Hey CJ Kids Parents,

Thank you for joining us for Kids Kamp 2021 At-Home! It is truly the very best week of the year, and we are so excited to be partnering with you again, for an absolutely epic experience!

Over the past year, as we watched this terrible pandemic spread across the world, we also had a front row seat to watch you spread love, joy, and a message of hope through your participation in Kids Kamp At-Home 2020 in your communities and circles. We are still blown away at how you pivoted with us to make Kids Kamp happen in a brand new way and outside of many of your comfort zones. With over 100 families participating both in and outside of the U.S. - we were able to reach more families than we could have ever asked for, thought of or even imagined! So we're doing it again!

Our heart is to provide CJ Kids and their families with opportunities for Orange experiences. Why do we call them Orange experiences? We're glad you asked! Orange is a strategy designed to help church leaders and parents synchronize their efforts to fuel wonder, discovery, and passion in the next generation. Yellow is symbolic of Jesus as the Light of the World. Red is symbolic of the heart of the home - family. Together, red and yellow make? You got it! Orange.

Have you ever wondered how God sees you? Feels about you? Thinks about you? These are some of the tough questions kids may be asking themselves all the time, one way or another. We think it's time to **PRESS PLAY**, get in the mix and teach CJ Kids how to see themselves the way God sees them! We hope after Kids Kamp 2021 At-Home, they'll have confidence that they are known, they belong, they are forgiven, they can change and they can make a difference!

So that's why this year's theme is **PRESS PLAY**. We hope to give CJ Kids the answer to some tough questions - and solutions based on incredible truths from the Bible that give us the direction and confidence to do hard things!

The best part is that we still get to do this together! You've got everything you need in this kit (more details on that in this folder) and we'll be connecting digitally too. Make sure you join the Christ Journey Families Facebook page where you can post pictures, ask us questions and connect in community with other CJ Kids families! Be sure to tag @ChristJourney on your photos/videos on all social media outlets too, so we can follow along with all the fun you're having at home!

Get the party started early and keep it going all week long by following our Spotify Channel *ChristJourneyKids* and check out our Summer playlist "Press Play: Kids Kamp 21" for your very own at home or in the car dance party!

Pressing play on an awesome Summer with you, starting...NOW!

CJ Kids Team

WHAT'S IN YOUR KIT?

Daily Games & Craft activities: You'll find five individually numbered bags with guided step-by-step instructions and sample pictures, along with all the required supplies for each day's activity

Daily Snack activity supplies and instructions: 1 bag with 5 snack activity guides and all the yummy snack supplies you need to make it happen!

Memory Verse Cling*: Attach this little widget on almost any smooth surface for a reminder of our Kids Kamp 2021 verse

Daily Parent Cue*: Daily reminders of the memory verse, bottom line, and daily Bible Stories

PRESS PLAY Certificate*: Completing the Kids Kamp At-home 2021 experience is a big deal! You did it, together! We want to help you honor that! (Don't forget to post a photo of your awesome little one and their certificate of achievement and tag us @ChristJourney)

*These items can be found inside the parent folder



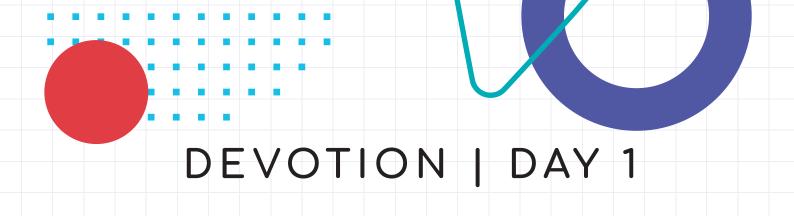
Hello there! Since you're taking the time to read this in the midst of preparing for what may be an exceptionally crazy first day of Kids Kamp 2021 At-Home, we want to let you in on a little secret. You deserve this exclusive message, so we urge you to take a deep breath. (Even if you've already started looking through this very full kit of stuff, and you've started wondering what you've gotten yourself into) Keep reading, my friend.

You are not simply leading your kids through a week long Kids Kamp experience. And this week is not merely for loud music and rambunctious recreation. It's not about craft projects. It's not about cake mix and candy. It's not even about the number of times you have to re-read the instructions to make sure you're doing everything right.

This week is about pressing the pause button on all the noise going on in the life of a child. It's about blocking out the mixed messages they're receiving when it comes to their identity, belonging, and purpose. And it's about pressing play on the message of Truth.

