

December 2017

# parenting CHRISTIAN kids



i12 Ministries  
North Parkersburg  
Baptist Church  
[www.northpbc.org](http://www.northpbc.org)



## Teach Children What to Treasure

### POWER SOURCE

#### ASK GOD:

1. To bless your family's Christmas preparations and reflections.
2. To help your children feel satisfied with what they have.
3. To show your family the value of spiritual things rather than material things.

Despite Christians' efforts to honor the true meaning of Christmas, each December we must do battle with our consumer-oriented culture. The temptation to overindulge our children isn't limited to the holiday season, either. All year long, kids are bombarded by ads for "must-have" items. Parents often give in, either because they can or because they don't want their kids to feel deprived or left out.

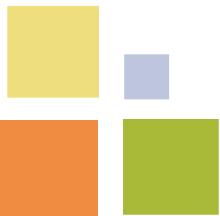
From a spiritual standpoint, materialism shifts our priorities and dependence from God and heavenly things to what the world offers. From a developmental standpoint, overindulged children are less able to cope with stress, often lack self-control, and are at risk for being self-centered and depressed,

researchers say. As the Christmas season approaches, keep these tips in mind.

**Don't rely on gifts as substitutes.** Children desire time with you and emotional security. Deep down, they want relationships more than things.

**Emphasize the importance of nonmaterial values.** Prioritize spending time together as a family, whether you're engaged in experiences and activities or spending quiet time at home. Watch the example you set regarding shopping and spending.

**Help children explore their values.** Instead of just saying "no" to every request, use the moment to discover what's important to kids.



## Nurture Generous Hearts



### TEACHABLE MOMENTS

#### The Greatest Gift

Beforehand, wrap a small gift for each family member. (Choose a variety of items that anyone would enjoy.) Sit in a circle and give each person one gift to hold.

**Say:** As I read the Christmas story, pass your gift to the person on your right every time I say “God,” “Lord,” or “Jesus.” When I’m done, I’ll say “amen,” and you’ll keep the gift you’re holding at that time.

Read aloud Matthew 2:1-12; Luke 1:26-38; and Luke 2:1-20. Then say “amen.” Have family members hold their gifts while you ask these questions: **What did you have to do to receive the gift you have? What did we have to do to receive the gift of Jesus? What is most exciting to you about the Christmas story, and why?**

**Say:** Jesus is the greatest gift of all! He freely gave his life for us out of love. Because of Jesus, we’ll live forever with him—and so will everyone else who loves him.

Close in prayer and open your gifts.

Jesus gave us the best guidance for living in a culture that overflows with materialism. In Matthew 6:33 (NLT), he challenges us to “seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.” When we trust Jesus to provide, we can be generous and find joy in giving to others. Helping children develop a heart of gratitude is the best cure for a sense of entitlement. Gratitude moves the focus off ourselves so we can consider other people’s needs and act generously in response. Start by talking with your children about sharing. Then discuss why God wants us to be generous—and how sharing our blessings with others becomes a blessing for them. Try these ideas to nurture generosity and a giving spirit this Christmas.

**Hearts for Jesus** Make a big stocking with the name “Jesus” in glitter. Let children make felt or paper hearts with their names on them and give their “hearts” to Jesus. (After all, that’s what he wants the most at Christmas!)

**12 Days of Serving** As a family, come up with 12 acts of service you can perform together during December. For example, shovel snow for a neighbor, donate extra blankets to a homeless shelter, and deliver cookies and hot cocoa to homebound senior citizens.

**Try Tithing** When children receive money for Christmas, have them use 10 percent to help someone else, whether they donate it or buy a small gift. Together, keep a journal detailing how children use that 10 percent—and see how the blessings add up!

**Adopt a Family** Purchase gifts and a holiday meal for a family in need. Then deliver everything on (or right before) Christmas Eve. You can do this anonymously.

**All-Night Anticipation** Curl up in sleeping bags beneath your tree on Christmas Eve. Before going to sleep, talk about what Mary and Joseph experienced on the journey to

Bethlehem and in the stable. Before opening gifts in the morning, emphasize that Jesus is the first—and best—Christmas gift.

**Baby Blessings** Older kids can throw a baby shower (complete with birth announcements!) for Jesus and then donate items to a local crisis-pregnancy center.

