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Marriage p.7 Parent p.8-10 Calendar p.11

**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/>

90 East 14th Street

San Angelo, TX 76903

325-653-3361

Immanuel Baptist Church

Family Ministry Newsletter

August 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>



**Back to School splash**

**For Children in K– 5th Grade**

**Sunday, August 20 from 6:30 to 8:30pm**

**At Love Municipal pool**

**Meal provided**

**NO COST so bring Friends**

**Parents must stay they do not have to swim**

**Sign up at**

[**https://kideventpro.lifeway.com/myChurch/?id=38567**](https://kideventpro.lifeway.com/myChurch/?id=38567)

Special Events

![Block-Party[1]]()

**Sunday, August 6 at 6pm at Kirby Park**

![awana-logo-banner-feature-sized[1]]()

Summer Wednesday Evening Schedule

August 2= Ice cream and Miracles of Jesus #4

August 9= Water Wars and Miracles of Jesus #5

**Awana Kickoff Party**

**Wednesday, August 23 6:00 - 7:30pm**

**Dunk Booth, Games, Snacks, and more**

**5th Wednesday activities**

**Wednesday, August 30 6:00 - 7:30pm**

**Ice Cream, Games, and more**

Sunday August 13 2017

Pancake Breakfast

9:30=Sunday School Promotion

11:00=Gospel Presentation with Balloons

6:00pm Prayer Blitz the Schools

**Help Kids Embrace People’s Differences**

POWER**SOURCE**

**ASK GOD:**

1. To give your children a loving, accepting spirit toward all people.

2. To help you and your kids look beyond appearances to see people’s hearts.

3. To help your family live out Christ-like compassion daily.

As a parent, you likely teach your children to love and accept all people. This directive becomes more challenging for kids when they begin school and meet classmates with various abilities, skin colors, cultural backgrounds, and religious beliefs.

Children are often unsure how to interact with people who look and act differently from them. Young kids may be fearful, while preteens may resort to name-calling. It’s important to discuss the topic in age-appropriate ways, emphasizing how Jesus loves everyone and wants us to do the same. Follow these tips:

**Acknowledge the differences children notice in people.** Answer questions honestly and factually. Brushing over inquiries may send the message that there’s something “wrong” with a person.

**Let kids explore their differences.** Allow them to interact with peers from other cultures. Discuss other religious beliefs, while emphasizing that there’s only one true God.

**Encourage children to look for positive qualities in people.** Focus on what makes each person special and unique. Kids who feel secure are less likely to feel prejudice toward others.

**Model love and acceptance.** Through your actions, show children how to respect differences. As your role model, use Jesus, who befriended society’s outsiders and outcasts.

“Clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience… Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony.”

—Colossians 3:12,14

**Valuing Our Varied World**

When children enter school, they’re often exposed to bullying, racism, and other forms of teasing or discrimination. They need to hear that God created a wide range of people with different skills and interests to add variety to his world. Start a conversation with your children using these questions:

* How are your friends or classmates alike? How are they different?
* What have you learned from people who are different from you?
* If everyone looked and acted the same way, what would life be like?
* How does it feel to be judged based on what you look like? When we judge someone by appearance, what do we miss?
* What are some ways we can show love to people who are different from us?

**Expanded Horizons** Choose books, shows, games, and toys featuring a range of ethnicities. Read about children and adults who deal with physical and mental challenges, and discuss how they deal with or try to overcome them.

**Meet and Greet** Invite someone with a different cultural background to your house. At dinner, have him or her share customs, traditions, and stories. Also ask people who might normally feel left out to join you on family outings; for example, single parents and their children, kids from less-privileged backgrounds, and so on.

**Common Ground** When children point out people’s differences, have them help you brainstorm ways that everyone is alike (we’re all God’s children, we all have feelings, and so on).

**Kindness Croquet** Set up a croquet course, using family members and friends as wickets. Say: “The goal is to show kindness and to help everyone win.” As someone kicks a ball (of any kind) toward a “wicket,” that wicket should move to let the ball go through, if possible. Remind players to show kindness through words and actions. Give everyone a chance to play and to be a wicket. Afterward, read aloud 1 Corinthians 13:4a, and discuss how we show love to others by being kind to them.

**Crowd Around** Tape together four different-colored squares of paper to form a large game board. Read aloud 1 John 4:7-12. Say: “Jesus says we are to love one another because love comes from God. Let’s play a game and show love.” Shout out the color of one square. Have everyone stand on it and perform a loving act; for example, red is “Give high fives,” yellow is “Tell each other what you like about them,” green is “Give two people a shoulder rub,” and blue is “Shake someone’s hand and say, ‘Jesus loves you, and so do I.’”

