



the Parent LINK

Children's Ministry Edition



August 2011

St. Barnabas UMC

5011 W. Pleasant Ridge Rd.

Arlington, TX 76016



Help Your Kids Be Faith Heroes

Children's heroes can be fictional or real, from cartoon and movie characters to pop singers and fire fighters. The Bible is filled with faith heroes whom God used to fulfill his plan of salvation. But not all of these heroes were adults. David, a shepherd boy, defeated the giant Goliath, and Mary was a teenager who gave birth to our Savior. God doesn't put an age limit on being a faith hero. Kids of all ages are doing—and can do—mighty things for God's kingdom.

Sometimes children have trouble thinking of people in the Bible as anything more than fictional. They may show more interest in celebrities or athletes and strive to be like them. So it's important to help children put themselves in biblical people's shoes. Together, explore their lives and times, consider their fears and emotions, and try to get inside their skin. Ask children how they would feel and react in similar situations. This is a great way for kids to apply the Bible to their lives—and to show them that as Christians, they themselves figure in the great history God is writing. Read on for more tips about raising young faith heroes.

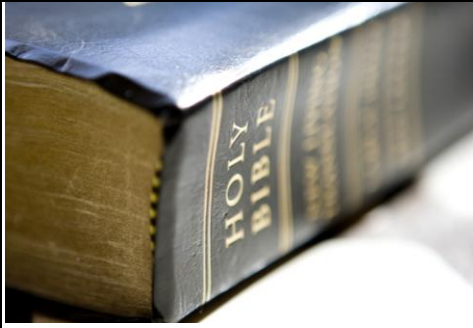
POWERSOURCE

ASK GOD:

1. To help your children follow Jesus as the ultimate hero and role model.
2. To strengthen you to be an example of heroic faith for your family.
3. To guide you as you share news of Jesus' "heroism" with others.

INSIGHTS

- In a 2010 U.K. poll, children listed their fathers as their top hero. Moms came in at number three. Also making the list were Hannah Montana, their teacher, SpongeBob SquarePants, and Grandpa. (*Children's Mutual*)
- 77 percent of Americans say celebrities and athletes have far too much influence on kids. (*Newsweek*)
- Only 25% of kids report that adults talk with them about their personal values. (*Search Institute*)



“Don’t let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity.” (1 Timothy 4:12)

The apostle Paul assured Timothy that even though he was young, God could use Timothy in a big way.

TEACHABLE MOMENTS

1. Hero Journal—This summer, help children see how God is using them. First, list the talents and abilities God has given each child. Then write ways that kids can use their talents to honor God. Whenever you or kids notice that God is using them, jot down the date and what happened. At summer’s end, have a Hero Party (complete with hero sandwiches) and share journal excerpts.

2. Read All About It!—Be alert for stories of young heroes in your neighborhood and beyond. Share the accounts with your children to give them ideas about the incredible things they can accomplish.



3. Big-Screen Heroes—With older kids and preteens, watch movies that feature faith heroes; for example, *Soul Surfer*, about Bethany Hamilton, and *Chariots of Fire*, about Olympian Eric Liddell. Then discuss how the characters faced fears, made decisions, showed heroism, and trusted in God’s plans.

Use these conversation starters to get kids thinking about the ways they can be heroes for God:

1. Who are your heroes, and why? How do you try to be like them?
2. In what ways is God or Jesus your hero? What has he done for you that’s special and unique?
3. What can you do or say to be a hero for God at home? at school? at church? How can God help you with this goal?

FAMILY EXPERIENCE

These activities will help your family members explore what it means to live heroically and confidently for God.

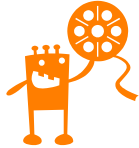
• **Excellent Examples**—Write the words *speech, life, love, faith,* and *purity* on index cards. Then put the cards in a bag or hat. Have family members take turns picking a card and acting out a situation of being a good example of what’s on the card. Keep the cards in a visible location. Throughout the week, encourage family members to share new ways they’ve lived out their faith.

• **Confidence Carryall**—Collect and clean some empty containers, such as tall potato chip cans. Set out construction paper, markers, and stickers and have each family member decorate his or her own can. Ask: “On a scale of one to 10, how bold would you say you are, and why? What are some things that frighten you? Do heroes always have to be bold? Why or why not?”



Read aloud Hebrews 4:16. Say: “When we’re afraid, we can always talk to God, who makes us strong and helps us.” Have family members brainstorm things they’re confident about and write or draw them on slips of paper. (Help younger children.) Ideas can range from riding a bike and tying a shoe to knowing that Jesus loves me and hears my prayers.

