

THE PARENT INSIDER

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Making Your Home a Hub of Faith

Ideas for creating a gravitational pull that brings family members closer to each other and to God.
By Dr. Kara Powell

Home base.

Whether it's capture the flag, hide-and-seek, or just regular ol' tag, every kid knows that when they are being chased or simply need a break from danger, they head to home base. If they are touching the tree or standing on the towel that represents home base, no one can attack them. It's their chance to shout encouraging or strategic advice to their teammates. It's their opportunity to catch their breath for a few moments before diving back into the game.

For kids, home base represents safety.

Can the same be said of your home?

When your kids long for some encour-

agement, do they head home?

When your kids need to feel protected, do they veer toward your driveway?

In most families, as kids get older, they want to be home less and less. Six-year-olds tell their parents, "I want to go home." Sixteen-year-olds rarely do.

It's normal and healthy for maturing young people to spend less time at home and more time with their friends. The life of a teenager doesn't orbit around their parents; they feel a strong attraction toward school, sports, clubs, work, and friends.

Article continued on Pgs 4 and 5.

Youth Beat: Youth Culture Statistics

- ◆ 80% of all teens that leave the church said that they did not intend to do so when in high school.
- ◆ Millennials say to keep them in church they need to make meaningful relationships.
- ◆ Another favorable way to keep millennials is to teach them discernment skills.
- ◆ They also desire mentorship.

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TOP TEN MOVIES



Movies 1/15/2016 - 1/17/2016

Source: Box Office Mojo

Rank	Movie	Gross Income
1	Ride Along 2	\$35.3 mil
2	The Revenant	\$31.8 mil
3	Star Wars: The Force Awakens	\$26.4 mil
4	13 Hours: The Secret Soldiers of Benghazi	\$16.2mil
5	Daddy's Home	\$9.5 mil
6	Norm of the North	\$6.8 mil
7	The Forest	\$6 mil
8	The Big Short	\$5.3 mil
9	Sisters	\$4.7 mil
10	The Hateful Eight	\$3.6 mil

Top Ten Video Games

1. Star Wars: Battlefront (PS4)
2. Call of Duty: Black Ops 3 (Xbox One)
3. Call of Duty: Black Ops 3 (PS4)
4. Fallout 4 (PS4)
5. Fallout 4 (Xbox One)
6. Star Wars: Battlefront (Xbox One)
7. Gears of War (Xbox One)
8. Halo 5: Guardians (Xbox One)
9. NBA 2K16 (PS4)
10. Uncharted: The Nathan Drake Collection (PS4)

U.S. Video Game Sales Week Ending January 9, 2016

Source: VGChartz

Celebrity Quotes

“You know, I don’t do any Internet. I do zero social media because I think that’s where losers go to feel important and significant.”

– Charles Barkley, in a interview on ESPN Radio’s “Mike & Mike,” November 19, 2015

PRAYER CENTRAL:

Things to pray about with and for your kids

- Pray for the future of the youth group! That God would push each teen to share His Gospel and advance the Kingdom!
- Pray for the youth leaders as they seek to help disciple your teen!
- Pray for all of our upcoming events and retreats in 2016

Prayer is extremely vital for our relationship with the Lord. Make sure you and your teen are regularly going to the Lord in prayer! Pray with your teen! Keep it up!

Verse of the Month

And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Then I said, “Here I am! Send me.”

-Isaiah 6:8

Continue encouraging your teen to read the Bible. What a great source for them to get to know God on a daily basis! Also, read it with them. They may act like it’s such a dreadful thing, but trust me, they really will enjoy it and appreciate it long term!

Cutting Edge Music:

Panic! At the Disco- "Death of a Bachelor"



Background: Panic! at the Disco is an American rock band from Las Vegas, Nevada, formed in 2004 and featuring the current lineup of vocalist and multi-instrumentalist Brendon Urie. They recorded their first demos while the members were in high school. Shortly after, the band recorded and released its debut studio album, *A Fever You Can't Sweat Out* (2005). The album eventually was certified double platinum in the US.