If nothing else is accomplished this week, we want for every single child who participates to gain confidence that they are known. That they belong. That they are forgiven. That they can change. And that they can make a difference.

And, guess what? There's a good chance you may need to be reminded of this too. God clearly chose you to be a part of what He wants to do this week. We encourage you to check out the daily devotions we have provided. Much of this week is about your kids, but these are just for you.



I CAN HAVE CONFIDENCE BECAUSE I AM KNOWN.

Read Romans, John 10:14, and John 14:6.

I'll never forget my first day of eighth grade. My family had just relocated to a small town, and I didn't know a soul at my brand-new school. It seemed to be a place where everyone knew everyone, and I felt as though I stuck out like a sore thumb. Eighth grade is a particularly unfortunate time of a teenager's life to stick out.

And lunch time on the very first day at a brand-new school is a particularly worrisome event. Ever been there? Lunch time is all about finding your people, right? It's about connecting with the folks who know you, and feeling confident that you belong there. And it's a complete source of anxiety when you're the new kid.

On that first morning of eighth grade, it was all I could think about with each passing class. I kept trying to scope out the promising groups of kids who might welcome me in. I attempted to make eye contact, communicating a silent—but not desperate—plea to invite me. Still no prospects. I tried to keep my cool, but inside, I was a wreck.

Until the bell rang at the end of Social Studies. Suddenly, a group of girls appeared with the kind invite I had been hoping for. "Hey! Your name is Sarah, right? You wanna come sit with us?" There it was. I breathed an enormous sigh of relief.

What I came to discover later on was that my Social Studies teacher immediately caught sight of a new face as the herd of kids filed into his classroom. And without me saying a thing, he saw me and he understood. So, behind the scenes, he orchestrated the details in order to provide me with the assurance of finding friends to sit with at lunch that day. He knew how vital it was that I felt known.

I believe this is the way the Lord works too. He knit each of us together Himself, after all. So He created us with a longing to feel known. But He doesn't simply leave us out here all alone. He never stops working in the most mysterious and miraculous of ways. And He tenderly provides us with His own assurance through His Word: "I know my sheep" (John 10:14, NIrV).

Today, I urge you to trust that you are known. Perhaps it doesn't feel that way at work as you hope for the promotion. Or at home as you change diapers and trip over toys strewn about the house. Maybe you've been the new kid recently too, and the lunch time story is all too real. God sees you. And you are known by Him.

Allow this truth to be your fuel in helping kids understand that they are known too. God has purposely placed you at Kids Kamp this week to convey His love to others. Maybe He wants to use you the way He used that Social Studies teacher for me years ago.



I CAN HAVE CONFIDENCE BECAUSE I BELONG.

Read Luke 5:1-11, 27-32.

"One of these things is not like the others, One of these things just doesn't belong . . ."

Can you finish the rest of this song because it's written on your heart? Do these lyrics haunt you like they do me? As an adult, I can honestly look back and pick out specific ways that Sesame Street legitimately changed my life. (It's how I learned to tie my shoes, for crying out loud.) But truth be told, I have always had a problem with this particular song.

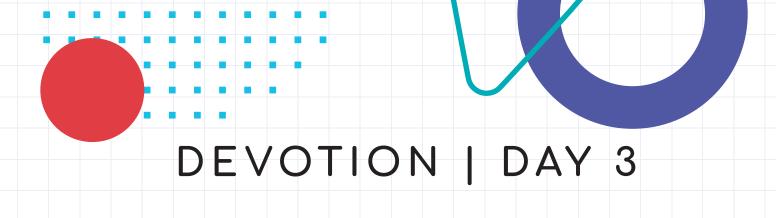
Perhaps it's because it contradicted something my grandfather used to always tell me. "If you act like you're supposed to be somewhere, then you are," he would say. He was chock full of nuggets of wisdom like this.

Or maybe it's because I have had various times in my life when I actually felt like I didn't belong. So those lyrics seemed to cut a little too deep for the lighthearted nature of a learning song. A fish out of water, I would call myself. And there have been plenty of other moments sprinkled throughout my childhood and adult life when I truly believed I was the blue balloon in a huge cluster of red ones. It's the worst feeling. Perhaps you can relate.

But really, I think the reason that song strikes my soul is because when I made the decision as a child to surrender my life to Jesus, I immediately became a part of something big. Something important. I believe the disciples felt that too. And I am certain that the same Jesus who carefully chose those floundering fishermen—encouraging them to trade fear for fellowship—also chose me. When you say, "Yes" to His invitation, you belong. Forever. Period.