Have everyone put the slips in their containers. Say: “Any time you feel shy about talking to God or being a hero for him, open your Confidence Carryall. Then remember what it feels like to be bold, with God’s help.”



MEDIA MADNESS



MOVIES

Movie: *The Smurfs*

Genre: Live-action/animated 3D

Rating: PG (for some mild rude humor and action)



Cast: Neil Patrick Harris, Jayma Mays, Hank Azaria, Katy Perry

Synopsis: When the evil wizard Gargamel chases the Smurfs, they get scattered and are transported to modern-day New York. The Smurfs hide out with a married couple while they figure out how to return to their Middle Ages village.

Our Take: Although this movie isn't filled with profound take-away messages, parents who grew up with the Smurfs may enjoy introducing their children to the cartoon characters.

MUSIC

Artist: Steven Curtis Chapman

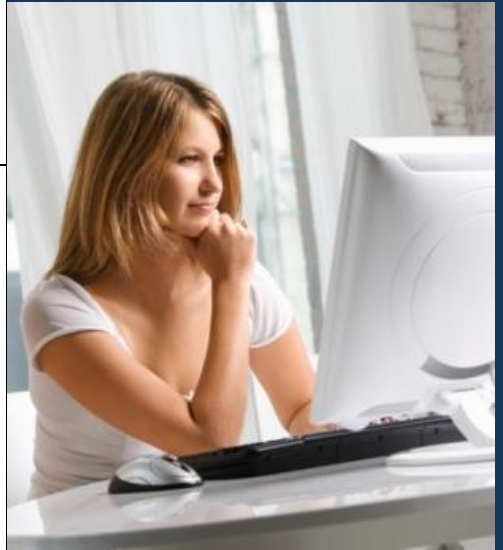
Album: *re:creation*



Artist Info: Chapman, 48, is a multi-platinum contemporary Christian musician, as well as an adoption advocate. His 5-year-old daughter, Maria Sue, died in a driveway accident in 2008.

Summary: Chapman's 17th album contains five new songs, as well as "reimagined" recordings of his eight biggest hits. The first single, "Do Everything," emphasizes that everything we do is an act of worship and should glorify God.

Our Take: Chapman's hope-filled lyrics are set to upbeat tunes that aim to strengthen relationships with God. His music is beloved by Christians of all ages.



CULTURE & TRENDS

- Birth mothers are using Facebook to track down children they put up for adoption—sometimes before the children have been told they're adopted. (*New York Times*)

- Many states are halting Medicaid coverage for circumcision, and private insurers are expected to follow suit. Meanwhile, some upcoming ballot measures aim to ban the procedure.

QUICK STATS

- 50% of parents say that having children has had no influence on their decision to attend church on a regular basis. (*Children's Ministry Magazine*)

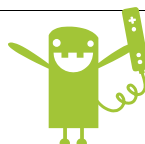


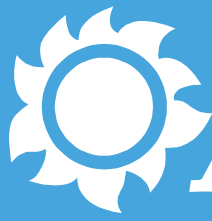
- 101 million Sony PlayStation Network accounts, mostly owned by kids, have been hacked into, putting personal info at risk.

GAMES & SITES

Title	Content	Rating & Platform
<i>Fruit Ninja Kinect</i>	Players move their arms to "slice" through assorted produce in this popular gaming phenomenon.	E; Xbox 360
<i>Junior Mystery Quest</i>	By solving problems, players become detectives who reveal the true identities of various characters.	E; Nintendo DS
<i>Riddler.com</i>	This online site features trivia, card games, word puzzles, and multiplayer online games. Membership is free, but parents must set up the account.	Most games are appropriate for ages 10+.

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.





August



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 Superheroes sermon series continued...	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 SS Teacher mtg – 12:00 to 1:00 Route 56 Parent mtg – 6 pm	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 Promotion Sunday for all kids through 6 th grade!	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 3 rd Grade Bible Presentation 10:50 Service	29	30	31			

PLEASE READ ALL THE IMPORTANT INFORMATION BELOW THAT PERTAINS TO CHILDREN’S MINISTRY AT ST. B!!! FEEL FREE TO PASS THIS INFORMATION ON TO OTHERS INCLUDING OTHERS WHO MIGHT NOT HAVE A CHURCH HOME! THEY ARE WELCOME!

Vacation Bible School... WRAP UP!

Thank you to everyone who helped out with VBS. It was our most successful one yet! 300 kids (100 more than last year), 65 adult helpers, 43 youth helpers, and one GREAT BIG GOD in the middle of it all! Can't wait until next year!

