

Celebrate Jesus' Gift of Forgiveness From Sins

2010 April Issue 31



"Jesus did not come simply to make bad people good. Jesus came to bring dead people to life." That quote from Christian activist Shane Claiborne sums up the reason Christians celebrate Easter. Because Jesus came back to life on Easter morning, he offers his followers new life as well.

The good news of Easter is that although we're still sinners, Jesus forgives our sins when we confess them. We no longer have to be burdened with our wrongs and the guilt that accompanies them. But that can be tough to remember on a day-to-day basis—for adults as well as teenagers.

In *Group Magazine's* recent survey of more than 26,000 Christian teenagers, half of them agreed with this statement: "I've done things no one really knows about that impact my ability to feel loved by God." The first hurdle is finding someone to confess these burdens to. If teenagers aren't comfortable talking to you about their sins, they may be able to open up to a youth leader or pastor who can assure them of God's mercy and grace.

The next hurdle is letting go of the remaining guilt. As longtime youth leader Jeanne Mayo said, "We must teach kids not only to repent from sin but to deal with Satan's harassing mind games long after God has wiped the slate clean." Past mistakes don't have to mean lifelong regret. That's a message you can share with your kids long after the Easter fanfare has quieted for another year.

Forgiveness is a gift from God, but then he puts the ball in our court. We, in turn, must forgive others, too. Youth minister Andy Dish expounds on this important topic at SimplyYouthMinistry.com.

Colossians 3:13 spells it out very clearly: "Forgive as your Father in heaven forgave you." On a daily basis, God must get sick of me. But he still forgives me. If God the Father can forgive me for all my stupidity, attitudes, thoughts, and words, then I can forgive others.

1. Forgiveness is a choice. Sure, we don't have to. It's all up to us. We can hear what Paul tells us in Colossians and just toss it away. We all have a choice—and others are watching our choices.

2. Forgiveness is necessary for healing. When you forgive, you're trading the poison inside of you for God's love. Until that happens, you'll walk around with poison inside, dying little by little.

3. Forgiveness is a command. ...but I thought you said it was a choice? It is. But God calls us to a higher calling. He calls us his children and representatives, so we must follow and obey. Bottom line: God says we must forgive because he loves us and wants us to share his love with others.



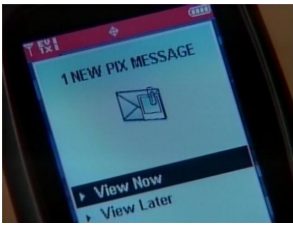
Pulse

Forgiveness sounds like a wonderful concept. But putting it into practice—and accepting it—can be challenging for people of all ages. Check out these interesting stats about forgiveness:

- In the groundbreaking *National Study of Youth and Religion*, researcher Christian Smith asked teenagers "How much has religion helped to relieve your feelings of guilt by providing you (with) forgiveness?" Kids' responses were:
 - A lot—27%
 - Some—25%
 - A little—15%
 - None—18%



- In a Gallup Poll, 94% of respondents said they thought forgiveness was essential. But 85% said they'd need outside help to forgive someone. Only 48% of people said they usually tried to forgive others.



Cell Phone “Sexting” & “Texting” ALERT

Parents, this is a disturbing trend that unfortunately I have had to deal with over the past year several times.

Please be aware that this is a popular trend among teens and our teens are not immune to it. Girls send boys pics of themselves in provocative poses, clothing and nude. Boys will often ask girls to send them these pics or ask if they want to sext.

I encourage you to keep an eye on your teen's cell phone activity especially if they are over protective of their messages and pictures/ videos stored on it.

I understand that the trend today is that they all HAVE TO HAVE a phone to text their friends and of course the main reason they want one is so that they can keep in contact with you their loving parent at all times. Many live and breathe texting all day long to their friends. Many teens come on to our Friday Nights and sit there most of the night in a huddle texting people. Others enjoy texting friends during my lesson time. Do you think that it is proper or respectful for them to do that while I am speaking?

Please talk with your teen about proper cell phone etiquette. Please be aware that I will be putting the hammer down on cell phone use during service time on youth nights. We often pass around baskets collecting them and return them afterwards. I personally don't think this should have to be done; they should be mature enough to know that it is rude and disrespectful to text while the pastor is speaking.

-Lee Montgomery

'Sexting' Teens Can Go Too Far

<http://abcnews.go.com/Technology/WorldNews/sexting-teens/story?id=6456834>

Sending Provocative Images Over Cell Phones Is All the Rage, but It Can Go All Wrong

What happened to the time when if you liked a boy at school you'd pass him a note?

These days the disturbing new trend in teenage flirting is sending nude or semi-nude photos from cell phone to cell phone: instead of "texting," they call it called "sexting." While the X-rated offerings are usually intended just for a boyfriend or girlfriend, the photos often wind up being shared. While 17-year-old Matthew Younger of Maryland says he has never done anything like this himself, he has seen it happen among his peers. "If a boy meets a girl or has a girlfriend on summer break he comes back and shows all his boys the [naked] pictures he's been sent. No one gives it that much thought really," says Younger.

