him or her for school, text-to-speech software is a handy option. This free site lets you select the sound, speed, and volume of a voice. No registration is required, and you can use the speech files for any purpose.

**OurPact**

This free app for iPhone and Android lets parents control and schedule children’s screen time and block certain sites and apps. Parents can set up agreements with kids, granting screen time once chores are completed. They also can track their children through geolocation.

**Games, Sites & Apps**

**MOVIE**

**Title:** *The Lego Ninjago Movie* **Genre:** Animation, Action, Adventure

**Rating:** not yet rated (likely PG)

**Cast:** Olivia Munn, Jackie Chan, Fred Armisen, Justin Theroux, Dave Franco

**Synopsis:** This martial-arts action-comedy is the first film in the series to be based on an original Lego property, the Ninjago toy line. Six ordinary high school students by day become gifted ninja warriors by night, working to defend their island home. A warlord must deal with the fact that his son is one of the ninjas.

**Our Take:** This third “Lego” film to hit theaters will likely be clever and creative, while plugging a product in the process. Perilous situations may upset younger children, and some jokes may go over kids’ heads.

**book**

**Title:** *Friends With God Story Bible*

**Author:** Jeff White

**Illustrator:** David Harrington

**Synopsis:** This new story Bible is filled with 54 first-person accounts from the Old and New Testaments. Children meet Bible-times friends from their own points of view—and discover that *they* are God’s friends, too.

**Our Take:** This book is ideal for family devotions and bedtime reading. The thrilling true accounts and kid-friendly illustrations are sure to hold children’s attention. They’ll discover that God has always loved and worked through people just like them. As a bonus, the book comes with a free Bible app that lets children collect, share, and create digital trading cards for each character.

**The Hidden Benefits of Dating Your Wife** <http://www.focusonthefamily.com/marriage/dating-your-spouse/hidden-benefits-of-dating-your-wife>

By Greg Smalley

Several years ago, my son, Garrison, reminded me of the importance of [dating my wife](http://www.focusonthefamily.com/marriage/dating-your-spouse/make-date-night-with-your-spouse-a-weekly-habit), Erin. I was trying to usher Erin out the door for a date. Unfortunately, our youngest daughter, Annie, who was 4 at the time, didn't want Mommy to leave. Annie wrapped herself around Erin's leg. Garrison, who was 10, stepped in.

"Don't worry," he explained to Annie. "We need to let Mom and Dad go out on their date." "But why?" Annie asked.

I'll never forget his answer: "This is what Mom and Dad do to keep their marriage strong."

Annie seemed to accept his explanation, and then she asked, "What do they do on their date?"

"I have no idea," Garrison said, looking confused, "but I think it ends with kissing."

When a couple spends time alone each week, their levels of [happiness](http://www.focusonthefamily.com/marriage/dating-your-spouse/6-ways-to-make-your-marriage-happy), positive communication and sexual satisfaction are more than three times higher than those who don't spend that time together. That means you might be able to dramatically increase these important areas of your marriage by simply dating your wife!

[Date night](http://www.focusonthefamily.com/marriage/dating-your-spouse/date-night/the-heart-and-soul-of-date-night) is a fantastic way to make sure you and your wife are connecting positively and enjoying each other's company on a regular basis. It doesn't have to be expensive or elaborate. But it's going to take time, effort and planning.

The key to a great date is to make sure you don't administrate your marriage when you go out — don't have conversations about finances, household responsibilities, problems with the kids or sensitive issues. You need to talk about these things, but not during a date. Date night is about *enjoying* each other.

A great date night will feature playfulness and laughter. Ask your wife questions to update your knowledge of her. Reminisce by retelling some of your favorite marriage stories. Talking about your memorable events allows you to celebrate how far you've come as a couple and provides hope as you anticipate future good times together. Why not take our Date Night Challenge? Go out on three dates in three weeks and watch how this will strengthen your marriage!

# Wanted: Good Friends

<http://www.focusonthefamily.com/parenting/schoolage-children/wanted-good-friends>

By Shaunti Feldhahn

Alice's heart dropped as her daughter ran into the house, dumped her backpack on her bedroom floor and started sobbing on her bed. Sixth-graders could be so cruel.

Alice walked into the bedroom, and her daughter said, between sobs, "Don't make me go back to school. Everyone hates me!"

Alice gave her girl a tight hug. "They don't hate you, sweetheart."

"But I don't have any friends," the girl wailed.

"Sure you do. Debbie was just over here the other day."

The young girl sniffed. "Yes, Debbie." She looked hopelessly at her mother and asked, "Who else?"

Alice felt uncomfortable. "Well . . . how about Angie?"

