

April 2018

parenting CHRISTIAN kids



SHORELINE KIDS

OBEYING THE SAVIOR

Sunday:
Nursery 10:30
Elementary & PreK after
Praise and Worship with
family
Wednesday:
PreK – 5th Grade
6:30-8:00

Teach Children to Care for God's Creation

POWERSOURCE

PRAY TO GOD:

1. Thank God for his amazing, diverse creation.
2. Ask God to show your family how to take care of his earth.
3. Ask God to remind you to worship him, not his creation.

The word “stewardship” often has a financial connotation. But Jesus calls his followers to be wise, faithful stewards of *everything* he blesses us with, including our planet and its natural resources.

Although the yearly celebration of Earth Day in April isn't based in Christianity, its focus is something we can encourage. When God created the world—which he repeatedly called “good”—he told us to care for it and for all the creatures in it. That doesn't mean we worship nature; instead, we make an effort (sometimes involving sacrifices) to protect our earthly home.

And we do that not just to preserve the world for future generations. As author Tim Mascara writes, “Earth

Day should matter, not because of some cliché saying that it belongs to our kids and we are just borrowing from them. It doesn't belong to my kids any more than it belongs to me.” He adds, “We are just stewards. But that sells it short also. We are not just stewards. We are the Creator's stewards. We are his stewards.”

When your family takes steps to recycle and “go green,” remind children about the reasons behind those efforts. Also let kids know that small actions play a big role in caring for the environment. Remember to set a good day-to-day example as you shop, make transportation decisions, do indoor and outdoor chores, and so on.

Read on to discover family-friendly activities that emphasize creation care.

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Become Stewards of the Earth

News about a changing climate and its consequences can be scary for people of all ages. Protect toddlers and preschoolers from distressing images as much as possible. If you show concern and anxiety, children will become fearful, too. By kindergarten, children realize that outside events affect them and their families but still may have trouble distinguishing between reality and fantasy. Don't belittle their fears; instead, assure them of God's love and protection. By ages 7 to 10, kids are interested in news about the world around them. Answer their questions starting at a simple, basic level. Preteens begin to understand long-term implications of events, such as environmental issues. Present relevant facts, prepare for back-and-forth discussions, and remind kids that God is always in control.



TEACHABLE MOMENTS

Crystal Creation

Find a recipe online for making rock candy, and start growing sweet crystals on sticks. (Adult supervision is required.) When the sugar solution is set up, have a devotion about God's presence—and impact.

Read aloud 2 Corinthians 3:18. Say: **God influences our world and our lives in very powerful ways. He helps us grow and change, or “transform,” over time. God also changes our hearts, showing us how to love him, other people, and ourselves. He gives us wisdom and strength to care for everyone and everything he made.**

Say: **This solution we made has two items we use every day: sugar and water. It looks pretty plain now, but let's put it in a safe place in the kitchen. Each morning, we'll check to see what changes are happening.**

Within a week, dramatic changes will occur. The longer you let the crystals grow, the larger they'll get. You can eat the candy if the container is kept in a clean, dry area.

The World God Made As you read aloud Genesis 2:15-20, have family members act out the account. Then ask: “What do you think the Garden of Eden was like? What job did God give Adam?” Explain that when people sinned, God made them leave the garden, and now we have God's whole world to take care of. Discuss how well you do that as individuals and as a family.

Favorite Things Hand out paper and crayons or markers. Read aloud Psalm 104:24. Have family members each divide their paper in half. On one half, have them draw a picture of their favorite thing from nature. On the other half, have them draw or write one thing they'll do this week to help take care of God's wonderful world. Afterward, share what you all drew and wrote.

Hug a Tree Go to an area with several trees. One at a time, blindfold family members, spin them around, and lead them to a tree. Have them carefully feel the tree to learn about it. Then lead them back to the starting point, spin them again, and remove the blindfold. See if they can identify the tree they touched. Discuss how trees are a gift from God, who put them in the first garden he made.

Nature Seekers Prepare a nature-related scavenger hunt, and have family members and friends pair up to search for all the items.

Litterbug Chase Visit a littered field or park. Race to collect the most cans, the oldest paper item, and the biggest piece of trash. Create wacky stories about how a piece of trash ended up where it did. Then choose a few unique items to create a garbage sculpture. Display it as a reminder to keep God's earth clean.