What Parents should know about their new album: And then there was one. One member left in Panic! at the Disco: Brendon Urie. Panic! indeed. (Is that why he put the exclamation point back in the name?) But it turns out Urie's not panicking at all after everyone else in his band decided to call it a day. Instead, Urie's reveling in complete creative control of his one-man band. The result? A typically frenetic Panic! album that once again melds all manner of musical influences. This time, Urie's tipped his hat strongly in the direction of ... wait for it ... Frank Sinatra, with a big dose of Queen-like vocals and guitars added into his standard mix of emo-meets-pop-punk flourishes. Though Brendon Urie insists that marriage has resulted in the death of all his bad bachelor habits, you'd be hard-pressed to prosecute that case based solely on his *Death of a Bachelor* lyrics. A handful of moments evince growing self-awareness about the destructiveness of habits he embraced before tying the knot. Much more often, though, he's still happy hugging them tight.

For the full write up, visit www.pluggedin.com/musicreviews. Also, visit pluggedin.com for other music reviews.

Christian Artists

Lecrae- Church Clothes 3

Christian rapper Lecrae's first new material since 2014's *Anomaly* picks up thematically where that effort left off. Which is to say that his third *Church Clothes* "mixtape" (an album-length project that's not considered an official studio-release) brims with Lecrae's signature brand of pull-no-punches rap. Racism, sex trafficking, gang violence and materialism are among the many serious topics he hits head-on—from a point of view that's deeply shaped by his faith. Indeed, Lecrae's latest "mixtape" percolates and pops with a passion for important—and at times challenging, complex and controversial—subjects. I don't think it's possible to listen thoughtfully to Lecrae's substantive spiritual musings here without being confronted with issues we might otherwise be tempted to avoid or minimize. But that's not where he leaves things. *Church Clothes 3* poignantly zooms in on what matters most in life, namely the Good News of Jesus Christ's sacrifice on our behalf—a message of hope in stark contrast to all the bad news Lecrae knows we're exposed to every day.

Read more at www.pluggedin.com

Featured Film: Newly Released in Theater



SYNOPSIS— Deadpool—Opens Feb. 12

Based upon Marvel Comics' most unconventional anti-hero, DEADPOOL tells the origin story of former Special Forces operative turned mercenary Wade Wilson, who after being subjected to a rogue experiment that leaves him with accelerated healing powers, adopts the alter ego Deadpool. Armed with his new abilities and a dark, twisted sense of humor, Deadpool hunts down the man who nearly destroyed his life.

Starring: Ryan Reynolds, Morena Baccarin, Ed Skrein, T.J. Miller, Gina Carano

Rated R-Language Throughout, Graphic Nudity, Sexual Content and Strong Violence

For more information on the movie check out www.Christianitytoday.com under their media section

Check out www.Christianitytoday.com for more information on new movie releases

Other Movies in Theaters

Title	Rating	Red Flags	Genre	Starring
Zoolander 2 Opens Feb. 12	Not Yet Rated	N/A	Comedy	Ben Stiller, Owen Wilson, Will Ferrell, Penélope Cruz, Christine Taylor
Risen Opens Feb. 19	PG-13	Biblical violence including some disturbing images.	Action/ Drama	Cliff Curtis, Joseph Fiennes, Tom Felton, Peter Firth, María Botto
Hail, Caesar! Opened Feb. 5	PG-13	Some suggestive content and smoking.	Comedy/ Drama	George Clooney, Josh Brolin, Ralph Fiennes, Tilda Swinton, Jonah Hill

While the parents we interviewed had busy kids, their homes were still magnetic enough that their kids wanted to do more than just grab food and sleep there. These young people were drawn to their homes not necessarily because they were large. Or clean. Or fancy.

It was because their homes had maintained the same sense of safety that home base offered in freeze tag. In the midst of all the forces pulling parents and kids away from each other, the home kept exerting a gravitational pull that often brought family members closer to each other and to God.

Making home a place where your kids' friends feel welcome

By far, the most dominant theme in our discussions with 50 amazing parents about their homes is that they wanted their homes to be places where both their kids and their kids' friends felt accepted. Whether home was a small urban condominium, a two-story house on a suburban cul-de-sac, or a large property complete with a swimming pool and fire pit, parents tried to create an environment in which children and teenagers felt welcome.

A few parents mentioned that having their kids' friends over gave them a window into youth culture—and even their own kids' lives—that they wouldn't have otherwise. As one mom with college students recalled, "Especially in middle school and high school, my best tool for understanding my kids was hearing them talk to their friends in our car or at the house. We did anything we could to engage their world—to listen and to watch. My husband and I began to understand which questions we could ask and which were embarrassing."

Creating boundaries around technology

These boundaries are needed because of the way young people today are marinated in media. Let's consider together a generation whose lives are heavily flavored by technology.

