

# THE PARENT INSIDER

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## 10 Ideas: Living the Gospel in Your Home

If the gospel is central to your life, it also must be central in your family.

By Janel Breitenstein

A couple of weeks ago I made a phone call to my 4-year-old that I wished I didn't have to make. After yelling at him that morning, I didn't do a truly heart-repentant job of apologizing. Whether he realized it or not, I had still been so mad—and focused on his own error. So I picked up my cell and attempted something more Christlike.

What I will always remember was his response.

"Mommy, I forgive you. And I want to let you know that even when you do bad things, I still love you. And I want you to know that even when you do bad things, God still loves you."

Now I felt really bad for yelling. I think the power of this was in my 4-year-old son repeating the gospel back to me. He not only gets it, he applies it. (Granted, that night after I caught him spitting on the

bathroom mirror, he said, "I want to let you know that even when I do bad things, I still love you." Hmm.)

In Philippians 3:8-9, Paul proclaims the centrality of the gospel—the cross—to life. I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ ...

If the gospel is central—to the point that all else is rubbish—it also must be central in my marriage, my home. Practically, here's what that may look like as I shift my family's culture.

Article continued on Pg 4.

## Youth Beat: Quick Stats

- Among college student spring breakers, 38% said they regretted drinking alcohol, 32% said they regretted a sexual encounter and 11% said they regretted drug use. ( ProjectKnow )
- 27% of 10- to 18-year-olds named social networking sites as their favorite news source. ( Common Sense Media )

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## TOP TEN MOVIES



Movies 3/17/2017 - 3/19/2017

Source: Box Office Mojo

	Box Office Movies	Gross Income
1	Beauty and the Beast	\$170 mil
2	Kong: Skull Island	\$28.9 mil
3	Logan	\$17.5 mil
4	Get Out	\$13.2 mil
5	The Shack	\$6.1 mil
6	The Lego Batman Movie	\$4.7 mil
7	The Belko Experiment	\$4.1 mil
8	Hidden Figures	\$1.5 mil
9	John Wick: Chapter 2	\$1.2 mil
10	Before I Fall	\$1 mil

## Top Ten Video Games

1. Ni-Oh (PS4)
2. Resident Evil VII: Biohazard (PS4)
3. Pokemon Sun/Moon (3DS)
4. Madden NFL 17 (PS4)
5. NBA 2K17 (PS4)
6. Resident Evil VII: Biohazard (XOne)
7. NBA 2K17 (XOne)
8. Uncharted 4: A Thief's End (PS4)
9. Call of Duty: Infinite Warfare (PS4)
10. Madden NFL 17 (XOne)

U.S. Video Game Sales Week  
Ending February 11, 2017

Source:VGChartz

## Celebrity Quotes

"I have two teenagers, and I've discovered that they will Snapchat me back, but they will not call me back. And I think it's important for people to communicate well with their children."

– Actress Reese Witherspoon, speaking about communicating with her children on the *Today Show*, October 21, 2016.

## PRAYER CENTRAL:

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

- Pray for your teens friends
- Pray for other parents of teens
- Pray that the Gospel is clearly shared in your home
- Pray for your teens "enemies"

Prayer is so powerful. Most of the time we take it for granted that we have a direct line to the Creator of everything. Don't waste it. Use it!

## Verse of the Month

"Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him."

- James 1:12

Trusting in God is essential. Life will throw many curves our way but when we remain strong, we will be blessed. God's Word is full of so much wisdom. Make sure you are reading it with and without your teen.

# Cutting Edge Music:

**Ed Sheeran- "÷"**



**Background:** An English singer-songwriter and record producer. He was born in Halifax, West Yorkshire, and raised in Framlingham, Suffolk. Sheeran's popularity abroad began in 2012. In the US, he made a guest appearance on Taylor Swift's fourth studio album, Red. "The A Team" was nominated for Song of the Year at the 2013 Grammy Awards, where he performed the song with Elton John. He spent much of 2013 opening for Swift's The Red Tour in

North America dates. In late 2013, he performed three sold-out shows at New York's Madison Square Garden as a headline act. Sheeran's third album, ÷ ("divide"), was released in March 2017. The album debuted at number one in the UK, the US and other major markets.