I can always have confidence in that because I am loved, and I am called according to His purpose (Jeremiah 29:11). And so are you. And so are your kids. My goodness, they are all searching for somewhere to belong. An even the kids who are lucky enough, like I was, to have wise grandparents or other grown-ups who speak truth into their lives are still fighting the odds of what the enemy is telling them.

You have a unique opportunityin these days ahead. Your words and actions could be what communicates to your child not only that they are loved, but that they are seen by God. And that could be all they need to provide them with confidence that lasts a lifetime.



I CAN HAVE CONFIDENCE BECAUSE I AM FORGIVEN.

Read Luke 19:1-10.

My husband and I try to have thoughtful, intentional strategies when it comes to how we discipline our three children. We attempt to attach a consequence that is directly correlated to the offense, and follow up with meaningful conversations that foster a nurturing of their hearts.

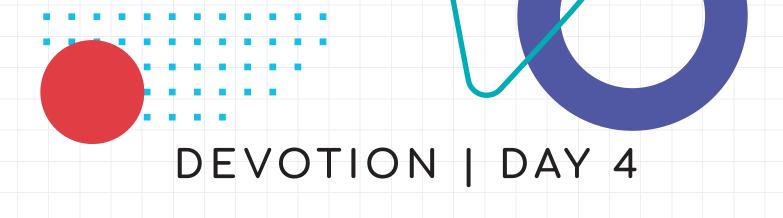
But there's also real life. And on days when I've simply had enough, and no wherewithal to strategize about anything else, I have been known to sometimes bark out harsh, reactionary reprimands. This is exactly what went down the other day, when I was sick of my eight-year-old's bellyaching. "YOU CAN'T HAVE SUGAR FOR AN ENTIRE WEEK!" I shouted, without any clear thought process or purpose.

For my eight-year-old, however, it was the end of the world. As a lover of all things decadent and tasty, and the neighbor kid who finagles his way into free treats from those who fall for his freckles . . . he was utterly destroyed.

For several days, he was blatantly reminded of his folly with each post-lunch fruit snack pouch that his siblings enjoyed. Or the cheerful jingle of the evening rounds from the ice cream truck. And worst of all, he missed out on Saturday morning doughnuts with his dad. By Day 5 of his sentence, I softened a bit, and concluded that even in my lack of careful planning, my opportunity to teach a valuable lesson was not a complete wash.

You can imagine his reaction when I pulled him aside at a neighborhood cookout to deliver the unexpected news that he was allowed a slice of chocolate cake a little early. With eyes as big as saucers, and a mouth glistening with drops of drool, I explained to him the meaning of grace and forgiveness. He did not, in any way, deserve that chocolate cake. But because he didn't deserve it, he experienced a glimpse of the confidence built inside of him as a result of forgiveness.

I believe we see this with Zacchaeus, don't you? This story about an ordinary man is still used today in order to show kids how God sees them. How He sees all of us. Because none of us are deserving of God's grace. Yet God's forgiveness can be the fuel we need to develop the confidence to do incredible things. I urge you to seize every opportunity you have to instill this truth in the hearts of your kids today. The ripple effect may be far greater than you will ever know



I CAN HAVE CONFIDENCE BECAUSE I CAN CHANGE.

Read Luke 19:8-9.

I have always been an oddball who actually loves change. The gradual turning of seasons. The reorganizing and repurposing of home décor and furniture. A different route on my morning run. A new job. A new friend. A new cleaning product I've been dying to try.

However, I'm well aware of the fact that for many of you just the word, "change," is enough to ignite anxiety. Perhaps even fear. And rightfully so. After all, it wasn't so long ago that every single person in the world had to endure their own journey of change. Truly, we've all gotten a large enough dose to last us a lifetime.

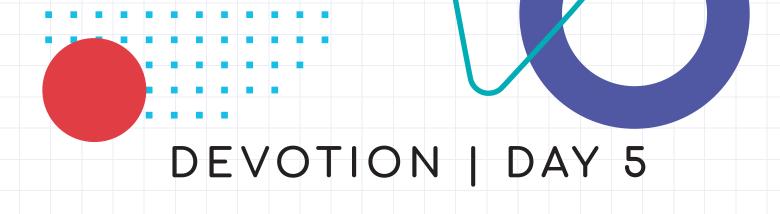
How were you changed as a result of the chaos that ensued in 2020? Personally, the pandemic taught me to value leaving margin in my schedule for important things; things that used to feel like an inconvenience. Evening lawn chair chats with neighbors. Sunday lunchtime potlucks. Afternoon slow-down sessions with my kids while listening to a book on CD. These are all changes that I have vowed to fiercely protect even still.