- Fifty-eight percent of this generation possesses a desktop computer.
- Sixty-one percent own a laptop.
- Eighteen percent use a tablet or e-reader.

But the real king of all technology is the device in their pocket. According to Pew Research, almost 90 percent

of this generation carry a cell phone. When asked to describe their cell phone in one word, this generation answered, "awesome," "great," "good," "love," "excellent," "useful," and "convenient."

You might be thinking that some of those words don't sound very adolescent. Especially the words *useful* and *convenient*. That's because the generation I'm describing isn't teenagers. It's adults.

Are young people avid users of technology? You bet. But the data suggests that while teenagers may be digital natives, we adults are fast-adapting digital immigrants. Before we judge teenagers for their quick-texting thumbs and seemingly permanent ear buds, we adults need to put down our smartphones and think about our own media consumption.

Pew Research noted 83 percent of young people are involved in social networking. So are 77 percent of their parents.

Often parents use this technology to improve their relationships with their kids. After all, texting can help parents stay in touch with their children throughout the day. Social media allows parents to take the pulse of their kids' lifestyle choices and friendships.

But the parents we interviewed have recognized that the same technology that builds bridges can also build walls. Kids are so focused on sharing videos online with friends five miles away that they become numb to family members sitting five feet from them. Parents become immersed in their computers, barely noticing when their kids enter and leave the family room. Given how technology cuts across generations, many wise parents impose limits not only on their kids but also on themselves.

The family dinner

Are regular family dinners part of a magical formula that can bring harmony and happiness to your home?

The best answer from research is, sort of.

Kids who have dinner with their families seem to make better choices and avoid disorders and high-

risk behaviors, including depression, delinquency, and drug and alcohol use. But when researchers took into account other differences between families who have dinner together and those who don't (such as differences in overall relationship quality, parental monitoring, and shared activities), the effects of family dinners diminished drastically. In other words, the parents who value family dinners seem also to build healthy and caring bonds with their kids in a host of other ways.

Family dinner conversations are a bright light in these parents' relationships with their children, but they are only one star in a constellation of connections that already shines brightly. The ongoing involvement and conversation between parents and kids is what matters most, whether or not it happens over a tablecloth.

Ideas to make your home a hub

Be there. Parents committed to building enduring faith through their homes often start with a simple, basic step. They regularly choose to be at home with their kids.

For parents to slash activities from their own schedules is certainly a challenge. But many families find that the need to trim activities from their schedules is an even larger barrier to time at home together.

Many families create policies that state how many sports and clubs their kids can participate in at any one time. (Generally it was one or two.) To avoid year-round busyness, others designate certain seasons, such as summer or winter, as sports-free months in their homes. As one mom described, "Six or seven years ago we eliminated most activities for the kids during the winter. From November to March is our time to be home, eat meals together, and do fun things at night and on weekends. That was probably the smartest choice we ever made as parents. The rest of the year, our family feels somewhat divided and fractured by multiple kids and multiple activities, but winter is our time to enjoy being together."

Stock the fridge. In describing the glue that makes their homes a social hub for their kids and their kids' friends, multiple families pointed to the power of food. As one dad summarized, "If we stock our fridge and cupboard, kids come over a lot. It gets pricey, but it's worth it."

Some parents involve their kids in planning the food

they want to have for guests. That way the kids learn more about hospitality and food budgeting, while choosing snacks that reflect the vibe they want to create for their friends.

Faith in every room. As followers of Jesus, Gloria and Edgar felt their house should reflect their faith. More specific, their goal was that in every room there would be at least a memento or book that reminded their family, as well as others visiting, of their commitment to Christ.

So near the doorway in their living room they placed a small painting that spoke of the beauty of God's creation. Next to the stove in their kitchen was a rock with a cross carved on it. Each of their kids got to choose one item for their bedroom that reflected their faith, whether it was a single book or a large inspirational poster. Without being overwhelming or imposing, Christ-centered art and messages that Edgar and Gloria have placed in their home are an external expression of their internal faith.

Conversation couch. Joyce felt that instead of being a hub of refuge and relationship, her house was more of a pit stop for her teenagers to grab a few meals and a few hours of sleep. As an interior designer, she is aware of the messages that a space communicates, and she decided to designate a special place in her house for family conversation.

