



March 2011



CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

children@hopefellowship.ca

Junior JAM Nursery
(Birth-4 yrs)
Sundays during 9 & 11 am service

JAM City (Gr. JK-4)
Sundays during 11 am service

GEMS (Girls Gr. 3-6)
Tuesdays 7:00-8:30 pm

BROS (Boys Gr. 3-6)
Tuesdays 7:00-8:30 pm

Help Kids Use Positive Language

As the Bible describes in James 3, the tongue may be small, but it can do an awful lot of damage. Unfortunately, name-calling, cursing, bickering, whining, and putdowns find their way into most homes. Yet our words also have the power to heal, mend rifts, encourage other people, and praise God. Proverbs 25:11 (NIV) compares well-chosen and well-timed words to "apples of gold in settings of silver."

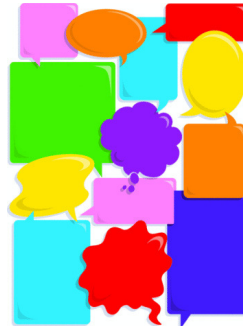
This month's newsletter explores ways to get your children talking in positive, God-pleasing ways. Use these tips to get started:

Walk the walk, talk the talk. Kids are listening, so watch your own language and model appropriate talk—even when you think little ears aren't listening.

Teach children how to apologize. Hurtful words can't be "unsaid," but people can offer heartfelt apologies and change their ways. Offer examples of how to say sorry, and remember to seek children's forgiveness when you mess up.

Listen up! Proverbs 10:19 contains valuable advice that often goes unheeded: "Be sensible and keep your mouth shut." Help children understand the importance of stopping to think before you speak. When in doubt, it's always better to seal your lips rather than say something you may regret.

Praise God throughout the day. Talk frequently about how good God is and thank him for his many blessings. Share favorite Bible passages, pray with one another, and brainstorm ways you can serve God and other people. When we focus on God and good words, our mouths and lives will bear good fruit.



Parenting Insights

These guidelines from *Children's Ministry Magazine* describe how profanity affects children:

Ages 2 to 5
Preschoolers simply repeat what they hear, so try to limit media exposure. Don't react to foul language with shock or anger; calmly explain that those words hurt people's feelings.

Ages 6 to 9
Explain that words are "bad" when they're used to hurt others. Also explain that misusing God's name is disrespectful. Tell children we can use God's name to praise him or pray to him.

Ages 10 to 12
Preteens use profanity to get a reaction from adults and to impress friends. Let them know that obscene language and gestures aren't acceptable, and teach them discernment to censor their own language.

Say What?!

The use of profanity among young children is on the rise, according to researcher Timothy Jay. Kids no longer learn curse words from peers at school; instead, they hear them at home. Nearly two-thirds of surveyed adults said that despite prohibiting their children from swearing at home, they break their own rules regularly. This double standard confuses and irritates kids, most of whom say they're frightened when their parents curse.

(www.livescience.com, www.findarticles.com)

OpenTheBook

**“Don’t use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.”
Ephesians 4:29**

Words are powerful. God tells us to use language to build people up, not tear them down.



JAM City

What’s happening in March?

We need to be saved...call
“RESCUE 911”!

March 6: VeggieTales Movie (K-2)
March 13: Eutychus, Back to Life
March 20: Zaccheus repents
March 27: Jesus saves a criminal

“NEW PROGRAM” for Grade 5 & 6!

You will notice that JAM City no longer includes Grades 5 and 6. The reason for this change is the JAM City program and material did not seem to meet the needs of most of our older students. It was difficult to make this decision, however we pray it that God will make something great come out of it.

In place of JAM City, our Grade 5 and 6 leaders will hold a monthly program for our preteen students that is all their own! This will include material that is specifically suited for Grade 5/6 students’ developmental stage, topics that will speak to what they face on a daily basis and large and small group activities that will be fun, engaging and Biblically focused. This ministry is so new, it does not yet have a name! The leaders have decided that the kids themselves should come up with their own name!

The program will take place during the last Sunday of each month during the 11 am service. Our first gathering will be on March 27. We look forward to seeing all Grade 5 and 6 students there!

GEMS

GIRLS’ CLUB

What do you get when you have 2 hockey players, but only 1 stick?
How about a roomful of people throwing rubber balls at each other?

You get an awesome sports-themed Father-Daughter Night at GEMS! On Feb. 22, the Dads and Daughters faced-off and played together for different sports and had a great time doing it! Thanks to the counselors who arranged the event. March holds more exciting events for GEMS as they go swimming, have a craft night and learn new songs for GEMS Sunday.

BROS



Hooray! March 6, 2011 is BROS Sunday! Be sure to check out the BROS ministry highlights during our morning worship services. The BROS will also go swimming this month, take a break for March Break and continue on with other great sports and learning about how to follow God everyday.

Family Experience: What’s the Word?

Use these devotional ideas to get your family talking about language—and how we use it.