Crafty Recyclers As a family, make fun crafts using a variety of recycled items. Get started with the five ideas posted here: childrensministry.com/articles/5-earth-day-crafts-using-recycled-material/

Read All About It For family devotions or bedtime reading, choose some books about God's world and how to care for it:

- *All Things Bright and Beautiful* by Cecil Alexander (ages 0-5)
- *Let's Explore God's World* by Debby Anderson (ages 3-5)
- *God Made It for You!* by Charles Lehmann (ages 4-8)
- *I Love God's Green Earth* by Michael Carroll (ages 9-12)

“The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to him.”
—Psalm 24:1

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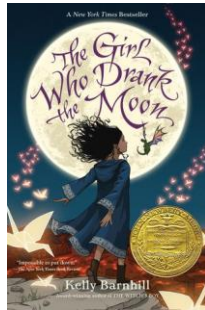
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MEDIA MADNESS



MOVIE

Title: *Sherlock Gnomes*
Genre: Animation, Adventure, Comedy
Rating: Not yet rated
Cast: Emily Blunt, Johnny Depp, James McAvoy, Chiwetel Ejiofor
Synopsis: As Gnomeo and Juliet prepare their garden for spring, they realize gnomes are being kidnapped throughout London. They call famous detective Sherlock Gnomes to investigate the case, which leads to adventures throughout the city.
Our Take: This sequel to 2011's *Gnomeo & Juliet* capitalizes on the humor of cute pint-sized garden ornaments. But the trailer contains some questionable language and suggestive situations. If you watch the movie with your kids, discuss the impact of words and behaviors.



BOOK

Title: *The Girl Who Drank the Moon*
Author: Kelly Barnhill
Synopsis: This fairy tale, winner of the 2017 Newbery Medal, is set in a village that sacrifices one baby each year by leaving it in the forest. The goal is to appease a witch who might destroy the community. But the witch, who's actually kind, makes sure the babies are raised by loving families elsewhere. When she accidentally gives one baby magic, she decides to raise it herself.
Our Take: Although a central character is a witch, this book is full of positive messages and role models. Readers discover that love is the "magic" that holds things together in this story. The book can open the door for discussions about good and evil as defined by the Bible.

Games, Sites & Apps

Nintendo Labo

Robot kits and other interactive components are adding new levels of creativity to the popular Nintendo Switch console. Using cardboard pieces, players build items that can then be used in-game or via remote control. Kit prices start at \$69.99.

You Are Here

consumer.ftc.gov/media/game-0020-you-are-here-consumer-education-mall
This interactive site from the Federal Trade Commission helps older children and preteens become financially savvy. Games in a virtual mall teach about supply and demand, privacy, false advertising, and more.

Tortuga Racing

This educational game lets children practice math skills while their character, a turtle, races through various tracks. Incorrect answers decrease one's speed, while eight correct answers in a row spark a turbo boost. Rated E for Everyone, this app game is ideal for early-elementary students.



CULTURE & TRENDS

More Moms Despite reports of a declining fertility rate, more women in the U.S. are having children. They're just waiting longer to do so and aren't necessarily getting married first—or at all. More white and/or highly educated single women are now choosing to become mothers. (*time.com*)

Bully-Free Ballet Hoping to reduce the stigma associated with taking ballet lessons, more dance studios are offering boys-only classes. Teachers say it's more comfortable for boys when they don't stand out among a sea of pink tutus. (*today.com*)

QUICK STATS

Packing Heat Almost half (45%) of adults say they're in favor of letting K-12 teachers carry guns. These responses seem to be influenced more by political party than by whether the person is a parent. (*pewresearch.org*)

Tech Troubles In *The Tech-Wise Family*, Andy Crouch reveals that technology is the #1 reason parents say it's harder than ever to raise children. (*barna.com*)

Dubious Honors America has been named the worst country for parents' work-life balance. The culprit is a lack of laws for paid annual leave and paid maternity and paternity leave.