But I'll be honest: Even as a lover of all things new and different, these changes we implemented certainly did not come easily. Because change takes hard work.

Consider what we know about Zacchaeus. Can you imagine what it took for him to pay back four times the amount he wrongly took from folks? On top of that, giving half of his possessions to the poor? This was an enormous deal, and I have to believe that he wrestled with every bit of it, much in the same way we all did as we navigated our own adjustments over the past year and a half.

Thankfully, we have the gift of hindsight. It's what allows us to look at what was, and compare it to what is. And for our family, the diligent work of our pivots paired with the confidence that comes with experiencing the fruit of it all is enough to make us never want to go back to the way things were.

Take some time to consider how you have been changed as a result of your relationship with Jesus. Think of what was, and what is. And pray for ways to convey that to your kids as you spend time together today. There are few things more powerful than a testimony from someone you trust.



I CAN HAVE CONFIDENCE BECAUSE I CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

Read Luke 15:1-7.

When we were newlyweds, my husband and I led a small group of kids at our church. "Small" was a relative term, however, as most Sundays our classroom was typically filled with 15-20 second and third graders. They were loud and rowdy. The older ones were also quite smelly as they were quickly nearing the notorious preteen years.

I have always embraced the philosophy of, "Go big or go home." And when it came to these kids we called ours, I had no intentions of striving for anything otherwise.

We attended their soccer games. We had pizza parties in our kitchen. We made giant slip 'n' slides in our backyard. We offered up babysitting to their parents. We went caroling together at Christmas time. We chose to dive in full force with all sorts of tricks up our sleeves, and a plan to consistently be present in their lives. We hoped to form relationships that would eventually shape their hearts and make a lasting impact.

But there was one problem. We quickly discovered the reality of our inability to do this adequately for every single kid in that group. There were far too many, and our capacity was only so large. This can feel paralyzing, can't it? When you long to make a difference in a huge way, but you're met with inevitable restraints of time, energy, and resources. Maybe you have even felt that, to a certain degree this week, as you have been entrusted with a group of kids yourself. Can you really make a difference for all of them?

The story of the "Lost Sheep" is my favorite reminder of how vital it is that we take a step back, and focus on the few. Maybe even the one. By believing that our impact goes deeper with one than it ever will for many, we are given the freedom to do so much more. Quality over quantity.

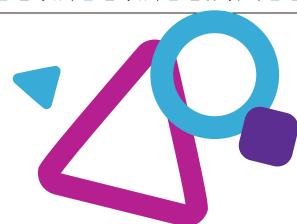
Thank goodness, God lovingly pointed my husband and I to this very truth years ago. And in the case of that rowdy group, there were three boys who naturally became our few. Our relationships with them deepened as a result, and they still remain over a decade later. They're all in their 20s now, and doing amazing things. We like to think we played some role in that.

On the tail end of an incredible week, I urge you to find confidence in knowing you have, indeed, made a difference with the time you've been given. And I challenge you to consider where the Lord wants to take you from here. Don't let it end with Kids Kamp. Perhaps He's already woven together the details to lead you to a small group of kids on your own. They may just be waiting to be found.

YOU GOT THIS Preschool DAILY CUES 2021 VBS

Theme

Get in the Mix Press Play:



REMEMBER THIS

as I have loved you." "Love each other John 15:12, NIV

Day One

Jesus uses His power to show that He is God's Son and He loves everyone.

Day Two

Luke 5:1-11; 27-32

Jesus shows that He loves everyone, no matter what, in His choice of disciples.

Day Three

Luke 19:1-9

Jesus goes to Zacchaeus' house and forgives him, because Jesus loves him.

Day Four

Luke 19:8-9

Zacchaeus changes after being loved by Jesus and gives everyone their money back.

Day Five

Luke 15:1-7; John 15:12

Jesus tells about a shepherd and his lost sheep to help people understand His love for everyone.

Say This

Who loves you? Jesus loves me.



YOU GOT THIS

Day One

John 10:14, John 14:6

Who Is Jesus?

