

## Crafting God's Arrows: A Biblical battle plan for parenting

By Dennis and Barbara Rainey

In Psalm 127:4, you will find an amazing statement about your child. Many of us know of the previous verse, in which we are told, "Behold, children are a gift of the Lord; the fruit of the womb is a reward." That's a nice, warm, safe verse.

But then look at verse four: *"Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one's youth."*

Think about those words. The psalmist refers to your child as an arrow—a weapon! And that is no mistake.

God has great plans for your child. Arrows are not meant to be kept safe in the quiver. He wants you to eventually release that arrow to make an impact on our world with the love of Christ. And

guess who gets to be the primary "crafter" of the arrow?

Welcome to Arrow Crafting 101!

Any arrow to be useful must have a shaft, fletching (feathers), a nock (the groove at the end of the arrow into which the bow string fits), and a point. If all of these four are made well, the result is an effective arrow, beautifully designed for impact. These four qualities give us four clear goals to pursue as we craft our children. Nearly every issue or trap our children will encounter can be linked to a young person's need in one of four areas.

**Article continued on Pgs 4 and 5.**

## Youth Beat: Youth Culture Statistics

- ◆ Studies estimate American teenagers spend an average of nine hours a day using screens. That's two hours more than they spend sleeping. Many of these hours are devoted to social media, which some teens admit to checking at least 100 times a day.
- ◆ For "digital natives"—people who've never known a world without the Internet—social media has become the place where relationships are formed, proven, and tested.

## TOP TEN MOVIES



Movies 3/11/2016 - 3/13/2016

Source: Box Office Mojo

Rank	Box Office Movies	Gross Income
1	Zootopia	\$50 mil
2	10 Cloverfield Lane	\$25.2 mil
3	Deadpool	\$10.8 mil
4	London Has Fallen	\$10.7 mil
5	Whiskey Tango Foxtrot	\$4.6 mil
6	The Perfect Match	\$4.2 mil
7	The Young Messiah	\$3.4 mil
8	The Brothers Grimsby	\$3.2 mil
9	Gods of Egypt	\$2.5 mil
10	Risen	\$2.3 mil

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## Top Ten Video Games

1. Far Cry: Primal (PS4)
2. Far Cry: Primal (Xbox One)
3. Fire Emblem Fates (3DS)
4. Plants vs. Zombies: Garden Warfare 2 (Xbox One)
5. Mega Man Legacy Collection (3DS)
6. Plants vs. Zombies: Garden Warfare 2 (PS4)
7. Call of Duty: Black Ops 3 (PS4)
8. Call of Duty: Black Ops 3 (Xbox One)
9. Street Fighter V (PS4)
10. Naruto Shippuden: Ultimate Ninja Storm 4 (PS4)

U.S. Video Game Sales Week Ending  
February 27, 2016  
Source: VGChartz

## Celebrity Quotes

“I don’t want to say I wouldn’t get married again, but it’s not important to me. I don’t feel I would need to be married to have another child. If I felt strongly enough toward someone or if someone felt strongly about it, I might say okay. But it’s not essential.”

– Actress and singer Hilary Duff, commenting on whether or not she’ll ever get married again, *Redbook*, February 2016

## PRAYER CENTRAL:

### Things to pray about with and for your kids

- Pray for the leaders of our country
- Pray for our church and it’s leaders
- Pray for our graduating seniors

How’s your personal prayer time going? Make sure you are seeking that much needed time with the Lord and encourage your teens to do the same. Also, don’t put off praying with your teen. It’s important!

## Verse of the Month

<sup>9</sup> Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor:  
<sup>10</sup> If either of them falls down, one can help the other up.  
But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up.  
<sup>11</sup> Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? <sup>12</sup> Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves.  
A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

-Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

We are better together than we are separate. This is even more true in our families. We need each other and your teens need you to guide them. Help them to be in and stay His Word.

# Cutting Edge Music:

## Killswitch Engage- "Incarnate"



**Background:** Killswitch Engage is an American metalcore band from Westfield, Massachusetts, formed in 1999 after the disbanding of Overcast and Aftershock. Killswitch Engage's current lineup consists of vocalist Jesse Leach, guitarists Joel Stroetzel and Adam Dutkiewicz, bassist Mike D'Antonio, and drummer Justin Foley. The band has released seven studio albums and one DVD.

**What Parents should know about their new album:** For the Massachusetts metalcore maestros collectively known as Killswitch Engage, the *sound* stays the same. Guttural growls ferociously compete for attention alongside soaring melodies, blitzkrieg guitars and pulverizingly fast bass beats. Lyrically, however, *Incarnate* marks a shift from the band's last two efforts. I said of 2013's *Disarm the Descent*, "Virtually everything on this album bears witness to [Jesse Leach's] Christian faith. Themes of redemption, salvation, deliverance, forgiveness, truth, light, hope and grace claw their way out of the cacophony in just about every single song." This time around, I'm writing: *Incarnate* is not without its redemptive, uplifting and encouraging moments. But more than a few tracks suggest a repudiation, or at least dilution, of Christian convictions.