**Breezy Kind Time** Draw or tape a smiley face on an old sheet. Have family members stand in a circle and hold the sheet with both hands. Play music while passing the sheet hand-to-hand in a circle. Stop the music; have whoever is closest to the face sit under the sheet in the middle of the circle. Everyone else should wave the sheet, creating a gentle breeze, and take turns saying kind things about the person. Play until everyone gets to be in the middle.

 **CULTURE
 & TRENDS**

**Non-Mean Memes** The Internet may be becoming a bit kinder and gentler, thanks to a wave of more wholesome memes. In response to recent negativity in society, people have been creating messages of hope and empowerment. “We don’t have to be angry all the time,” says Reddit CEO Steve Huffman. *(time.com)*

**Treats That Bite Back** The “sweet heat” food trend is extending to candy. Skittles and Starburst, for example, are incorporating a spicy kick to some flavors. In fact, food-trend experts have declared spicy the new sour. *(foodbusinessnews.net)*

QUICK **STATS**

**Refugee Relief** Six million Syrian children now rely on humanitarian aid for survival. Their plight prompted a California mom to launch Operation Refugee Child, sending thousands of filled backpacks—each with a personalized letter—to young refugees in Greece and Jordan. *(unicef.org; operationrefugeechild.org)*

**Time Out** Children with special needs might be disproportionately disciplined in schools. A study in Texas reveals that although only about 9% of elementary students there receive special services, they account for 22% of out-of-school suspensions. *(dallasnews.com)*

TEACHABLE **MOMENTS**

**Building Kindness**

Have family members spread out at least an arm’s length from each other. Give them each eight building blocks.

Say: **Quickly build a tower with six of your blocks.** (Allow time.) **Now stand by your tower and use your two extra blocks to knock down other towers. You can protect your tower, but you have only 10 seconds. Go!**

Then ask: **How did it feel to have other people tear down your tower? How does it feel when other people tear you down with their words or actions?**

Read aloud Ephesians 4:29. Say: **When people are unkind, it tears down other people’s feelings. But Jesus calls us to build each other up through love and kindness.**

Ask: **What are some things you can say and do to build up other people?** For each answer, have family members pick up a block and add it to a tower.

Close in prayer, asking Jesus to help you build up others with kindness.



**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**



**Yooka-Laylee**

This 3-D platform game (rated E10+) was named one of 2017’s most exciting family-friendly titles. The main characters are a bat and chameleon, and play includes exploring worlds, unlocking secrets, and solving puzzles. Players can overcome obstacles at their own speed.

**WhatsInside.it**

Father-son duo Dan and Lincoln Markham became a YouTube sensation by cutting open random objects. Each week, almost 5 million curious people tune in to see the destructive pursuits—performed with safety gear. As the website’s tagline notes, “We cut stuff open so you don’t have to!

**Pango Build Park**

This interactive app, available for both iPhone and Android, lets kids create their own fun attractions or select from nine pre-made worlds. Young builders can customize to their heart’s content, with no rules, timers, or scores. The app is for ages 3 and up. No reading is required.

**Games, Sites & Apps**

**MOVIE**

**Title:** *Leap!* **Genre:** Animation, adventure, comedy

**Rating:** PG

**Cast:** Elle Fanning, Nat Wolff, Carly Rae Jepsen, Mel Brooks

**Synopsis:** Félicie, a poor 11-year-old who dreams of being a ballerina, runs away from an orphanage with her best friend, Victor, an aspiring inventor. The two head to Paris, where they become separated. By assuming another girl’s identity, Félicie enters a prestigious ballet school and begins training.

**Our Take:** This movie, which released last year in Europe under the title *Ballerina,* emphasizes determination, courage, and hard work, but doesn’t shy from tension and challenging situations. Discuss with kids what’s needed to turn a dream into reality.

**book**

**Title:** *The Bad Guys*

**Author:** Aaron Blabey

**Synopsis:** This series, aimed at kids ages 7 to 10, will have four books released by the end of summer. Boys—especially previously reluctant readers—are devouring these graphic-novel hybrids. In the books, a group of typical “bad guys” undertakes silly missions that turn out to be good missions.

**Our Take:** These fun stories get kids and their parents laughing, and it’s great that the books are attracting children who don’t usually care to read. Expect some off-color humor, at times, along the lines of the “Captain Underpants” series. But these books are backed by the reputable Scholastic Paperbacks, winner of many awards.

# Why Couples Stop Talking

<http://www.focusonthefamily.com/marriage/communication-and-conflict/why-couples-stop-talking>

By Greg Smalley

I once heard a story about a retired business executive and his wife. One evening, the wife called friends to ask what they were doing.

"Oh," said the other wife, "we're just talking and drinking tea."