**What Parents should know about their new album:** Ed Sheeran's latest is hardly without problems. Alcohol flows freely—sometimes in the service of dulling heartache—and there's one relationship that starts off as a one-night stand. Despite those concerns, though, there's a surprising amount of sweetness and sentimentality here, too. Sheeran loves his parents, and he looks forward to having children. He talks repeatedly of loving one woman for a lifetime. And there are even a handful of nods in God's direction, too. For an album titled ÷, then, it's not *quite* as divided by content issues as I suspected it might be after listening to the leering lead sing "Shape of You." And in some significant ways, it seems Sheeran aspires to be someone whose heart is undivided, at least when it comes to love ... even if he hasn't quite gotten there yet.

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.

## Latest Research: Non-Concussive Head Injuries

Three million children are involved in tackle football programs here in the United States. You've no doubt heard about the growing concerns related to kids, football, and the impact of concussions on their brains both in the short and long-term. Now, researchers at Wake Forest University are studying the impact of less-serious blows to the head and what they do to football players ages eight to thirteen. This is important research as the brain is in the middle of a particularly vulnerable stage of change during this period of life. MRIs on test subjects indicate that there are some changes in the brain's white matter, which is the tissue that connects the gray matter of the brain. And the more exposure a boy has to head impacts, the greater the amount of change, even after only one season of playing youth football. While more research is needed to determine the long-term impact of non-concussive hits, parents are wise to consider the possible effects and safety of their sons.

## Featured Film: Newly Released in Theater

### SYNOPSIS— The Fate of the Furious

—Opens April 14

**Starring: Cast:** Vin Diesel, Dwayne Johnson, Jason Statham, Michelle Rodriguez, Lucas Black

Rated PG-13 —Sequences of Violence, Language, Destruction and Suggestive Content



The latest installment of the Fast and the Furious franchise welcomes two Oscar-winning actresses: Charlize Theron plays Cipher, the latest villain to torment Dominic Toretto and his crew, while Helen Mirren joins the cast after publicly lobbying for a role to sate her real-life love of racing.

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

Check out [www.pluggedin.com](http://www.pluggedin.com) for more information on new

Other  
Movies  
in  
Theaters

Title	Rating	Red Flags	Genre	Starring
The Case for Christ Opens April 7	PG	Descriptions of Crucifixion, Thematic Elements and Incidental Smoking	Drama	Mike Vogel, Erika Christensen, Faye Dunaway, Robert Forster, Frankie R. Faison
Gifted Opens April 12	PG-13	Thematic Elements, Some Suggestive Material and Language	Drama	Chris Evans, Octavia L. Spencer, Lindsay Duncan, McKenna Grace, Jenny Slate
The Lost City of Z Opens April 14	PG-13	Violence, Brief Strong Language, Some Nudity and Disturbing Images	Drama	Charlie Hunnam, Tom Holland, Robert Pattinson, Sienna Miller, Angus MacFadyen

1. Repent. A family that practices repentance keeps “short accounts” with each other, apologizing quickly and sincerely. The point of apologizing to my kids even when they’re in trouble isn’t at all to distract them from their sin. They need to grow up with my willing confession as the norm, to give them the knowledge that Mom requires a Savior as much as they do. An awareness of the log in my eye—even when my children or spouse are the offenders—is biblically commanded (Matthew 7:1-5).

2. Forgive. Deliberately ask for forgiveness, and then humbly and verbally extend forgiveness: “I want you to know that I completely forgive you, and that I believe God forgives you, too.” I guess it can sound a little hokey when we’re not used to using such language in our homes ... but that’s my point. Should it be? Call me an idealist, but I’d like this replication of Christ’s words to become the norm, a chance to apply the gospel to myself and my loved ones daily.

Conflict is an opportunity to glorify God, love others, and become more like Christ. Conflict allows the gospel to be played out in our midst: loving by laying down our lives in the midst of our family members’ sin. Forgiveness rolls out the red carpet for us to witness the gospel again and again with those we love the most.

3. Practice humility in the way we talk about ourselves. Truthfully speaking of ourselves in light of who God is (“Thanks! I love using the gifts God has given me”) is not false modesty. It is honestly acknowledging that everything we have—abilities, status, resources, “every good thing given and every perfect gift” (James 1:17)—is a gift from God through His grace. It doesn’t beat ourselves up before our children or spouses, and doesn’t use our good works to steal one iota of God’s glory.

