

ZION'S FAITH AT HOME MINISTRIES
NEWSLETTER

theParentLinkSM

October 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.



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.

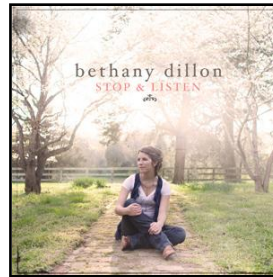
What's Playing at the Movies

Movie: *Where the Wild Things Are* (Oct. 16)
Genre: Family Adventure, Drama, Fantasy
Rating: PG (for mild thematic elements, some adventure action, and brief language)
Cast: Max Records, Catherine Keener, Mark Ruffalo
Synopsis: In this adaptation of Maurice Sendak's beloved children's book, mischievous, misunderstood Max is sent to bed without supper. His imagination runs "wild" as he travels to an island and meets strange creatures. After Max is crowned king, he realizes that ruling these beasts is more complicated than he expected.
Discussion Questions: What are some constructive ways to deal with anger? How active is your imagination? Read Psalm 27:1. What are your biggest fears? How do your fears affect your faith, and vice versa? How can you conquer your fears and worries?



What Music Is Releasing

Artist: Bethany Dillon
Album: *Stop & Listen*
Artist Info: Dillon, 21, started playing guitar at age 10. Three years later, she recorded an album that led to several hit singles and award nods. Dillon, known for her deep songs and a life lived for Christ, is married to Christian musician Shane Barnard.
Summary: Dillon describes *Stop & Listen*, her fourth project with Sparrow Records, as her most confessional album yet. She encourages listeners to pause and find peace during life's chaos. "Most of the songs are about the not-so-simple ideas of stopping, listening, and waiting," Dillon says.
Discussion Questions: What makes you "stop and listen" to God? When you're busy, do you pray more or less, and why? How patient are you? Read Isaiah 40:30-31. What are some ways to "wait" on the Lord?



What Games Are Out

Title	Content	Rating & Platform
<i>Shorts</i>	In this game, based on a late-summer movie, players' wishes magically come true. Features gross humor, name-calling, and enemies such as "booger monsters."	Nintendo DS; E
<i>Mini Ninjas</i>	Cool and cute warriors engage in combat with a variety of weapons. Contains cartoon violence but no blood.	Wii, Xbox 360, PSP3; E10+
<i>The Beatles: Rock Band</i>	This much-hyped game has only a few mildly suggestive lyrics. Families can discuss how music has changed across generations.	Wii, Xbox 360, PSP3; T

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:

- Contrary to popular belief, research shows that children with busy schedules thrive emotionally. Instead, it's their parents who are stressed by all the activities and driving. (msnbc.com)
- Kids of all ages enjoy "KenKen," which has been called the new Sudoku. Players add, subtract, multiply, and divide numbers to fill "cages." (kenken.com)

Quick Stats

- Most school districts now recommend 10 minutes of homework a night per grade level (10 minutes for first-graders, 20 minutes for second-graders, and so on).



- While 57% of parents say they spend the right amount of time helping their children with homework, almost nine in 10 teachers say parents don't set aside enough time to help. (AP/AOL poll)

MUSICSPOTLIGHT



Mainstream Artist

Background: McGraw exploded onto the scene with his 1994 album *Not a Moment Too Soon*. It became the year's best-selling country album, and McGraw has gone on to sell more than 40 million albums and garner numerous awards.

Albums: *Southern Voice* (2009), *Live Like You Were Dying* (2004), *All I Want* (1995)

What Parents Should Know: McGraw is married to fellow country singer Faith Hill. They have been active in charitable benefits, including one for Hurricane Katrina victims and Brett Favre's charity that benefits children with disabilities.

What McGraw Says: He doesn't often discuss his faith. "It's a personal issue.... I'm a private guy, and you don't want to be out there preaching to people. But faith leads you in the decisions you make. You don't always pick the right path, but it's there in your conscience."

Discussion Questions: Is faith a private thing? How does it guide you from day to day? Read Matthew 28:16-20. Must Christians be out "preaching to people"? Why are people often hesitant to share their faith? How would you sum up the gospel message in one sentence? What might make faith-sharing easier for you?



Christian Artist

Background: This pop-punk band, formed five years ago, quickly caught the eye of mainstream media. They played the classic band The Who in an episode of *American Dreams*. And their song "The Show" has been featured in video games and NFL commercials.

Albums: *Live Life Loud* (2009), *Hawk Nelson Is My Friend* (2008), *Letters to the President* (2004)

What Parents Should Know: Although Hawk Nelson's music sounds like Blink-182 and Green Day, it has a decidedly better message. The band has partnered with TOMS Shoes to donate shoes to children in poverty-stricken countries.

What Hawk Nelson Says: About the new album, bassist Daniel Biro says, "*Live Life Loud* is really about encouraging our fans to do just that. To live your life loud, to embrace all that life brings your way, and to experience every moment of it to the fullest extent."

Discussion Questions: Do you live life "loud"? Why or why not? How does the world's idea of living to the fullest compare with God's definition? What are some ways to embrace the difficult or not-so-nice things life throws your way? Read Luke 12:16-21. How can you live your life richly for God? What is getting in the way of that?

FILMWATCH

Movie: *Where the Wild Things Are* (releases Oct. 16)

Genre: Adventure, Fantasy

Rating: PG (for mild thematic elements, some adventure action, and brief language)

Synopsis: In this adaptation of Maurice Sendak's beloved children's book, mischievous, misunderstood Max is sent to bed without supper. His imagination runs "wild" as he travels to an island and meets strange creatures. After Max is crowned king, he realizes that ruling these beasts is more complicated than he expected.

Discussion Questions: Describe your temper. How does it affect your relationships with other people? with God? What are some constructive ways to deal with anger? Read Psalm 27:1. What are your biggest fears? How do your fears affect your faith, and vice versa? How can you start to conquer your fears and worries?