The executive's wife hung up the phone. "They're drinking tea and talking," she told her husband. "Why don't we ever do that?" The executive said, "So, make us some tea." Soon they sat with their freshly brewed tea, stirring the tea and staring at each other. And stirring. And staring.

"Call them back," the executive barked, "and find out what they're talking about!"

Many husbands and wives may find that this older couple's dilemma sounds far too familiar.

[Good communication](http://www.focusonthefamily.com/marriage/communication-and-conflict/positive-communication-in-marriage) is the lifeblood of a successful marriage, so when spouses stop talking at a deep level, their marriages slowly begin to die. After all, a marriage will only be as good as a couple's communication.

One of the more sinister reasons husbands and wives quit communicating is that they "administrate" marriage almost to death. They're often caught in a destructive pattern where they spend their limited time together talking about work, the budget, children, chores and so on. The conversations become "transactional." Certainly there's a need to discuss household management, but couples cannot allow "business meetings" to dominate their conversations.

Administration meetings often lead to [arguments](http://www.focusonthefamily.com/marriage/communication-and-conflict/how-fighting-can-help-your-marriage), and couples become trained to think that "talking" will lead to conflict and disconnection. The problem is that husbands and wives unintentionally condition each other to feel that it's neither fun nor safe to engage in conversation. So they stop talking.

The key to positive communication is found in [*knowing and being known*](http://www.focusonthefamily.com/marriage/communication-and-conflict/to-know-and-be-known). This means that you're interested in and curious about this person you married. Listen when your spouse talks. Ask open-ended questions. Your spouse desperately wants to be known.

The other side of that coin is to let your spouse know what's going on in your life. Volunteer information about your deepest thoughts, beliefs, feelings, hopes and desires.

Good communication requires an active effort, but you can build a strong marriage if you offer to both know and be known.

Dr. Greg Smalley is vice president of Marriage and Family Formation at Focus on the Family and the author or co-author of several books, including [Crazy Little Thing Called Marriage](https://store.focusonthefamily.com/authors/greg-and-erin-smalley/crazy-little-thing-called-marriage).

# Imperfect Kids, Imperfect Parents

<http://www.focusonthefamily.com/parenting/parenting-roles/imperfect-kids-imperfect-parents>

By Jim Daly

Most days, I came home to an empty house. So I'd grab a soda, flip on the TV and join other, [better families](http://www.focusonthefamily.com/parenting/parenting-roles/be-the-parent/a-real-job-description-for-parents) for an hour. These families seemed to be what families should look like. Not the messy, fractured version I experienced: the hardworking, hardly-ever-there mom; the drunk, abusive father who'd abandoned us; the strict, overbearing stepdad. No, these families were better. Loving parents. Obedient children.Life's dilemmas solved in 30 minutes.

Looking back, I often wonder how many parents asked why their homes didn't look like that fictionalized ideal. How many moms observed their screaming kids and thought, [*Where did I go wrong*](http://www.focusonthefamily.com/parenting/parenting-roles/be-the-parent/stress-busters-for-moms)? How many dads left for work after a turbulent morning feeling guilty — and maybe a little relieved? How many kids wished their parents would solve problems with wise words and a comforting smile?

And how many of us today still pursue this fantasy? We know what a perfect family looks like. We know what ours looks like. And we wonder why there's such a difference between the two.

## Why aren't our families perfect?

That's the wrong question to ask. We're flawed humans. It's our nature.

A better question might be, "How can we get better?" How can we repair and build relationships? How can we overcome mistakes and create healthy, safe environments for our families?

The answer starts with shaking the sense of inferiority that most of us carry, the crippling idea that we're not good enough. It starts with breaking free from the notion that we have to do everything perfectly, that our home has to be perfect, that our kids need to make the honor roll and the varsity squad.

Accepting imperfection is the place where great families begin. It's the place where mistakes are made, where milk gets spilled and glasses shatter. But in the middle of the chaos, there's love, safety and forgiveness.

Don't get me wrong. I'm talking about imperfect parenting, not indifferent parenting. We shouldn't slavishly focus on the rules of the parenting game — striving for perfection and obedience in every moment — but there are some important principles we should pay attention to. And when those guidelines are balanced with grace, with a recognition that every member of the family is going to mess up, we create a space where our kids can truly thrive.

## A refuge from the storm

In the Daly family, if the boys start bickering — if one calls the other "stupid" or makes fun of him — their mother steps in.

"Hey!" Jean will say. "Family's supposed to be a safe place! Family is a place where we love each other. Where we can be the real us."

I don't know if I've ever heard a better definition of what family is supposed to be.

Families won't be perfect. But they should be safe. Family should be the safest place we'll ever know, the place we go back to when everything else in our lives blows up.

