



August 2020

# parenting CHRISTIAN kids



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## Talk with Children About Race

### POWERSOURCE

#### ASK JESUS:

1. To guide your conversations about tough topics such as racism and discrimination.
2. To remove any stereotypes from your heart and mind.
3. To work through you to build a family and community filled with loving acceptance.

In addition to all the “normal” parenting challenges, 2020 has been filled with tough news and difficult situations to explain to kids. During a deadly and disruptive pandemic, protests erupted against racial injustice.

Even if racial conflict isn't a hot topic in your particular community, church, or schools, all parents are faced with addressing race in age-appropriate ways. We may assume that kids are “color-blind” and need to be shielded from talk of prejudice; however, experts warn such assumptions can unintentionally perpetuate stereotypes.

Author Dallas Willard said people can unknowingly pick up beliefs like a wool jacket picks up lint, and it

takes intentional effort to deal with all that “cultural lint.” Kids watch parents, listen to us chat, and absorb the news, so while it's a good start, it's not enough to only say, “God loves everyone, and so should we.”

It's true that God loves everyone, but he also created people differently. And as a God of justice, he wants his followers to stand up against all types of discrimination and prejudice.

Conversations about race can feel awkward, and societal problems can seem overwhelming. But as recent events in America have shown, *beginning* the conversation is an important first step. Read on for ideas about how you can address race and equality with your children.



## TEACHABLE MOMENTS

### Unity in Jesus

With tape, mark off an area not quite large enough for all family members to sit in. Set pillows near the area. Tell everyone to sit inside the tape. Then bring out stuffed animals and put them on the pillows. Say: **I'm sorry you're crowded, but pillows are only for our special guests.** Bring out more animals, and have people *stand* inside the tape to make room for the animal "overflow." Then bring out even more animals and have people stand *behind* the taped area.

Ask: **How did you feel when you couldn't sit on the pillows? when you had to give up your seat?** Say: **Years ago, black people had to sit in separate areas and attend separate schools—all because of skin color. Eventually, laws were changed so black people could be treated fairly, but racism and hatred still exist.**

Read Galatians 3:28. Say: **Jesus loves people of every color, and we're all very special to Jesus.** Rip up the tape, join hands, and close in prayer.

## Stop Racism Before It Starts

Parents have many opportunities to take action against racism:

- Begin young, modeling how to embrace and celebrate all skin colors.
- Don't ignore racial differences. Answer children's questions honestly.
- Surround yourself with people who don't look like you, and listen to their stories and experiences.
- Forbid name-calling and racial slurs, and treat all people equally.
- Seek out multicultural activities, books, toys, TV shows, and films.
- Become secure in God's love for you, and affirm the dignity of all races.

**Open Invitation** Form two groups. Tell groups they can't speak or interact, but must work together to build a two-story house made out of Lego building blocks (or other blocks). Allow two minutes. Ask everyone to assess the result. Say: "Now we'll try again, but you're all one group and you can speak and interact." Allow two minutes. Ask what was different between the experiences. Read James 2:8-9. Say: "Jesus told us to love others as ourselves. How can we include others in our day-to-day lives?"

**Same Shadows** Use a bright light to cast shadows on a wall, and then make shadow puppets. Ask: "Which of your shadow puppets is your favorite? How are they all the same? different? How are we the same? different?" Say: "People are alike in so many ways. One way is that no matter our skin color, we all cast the same color shadow!"

**Reflections** Look into a mirror. Say: "I'm looking at a picture of someone God says is very special. Would you like to look? I'll show you, but don't tell who you see." Hold the mirror up to each person, one at a time. Ask: "Did we all see the same person? Who did you see?" Say: "God thinks we're all special and doesn't have a favorite. The person you saw

doesn't look exactly like anyone else. It's wrong to dislike someone because of how they look." Read 1 Samuel 16:7. Say: "No matter what you look like, God thinks you're special—because of what's inside your heart." Pray, thanking God for making everyone special.

**Sound Off** Beforehand, record four people talking. Play each voice, and ask: "Does this person sound kind? fun? Would you like to meet this person? What color is their skin? Does that matter?" Say: "Martin Luther King Jr. believed God wants us to love all people, no matter what they look like. King tried to change laws that treated people unfairly due to skin color." Read John 13:34-35. Ask: "What does it mean to love all people as God does? What does it mean to love each other equally?"

**Face Mosaics** Hand out white construction paper. Provide 1-inch squares of "skin"-colored paper (brown, black, pink, beige); "eye"-colored paper (blue, brown, green); red paper; and "hair"-colored paper (yellow, brown, black, red). Create mosaic faces combining all the skin colors. Then complete the faces with eyes, lips, and hair. Say: "God created us using all kinds of colors to make each person unique!"