She and her husband declared a couch in the living room, which was removed from the foot traffic between the kitchen and the bedrooms, as their "conversation couch." Joyce explained to her kids that if they ever wanted more focused chat with either parent, they could ask them to come to that couch. And if the parent wanted that kind of talk with their kids, they could invite them there as well. Of course, conversations could happen anywhere in the house. And the couch is used every day for purposes other than deep conversation. But Joyce has found that having a few feet of cushions appointed for conversation is a catalyst for family discussions that might not happen otherwise.

Article found at www.familylife.com

youth Group News

Events

Volleyball– The youth volleyball league is back and started January 31st. Schedules can be picked up in the youth room, the office or find it online at www.goffc.org/youth

Murder Mystery– Our Murder Mystery Dinner fundraiser will be coming up in February. This will be a fundraiser for the youth Mission Trip and any youth going on the trip is expected to participate. More info to come!

WinterJam– This Christian concert festival is returning to Cincinnati on Feb. 19. We will be meeting at the church around 4pm and heading downtown to the US Arena to get in line. Cost to get in is \$10. Youth will also need money for food and souvenirs.

News

Website– Check out the newly updated youth website. It now houses all of the newsletters, past and present! Soon to come is a photo gallery!

Cancelled Events– We are still in the process of trying to get a few of our cancelled events rescheduled. Stay tuned!

Lock-in– The youth lock-in was on January 17th. We extended an invite to the incoming 5th graders. It was a great night! Everyone had a blast with the inflatable obstacle course, wrecking ball, board games and 9 Square!!!

Mission Trip– The mission trip has been set. We will be going to New Orleans, LA. The trip is from July 2-10. Cost is \$400. Fundraising schedules will be handed out this Sunday. Any youth planning on going, needs to be signed up in the youth room!

On the Horizon

February 13: Murder Mystery

February 19: Winterjam Cost is \$10.

March 4-5: Dare2Share Conference

April 29-May 1: Disciple Now Retreat

Youth Group Teaching Schedule

Feb. 7 No Youth Group

Feb. 14 Gospel Journey: What is the purpose of life? Part 2

Feb. 21: Gospel Journey: Why are there so many religions?

Feb. 28: Gospel Journey: Is it religion or relationship?

Youth Culture Music Artists Top Ten

All information for song radio play was for the week of 1/19 from Mediabase.

All information for music videos was for the week of 1/11 from Vevo.com

Rank	Muisc Videos	Radio Play
1	Taylor Swift – Out Of The Woods	Selena Gomez – Same Old Love
2	Justin Bieber - Sorry	Justin Bieber – Sorry
3	Selena Gomez – Same Old Love	Alessia Cara – Here
4	Justin Bieber – Love Yourself	The Weeknd – In The Night
5	One Direction – Perfect	Justin Bieber – Love Yourself
6	Demi Lovato - Confident	Adele – Hello
7	Alessia Cara – Here	Twenty One Pilots –Stressed Out
8	Justin Bieber – I'll Show You	Meghan Trainor – Like I'm Gonna Lose You
9	Adele – When We Were Young (Live at The Church Studios)	The Chainsmokers – Roses
10	Shawn Mendes & Camila Cabello – I Know What You Did Last Summer	Daya – Hide Away

F E B R U A R Y 2 0 1 6

S U N	M O N	T U E	W E D	T H U	F R I	S A T
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 Sunday School @ 9:30 am No Youth Group	8	9	10	11	12	13 Murder Mystery Dinner @ 7pm
14 Sunday School @ 9:30 am Youth Group @ 6:00pm	15	16	17	18	19 Winterjam @ 4pm	20
21 Sunday School @ 9:30 am Youth Group @ 6:00pm	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 Sunday School @ 9:30 am Youth Group @ 6:00pm	29					

A NOTE FROM PASTOR JOSH

Hi Parents,

January has come and gone. It seems like it just began! It has been a busy month. The lock-in was a lot of fun! We have the FFC Volleyball league starting up at the end of January. Many things are happening with Flipside Student Ministry. The biggest thing we have begun doing is teaching the teens how to practically share their faith with their friends. This is one of the most important things they can learn and is something that the Lord desire and commands of all of us. Encourage and pray for your teen to boldly step out and share their faith! Also, this next year you may see things changing even more. Our plan is to start putting the Biblical teaching of your teen back in your hands. This is really important and helps make more of an impact long term. Don't worry though. I will do everything I can to make sure you have the proper tools and are equipped! If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please let me know!

In Him, Pastor Josh