I sometimes like to think of the family as a literal house. We can't just quickly build one with drywall, carpet and paint. We need a strong framework in place, a structure that defines what our home will look like and how it'll operate. That structure supports our floor and roof and walls. It keeps us dry and warm — and safe.

Likewise, the framework of a family is critical to a healthy home. Children need structure and boundaries, predictable, reliable limitations that don't shift by the hour. It's important that we correct our kids when they cross those boundaries. And while I've never thought you need a lot of rules to create a well-functioning family, whatever rules and expectations you do have need to be clearly defined and steadily, reasonably enforced.

It's easy to understand this need for structure and slip into a rigid, legalistic mindset. But we can't lose sight of the importance of grace. In a healthy, well-functioning family, everyone is still a flawed human. We need to find a balance between correcting our children and not crushing their spirits.

In the Daly home, we expect our boys to keep up their grades, tend to their personal hygiene, follow the Golden Rule — all good, important things, but things they sometimes struggle to master as young teens. All those expectations can lead to an avalanche of correction.

And when it gets pervasive — for example, when Jean or I have corrected or instructed our son Trent every time he's within earshot — it wears on him. "You forgot to take out the trash." "Is your homework done?" You can see it pulling him down — to a point where he doesn't feel so safe anymore. As parents, we've had to focus on this balance between structure and grace.

A house that consisted of nothing but structure would make a very poor home indeed. It might stand for 100 years, but you wouldn't want to live there for even a day. Thankfully, the framework in a house is usually hidden, even if we know it's there. It's covered with walls and paint, carpet and ceilings. It has art and bright windows, sofas for afternoon naps, and tables and chairs where we might spend hours talking and playing games.

Rules, boundaries and standards are all essential. But most days, we should barely know they're there. We cover them with laughter and affection. We coat them with our memories. We decorate them with our love and grace.

## Time and conversation

There's another thing that a home has: people who spend time together, laughing and playing, connecting with each other. People who want to be there doing these things.

Why do parenting experts constantly affirm the importance of sitting down together for a family meal? Because of the time spent together at that table.

Time is the greatest currency of family: How you spend it shows what you value, and who you value. You can't know your kids — their strengths and weaknesses, their interests and passions — without spending time to get to know them. You can't model good behavior for them if you're rarely around. You teach them how to laugh by laughing with them.

My son Trent gets chatty at night. When I'm tired, Trent turns conversational. He'll start talking about school and friends. About dreams and goals. And though I'm tired, I'll think, This is great! A conversation with my son!

We recently had another long conversation — about grades, which he's been struggling with. I wasn't angry, and he wasn't defensive. We're trying to make these conversations constructive, and a big part of creating the right atmosphere is to be willing to listen. He knows the score: School is important. It's not as if my yelling about it again would suddenly cause Trent to think, Wow. Dad really cares about this stuff. Guess I'll work harder.

As parents, we're often at our most convincing when we're just there. In a way, we're evangelizing our kids — not just into the kingdom of God, but also into the world of responsible adulthood. We want to love them. To save them. To prepare them for the challenges and the beauty in their future.

Yes, sometimes we have to force conversations. We have to tackle problems that can't be ignored. We have to get down in the dirt and love our kids where they are.

Families are like a house, but they're also like the garden out back. They can be dirty places filled with weeds and bugs, too much water or sun. They require patience and often a willingness to work in the mud. And it helps to have a sense of humor.

But gardening is an act of trust. An act of faith. Underneath the earth, a miracle grows — one that has less to do with you and more to do with God. You can't make a seed sprout. You can't force it to flower. Your job is to help the miracle along.

Jim Daly is the president of Focus on the Family and the host of its daily broadcast.

|  | **August 2017** |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Sun** | **Mon** | **Tue** | **Wed** | **Thu** | **Fri** | **Sat** |
|  |  | 1  | 2 Ice CreamMiracles of Jesus- Jesus calms a storm | 3  | 4  | 5  |
| 6 Block PartyCC-Raised Lazarus | 7  | 8  | 9 Water WarsMiracles of Jesus-Raised Lazarus | 10  | 11  | 12  |
| 13 Look at listPancake BreakfastSS-PromotionCC-Gospel w/BalloonsSES-Prayer BlitzJ.A.M | 14  | 15  | 16 Awana Training**No Children’s Activities**  | 17  | 18  | 19  |
| 20 CC-I’m a Christian Now #1Back to School Splash 6:30-8:30 at Love’s Municipal PoolJ.A.M  | 21  | 22  | 23 Awana Kickoff | 24  | 25  | 26  |
| 27 CC-I’m a Christian Now # 2J.A.M S.N.A.C.K | 28  | 29  | 30 5th Wed Handout Awana Gear | 31  |  |

**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

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

J.A.M= Jesus and Me (Discipleship) S.N.A.C.K= Sunday Night At Church Kids