"Angie hasn't talked to me in months, Mom. Neither has Patty or Lara." She started crying again. "All the kids from youth group make excuses to avoid inviting me to things. I don't have any friends!"

Alice hugged her again, wondering what she could possibly say. Her daughter was right — she was the kid nobody liked. How could she help her daughter find friends? She was a sweet child but didn't understand that she was turning people off by talking too much, being oversensitive and not knowing how to approach others in an appropriate way.

Alice understood that the only way to help her daughter find a friend was to teach her how to be a friend. So the effort began.

That little girl eventually learned how to be a good friend and grew up to be someone who has many great friends.

How do I know? I was that young girl.

Over time, I learned some life-changing principles that continue to help me build friendships today. Here are three basic habits you can teach your children to help them thrive during the critical years of learning about friendship.

## Friendship habit No. 1: Ask others about themselves

One of the most eye-opening facts I learned about friendship was this: To be a good friend, you don't tell people about yourself. You ask them about themselves. Until then, my conversations had been of the "Me, too!" variety as I desperately tried to fit in. But I learned that when you ask, "What does your family do for summer vacation?" and urge another kid to talk about herself, she just might think you're pretty cool.

Children are often seen as easier to be around when they stop talking about themselves (unless asked) and try to learn things about other people.

Gradually coach your kids to learn at least one or two things a week that they didn't know about a friend — or someone they want as a friend. Teach them to ask questions like: "What was your favorite vacation?" "What are your favorite video games?" (My son's favorite "friend topic" has to do with what level of a certain video game each boy is on. I must confess I don't understand a word of it, but it sure gets them energized!

## Friendship habit No. 2: Make others comfortable

Another prerequisite for being a good friend is observing how others feel and setting them at ease.
Young children can be naturally self-focused, not realizing, for example, that the buddy they've invited over is watching instead of helping build the LEGO tower. Instead of simply instructing your child to include his friend in playing, pull him aside for a moment and ask, "Joey, what do you think Bobby feels like when you're doing all the building and not letting him play?"

Teaching sensitivity becomes especially important during the middle school years when kids aren't as accepting of one another and are much more aware of the social pecking order. Kids need to know that they don't have to be close buddies with everyone, but they do have to be sensitive to the feelings of others. Teach a confident child to put himself in the shoes of an insecure classmate, and help an insecure child understand that even kids who look confident often are not.

## Friendship habit No. 3: Reach out

Ultimately, the only way for children to become friends is to spend time together. That means someone has to take the initiative, and someone has to facilitate the plan. Before kids can drive, a lot of their success as a friend will depend on you. Your daughter can say she wants to have Jennie over to visit, but she'll need your help to make that happen.

As children get into the preteen years, a huge part of being a good friend includes taking the risk of reaching out and inviting someone over to your house. This key friendship skill can start with you prompting your kids by asking, "Who do you want to get together with? OK, good. Why don't you ask her if she'd like to come over this Saturday?"

These habits take practice. As your child sees that these relational habits actually work, this progress will be the best possible incentive to continue trying.

|  | **September 2017** |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Sun** | **Mon** | **Tue** | **Wed** | **Thu** | **Fri** | **Sat** |
|  |  |  |  |  | 1  | 2  |
| 3 Who got ate by a big fish? (Jonah 1-2)S.N.A.C.KNo Evening Service | 4 Church Office is Closed | 5  | 6 Sports ThemeBalloon Night | 7  | 8  | 9  |
| 10 CC-Children singing 3 Patriot Songs then staying w/familyPrayer for BSM6pm=Next Generation Discipleship S.N.A.C.K | 11  | 12  | 13  | 14 He Speaks to me (Weekly Ladies Bible Study at 10am at Richardson’s)  | 15  | 16  |
| 17 Jesus did What... (John 11)S.N.A.C.K | 18  | 19  | 20 | 21  | 22  | 23  |
| 24 NO CC S.N.A.C.K | 25  | 26  | 27 See you at the pole | 28  | 29  | 30  |

**Sunday Services Wednesday Evening Services**

9:30= Children and Youth Sunday School 5:45pm= Thrive Student meal, worship and Bible Study

11:00= Children’s Church in Gym and Youth in Sanctuary 6:00pm=Awana

5:00= Discipleship (seasonal)

6:30pm= S.N.A.C.K for kids (New Service time 6pm on September 10)

**Questions concerning Children and Young Adult Ministries see Brother JD Questions concerning Youth and Discipleship see Brother Josh**

SS=Sunday School Announcements CC= Children’s Church Announcements Dark Blue= Awana

Pink=Special Events S.N.A.C.K= Sunday Night At Church Kids