



PARENT CONNECT

A BRIDGE BETWEEN PARENTS AND YOUTH MINISTRY



UPCOMING EVENTS!

Youth & Young Adults Missions Trip to Colombia

June 29 - July 11, 2015

Follow us at:

<http://colombiateam2015.tumblr.com/>

Youth Summer Kick-Off

Tuesday, July 7, 2015

7pm

Atlantis Waterslides

Wednesday, July 15

9am-5:30pm

\$30 - (Registrations available at Guest Services and on website.)

Beach Day

Wednesday, Aug 19

(More info to come...)

FORGIVING YOUR KIDS

“Forgive and forget” is a tough adage, because humans aren’t really designed to forget very much. Our brain is a hard-wired computer that, when functioning properly, never “dumps” the information.

We may occasionally have trouble accessing data, but that never seems to be a problem when our kids do something wrong. In any given moment, we can recall, recount, and reconstruct—if necessary—any heinous crime they’ve ever committed against us, the family dog, or the neighbor three doors down.

In an altruistic moment, we may bring up our kids’ past failings while trying to prevent that behavior from recurring or to protect them from future consequences. But not forgetting their past transgressions can wound our kids. When we appear to hold on to their sins, we can also distort their view of a forgiving, restoring Father God.

Although forgiveness usually doesn’t wipe the mental slate clean, it does cleanse the heart of bitterness and contempt. Show your kids they’re forgiven by:

- Not showing any “venom” when a former issue comes up.
- Offering reminders that are gentle, not corrective.

Accompanying the conversation with truth. (“I know we’re past this issue; I’m just using it as a reference point.”)

Maintaining compassion as the standard mindset at home.
Not bringing back the full weight of the first transgression when a repeat offense occurs.

Forgiveness is a balm for our own hearts, soothing the savage within. But it also communicates to our kids that they’re always in our hearts—and their actions can never drive them away from us.



By Darren Sutton



YOUTH CULTURE



A WORD FROM THE WORD

So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.

John 13:34-35, NLT

BRUCE OR CAITLYN?

The famous Olympian formerly known as Bruce Jenner has been transformed into Caitlyn, as revealed on the much-hyped Vanity Fair cover. Reactions from Christians have been varied, with adults often reacting differently from younger people. Christian teens may wonder, “How can homosexuality be a sin when my gay friends are some of the most loving, compassionate people I know? Who’s being hurt by their lifestyle choices?”

Although the questions are understandable, the ultimate authority is God’s Word, not personal experience. It’s important to help teenagers see that Jesus came to redeem and restore all people.

Here’s how you can discuss sexuality with your kids through a gospel lens:

Love people without hesitation. Jesus was willing to come into our sinful mess, and we must be willing to do the same with others. You can love people despite disagreeing with their

behavior; that doesn’t mean you accept everything they do.

Listen with ears of compassion. Jesus saw people as people, not as problems to fix. Each person has a unique story; therefore...

Speak slowly with grace-filled truth. Hear people’s stories and build relationships so you can share God’s redeeming work. Without God’s story intervening, our stories are incomplete. Share the beauty of the gospel by sharing your grace-driven life with others.

Keep pointing to Jesus. Everything begins and ends with him. The more we focus on Jesus and allow him to work in and through us, the more people around us will experience Jesus for themselves.

Pastor Shawn Harrison, author of Ministering to Gay Teenagers (Simply Youth Ministry), lives with his wife and kids in OH.

By Shawn Harrison

THOUGHT-PROVOKING QUESTIONS

Engage your teenagers in conversations about sexual identity by asking important questions:

What are ways to embrace someone’s story without condoning his or her choices?

How can we truly love our neighbors, classmates, co-workers, and others as Jesus commands?

How can we share the gospel in practical ways, as Jesus demonstrated?

Knowing that Jesus came to redeem all people and things (including sexuality in general), how do we live a grace-driven life?

Do other people see Jesus through you? How?

What are some stumbling blocks you have? How can you allow Jesus to transform you into his image?

IN THEIR WORLD

BEWARE THE CHARLIE CHALLENGE

This dangerous new game has recently gone viral, possibly as a promotional campaign for a horror movie. Kids draw four sections on a piece of paper and write “no” and “yes” in opposite corners. On those sections, they stack two pencils in the shape of a cross and chant for Charlie, a Mexican demon, to answer their questions.

The challenge has swept social media, as teenagers chronicle when and if the demon provides answers. Some kids are dubious; others are terrified.

Warn your teenagers against dabbling with this low-tech Ouija board, which can lead to anxiety and spiritual warfare.



WHEN GOBLINS COME CALLING

With movies such as *Poltergeist* and *The Exorcist* making a resurgence, you may wonder why teenagers want to trek to the movies to dabble in the underworld.

They don't. They usually just want to be scared.

Most teenagers are cautiously adventurous at heart. They want to explore new things while holding on to the familiar. They want to be scared while being safe. They crave the adrenaline rush of a bungee jump with none of the gravity-defying risk.

So kids see horror movies—and some are ridiculous. Slasher films replete with obviously fake blood and less-than-surgically amputated limbs offer little real fear or redeeming value. But movies such as *Poltergeist* explore the spiritual realm (albeit Hollywood style). Demons, ghosts, and all manner of “unseen forces” make a grandiose appearance through self-propelled furniture and people.

- Be ready to talk about these scenes when your kids are

exposed to them—which can happen even during television ads and previews.

- Remind young people that the spirit realm is real. The Bible talks about demons in real time and space. (Matthew 8:28-33; Matthew 12:22)
- Emphasize that Jesus has authority in that realm. (Luke 9:1; 1 John 4:4)
- Remind kids that fear isn't necessarily something we should seek. (2 Timothy 1:7; 1 John 4:18)

Caution kids that they may be asking for a fight if they seek out this kind of material. (Ephesians 6:12)

Everyone likes a good fright now and then, but warn against a steady diet of it. And be wise about the “scare tactics” your kids gravitate toward.

JULY 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29 Youth & Young Adults Missions Trip to Colombia Leaving today	30	1	2	3	4
5	6	7 The Edge Youth Ministry Summer Kick- off 7-9pm (Grades 7-12)	8	9	10	11 Youth & Young Adults Missions Trip to Colombia back in Kamloops
12	13	14 The Edge Youth Ministry 7-9pm (Grades 7-12)	15 Atlantis Waterslides 09:00am - 5:30pm \$30	16	17	18
19	20	21 The Edge Youth Ministry 7-9pm (Grades 7-12)	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 The Edge Youth Ministry 7-9pm (Grades 7-12)	29	30	31	1
2	3	4 The Edge Youth Ministry 7-9pm (Grades 7-12)	5	6	7	8



Dear Parents!

Summer is a beautiful time of year! Not only because it is sunny and hot, but because a lot of us have more time on our hands. Extra time that can be used for good! While the school year is usually reserved for learning, our goal at The Edge this summer is to learn even more about God's love for us and others.

We firmly believe that God is crazy in love with us, and through discovering more of this love and how to respond to it, our kids will learn more about themselves and their purpose. This will happen while we are having a blast playing games, having paint fights, going to the beach, and just enjoying the sun!

So encourage your students to come to youth on Tuesday nights for an amazing time of fun and life giving community with our friends and God. The Edge is the place to be in Kamloops on a Tuesday night!!

Thanks for investing time and love into your students this summer.

Stephen Boughton,
Youth Summer Intern
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