SAY THIS:

Theme

Get in the Mix Press Play:

I can have confidence because I am

yourself the way God sees you. Confidence is learning to see



I can have confidence because I belong. Day Three SAY THIS:

The Calling of the Disciples

Luke 5:1-11, 27-32

Day Two

known.

Zacchaeus Part 1 Luke 19:1-9

SAY THIS:

I can have confidence because I am forgiven.

Day Four

Luke 19:8-9

Zacchaeus Part 2

SAY THIS:

I can have confidence because I can change.

Day Five

Luke 15:1-7

The Story of the Lost Sheep

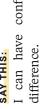
SAY THIS:

My command is this:

Love each other as I have loved you." John 15:12, NIV

REMEMBER THIS

I can have confidence to make a



SAMPLE SCHEDULE

This schedule is based on a two-three hour time block. It's just a guide to help you plan for a great Kids Kamp 2021 At-home experience together. It is completely flexible, as pieces can move around to accommodate your family's schedule!

15 Minutes: Start the day by reviewing the daily activity bags and supplies & use the parent cue to guide you through a conversation about the day and what you'll be learning about

5 Minutes: Bathroom/stretch break

30 Minutes: Large Group - Watch daily Worship and

Story video

5 Minutes: Bathroom / stretch break

20 Minutes: Snack activity

30 Minutes: Games activities

20 Minutes: Craft activities

5 Minutes: Bathroom/stretch break

15 Minutes: Journal and Prayer time



Faith. In the elementary school years, kids become equipped with the skills they need to discover more about faith, and they have an active imagination that leads them to ask questions about their world and what they experience. As they learn new stories from the Bible, you'll be amazed at the questions they start to consider. The best thing to remember is to treat each question with care. How you respond to your kids each time they have questions about faith will determine if they continue to talk to you about their faith. Your role is to...

Provoke Discovery



So they will TRUST GOD'S CHARACTER AND EXPERIENCE GOD'S FAMILY.

This guide is designed to help you connect with your elementary-age kid where they are now, giving you some words to say as you navigate the critical issue of faith. As the conversation progresses through the phases, always keep this end goal for your kid:

Authentic Faith

Trusting Jesus in a way that transforms how I love God, myself, and the rest of the world.

To elementary schoolers (K-3rd), say things like . .

"Can I pray about that with you?"

"You can trust God no matter what."

"You need to make the wise choice."

"You should treat others the way you want to be treated."

"I'm not sure where that passage is. Let's look it up together." (Teach them to use a concordance and digital reference book.)

"Don't ever get tired of doing the right thing." 2 Thessalonians 3:13 (Repeat and memorize simple Bible verses together.)

"When I first trusted Jesus . . ." (Share your own faith story.)

"I'm sorry your friend's mom is sick. What could we do to help?" (Make service personal. Encourage them to serve people who matter to them.)

To elementary schoolers (4th-5th), say things like ...

"How can I pray for you today/this week?"

"Having faith isn't always easy, but we can trust God no matter what."

"What do you think is the wisest choice in this situation?"

"Do not be afraid, for the Lord your God is with you." Joshua 1:9 (Repeat simple Bible verses.)

"If you were them, how do you think you would want to be treated?"

"Have you read anything in the Bible that means a lot to you right now?" (Talk about the Bible.)

"Did you know that the Bible was written as 66 different books, but they all tell one story?" (Connect the dots between the stories to give a bigger context.)

"I've been wanting to volunteer more. Is there somewhere we could serve together." (Consider serving at your church or a local ministry that appeals to your kid's interests.)

It's Just A Phase ... So Don't Miss It!

Just Remember . . . Every phase is a timeframe in a kid's life when you can leverage distinctive opportunities to influence their future. The elementary years are the discovery years. You can provoke their discovery by encouraging their imaginations, allowing them to investigate without filling in all the blanks, and simply making yourself available for the many, many questions that will come. As your child learns to read and gain more independence, it's a great time to encourage personal devotional time. But don't let their faith become private; continue having other faith conversations as you go about your days together.

To enhance the conversation, here are a few activities your family can try:

Create a "Joy Jar." Find a bin or bucket and label it the "Joy Jar." Place it in the middle of your dinner table along with a pen and index cards. Choose a period of time—30 days at the least—and write down all the answered prayers your family experiences and place them in the Joy Jar after dinner. (There will be some meals when you have nothing to write down—and that's okay.) At the end of the period of time, have your elementary schooler read through all the ways God was faithful to your family.

