

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

theParentLinkSM

July 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.

Encourage your children to share their thoughts about how you spend your family time. Use these questions as a springboard for insightful conversations.

- ❖ What times that our family spends together are most special to you, and why? How does that "together time" make you feel?
- ❖ What do you wish we did more of together, and why?
- ❖ What do our favorite things to do as a family say about us? How can we demonstrate our faith during these together times?
- ❖ Why does Jesus like us to spend time with him?

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!!

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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.

What's Playing at the Movies

Movie: *Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs* (July 1)

Genre: 3-D Animated Action-Comedy

Rating: PG (for some mild rude humor and peril)

Cast: Ray Romano, Denis Leary, John Leguizamo, Queen Latifah, Seann William Scott

Synopsis: Big changes are in store for this series' lovable characters. Mammoths Manny and Ellie are expecting a baby, and Manny wants everything to be perfect for the little one's arrival. Sid, wanting a family of his own, steals some dinosaur eggs. He gets trapped in an underground world filled with dinosaurs who survived extinction.

Discussion Questions: What are the biggest changes you've faced in your life so far, and how have you handled them? Why does God put people in families? Why do you think God chose your particular family for you? Think of a time you've made a poor choice out of jealousy: What consequences did you face as a result?



What Music Is Releasing

Artist: Jonas Brothers

Album: *Lines, Vines and Trying Times*

Artist Info: This pop boy band, known for its wholesome image, gained popularity through the Disney Channel. Heartthrobs Joe, Kevin, and Nick are professed Christians who wear purity rings.

Summary: In their fourth album in four years, the brothers rebel a little to tackle teenage angst, despair, and heartache. The album contains an assortment of musical themes and lyrical metaphors. Two wholesome songs ("Fly With Me" and "Keep It Real") are targeted to younger fans. "Poison Ivy" tells of a toxic girl who's hard to resist. "Paranoid" addresses all the stress and noise young people face.

Discussion Questions: Does growing up excite or scare you, and why? What might help you cope with the emotions and pressure? Think of friends who have positively or negatively influenced you: What is each person's appeal, and how can you benefit from or resist that influence?



What Games Are Out

Title	Content	Rating & Platform
<i>The Legendary Starfy</i>	In this "marine platform" game based on a Japanese series, players have undersea adventures with a starfish in Pufftop.	E; Nintendo DS
<i>Wii Sports Resort</i>	This updated sports package comes bundled with a MotionPlus device. It includes Frisbee, jet skiing, and kendo (sword fighting).	E; Wii
<i>Little King's Story</i>	Serving as the king, players improve their community in this life-simulation game. They also try to conquer rival nations.	T; 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:

- Experts say the recession is to blame for a current baby bust. New census figures show a steep decline in the number of U.S. children under age 1.



- Hot items at this year's American International Toy Fair included value-priced products, board games, and toys that promote "functional creativity" (such as cardboard dollhouses and fire stations that children can color).

Quick Stats

- In a poll of more than 800 parents, 30% say they let their children play with fireworks. Another 12% say their kids play with "just sparklers."
(KeepKidsHealthy.com)
- Children ages 14 and under sustain about 45% of all fireworks-related injuries.
(cdc.gov)

MUSICSPOTLIGHT



Mainstream Artist

Background: This Grammy-winning hip-hop group has been around for more than 10 years. Their songs are featured in ads, movies, and TV shows, and they've collaborated with some of music's biggest names. "Boom Boom Pow" is a number one single from their new album.

Albums: *The E.N.D.* (2009), *Elephunk* (2003), *Behind the Front* (1998)

What Parents Should Know: Although much of their music is about love, the Black Eyed Peas don't shy away from sexually explicit terms. "My Humps," for instance, garnered a Grammy, despite its provocative lyrics.

What the Black Eyed Peas Say: Will.i.am says almost every song on the new record "is painting a picture of our party life." Singer Fergie admits turning to sex and drugs at 18: "I have had lesbian experiences," she says. "I am a very sexual person."

Discussion Questions: Is sexuality learned or something we're born with? Why do people experiment with their sexuality? Read Romans 1:24-27. Do these verses leave the door open on homosexuality? How should Christians treat homosexuals? How do you treat them?



Christian Artist

Background: During the past two decades, the Boys from Down Under have released 13 albums and garnered numerous Dove awards and Grammy nominations. Their lineup now includes former dc Talk-er Michael Tait. The Newsboys hits include "Shine," "Entertaining Angels," and "I Am Free."

Albums: *In the Hands of God* (2009), *Go* (2006), *Going Public* (1994)

What Parents Should Know: You may have listened to the Newsboys when *you* were a teenager. Their music still sounds as fresh as it did years ago; the alt-rock sound has shifted, but the solid Christian message is the same.

What the Newsboys Say: About the latest album's title track, bassist Jeff Frankenstein says, "People are really coming to the shows hungry to be encouraged. The economy's not very good, and jobs aren't very good...the situations are having a toll on families."

Discussion Questions: What encourages and discourages you? Why do we need more encouragement in tough economic times? Does that show a lack of trust in God? Why or why not? Read Matthew 6:25-34. What do we gain from worrying? Why do we still do it? How would our lives be different if we didn't worry?

FILMWATCH

Movie: *Land of the Lost*

Genre: Action-Adventure

Rating: PG-13 (for crude, sexual content, and for language)

Synopsis: This movie is based on a 1970s children's TV series. Will Ferrell plays Dr. Rick Marshall, a ridiculed scientist who thinks he can travel through time to alternate universes. This film pushes its PG-13 rating with countless sexual jokes and an extended drug scene that includes a terribly blasphemous line about Jesus' love for us.

Discussion Questions: Have you ever been mocked for your Christian beliefs? Does that weaken or strengthen your faith? Explain. Why do people have a hard time believing what they can't see? Read John 9:13-41. Why didn't the Pharisees believe, even though they could see the evidence? Does it take just as much faith not to believe in something as it does to believe in something? Explain.