For the full write up, visit [www.pluggedin.com/musicreviews](http://www.pluggedin.com/musicreviews). Also, visit [pluggedin.com](http://pluggedin.com) for other music reviews.

# Christian Artists

## Citizen Way



Citizen Way, formerly known as The Least of These, is composed of Ben Blascoe, David Blascoe, Ben Calhoun and Josh Calhoun. The band released their debut single "Should've Been Me" the band's third single, "How Sweet the Sound", was released on September 27, 2013, and has gone on to become their first No. 1 single. It has charted on Christian AC Indicator and Soft AC/Inspirational, reaching No. 1 on the Christian Soft AC/Inspirational chart on April 3, 2014. The single spent four weeks atop the Christian Soft AC/Inspirational chart

Check them out at:  
[www.citizenwaymusic.com](http://www.citizenwaymusic.com)

# Featured Film: Newly Released in Theater



## SYNOPSIS— The Huntsman: Winter's War—Opens April 22

Long before the evil Queen Ravenna was thought vanquished by Snow White's blade, she watched silently as her sister, Freya, suffered a heartbreaking betrayal and fled their kingdom. When Freya learns of her sister's demise, she summons her remaining soldiers to bring the Magic Mirror home to the only sorceress left who can harness its power. Now, their amassing army shall prove undefeatable...unless the banished huntsmen who broke their queen's cardinal rule can fight their way back to one another.

Starring: Chris Hemsworth, Charlize Theron, Jessica Chastain, Emily Blunt, Nick Frost.

Rated PG--13-Fantasy action violence and some sensuality.

For more information on the movie check out [www.Christianitytoday.com](http://www.Christianitytoday.com) under their media section

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## Other Movies in Theaters

Title	Rating	Red Flags	Genre	Starring
<b>The Jungle Book</b> Opens April 15	PG	Some sequences of scary action and peril.	Adventure /Family	Neel Sethi, Bill Murray, Ben Kingsley, Idris Elba, Scarlett Johansson
<b>The Green Room</b> Opens April 15	R	strong brutal graphic violence, gory images, language and some drug content	Horror	Anton Yelchin, Imogen Poots, Patrick Stewart, Alia Shawkat, Mark Webber
<b>Mr. Right</b> Opens April 8	R	Violence and language throughout.	Comedy/Romance	Anna Kendrick, Sam Rockwell, Tim Roth, Anson Mount, James Ransone

## **1. The arrow's shaft: identity**

The making of a fine arrow begins with the shaft. Obviously, since every other part of the arrow must attach to the shaft, this part of the arrow is a lot like a child's identity. If a child's self concept is warped—not straight and strong—his flight in life may be wobbly.

The Scripture records the story of God giving man and woman an identity. The nation of Israel was selected, adopted and set apart by God to be "His people." Every person is born with a unique, divinely-imprinted identity. If we want to properly guide our children to a healthy self identity, we must acknowledge and support the Creator's design in three key areas: spiritual identity, emotional identity, and sexual identity. We must also communicate with them one of the most important messages they will ever receive—"You are made in the image of God. You are one valuable child."

## **2. The arrow's feathers: character**

Why do arrows have those feathers at the back end?

The feathers or fletching create drag when the arrow is in flight, which keeps the back end of the arrow behind the front end—a pretty important function! It also stabilizes the arrow as it flies to its target. An arrow without good fletching is undependable and dangerous. If an arrow has the right kind of feathers, properly installed, it will fly straight. We think character has the same effect on a child.

From Genesis to Revelation, character development is a major theme of God's work in people. And it's one of the major assign-

ments God gives us as parents. Character is how your child responds to authority and life's circumstances. It is "responsibility," and comes as a result of training our children to submit to God and His Word.

## **3. The arrow's nock: relationships**

All of the pent-up power in a bow is of no value if it cannot be effectively transferred. That's why every arrow, at the rear of the shaft, has a small groove that holds the bowstring. This is called the nock. The nock keeps the arrow in place on the string until the power is released.

The nock can be compared to the third core ingredient necessary in a child's life: relationships. When someone's life intersects with God and with people, a power transfer occurs. None of us was intended to make a journey through life alone. We need the strength, comfort, encouragement, resources, and power provided by God and others.

Try teaching truth without a relationship with your child. It produces rebellion. Similarly, relationships without truth can result in a self-indulgent teen, one who is spoiled.

Children also need parents who will build into them the ability to love others. And this training can occur quite naturally in the context of our relationship. The best school to learn about relationships and resolving conflict is in the University of Family, where the professors teach and train their students for more than eighteen years.

#### 4. The arrow's point: mission

Our finely-crafted arrow is nearly complete. Only the front end of the shaft needs a finishing touch—a point.