Route 56 – Parent Meeting, Sunday, August 14 at 6pm

There will be an informational parent meeting for all parents of 5th and 6th graders. Please come to hear about what this new program will mean for our 5th and 6th graders for the 2011/2012 year. It is going to be wonderful and exciting and I can't wait to share it with you! Meet in F217/218 (their new Route 56 area)

3rd Grade Bible Presentation – August 28 at 10:50 service

At St. Barnabas UMC we have a tradition that began many years ago! We present all our 3rd graders with a Bible! This year, Bible presentations will be made on **Sunday, August 28, 2011 at the 10:50 Worship Service**. We hope you will make plans to join us for this very special tradition! Please contact me by phone or e-mail by AUGUST 7 with the correct spelling of your child's name. We want to make sure that your child's name appears correctly on their Bible. We look forward to celebrating the gift of God's Word with our special 3rd graders!!!

Promotion Sunday – August 21

Promotion Sunday for all children through 6th grade will promote to their new classroom / area on August 22. This is for what age/grade they will be in by September 1, 2011. Rising first graders will move to the Boardwalk upstairs. Babies/toddlers through Kindergarten will be downstairs in our Education wing. 1st – 4th grade will be upstairs on the Boardwalk. 5th and 6th grade will be in their new Route 56 area in F217/F218.

ALL AREAS of the Children's Ministry TEAM: Teachers and Leaders needed!

Our children's ministry is BOOMING and our growth can only soar with a team! I remember from my younger years of sports that there is no "I" in team. Please pray about which area you might be able to serve in. I am going to list ALL the options. Please read through them all and see where God might be telling your heart to go. Please don't just read what pertains to your child's grade because you might find another area that suits your talents or passion.

Sunday Morning leaders/teachers: Toddlers, 3 and 4 year old class, Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or 4th grade Shepherd on the Boardwalk, a Boardwalk classroom teacher in one of the specific classes (*see note).

Wednesday Evenings: Mission Possible Kids helpers or GLOW helpers (once a month); K-2nd grade Bible study leader, 3rd/4th Grade Bible study leader (this group will focus on learning to use their Bibles); 5th/6th Grade Route 56 Wednesday Night re-FUEL leader.

Retreat chaperones: We will be having some retreats throughout the year for 3rd/4th and 5th/6th.

Created by God: Large group leader OR Small group leaders for the Human Sexuality class for 5th and 6th grade that will happen in the spring semester. (Nurses or medical personnel make great leaders for this too!)

Confirmation: Confirmation for 6th grade will begin in January. This is a large group of kids so we will need several mentors, including lots of male mentors. Ask anyone who has been a mentor and they will tell you it was very rewarding!

Hospitality Team: This is team of people who I am looking for that would have someone to lead them in helping to CARE for our families in the children's ministry area. Things like sending birthday cards to EVERY child in 6th grade and younger; CARE notes or something for our kids who are sick or hospitalized; new babies; welcoming new families with children, etc...

Route 56 Team: We will need a team of Route 56 adult sponsors to help plan some Saturday night fellowship activities/games/devotions (like the youth do on Sunday nights); plan off-site retreat(s); and plan off-site activities like bowling, rock climbing, laser tag, etc...

* Teachers on the Boardwalk teach the same lesson 4 out of 6 weeks to the 1st-4th graders on the Boardwalk. Each rotation lasts 6 weeks but you are only teaching four times. The theme rooms are art, drama/storytelling, computers, video, cooking, and games.

The Bible lesson matches the theme of the room. You may choose to teach as many rotations as you like. Some teach every other rotation. It is as much or as little as you like.

Donation items needed...

Still looking for a few donation items for our new Route 56 area. If you have any, please let me know: Road signs to hang on the walls, natural or dark color couch/futon/stuffed chair (tan, black, dark blue); saucer chairs from Bed Bath and Beyond (black); plain end table, trunk to use coffee-type table; game table with chairs, or any \$ donations for items...

Children's Ministry Leadership Team (CMLT)

The children's area is looking for people to serve on the CMLT. The specific areas are Special Events, Mission, Route 56 (a new program for 5th and 6th graders), Trail 34 (a new program for 3rd and 4th graders), Boardwalk, VBS, Nursery, Support (Hospitality, Supplies/workroom, recruiting, substitutes, curriculum). If any of the areas are of interest to you or even possibly serving in a role underneath an area, please contact Cathy Smith or Anissa Hartrick.