

In what ways do Pastor George's prayer points for West Hills' next 50 years mesh with your family's mission? What is your prayer for your family for the next 50 years – what do you hope your family will stand for in the development of the next two generations? Take it before the Lord in prayer, and ask Him to show you His will in this. What steps do you need to take to be on that path? Talk about this as a couple, and, as appropriate, as a family.

Play Hide and Seek in the dark. Give the seeker a flashlight to show the way a bold beam of light can change the nature of an environment.

Illustrate “boldness”

Have each member of the family write a message (or draw a picture) on white paper or posterboard using pastel crayons or chalk and fine lines.

Write a different message that is similar in length and size (or a similar picture) on white paper or posterboard using bold color crayons or markers and broad lines.

Take turns hanging the masterpieces on one wall while the rest of the group sits on the opposite side of the room. See who can see the others' message or pictures from the other side. Which is easier to read – bold or pastel? You could do these as secret messages or pictures with each family member first drawing a name out of a bowl, then writing an encouraging message or picture to their designated family member, then taking turns with each artist hanging his or hers on the wall with the rest of the family trying to figure out who the message or picture is for.

Scripture memory challenge: As a family, memorize a passage of scripture. Consider one of these:

Ephesians 6:19 : “Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel.”

Psalms 138:3: “When I called, you answered me; you made me bold and stouthearted. (You may want to add v. 2 to give it more context)

2 Timothy 1:7: “For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.”

Fearful vs. Fearless:

Designate verbally or put up signs, making one side of the room (or end of a hallway) “Fearless” and the other side of the room (or end of the hallway) “Fearful.” Have family members stand where they fall in this spectrum as you call out scenarios. You may want to have them explain why they chose to stand in a certain spot. The perceptions of how they feel will, of course, vary with the ages and personalities of the players, but be sure to name some things that are frightening (socially, cognitively, emotionally) as well as other things that are frustrating, worrisome and frivolous. You may want to give the kids a turn in calling out the scenarios, too. A few ideas to get you started: Being alone in the dark; standing up in front of a group and singing a song; the first day at a new school; going on

a hike with a guide you don't know very well; riding the _____ (pick a ride at the amusement park). Share a snack and talk about fear. How does it hinder us from being all God created us to be? In what circumstances might it protect us from being foolish or taking unnecessary risks? How can we decide if we should walk forward in faith or give credence to the feeling?

Further reading for families:

Consider reading through Acts as a family read-aloud. This is a great, adventure- and spirit-filled book that really captures children's attention about faithful people living it out. The stories in here are amazing: friendship, leadership, imprisonment, shipwreck, snakebite, journey by land and sea, earthquake, healings, raising from the dead – all in the name of the King of kings.

3 in 1: A Picture of God by Joanne Marxhausen

A book explaining the Trinity using an apple analogy (48 pp.)

The Very First Christians by Paul L. Maier

Illustrated retelling of the book of Acts (32 pp.)

Further reading for parents:

Forgotten God by Francis Chan