The point of the arrow reminds us of the last essential quality we want to craft in a child: Every person needs a reason to live, a driving passion or calling that provides meaning and impact. This is a person's mission.

We need to ask ourselves, "Have I more passion for the values of this world's system than for the things of God? What are my goals in life—are they ones I want my child to copy?"

Every child should be helped to understand that life is a dynamic relationship with God that overflows in love to other people—a love that the Holy Spirit uses to reconcile the lost to God. Everything else, as good or innocuous as it may be, is only a prop to facilitating this mission.

Soon after our son Samuel was born we could tell that he was a natural athlete. After he turned 13 he really began to excel in tennis. We loved attending his matches and tournaments.

Samuel was ranked seventh in the state when his game began to slide. His coach didn't understand why Samuel wasn't getting to balls he had reached earlier with ease. Eventually we took him to a doctor and were soon numb with disbelief when the neurologist said, "Your son has a form of muscular dystrophy. He will most likely never be confined to a wheel chair, but he will never run again. His days of tennis and sports are over."

Although Samuel's disease was not life-threatening, we felt as though there had been a death of a dream for a young man and his parents.

The next four months were almost unbearable as Samuel refused to quit tennis. Finally, we had to help Samuel hang up his tennis racket and admit his playing days were over.

Late one afternoon as I (Dennis) was driving Samuel home from a doctor visit, we were talking about what his disease meant to him as a young man. I was struggling to keep my emotions composed while trying to comfort him. But Samuel ended up comforting me. He turned to me as we rode and said with a boyish grin, "Well, Dad, I guess you don't need legs to serve God."

I couldn't talk. All I could do, as I brushed away a stream of tears, was reach across the seat and give him a hug.

Samuel was a young man whose identity went far beyond tennis, whose character could weather a stiff challenge, whose relationship with God and family could sustain him, and whose mission for God transcended any physical limitations he would face in his lifetime. Samuel's arrow was nearly ready to fly, dead on, toward the bulls eye prepared for him.

Article found at [www.familylife.com](http://www.familylife.com)

# youth Group News

## Events

**Movie Night**– We will be going to see “God’s Not Dead 2” on April 1. All youth will not have to pay for ticket but will need to pay for own snacks and drinks.

**Trivia Night and Silent Auction**– Our first annual trivia night and silent auction is quickly approaching. If you haven’t signed up for a table, please gather friends, family and coworkers, and do so! Also, youth that are working the event need to arrive at the church at 5pm on April 9.

**Graduation Banquet**– This year we are starting a new tradition. We will be hosting a graduation banquet for our outgoing youth group seniors. The event will start at 6pm on May 21st. We will have dinner, a time to share, and other various activities to honor our graduating seniors. It will have a surprise theme.

## News

**Promotion**– May 29th we will be welcoming all our upcoming fifth graders. Be praying for them as they make that transition.

**Mission Trip**– Our fundraisers are in full swing. Reminder that students need to be attending as many as they can but are required to attend at least 50%. It is also highly encouraged they be attending weekly youth group.

**Sticky Faith**– We will be offering our sticky faith parenting classes starting on May 1 at 4pm. They will run for 7 weeks, every Sunday at 4pm. These classes are designed to help with teaching discipleship processes. Sign ups will be available at the guest service table.

## On the Horizon

**April 1**– Movie Night– God’s Not Dead 2

**April 9**– Flipside Trivia Night and Silent Auction

**May 15**– Car Wash

**May 21**– Senior Graduation Banquet

## Youth Group Teaching Schedule

April 3: **Gospel Journey**– Is it religion or relationship?

April 10: **Gospel Journey** – Why do bad things happen?

April 17: **Gospel Journey** – What happens after we die?

April 24: **Gospel Journey** – Who is Jesus?



# A P R I L 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
					<b>1</b> Movie- God's Not Dead 2-6pm	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> Sunday School @ 9:30 am Youth Group @ 6:00pm	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Trivia Night and Silent Auction 6:30pm
<b>10</b> Sunday School @ 9:30 am Youth Group @ 6:00pm	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> Sunday School @ 9:30 am Youth Group @ 6:00pm	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> Sunday School @ 9:30 am Youth Group @ 6:00pm	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>

## A NOTE FROM PASTOR JOSH

Hi Parents!

Another month has come and gone.. We are continuing our youth group series Gospel Journey which has placed a huge focus on sharing the Good News of Jesus with our friends. We have been encouraging the teens to share with their friends at school and the leaders have also been encouraged to share with friends. With the focus on evangelism we will start taking one Sunday a month to go to various places in our community to pray and share with people. On May 1, I will start teaching a parenting discipleship class on Sunday's at 4pm. This is a great class and really helps with putting a discipleship plan together. In the church, we are losing kids every year by large numbers. I believe one way to stop this is by starting the biblical conversations at home and teaching and showing why Jesus is so important! As always, if you need anything or have questions, let me know!

In Him, Pastor Josh