

**ZION'S CHRISTIAN YOUTH &  
FAMILY MINISTRIES NEWSLETTER**

theParentLink<sup>SM</sup>

**May 2009**



**Welcome to the  
online MEDIA pages  
of Zion's parent  
newsletter!**

On the following pages you will find media information for teens and children. The first page applies more to children. The second & third pages are geared more for teens.

You will also find plenty of discussion questions to spark conversations in your home.

***Verse* of the  
month**

**"Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. Remember that the Lord will give you an inheritance as your reward, and that the Master you are serving is Christ."  
(Colossians 3:23-24)**

Your feedback is important to us!!  
Please feel free to contact any member of Zion's CYFM staff with your comments. Let us know what you think!!

Danielle Acay

[dacay.zionkent@comcast.net](mailto:dacay.zionkent@comcast.net)

Kelly Mullin

[kmullin.zionkent@comcast.net](mailto:kmullin.zionkent@comcast.net)

Debbie Boyce

[dlynnboyce@comcast.net](mailto:dlynnboyce@comcast.net)

**These pages are designed to help educate parents and aren't meant to endorse any movie, music, or product.  
Our prayer is that you'll make informed decisions about what your children listen to and watch.**

## Now Playing at the Movies

**Movie:** *Night at the Museum: Battle at the Smithsonian*

**Release Date:** May 22

**Genre:** Action, Comedy

**Rating:** PG for mild action and brief language

**Cast:** Ben Stiller, Robin Williams, Amy Adams, Dick Van Dyke, Owen Wilson, Hank Azaria

**Synopsis:** Security guard Larry Daley returns to the big screen to rescue an exhibit sent to the Smithsonian by mistake. The famed Institute comes alive, as presidents and historical figures (such as Amelia Earhart) help battle an evil pharaoh.

**Discussion Questions:** Which historical figures do you admire most, and why? What does it take to become famous or memorable? Read Hebrews 11. What stands out about your life and your faith? Even though you're young, what impact do you have on other people?



## New Christian Music Release

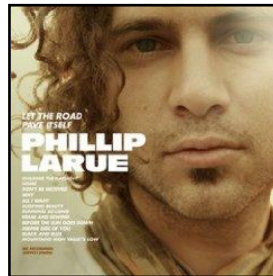
**Artist:** Phillip LaRue

**Album:** *Let the Road Pave Itself*

**Artist Info:** At age 16, Phillip LaRue picked up a guitar during a bout with mono. In 2000, he and his sister, Natalie, formed a Christian-music duo known as LaRue. The group, which had several hits, disbanded when Natalie got married.

**Summary:** Phillip LaRue's debut solo album has an honest, personal feel. Several songs are real-life musical stories. "Erase and Rewind" was inspired by a friend's admission of suicidal thoughts. The hope-filled "Mountains High and Valleys Low" explores doubt and faith. "Chasing the Daylight" addresses faith and resilience during dark times. "It's in the unraveling of life that we find God even more," LaRue says.

**Discussion Questions:** What type of doubts do you struggle with? What makes you feel hopeful, and why? Read Romans 8:38-39. How does it feel to hear that nothing can separate you from God's love?



## What Games Are Out

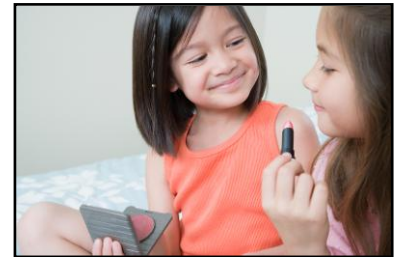
Title	Content	Rating & Platform
<i>Flock</i>	Players are "aliens" who control a UFO, abduct livestock, and solve puzzles. The game contains some coarse wordplay.	E; Xbox 360, PS3, PC
<i>Disney Pure</i>	In this offroad-racing game, players race ATVs through high-speed courses. It's filled with action, mud, and energetic music.	E; PS3, Xbox 360
<i>Pet Pals: Animal Doctor</i>	Future veterinarians can diagnose and "treat" a variety of 3-D animals. Realistic-looking surgeries contain mild blood.	E10+; 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:**



- Girls are buying and using beauty products earlier than ever. Among girls ages 6 to 9, 43% use lipstick or lipgloss and 38% use hairstyling products. Each month, girls 8 to 12 spend \$40 million on beauty products.
- While families are discovering the benefits of libraries, public-library budgets across America are shrinking.