**Anonymous Angels** On Christmas morning, have family members draw names. During each of the next 12 days, angels should anonymously do something special for their person (do a chore, leave a note or drawing, make a treat, etc.). On January 6 (Epiphany), have an Angel Party and reveal your identities. Serve angel food cake and discuss what it was like to bless others—and to be blessed by others.

**Bearing Gifts** Fill lunch sacks with small treats and tape them shut. Read aloud Matthew 2:1-12 and say: “After Jesus was born, wise men traveled a long way to bring him gifts. Let’s pretend to be wise men and camels!” Take turns being wise men who guide camels on all fours—carrying a sack on their back. Then talk about what gifts the wise men gave Jesus and what gifts we can give him.

“Store your treasures in heaven ... Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.”  
—Matthew 6:20-21

# MEDIA MADNESS



## MOVIE

**Title:** *The Star*

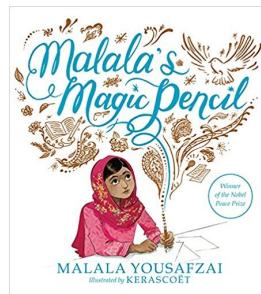
**Genre:** Animation, Adventure, Comedy

**Rating:** PG

**Cast:** Tyler Perry, Oprah Winfrey, Kristin Chenoweth, Zachary Levi

**Synopsis:** A brave donkey yearning for adventure teams up with some eccentric stable animals. When the new friends follow a star, they become unlikely heroes of the first Christmas.

**Our Take:** This major Sony Pictures release includes lots of big-name talent, including a title song by Mariah Carey. Based on the trailer, the movie seems to offer more comedy and animated antics than religious insight. It is refreshing, though, to have a holiday release that actually focuses on the reason for the season—Jesus.



## BOOK

**Title:** *Malala's Magic Pencil*

**Author:** Malala Yousafzai

**Synopsis:** The 20-year-old Nobel Peace Prize winner, who advocates for human rights and education, offers inspiration in this new picture book. While sharing her vision for equality and opportunity, she encourages young readers to change the world. **Our Take:** Despite Malala's experience surviving an attempted murder, this book remains age-appropriate for kids ages 4 to 8. There's a suggestion of danger and hardship, but Malala's message about educational ideals and the goodness of people is positive. Older kids may wonder what the author endured, and the book may provide a great opportunity to discuss the basics of Christian faith versus other faiths.



## CULTURE & TRENDS

**An Eye-Opener** Spending more time playing outdoors has a protective effect on children's eyesight, say researchers. Lots of exposure to outdoor light may also reduce kids' chances of needing glasses for nearsightedness. ([cnn.com](http://cnn.com))

**Moods Are Catchy** Children whose friends deal with bad moods are more likely to report being in bad moods themselves, according to a new study. The opposite is true for children whose friends are generally happy. ([time.com](http://time.com))

## Games, Sites & Apps

### Anaxi

In this lighthearted card game, which won a "best family fun" award, players make creative connections between words. The goal is to brainstorm people, places, and things that have qualities in common. Answers can be challenged. For ages 8 and up.

### AutismHwy.com

This site, launched by the mother of an autistic boy, features fun games for children who are on the autism spectrum. It's also filled with lots of helpful information for parents, including a blog, articles, resources, events, and specialists. Users must create an account to access site material.

### Leela Kids

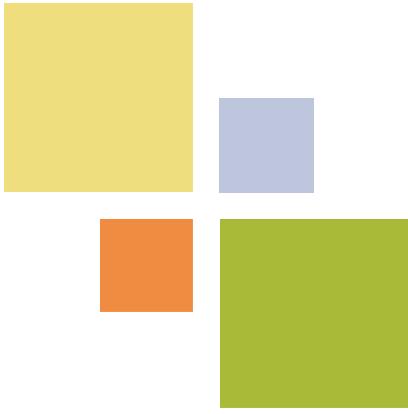
This free educational app for kids ages 3 to 15 curates podcast content based on topics and age groups. Topics range from science and space to music and animals. Kids and parents can rate and share any episode or story. Parents can hide certain age categories as desired.