For Christ himself has brought peace to us. ... he broke down the wall of hostility that separated us.  
—Ephesians 2:14

## MEDIA MADNESS



### MOVIE

**Title:** *Mulan*

**Genre:** Action, Adventure, Family

**Rating:** PG-13

**Cast:** Liu Yifei, Donnie Yen, Jet Li

**Synopsis:** This film, based on Chinese folklore, is a live-action version of the 1998 animated hit—minus the hit songs. It's the first Disney live-action remake to receive a PG-13 rating (for violence). The main character, a Chinese maiden, conceals her identity so she can serve in the Imperial Army as a "male" warrior.

**Our Take:** As an epic tale of heroism, *Mulan* shows that young people—girls, too—can display strength and courage. The movie can serve as a springboard into researching Chinese history, traditions, and culture. Scenes of peril and battles may get intense.



### BOOK

**Title:** *Just Ask!*

**Author:** Sonia Sotomayor

**Synopsis:** Subtitled "Be Different, Be Brave, Be You," this book from the first Latina U.S. Supreme Court justice features 12 kids who face various challenges and abilities. Through a community-gardening project, Sotomayor's picture book conveys the message that people's differences make the world more vibrant.

**Our Take:** Readers will learn that it's okay to be curious about other people's differences, to ask questions politely, and to become friends with them. Sotomayor, diagnosed with diabetes as a child, encourages a direct approach and an "honoring" attitude. Questions help families discuss and relate to each child's experiences.



## CULTURE & TRENDS

**Easing Re-Entry** Students returning to classrooms this fall could face a newfound "universal stress" as well as separation anxiety. Experts are reminding parents that kids are resilient and often mirror the responses of adults in their lives. Schools, despite tight budgets, are trying to boost social-emotional supports—especially for families of color, who typically don't use mental-health resources as often as white families do. (*various sources*)

**Getting in Step** Resolving conflicts is easier when the two parties walk side by side, a study shows. Walking together builds rapport and empathy while reducing stress and improving mood. (*psycnet.apa.org*)

## Games, Podcasts & Apps

### kubb

If you want to try a new outdoor family-friendly game, check out kubb. In this Nordic activity, nicknamed "Viking chess," team members throw wooden batons to knock down blocks. Kubb is becoming popular in the U.S. because it's a bit physical, a bit strategic, and fun for all ages.

### Julie's Library

Acting legend Julie Andrews, along with her adult daughter, bumped up this podcast launch when the pandemic hit. The pair read children's books aloud, discuss the themes, and suggest enrichment activities. The book choices and lively chats help spark a love of reading. Geared toward ages 4 to 10.

### Stay Play Grow

This new free app is designed to support parents of children from birth to age 5, especially during the pandemic. It offers learning activities, information about how to get basic needs met, self-care strategies, and advice about safety and health—including how to talk to kids about the pandemic and racism.

## QUICK STATS

**Perceptions Vary** In a survey conducted last year, 78% of Black practicing Christians said the U.S. has a race problem, compared to 38% of White practicing Christians. (*Barna.com*)

**Under Suspicion** Only 25% of White adults say they've been in a situation where people act suspicious of them, while 65% of Black adults say that has happened to them. (*PewResearch.org*)





# August

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 Live Stream @11:00 Register for On-Campus Worship & Preschool	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 Live Stream @11:00 Register for On-Campus Worship & Preschool	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 Live Stream @11:00 Register for On-Campus Worship & Preschool	31					



## Preschool @ ELFBC

### INFORMATION YOU SHOULD KNOW!

Change happens instantly these days. But, when they give Preschool the thumbs up to open, we will be ready.

A few things you should know at opening:

- Every family must register to reserve a place for their Preschooler. Space is limited. (Eagleslanding.org)
- Every parent must register to serve once a month.
- Electronic Check-In will be active.
- No Diaper Bags down the hall/or in classrooms.
- Zippy Bags will be available for Extra clothes/diapers. Etc.
- No Strollers down the halls.
- Only One parent for drop-off/pick-up allowed on the hall.
- Temperatures will be checked before entering Preschool Hall.
- Your child's shoes will need to be wiped with a disinfecting wipe at the classroom door.
- Double Doors will close at 11:05 and will not reopen (unless an emergency) until the program is completed. Doors will reopen at 12:15
- During Pick-Up: Parents will knock and wait in the hall for their child to be brought to them by a teacher.