Picture This—Use word pictures to verbally illustrate Bible truths. For example, discuss the importance of having clean thoughts and using clean words, based on 2 Corinthians 10:5 (NIV): “We take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.” Talk about a lasso and how it’s used. Give each family member a small piece of rope and let them tie a lasso. Then discuss what it would be like to “lasso” a bad thought or word.



Speak Up!—Emphasize that God wants us to communicate and work together—even when we all seem to be speaking different languages. You’ll need a bunch of toilet paper rolls, clear cellophane tape, and a slip of paper for each family member with one of these directions written on it: “Say the opposite of what you mean,” “Remain silent and use no body language,” “Gesture with your hands,” “Ask questions,” and “Talk in baby talk.” Have each person take a slip and keep the directions secret. Say: “You have to build a tower as high as you can in three minutes. You’re allowed to communicate only the way your slip of paper instructs.” Afterward, ask: “How did it feel to communicate this way? Have you ever felt like that in our family? Explain.” Read aloud Genesis 11:1-9. Ask: “Why do you think God confused the people’s languages?” Say: “God doesn’t want us to rebel like the people in our story. He wants us to communicate well with our family members and work together.” Close in prayer, asking God to help you all speak in kind, helpful ways.



What's Playing at the Movies

Movie: *Rango* (March 4)

Genre: Animated comedy

Rating: G

Cast: Johnny Depp, Isla Fisher, Abigail Breslin

Synopsis: In this computer-animated film from Industrial Light & Magic, Rango, a pet chameleon, ends up in the Old West town of Dirt. He tries to be the "good guy" hero, although his predecessors have fallen short.

Discussion Questions: How successful are you at being "good"? What gets in the way of your best efforts to follow rules and set a good example? Read aloud Romans 7:19-20. Why can't we be perfect? How does it feel knowing that Jesus was perfect and died in our place?



What Music Is Releasing

Artist: Francesca Battistelli

Album: *Hundred More Years*

Artist Info: The 25-year-old singer-songwriter grew up in a musical family in New York City. Her soulful pop sound includes traces of jazz and R&B. Battistelli is married to percussionist Matthew Goodwin, and the couple became parents last fall.

Summary: In this follow-up to her major-label debut *My Paper Heart*, Battistelli explores friendship, family, and God's faithfulness. In "This Is the Stuff," she explores life's craziness and frustrations. "In the middle of my little mess," Battistelli sings, "I forget how big I'm blessed."

Discussion Questions: When does your life feel crazy or messy? What can make you forget about God and how much he loves you? Read aloud John 1:16. What are some ways God has blessed you? How can you use those blessings to bless other people?



What Games Are Out

Title	Content	Rating & Platform
<i>Angry Birds</i>	In this popular puzzle game, players launch birds, via slingshot, at pigs. It's spreading to more formats and merchandise, with a possible TV series or movie down the road.	E; PlayStation 3, phone app, Windows, Mac (soon coming to Wii and more)
<i>Scripps Spelling Bee</i>	Users practice their spelling words while increasing their vocabularies. A dictionary offers definitions and pronunciations.	E; Nintendo DS
<i>PokePark Wii: Pikachu's Adventure</i>	Players compete in skill games in 14 different levels. Also contains an in-game economy based on berries that players can "cash in."	E; Wii

GAME RATINGS KEY: EC=Early Childhood, E=Everyone (ages 6+), E10+ (ages 10+), T=Teen (ages 13+)



Culture & Trends

What's happening right now that may affect your children and family:

- Young stutterers are encouraged by the film *The King's Speech*. "I'm not stupid," says an 11 year old who's stuttered since preschool. (AP)
- The popularity of cell-phone cameras has hospitals re-evaluating delivery-room rules. Some expectant parents are fighting restrictions via online petition. (New York Times)



Quick Stats

- One in seven new marriages is between spouses of different races or ethnicities. (Pew Research Center)
- Nearly one in 10 kids who plays video games is at risk of addiction. (Pediatrics)
- A study saying working parents have 90 minutes of free time a day is news to many stressed-out folks. Author Susan Bartell suggests using kids' activities for down time and social time. (moms.today.com)

March 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
JAM: VeggieTales movie morning (SweetPea Beauty)		GEMS & BROS swimming @ Legend 7:15-8:45 Bring \$2			March Break begins	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Schooner Island #4 (Eutychus)		NO GEMS & BROS for March Break		Happy St. Patrick's Day!		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Rescue 911 #1 (Zaccheus) March Break ends	Nuclear rental begins at Hope	GEMS: Craft night BROS: regular meeting				
27	28	29	30	31		
Rescue 911 #2 (Jesus saves criminal) Grades 5 & 6 meet		GEMS: Bible/Badge BROS: regular meeting				

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



Bobby had memorized who were Jesus disciples, BUT watching cartoons before attending Sunday School appears to have cluttered his little mind. **Mk 1:14-19ish**

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



Hey little boy.. that was actually Daniel in the Lions Den.