Make church part of your family's weekly routine. There's always a reason not to go, but demonstrating a positive interest in connecting with community and learning about God is an integral step in helping your child establish a faith of their own. Find somewhere you can attend consistently, so your elementary schooler can build relationships and trust with their church friends and leaders. Talk about why church is important in your family.

Share your own story of how you began a relationship with God with your 4th or 5th grader. Then share about how God has wired you, and how you connect with Him best. Share that it might be different than someone else's story. For example, you might feel most connected to God when you listen to worship music or journal; for others it may be when they are outside experiencing nature or beauty. Help your child see that we all connect with God in different ways, but there's a common thread of experiencing His love and forgiveness. Is there a particular way your child connects with God? Nurture it. If it's in nature, go for a hike. If it's journaling, take him or her shopping for a new journal. Music? Sign them up for a streaming music service so they can get all the latest worship songs.

This guide is based on research from The Phase Project, a collaborative, ongoing effort, assembling classic and innovative research with practical application.

To discover more ways to understand your child's phase, check out the Parenting Your . . . book series at parentcuestore.org.



For more information on The Phase Project and other great parent resources, visit the Parent Cue.org © 2018 The Phase Project. All rights reserved.



for Parents of Prechoolers

Faith. How we talk about faith at each phase of a person's life matters in how they'll think about faith in the phases to come. Preschoolers use their five senses to experience the world around them. In this phase, you can help them develop authentic faith by inciting wonder. You will give them the foundations for their faith in the way you respond with concrete examples and by letting them explore God's creation. As they grow and mature into adolescents you'll be able to unpack abstract concepts more deeply. For now, be as simple as possible, and remember that your role in the preschool phase is to . . .

Incite Wonder → So they will KNOW GOD'S LOVE AND MEET GOD'S FAMILY.

This guide is designed to help you connect with your child in the phase they are in, by giving you some words to say to introduce them to faith. As the conversation progresses through the phases, always keep this end goal in mind for your kid:

Trusting Jesus in a way that transforms how I love God, myself, and the rest of the world.

In the new baby phase, say things like

"God, thank You for this healthy baby." (Pray aloud while you are with your baby.)

"Jesus loves me." (Sing songs while you hold your baby.)

"We are going to church." (Connect with a faith community.)

In the following preschool years, say things like .

- "God made you. God loves you. Jesus wants to be your friend forever."
- "God, thank you for . . . "
- "God, please help us . . . "
- "Let's read about how God made the world."
- "Are you scared? Let's talk to God about it."
- "How did the Samaritan take care of his neighbor?" (Talk about what your preschooler learns at church.)
- "Can you let your friend have a turn?" (Prompt them to share.)
- "Isn't that wonderful? Let's thank God for it."
- "Do not be afraid, for the Lord your God is with you." Joshua 1:9 (Repeat simple Bible verses.)

It's Just A Phase ... So Don't Miss It!

Just Remember... Every phase is a timeframe in a kid's life when you can leverage distinctive opportunities to influence their future. The preschool years are the wonder years. You can incite their wonder by exploring the world side-by-side with your child. Your child listens to your words, so this phase is the perfect time to begin talking, singing, and reading out loud with your toddler about faith. And as they get older—three, four, five—and have questions about so many things, including faith questions, answer as simply as possible.

To enhance the conversation, here are a few activities your family can try:

Print photos of family members and friends and place them in an inexpensive album. Let your preschooler flip through the book while you lead them in praying for the people they see in the pictures.

Create a playlist of your child's favorite praise and worship songs. Demonstrate connecting with God through song by dancing and singing with your preschooler on a regular basis. Don't know where to find great, kid-friendly music? Check out ParentCueStore.org or Orange Kids Music in iTunes.

Pray consistently with your preschooler. Demonstrate that prayer is having a conversation with God by using a pretend telephone during your prayer time. Take turns "dialing" (starting the prayer) and "hanging up" (ending the prayer). Let your preschooler use their own words and language, but feel free to prompt them if they get distracted or stall out.

Tell your child simple Bible Stories and repeat favorite memory verses. (Use the Parent Cue App for help!) Explain simply that stories from the Bible are true, and show us how to live.

This guide is based on research from The Phase Project, a collaborative, ongoing effort, assembling classic and innovative research with practical application.

To discover more ways to understand your child's phase, check out the Parenting Your . . . book series at parentcuestore.org.



CONGRATULATIONS!

"Love each other as I have loved you." JOHN 15:12 NIV

NAME

DATE

SIGNATURE