April

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Easter	2	3	4 KAOS 6:30-8:30 Silly Socks Night	5	6	7
8 Mindy Bday Craft Day	9	10	11 KAOS 6:30-8:30 Crazy Hair/Hat	12	13	14
15 Game Day	16	17	18 KAOS 6:30-8:30 Inside Out Backwards Night	19	20	21
22 Earth Day	23	24 Malakye and Jeremyah Bday	25 Nathan Bday KAOS 6:30-8:30 Talent Show	26	27	28
29 Pancakes & Jesus Big Church Day	30					



Team Member of the Month

We at Shoreline have been blessed to have Maryann Young working in our Children's Ministry for many years!!

Currently, she and her husband Dave take care of our nursery children every 1st Sunday.

Maryann also cleans up our messes week after week. Anything from Fruit Loops to playdoh, she takes care of our rooms and never complains about the crazy messes, even glitter.

To find out more about Maryann, check out the bulletin board across from the drinking fountain.

Please take time this month to reach out to Maryann and appreciate her for all she does in showing love and care for our nursery kiddos.

We appreciate you, Maryann!!

April Happenings

Exciting things are happening in the month of April!! This is one month you do not want your child to miss church!! Be sure to look at the calendar for a schedule of fun theme days.

We have the opportunity to work with Sarah Crum and her puppies to bring the Bible to life in a new and fun way!! Be watching for details soon!!

We will end the month of fun with a talent show on Wednesday, April 25th.

We are believing that warmer weather is on its way! The kids are itching to get outside and play ☺ (the teachers are too ☺)

Our policy for outdoor play:

We will take the kids out to play anytime the weather is warmer than 60 (at the time of class) and the playground is dry. We are blessed with a fun area to play in and want to take full advantage the few months we are able to do so. We will take them out at the end of our lesson, but will not stay outside longer than 10-15 minutes to protect the kiddos from the sun. If we are not in the classroom, you will know where to find us.

Sunday, April 29th – Pancakes and Jesus

Be sure to join us for breakfast and a great time of fun and conversation! This is a great opportunity to meet other people in the congregation that you might not normally come in contact with. Shoreline has so many wonderful people for your children to meet and get to know. It really is an amazing family experience. We hope to see you there!



April 29th – **Big Church Sunday**

Every time there is a 5th Sunday in a month we will be having Big Church Sunday. All children 5 years old-5th grade will sit in Big Church with their families for the full service. We will provide nursery birth – 4 years old.

Applying Gods Word in our life

Wednesday Elementary:

Our best isn't good enough—but God's grace is!

Two things often keep us from freely accepting God's grace. We either think we're too bad for God to accept us, or we think that we can be good enough on our own. In this four-part series, kids learn that neither is true. Instead, God's grace is available to us all when we simply accept the sacrifice Christ made for us on the cross!

Wednesday Preschool:

We will be talking about Easter, sharing and being good helpers. We will talk about Joseph, Stephen and Aquila and Priscilla.

Sunday morning Elementary:

We have a great group of children in our Elementary group and they are working thru the Bible with Ms. Char on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month. We are looking at following along with "The Story" that is being used in the sermon series Pastor Bill is doing. This would give you an opportunity to continue the faith conversation at home as you and your elementary students will have heard a similar lesson. For the month of April we are going to try that on the 2nd and 4th Sunday and see how it is received.

We appreciate your patience as we look to find the best way to partner with you to grow extraordinary kids who love God, love people and share their faith as they continue to grow in the Word.

Contests and Prizes

April is going to be a month of contests!! We are going to take pictures each time we have a contest and get the congregation involved in voting for the winner. This will be a great way to allow the church to see the fun we have in Children's Ministry all while we are learning about God, His Word and His deep love for us!!

The calendar attached to this newsletter has each of the contests listed on the date of the contest. Be thinking of other ideas for contests as we will be doing this at least once a month after the April contest kickoff ☺



PreK Sunday

In the lesson "God's Wonderful Gift," our preschoolers will learn about the Holy Spirit, the gift that Jesus gave to the disciples (and us) after His resurrection.

We will answer the question: Why does God's Holy Spirit live in you?

The answer is: God's Holy Spirit gives us power!!

April Memory Verse

Romans 15:19

"He has given me the power of the Holy Spirit"

In addition to in-church lessons that follow the Bible App for Kids animated stories, preschoolers and their parents can also watch lessons and memorize verses at home in the corresponding Bible App for Kids chapters.

Visit www.bible.com/kids to download the app.