## QUICK STATS

**"Spoiled" Alert!** 46% of parents say they've gone into debt buying something their children want. ([cnbc.com](http://cnbc.com))

**Tipping the Scales** The number of obese children and teens worldwide now tops 124 million. That's more than 10 times the number from four decades ago. (*The Lancet*)

**Pardon Me** About half of parents say they're interrupted by their smartphones at least three times a day while talking with their kids. These interruptions contribute to negative behavior among children, research reveals. ([telegraph.co.uk](http://telegraph.co.uk))



# December

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Thank You for Helping with the North Pole!	2 Thank You for Helping with the North Pole!
3	4	5	6 AWANA E2 Tweens Connect	7	8 Jungle/North Kids Studios Christmas Party	9 E2 Bells Event
10	11	12	13 AWANA Christmas Theme Night & Volunteer Party	14	15	16
17 E2 Christmas Parties No E2 PM Volunteer Party	18	19	20 No AWANA No E2 Tweens No Connect	21 NCS Closed NPBC Office Closed	22 NCS Closed	23
24 3 Identical Ser- vices No Children's Pro- gramming  Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26 NCS Closed	27 NCS Closed	28 NCS Closed	29 NCS Closed	30 NCS Closed
31 New Year's Eve	January 1 NCS Closed NPBC Office Closed					



## THANK YOU!

The North Pole was a wonderful success! Thank you so much to the 70+ volunteers that made this event possible!

Sunday, November 30th  
Miracle of Coats

Thank you for your donations! Coats were delivered to the schools and many were blessed by this ministry!

Sunday, December 3rd  
Miracle of Toys

Thank you for all the toys! Oh what smiles will be on the faces of the little ones that will receive these on Christmas morning!

Sunday, December 10th  
Miracle of Food

We will be collecting food during both services! There will be youth available to help you carry things in from your car! Many families will have meals for a week or more from these donations! Thank you in advance!!!

MERRY CHRISTMAS

## The Jungle and NKS Volunteer Christmas Party

**Please Join Us  
All Jungle and NKS Volunteers and  
their Families!  
Friday, December 8th  
6:30PM  
At the Friendship Kitchen  
Wear an ugly Christmas sweater and  
bring a covered dish!**



**AWANA Theme Night  
Wednesday  
December 13th  
Wear your favorite  
Christmas clothes and  
accessories!  
Everyone gets a  
candy cane!**



**AWANA VOLUNTEERS  
JOIN US  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13th  
IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL  
AT 5PM FOR DINNER AND DOOR PRIZES!**

## E2 December News

Hello Parents! We are so excited for the Christmas season at North. This is always a special time of year. It's a chance to give and serve so that we can see people experience life change through Jesus Christ. We have lot of exciting things happening in student ministry over the next several months as we head into the new year. Please mark your calendars for the upcoming dates and make note of the E2 schedule times taking place throughout the month. After the Christmas break we will be kicking back off with the Winter Kickoff and then Snow Camp will be just around the corner. We just want to say thank you for allowing us the privilege to partner with your family to make a difference in the life of your student. We want nothing else than to equip and encourage your student to experience life change through Jesus Christ. As we head into December on behalf of the entire E2 Student Ministry we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

### BELLS EVENT

On Saturday December 9th from 10am to 5pm we are ringing Bells for the Salvation Army. We will be partnering with local church youth groups to make a difference for the valley. Students can be dropped off at the church at 9:30 on Saturday morning and can be picked up at Liberty Street Church at 5:00 (address for the church is 1301 Liberty Street Parkersburg 26101) Sign ups for the event are on floor one. Students will need to bring money for lunch that day at the mall. Dinner will be provided that night. If your student is planning on going to this event please have them sign up so that we can have a head count for transportation purposes.



## E2 Christmas Parties

On Sunday morning December 17th we will be having our Jesus and Jammies Christmas Party on floor one for both Tween and Teen. This will be taking place during our regularly scheduled Sunday morning programming. The Tween party will be during the first service and the Teen party will be during the second service. We will have breakfast, play games, and spend time together celebrating the Christmas season. We encourage all students to where appropriate Christmas pajamas.

## Snow camp

(9th -12th Grade)

January 12th – 15th

2018

**Camp Cost \$200**



## E2 Winter Kick-Off

On Sunday Night January 7th we are having our E2 Winter Kickoff. The event will be for the entire family. There will be laser tag, games, food, and giveaways. This is also a great night to talk about the upcoming year and what you can expect in student ministry. On this night you can learn about upcoming events, what were teaching your students, and even meet your students small group leader. Please mark your calendar and make plans for this great night.