

**ZION'S FAITH AT HOME MINISTRIES
NEWSLETTER**

theParentLinkSM

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**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.

**See
below
for a
review
of new
Disney
movie.**



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: *The Princess and the Frog* (Dec. 11)

Genre: Animated fairy tale, comedy

Rating: G

Cast: Anika Noni Rose, Angela Bassett, Terrence Howard, Oprah Winfrey

Synopsis: Tiana, Disney's first African-American princess, lives in New Orleans during the Jazz Age. She meets Naveen, a prince who's been transformed into a frog by an evil magician. Naveen mistakes Tiana for a princess, and when they kiss, Tiana becomes a frog, too. They go on adventures to restore their humanity. (Caution: They seek direction from a voodoo priestess.)



Discussion Questions: What kind of true or untrue assumptions do people often make about you? What can you tell (and not tell) just by looking at someone? Read 1 Samuel 16:7. What do you think God sees when he looks inside your heart?

What Music Is Releasing

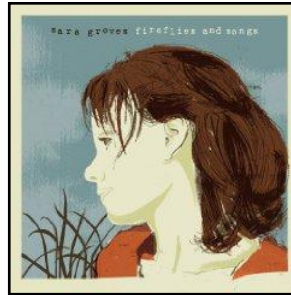
Artist: Sara Groves

Album: *Fireflies and Songs*

Artist Info: Groves is a prolific writer of Christian folksongs that contain personal lyrics about faith and relationships. Her tours have benefited several Christian ministries.

Summary: Groves says *Fireflies and Songs* is a candid, confessional album. In the nostalgic "This House," Groves assures her 2-year-old daughter (and her listeners) that "the Lord withholds no good thing."

Discussion Questions: During your life, what are some of the biggest blessings that God has provided for you? How have some of those blessings been disguised at first? Read Psalm 84:11. How might God be using you to be a blessing for other people?



What Games Are Out

Title	Content	Rating & Platform
<i>Cook or Be Cooked</i>	Would-be cooks learn basic kitchen skills and then advance to "real-life" food prep.	E; Wii
<i>LEGO Rock Band</i>	This music-simulation game is more kid-friendly than other popular titles. As the band "travels," some LEGO characters engage in comic mischief.	E10+; Nintendo DS, Xbox 360, Wii, PS3
<i>Adventures to Go!</i>	Young Finn joins a magical training camp for adventurers in this role-playing game. It contains mild fantasy violence and mild suggestive themes.	E10+; PSP

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:

- More restaurants are trying to lure families with "kids eat free" meals. "Free is magic," says professor Barry Schwartz. "It will seduce people into eating out who shouldn't."
- Preschoolers can have chronic depression, new research shows. Symptoms include persistent sadness (even when playing), trouble sleeping, irritability, and frequent tantrums.

Quick Stats

- In this flailing economy, many pregnant women are rethinking adoption. At a Chicago agency, 30% more women are inquiring about placing a child for adoption than a year ago.

(USA Today)



- The U.S. now has between 1.5 million and 2 million home-schooled students. That's a 75% increase since 1999.

(hslsda.org)

MUSICSPOTLIGHT



Mainstream Artist

Background: This popular metal band has been around since 1996. So far they've sold more than 11 million albums. They're one of only seven bands to have three consecutive studio albums debut at number one on the Billboard charts.

Albums: *Indestructible* (2008), *Ten Thousand Fists* (2005), *The Sickness* (2000)

What Parents Should Know: Disturbed tackles dark subjects such as domestic abuse, war, suicide, demons, and murder. The song "Inside the Fire" from their latest album is about the singer standing over the body of his girlfriend, who's just killed herself. The devil whispers in his ear that he should do the same. Dark.

What Disturbed Says: Singer David Draiman says the song "Divide" is meant to "detract from the idea 'oh, let's all be one, let's all be united!' ... [Expletive] that. Be yourself, be an individual, stand out, make your mark, make an impact."

Discussion Questions: Is unity a good or bad thing, and why? Is it possible to be united and still maintain your individuality? If so, explain. Read Ephesians 4:3-6. Why is unity so important in the church? What obstacles stand in the way of unity in families? of unity among Christians?



Christian Artist

Background: These alternative rockers have been together since 2000, but it wasn't until 2003 that they released their platinum-selling self-titled debut. They've toured with Disturbed on the Family Values Tour, as well as with the band Korn.

Albums: *Memento Mori* (2009), *Flyleaf* (2003)

What Parents Should Know: The band dislikes the label "Christian band" because people don't refer to other occupations that way. But they also don't hide the fact that they're a band of Christians. The title of their latest album means "remember you will die," and many of their lyrics speak to their faith.

What Flyleaf Says: Regarding their decision to tour with secular bands, singer Lacey Mosley asks people to pray for the bands they're touring with and those bands' fans. "You can pray that we have strength and enjoy all the fruits of the Holy Spirit. [Pray] that we would love each other and that people would know us by our love."

Discussion Questions: Is it wrong for Flyleaf to tour with bands that oppose Christianity? Why or why not? What challenges and opportunities does that present? Read John 17:9-18. Should Christians fear the world? If so, explain. How can we know when we're aligning too much with the world?

FILMWATCH

Genre: Action-Adventure

Rating: Not Yet Rated

Synopsis: Humans have found a mineral-rich planet, and in order to plunder it, they must use "avatars." These genetically bred human-alien hybrids allow people to breathe the air and interact with the planet and its inhabitants.

Discussion Questions: Do you ever wish you could be someone else? If so, explain. If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be, and why? Why do people try so hard to change how they look? Can altering your appearance ever change you on the inside? Explain. Read Psalm 139:14. What's your reaction to this verse? Does it change how you view yourself? If so, explain.