The dangerous combination of teenagers behaving provocatively and impulsively is not new, but the accessibility to the technology is. With cell phone cameras, they have been handed a tool so easy to use for some it's impossible to pass up. And in the transparent culture built around social networking sites, it all spreads like wildfire. "Somebody might send it to somebody else's phone and that person has Facebook on the their phone and they automatically upload it to their Facebook or MySpace page," explains Somalia Yaborow, 16, of Alexandria, Va.

What teens don't realize is just how serious the consequences can be. News reports are increasingly documenting legal repercussions after indecent photo appear online. And attorneys say there are many unanswered questions about whether young people who send their own photos could face prosecution for obscenity or child pornography.

This year in Wisconsin, a 17-year-old was charged with possessing child pornography after he posted naked pictures of his 16-year-old ex-girlfriend online. In Alabama, authorities arrested four middle-school students for exchanging nude photos of themselves. In Rochester, N.Y., a 16-year-old boy is now facing up to seven years in prison for forwarding a nude photo of a 15-year-old girlfriend to his friends.

Director Marisa Nightingale says it's crucial parents talk to their children about potential consequences, because while criminal charges are rare, compromising photos could easily come back to haunt the teens when they go to apply for college or their first job.

"Even if it doesn't result in something official, they can get really humiliated and find something they thought was a joke can become something that haunts them for years," says Nightingale.

MUSIC SPOTLIGHT



Mainstream Artist

Background: Ben Goldwasser and Andrew VanWyngarden formed this Grammy-nominated band almost 10 years ago. Their 2007 debut was a critical smash. Despite their small output, the band was on many best-of-the-decade lists. Their sound is described as "shape-shifting psychedelic pop."

Albums: *Congratulations* (2010), *Oracular Spectacular* (2007)

What Parents Should Know: Like many bands in this genre (The Flaming Lips, for example), MGMT's lyrics are often completely obscure. Songs that are decipherable glorify free love and push back against authority.

What MGMT Says: "We realized that when we smoked pot, we're more relaxed and get into the music a little more and [are] just kind of laid back, so we started smoking pot before we play.... We're also inspired by fans who bring us free drugs."

Discussion Questions: Why do many people have such an easygoing attitude toward marijuana? What are some reasons people give for legalizing pot? Should it be legal? Why or why not? Read 2 Peter 2:19. How does this verse apply to drugs? How might taking drugs affect our relationship with God? with other people?

Christian Artist

Background: Formerly known as the Michael Gungor Band, this group of musicians is a force in modern worship. Gungor co-wrote the hit song "Friend of God" with Israel Houghton. His latest album flirts with a Sufjan Stevens sound, complete with tinny piano, banjo, and airy harmonies.

Albums: *Beautiful Things* (2010), *Ancient Skies* (2008), *All I Need Is Here* (2007)

What Parents Should Know: Gungor's music is heartfelt, beautiful, and compelling. The band has a heart for teenagers, as they've led worship for Acquire the Fire conferences across the country.

What Gungor Says: "Atheism is very in vogue right now. This is kind of wild to me. Being somewhat of a chronic doubter myself sometimes, I can understand agnosticism, but to me, straight-up atheism seems like a pretty depressing faith choice.... You really can't escape faith.... To say that you believe in nothing is a self-contradicting statement."

Discussion Questions: Why do you think atheists believe there's no God? Read John 20:24-29. When have you felt like Thomas? Why do you have faith in God? What keeps your faith strong? Do you have any friends who are atheists? How can you witness your faith to them in a non-confrontational way?

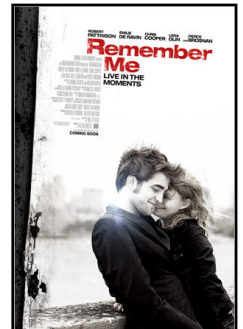
FILM WATCH

Movie: *Remember Me*

Genre: Drama, Romance

Rating: PG-13 (for violence, sexual content, language, and smoking)

Synopsis: A rebellious young man (Robert Pattinson) has had a strained relationship with his father ever since tragedy separated their family. Not looking for love, he meets a girl (Emilie de Ravin) who heals and inspires him. Through their love, he begins to find happiness and meaning in his life.



April 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
						
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
						
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
						
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
					Service Retreat	
25	26	27	28	29	30	
						

(n)Fusion- Friday Nights 7-11pm

Small Group Bible Studies:

Sunday nights High School small group Bible study **“the Grind” 5pm at NHBC.**

Cracked (Middle School small group Bible study) If your child is interested in a MS Bible study please contact Pastor Lee for more information.

April

8-11 – College for the Weekend at Liberty Univ

23-25 – Weekend Service Retreat

24- Women’s Ministry “Beth Moore Event” *(Teen NHBC girls are being offered free tickets to this event)*

May

7-8 – Acquire the Fire Event

28-31 – NHBC Annual Family Memorial Day Camping Trip

June

20-25 – **Summer Church Camp** for teens 13-18 **Cost: \$70** at Buffalo Gap camp in Capon Bridge, WV

For more information check out our website:

www.nfusionyouth.com

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Copies of this newsletter are available at the information desk located at the rear of the Fellowship Hall.