

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 page
3 for
review
of New
Moon!



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

Berit Wright

Bwright.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: *Disney's A Christmas Carol* (Nov. 6)
Genre: Animated Drama, Fantasy
Rating: PG (for scary sequences and images)
Cast: Jim Carrey, Gary Oldman, Robin Wright Penn
Synopsis: Carrey tackles multiple roles in this 3D version of the Charles Dickens classic. The ghosts of Christmas past, present, and yet-to-come visit old miser Ebenezer Scrooge and take him on a journey of self-redemption. His cold heart gradually defrosts, and he becomes kinder to others.



Discussion Questions: Describe your personality: How do you usually feel about other people, and why? How does Christmas bring out the best and the worst in people? Read aloud 2 Corinthians 9:7. Explain whether you're a miser or a cheerful giver. Think of a time you've felt like a scrooge: What, if anything, convinced you to change your attitude?

What Music Is Releasing

Artist: Kris Allen
Album: *Kris Allen*
Artist Info: This 24-year-old singer-songwriter from Arkansas won season eight of *American Idol*. He's a Christian who served as his church's assistant music director and has done overseas missionary work. Auditioning for the TV show was Allen's "last hurrah" before he got "a real job."



Summary: Allen's music has a folk sound. He plays piano, acoustic guitar, and electric guitar. The first single from Allen's debut album is "Live Like We're Dying." The lyrics include, "If your life flashed before you, what would you wish you would've done?"

Discussion Questions: What impact can Allen have on the music industry? If you were in his shoes, would you sing only Christian songs? Why or why not? Read Psalm 39:4-5. How does life seem long or short? What does it mean to live like you're dying? How can we do that?

What Games Are Out

Title	Content	Rating & Platform
<i>Our House Party</i>	Players race to design, build, and decorate a custom house. Then they show it off to the neighborhood.	E; Wii, Nintendo DS
<i>Scribblenauts</i>	In this unique puzzle game, players use a vast word library to create and use real-world objects.	E10+; Nintendo DS
<i>Uncharted 2: Among Thieves</i>	A hero's quest to discover a lost city unfolds like a summer blockbuster in this treasure-hunting adventure game.	T; PSP3

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:

- Today's parents keep their children on a tighter "leash" in public but give them more freedom at home, studies show. This may explain why many grandparents complain that their grandkids are out of control. (msnbc.com)
- Interactive toys and video game systems top the list of hot holiday toys. The hardest-to-find toy may be Zhu Zhu Pets and accessories.

Quick Stats

- 72% of preschoolers receive praise from their parents at least three times a day. By grade school, though, the number of kids who get this amount of parental praise drops to 51%. (U.S. Census Bureau)



- 15% of Americans now identify with no religion. Experts predict this group could surpass the largest denominations. (USA Today)

MUSICSPOTLIGHT



Mainstream Artist

Background: The DMB formed in 1991 and achieved national recognition with their 1994 album *Under the Table and Dreaming*. They support not-for-profit tapings of their live shows, saying it was the passing of these tapes by college students that led to their current fame.

Albums: *Big Whiskey and the GrooGrux King* (2009), *Everyday* (2001), *Crash* (1996)

What Parents Should Know: This band's lyrics can be provocative and dark, and sometimes they're political. Matthews has said his hit song "Crash Into Me" is about the worship of women from a voyeur's perspective.

What Dave Matthews Says: Matthews believes much criticism of President Obama is because of his skin color. "I just see [racism] everywhere. There's a good population of people in this country that are terrified of the president only because he's black, even if they don't say it."

Discussion Questions: Why is race such a big deal to some people? How prevalent is racism in America? When you interact with people, is race a factor? Read aloud Romans 10:12. If people are all equal, why did God create different races? What can we learn from people of other races and cultures?



Christian Artist

Background: Switchfoot, named after a surfing term, released their 1997 debut album, *The Legend of Chin*, to moderate success. They soon achieved mainstream accolades, with two songs on the *A Walk to Remember* soundtrack. Their 2003 album *The Beautiful Letdown* went double platinum.

Albums: *Hello Hurricane* (2009), *Nothing Is Sound* (2005), *Learning to Breathe* (2000)

What Parents Should Know: This solid, talented band has occasionally distanced itself from the "Christian" label. That's apparently an effort to reach fans who might otherwise ignore them as "just a Christian band."

What Switchfoot Says: Singer Jon Foreman says, "For us, it's a faith, not a genre. We've always been very open and honest about where the songs are coming from. For us, these songs are for everyone. Calling us 'Christian rock' tends to be a box that closes some people out and excludes them."

Discussion Questions: Is it wrong for Switchfoot to avoid the label "Christian band"? What are the pros and cons of being known as followers of Christ? Read aloud Acts 17:16-34. What strategies did Paul use to speak to the Greeks? Why did those strategies work—at least with some people?

FILMWATCH

Movie: *The Twilight Saga: New Moon* (releases Nov. 20)

Genre: Drama, Fantasy

Rating: PG-13 (for some violence and action)

Synopsis: In an effort to protect her, Bella's vampire love Edward Cullen has gone abroad. She finds her friendship growing with Jacob Black, but he's a werewolf, ancient enemy to the vampires. Bella's heart and loyalties are tested.

Discussion Questions: What people and things are you most loyal to, and why? What might cause you to switch your allegiance to a new group of friends or to a new belief? Read aloud 1 Kings 8:57-61. What things can steal our loyalty to God? How should we deal with them? In our day-to-day lives, what are some ways we can show our loyalty to God?