Any questions you may have concerning the reopening of the Preschool Ministry please contact:

Lori Kurz  
Preschool Minister  
770-778-6641  
lori@eagleslanding.org

## What's Happening in August?

### What's Happening In the Preschool Ministry in August?

The Preschool Ministry at ELFBC is currently working hard for your children's return this fall. We are focused first and foremost on the safety and well-being of your child. We have implemented sanitation requirements.

But more than just cleanliness and sanitization, we know how concerned you are with the growth of your child's Spiritual Health. We have not forgotten the high value of significance of your child's growing relationship with Jesus Christ. We understand how important it is for your child to continue to see, hear, and come to understand a solid foundation of Biblical truth that begins at home, but is continued here at the Preschool Discipleship level.

This is why we, the Preschool Ministry Staff, continue to strive in our own education, and training of our volunteers. We want for your children to have the best Spiritual education available at the Preschool age by teaching and modeling God's truth with Joy. We understand that what a child learns at this age will continue to be used by God to nurture their path to Salvation. We have prayerfully sought curriculum to be used because we are zealous for the discipleship of the next generation. Beginning this Fall, we will now be using Group Publishing "Simply Loved" curriculum.

It is our prayer that we can come along side you, as their parents, to help you lead your children to an unshakable hope in God. To guide the next generation to know, honor and treasure God. And to equip them to fight the fight of faith by falling in love with God and His Word.

We welcome you to join us on this journey by becoming a valued Volunteer in the Preschool Ministry. Come and see what God is doing in the lives of the little children that He so loves and cherishes. Contact Lori Kurz to find out more about the ELFBC Preschool Ministry and to find where your perfect place is with us.

# KidsPlay

Mother's Morning Out Program

Registration Now Open


Ages: 2 Months to 3 years Old

[www.eagleslanding.org/preschool-kidsplay-mcdonough/](http://www.eagleslanding.org/preschool-kidsplay-mcdonough/)



## Intentional PARENTING

Fancy trips and high-tech gadgets aren't required for first-rate family memories. In fact, some of the best experiences occur during "down time," when you can have quiet conversations about family and faith. Encourage kids to share thoughts about how you spend time together. Use these questions as a springboard for insightful conversations: "What are family times that are most special to you, and why? What do you wish we did more of together? What do our favorite things to do as a family say about us? How can we demonstrate our faith in God during these times together? Why does Jesus like us to spend time with him?"



## 8 Summer Faith Builders for Christian Families

### Summer Faith Builder #1: Nature Hunt.

For younger children, make picture-based checklists of things found in nature, and go outside to find each item listed. Kids can mark off the items with a pencil. Afterward, talk about what you noticed about God's creation. Then take some time to praise God together for making all the things you found.

### Summer Faith Builder #2. Express Yourself.

Use sidewalk chalk to declare your love for one another and for God. Fill your driveway or sidewalk with special messages, family "portraits," and short Bible passages.

### Summer Faith Builder #3. Swim, Jonah, Swim!


If your kids are good swimmers, play a game of Tag. The person who's It is the Big Fish and tries to tag someone else. Afterward, talk about Jonah and why it's important to obey and follow God.

### Summer Faith Builder #4. Go for "Some More".

Set out ingredients for s'mores and make them together, assembly-line fashion. As you eat, ask: "When has God done 'some more' for you? Why do you think God wants us to do 'some more' for others?"

### Summer Faith Builder #5. Let It Shine.

Place floating candles in a kiddie pool, and then use squirt guns to try to extinguish the candles. Talk about how we can shine our light for God, no matter what tries to put it out.



### Summer Faith Builder #6. Come to the Water

Experience Jesus' forgiveness by having family members stretch out their hands and think about anything they need to confess to God. Pour some water from a bucket onto all the outstretched hands, and then gently dry them with a towel. Pray together, thanking Jesus for always forgiving us.

### Summer Faith Builder #7.

#### Bubblin' Over

On a sidewalk (or tarp), place plastic bowls of bubble solution mixed with washable paint. Give each family member a straw to blow bubbles in the mixtures. Then place paper atop the colored bubbles to create designs. When dry, fold the papers in half to make cards, and write the message "God's love is bubbling over for you" on the outside. Give the cards to people who need encouragement this summer.

### Summer Faith Builder #8. Seed, Seed, Grow!

Play a game similar to Duck, Duck, Goose. The person who walks around the circle is the Gardener and carries a full watering can. He or she taps heads and says "seed"—until sprinkling someone's head with water and saying "grow." Afterward, talk about the parable of the growing seed ([Mark 4:26-29](#)).