4. Be grateful. Frequently thanking God out loud for both tangible and spiritual blessings reminds us that Jesus’ sacrifice opened the door for them. When we realize that everything we are and everything we have comes from God, it leads us to acknowledge Him, which leads to praise and worship.

It also means looking to the trustworthy hand of the One we worship for whatever He’s ready to give. This means preparing our family to respond as Job did:

“Naked I came from my mother’s womb,  
And naked I shall return there.

The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away.  
Blessed be the name of the Lord.” (Job 1:21)

When we fully realize that we don’t deserve anything and that everything we have is a gift from God, we can’t help but have a thankful heart—one of gratitude that comes from humility.

5. Extend grace. Acknowledge with gentleness that we’re all in a process. Return a blessing for an insult (1 Peter 3:9), responding mercifully rather than harshly.

Featured on a FamilyLife Today broadcast, one woman told how she gently shepherded her son after his adolescent sister’s emotional outburst and retreat to her bedroom. The wise mother gently explained the insecurity of his sister’s season of life—and then suggested they go make her favorite cookies for her.

6. Don’t judge, in words or thoughts. Of all the possible reasons for the behavior of others, choose to assign the one that attributes the most character and grace.

I was mildly appalled at the way a friend was treating her children ... until I realized that she was working from how she was disciplined as a child. I also was immediately humbled when I compared her upbringing to the richly nurturing environment I was raised in—and realized I am still overcoming the way I lash out in ungodly anger toward my own children.

Keeping the cross at the center of my home allows me to see God as judge, and to therefore choose the most loving explanation when I consider others’ actions.

7. Serve others. I need to teach my children not only to say, “How can I help?” but to think sacrifice, have the mind of a foot washer, go the

extra mile: “Your sister’s really tired after practice. What if you volunteered to set the table for her?”

1 John 3:16 tells us, “We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives ...” This can require significant changes in our family’s fabric—and something already this counterintuitive isn’t going to be helped by a culture that’s shaped around “It’s all about me!”

8. Love lavishly. Once when I was quite ashamed and mortified over a traffic citation, my husband actually sent me flowers at work, with a sweet message about our redeeming God. Between the ticket and the roses, I don’t know which was more humbling. You’ll remember the sinful woman who, with tears and despite the dismay of surrounding Pharisees, poured a bottle of perfume worth a year’s wages over Jesus’ feet. Jesus’ response: “her sins, which are many, have been forgiven, for she loved much; but he who is forgiven little, loves little” (Luke 7:47).

When I remember how much I’ve been forgiven, I love both God and others much more gratefully and extravagantly.

9. Speak up. I actually found myself telling the cashier at Wal-Mart the other day how happy my husband makes me. Some of you ladies might remember the time in your life when you were hoping people would notice the glitter on your finger so that you could gush about your man and your wedding. And some of us parents can’t wait to fish the 48 pictures of our kids out of our wallet.

1 John 1:4 talks about sharing what we’ve experienced of Jesus “so that our joy may be made complete”; the early apostles couldn’t help but tell their story! But could the same be said of me sharing my experience of Christ with my neighbors, my coworkers, my babysitter, my carpool? Does my love for Him, the “sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him” (2 Corinthians 2:14), spill out like my love for my family?

10. Focus on eternity. Speak often of Heaven and what it will be like to be with Jesus, emphasizing that this world is not our ultimate home. What we can see isn’t the whole story! Scene: I had been crying because I had just received word that, as we had been anticipating, a young friend on life support passed away after a horrible accident. My back was to our 4-year-old son.

Mommy: “I want to let you know that I just found out that [our friend] went to be with Jesus today.”

Son (with excitement in his voice): “I hearrrrrd!”

All of our family’s conversations about heaven bore fruit in that moment. It actually made me laugh with joy as I saw my son connect the dots between our current reality and heaven’s true reality: Our 21-year-old friend’s death, though utterly tearing our hearts, was still a coronation day, the pinnacle of his life thus far. While I wept, my 4-year-old was saying, That guy is one lucky duck.

It’s true that the gospel should be central to our lives. Jesus Himself, “the author and perfecter of faith ... for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God” (Hebrews 12:2). But when it comes down to it, the cross isn’t the last word. The resurrection is.

