

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

theParentLinkSM

August 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 page is geared more for teens.

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



Here is a snapshot of what today's teenagers and young people strive for:

When 4,600 kids ages 12 to 19 were asked about their life goals, the top response (86%) was "enjoy life." Other top vote-getters were "have good relationships with friends and family" (82%), "get married" (78%), "make lots of money" (73%), "have children" (72%), and "travel" (65%).

(Mediamark Research)

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

Kelly Mullin

kmullin.zionkent@comcast.net

Debbie Boyce

dlynnboyce@comcast.net

These pages are designed to help educate parents and aren't meant to endorse any movie, music, or product.

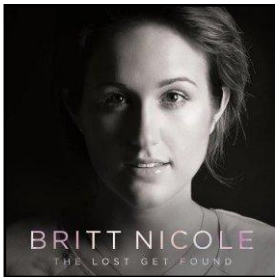
Our prayer is that you'll make informed decisions about what your children listen to and watch.

What's Playing at the Movies

Movie: *G-Force* (July 24)
Genre: 3-D action comedy
Rating: PG (for some mild action and rude humor)
Cast: Will Arnett, Sam Rockwell, Penélope Cruz, Tracy Morgan, Nicholas Cage
Synopsis: A team of trained secret-agent guinea pigs tries to stop an evil billionaire from destroying the world with household appliances. When the government shuts down the guinea pigs' mission, they're sent to a pet shop. The wannabe heroes must plan an escape so they can end the threat and save the world.
Discussion Questions: How does God "train" us to go out and serve him? In what ways do you feel prepared or unprepared to do this? What type of "mission" might God have in mind for you? Would you rather be a hero or a servant, and why?



What Music Is Releasing



Artist: Britt Nicole
Album: *The Lost Get Found* (August 11)
Artist Info: Britt Nicole (Brittany Nicole Wadell) began singing at her North Carolina church at age 3. She turned down a college scholarship to launch a music career. Hits from her first album, *Say It*, included "You" and "Believe." Now 24, Britt Nicole is releasing her sophomore album.

Summary: Britt Nicole's high-energy pop songs contain catchy hooks and lyrics geared toward young people. In her new album's title track, she encourages listeners to follow God's nudge to share their faith: "Don't let your lights go down. Don't let your fire burn out.... Don't be afraid to stand out. That's how the lost get found."
Discussion Questions: When have you felt like God was encouraging you to tell someone about him? What happened? Read Matthew 5:14-16. How brightly is your "light" shining right now? In what ways do you "stand out" for God?

What Games Are Out

Title	Content	Rating & Platform
<i>Wallace & Gromit's Grand Adventures</i>	In five episodes and a variety of puzzles, gamers follow the strange adventures of a strange man and his even-stranger dog.	E; PC, Xbox 360
<i>Treasure World</i>	Similar to the hobby of geocaching, this game sends you into the real world, seeking wi-fi hotspots to unlock virtual prizes.	E; Nintendo DS
<i>Tales of Monkey Island</i>	This adventure series has five episodes on PC and continues on the Wii. Guybrush goes on a quest to end the spread of a pox.	Rating pending; PC, 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:

- Researchers have identified a "warrior gene" that is linked to aggression in boys. It may make them more likely to join gangs and use weapons.

(msnbc.com)



- Daytime naps offer more than just rest. For 4- and 5-year-olds, taking a siesta may help reduce hyperactivity, anxiety, and depression.

(American Academy of Sleep Medicine)

Quick Stats

- In a national poll, 20% of parents say they've left their preteens home alone for an entire day. (C.S. Mott Children's Hospital)
- Cheerleading accounts for two-thirds of injuries to female athletes. The other most dangerous sports for girls are gymnastics and track.

(sciencedaily.com; msnbc.com)

MUSICSPOTLIGHT



Mainstream Artist

Background: These three brothers, ages 16 to 21, have been performing together for many years. The pop singers also have enjoyed successful acting careers. The band now has a second No. 1 album. In 2008, the Jonas Brothers were nominated for a Grammy for Best New Group.

Albums: *Lines, Vines, and Trying Times* (2009), *A Little Bit Longer* (2008), *It's About Time* (2006)

What Parents Should Know: The brothers, whose father was a pastor, all have publicly vowed to abstain from sex until marriage. Kevin recently announced his engagement. The Jonas Brothers have donated millions of dollars to charities.

What the Jonas Brothers Say: They're able to blow off criticism and ridicule. Joe says, "People don't realize that when they're making fun of us, we're laughing, too." Kevin adds, "At the end of the day, I know who I am as a person."

Discussion Questions: What kinds of pressures do you think the Jonas Brothers face? How are they similar to or different from the pressures you face every day? Read Psalm 72:12-14. Why and how does God take on the pressures you encounter? How exactly do you hand over your pressures to God—and how can you tell you've done it?



Christian Artist

Background: This band from Texas has been around since 2004, when 16-year-old Leeland Mooring and his band caught the ear of some studio executives. Their debut album garnered a Grammy nomination and five Dove nominations.

Albums: *Love Is On the Move* (2009), *Opposite Way* (2008), *Sound of Melodies* (2006)

What Parents Should Know: Leeland is a shining example for teenagers, who might feel they can't accomplish much due to their age. Here's a guy who had a wildly successful album although he was barely old enough to drive.

What Leeland Says: "It's not age that God sees. If you've got a hunger for God, it doesn't matter how much talent you have. It doesn't matter how old you are or how experienced you are in certain areas. It really just comes down to you having a passion for God and wanting to know the Lord."

Discussion Questions: What are you passionate about? Is it wrong to be passionate about things besides God? Explain. Read Galatians 1:13-14. Before meeting Jesus, what was Paul passionate about? How did becoming passionate about Jesus change Paul and the world? What "fruit" has your passion for God produced so far in your life?

FILMWATCH

Movie: *Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen*

Genre: Action-Adventure

Rating: PG-13 (for intense sequences of sci-fi action violence, language, some crude and sexual material, and brief drug material)

Synopsis: The heroic Autobots once again team up with Sam Witwicky (Shia LaBeouf) and a covert military team to defeat the evil Decepticons. While there are more robots this time (yay!), director Michael Bay really ramps up the crudity and sexism in this outing (boo!). It's a definite devolution of the mythology.

Discussion Questions: Do you believe in fate? Is fate just another name for God? Why or why not? How do you feel about the line "Fate rarely calls upon us at a time of our choosing"? Read Romans 8:28-31. What do these verses say about fate? Do you feel "chosen" by God? How can you know God's plans for you?