## Quick Stats

- As of 2007, 40% of U.S. births were to single mothers. That's up 25% from 2002. *(Nat'l Center for Health Statistics)*
- A whopping 99% of moms give themselves a parenting grade of excellent or good. *(Good Housekeeping)*
- Four in 10 moms talk with their own mothers at least once a day. *(Good Housekeeping)*

# MUSIC SPOTLIGHT



## Mainstream Artist

**Background:** Although U2 has been around since 1976, its sound has evolved and matured over time. The band has sold more than 145 million albums and won 22 Grammy Awards—more than any other band. *No Line on the Horizon* debuted at number one in the U.S., the seventh time U2 has done that.

**Albums:** *No Line on the Horizon* (2009), *Achtung Baby* (1991), *The Joshua Tree* (1987)

**What Parents Should Know:** Lead singer Bono is passionate about human rights and social-justice issues. People like to question the sincerity of his faith, but worshipful songs such as “Magnificent” and “Moment of Surrender” should end speculation.

**What U2 Says:** Bono acknowledges facing many temptations over the years. “There’s a part of me that thinks, ‘Wow, I’m just an inch away’.... I have a wild streak and I’d be very capable of setting fire to myself. So...I don’t go to church for the view.”

**Discussion Questions:** Read Matthew 5:27-30. How often do you face temptation? How do you overcome it? Does Jesus really expect us to cut off parts of our bodies? Why or why not? What are some practical ways to follow Christ’s instructions here? How can a closer relationship with God make it easier to fight temptations?



## Christian Artist

**Background:** This worship band formed in Belfast, Ireland, in 2004. During a mission trip to Pattaya, Thailand, the city’s poor conditions inspired Bluetree’s hit song “God of This City.” The band’s new album climbed to the top of the Christian praise-and-worship sales charts.

**Albums:** *God of This City* (2009), *Greater Things* (2007)

**What Parents Should Know:** Bluetree has been active in the UK for a few years but is just now getting attention in America. The talented band members love the Lord, and the estimable worship leader Chris Tomlin has covered “God of This City.”

**What Bluetree Says:** Lead singer Aaron Boyd says Bluetree’s worship songs are about action. “We are [Jesus’] hands and feet in the world. Let’s not just ask God to change everything, but let’s be a blessing and speak words of life into people’s difficult circumstances.”

**Discussion Questions:** What’s the biggest problem you’re facing, and how are you dealing with it? What big problems do other people face worldwide? Read Galatians 5:13-14. How does serving others give you “freedom”? How does reaching out to help others affect your problems—or your perception of them?

## FILMWATCH

**Genre:** Action-Adventure, Sci-Fi Thriller

**Rating:** Pending, but almost certainly PG-13

**Synopsis:** This begins a string of films explaining the backstories of popular superheroes from the *X-Men* films. James Logan (Hugh Jackman) is Wolverine, a mutant who seeks revenge on his half-brother Victor Creed. Creed, the mutant known as Sabretooth, killed Wolverine’s girlfriend. Wolverine uncovers a larger plot that threatens all mutants.

**Discussion Questions:** Think of a time you’ve wanted to get revenge on someone: How did the situation turn out? Read Romans 12:19-21. Why do you suppose God wants us to leave revenge up to him? Would you rather be judged by God or by other people, and why? Must Christians stand idly by when other people treat us poorly? Explain. What are some helpful ways to get past desires for revenge?