We live the cross so that we can live the true resurrection, both in our renewed lives here and in heaven. Philippians 2 remarks that Jesus “humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name” (8b-9). May your own family find itself nestled in this gospel, and triumphant at His return.

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

# Youth Group News

## Events

**Trivia Night-** April 1 will be our second annual trivia night. Cost is \$10 a person or \$80 for a full table. All proceeds go towards the funds raised for our mission trip to Nashville, TN. Doors will open at 6 pm. Trivia play will begin promptly at 6:30 pm. We will have a silent auction as well. All forms of payment will be accepted.

**Disciple Now Retreat-** This is a new spring retreat. Cost is \$25. It is April 28-30. It will be held at FFC and host homes of members. It is designed for smaller group bible study. A leader will be assigned to a group of students and they will do study at homes, then come together with the other groups for large group teaching and worship. We will also be doing service projects, lazer tag and more! Sign ups are in the youth and they need to pick up a registration form that is to be returned with payment. This event is great for finding intimacy with God. It is also a perfect retreat to invite friends to! If you would like to open your home, let us know!

## News

**Correction:** Previous ads showed Disciple Now cost as \$30. It is indeed \$25.

**Promotion Sunday-** Grade and class promotions will be held on Sunday, May 21st. That Sunday we will transition all 5th graders to the Jr. High class and all 8th graders to the High school class. Also, all 5th graders will be able to start attending youth group that night!

**Summer Schedule-** We are working on the summer schedule. It will be available starting in May.

**Grad Banquet-** We will be holding our second annual graduation banquet on May 20th at 6:30 pm. This is to honor our graduating seniors. It is a formal event. Please block that date out!

## On the Horizon

**Grad Banquet- May 20-** Our annual banquet to honor our graduating seniors. Starts at 6:30 pm.

**Promo Night- May 21-** We will welcome the new incoming 6th graders.

## Youth Group Teaching Schedule

April 2: **Study of Psalms-** Psalm 27

April 9: **Study of Psalms-** Psalm 35

April 16: **Easter- No Youth**

April 23: **Study of Psalms-** Psalm 35

April 30: **No Youth**

# Youth Culture Music Artists Top Ten

All information for Radio Airplay was for the week of 3/21 from Mediabase.

Rank	Radio Airplay
1	Ed Sheeran – Shape Of You
2	Zayn/Taylor Swift – I Don't Wanna Live Forever
3	Rihanna – Love On The Brain
4	The Weeknd – I Feel It Coming
5	The Chainsmokers – Paris
6	Bruno Mars – That's What I Like
7	Shawn Mendes – Mercy
8	MGK x Camila Cabello – Bad Things
9	Clean Bandit & Anne-Marie – Rockabye
10	Katy Perry – Chained To The Rhythm

# A P R I L 2 0 1 7

S U N	M O N	T U E	W E D	T H U	F R I	S A T
						<b>1</b> Trivia Night and Silent Auction
<b>2</b> Sunday School @ 9:30 am <b>VBall @ 1 pm</b> Youth Group @ 5:00pm	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> Sunday School @ 9:30 am  Youth Group @ 6:00pm	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> Sunday School @ 9:30 am  Youth Group @ 6:00pm	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> SS @ 9 am Youth @ <b>30</b> 6 pm <b>Disciple</b> <b>Now</b> <b>Weekend</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Disciple Now Weekend	<b>29</b> Disciple Now Weekend

## Youth Trends: "STI Increase"

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are reporting a spike in sexually transmitted infections among young people. Specifically, instances of chlamydia are up nearly six percent since 2014. Instances of gonorrhea are up nearly 13%. And instances of syphilis are up nearly 19%. The CDC is also reporting that almost 20 million new cases of STIs occur every year, over half of them afflicting people between the ages of fifteen and twenty-four. The CDC is also reporting that the reason for this sudden spike is that many young people are not wearing condoms. As Christians, we want to be about the task of leading our kids into a healthy experience of sexuality that gives honor and glory to God. Sex is a good gift from God that is to be enjoyed between one man and one woman, within the context of a committed marriage. We flourish spiritually, emotionally, relationally, and physically when we endeavor to find our sexual freedom within God's parameters.

Source: CPYU