



**March 2010**

**Redeemer Lutheran Church  
Manitowoc, Wisconsin**

**920-684-3989  
www.redeermantym.com**

## God Forgives All Our Sins

With Buzz, our new unit focuses on the fact that "God is forgiving." Because God is forgiving, he sent Jesus to die for our sins. He also wants us to extend forgiveness to other people. Children will be exploring those forgiveness-related topics the next three months.

As children have already learned, God is loving and perfect. He loves us even though we can't live up to his standards of perfection. When sin entered the world in the garden of Eden, God already had a plan to conquer it: He sent Jesus to die on the cross and rise again.



God's Word, the Bible, is filled with good news about forgiveness. Here are some ways to share that vital message with your children:

**Point out that all of us are sinners who need forgiveness.**

Read aloud the Creation account from Genesis 1-3. Explain that God made us perfect, but then people's bad choices let sin into the world.

**Share God's solution to the problem of sin.** Read aloud Bible verses that describe Jesus as the sinless Son of God (Hebrews 4:15; 1 Peter 2:22). Then read how Jesus came to earth to die in our place, even though he didn't deserve it, and how he rose again (Luke 23:26 through 24:12).

**Encourage children to confess their sins to God.** Let kids know that Jesus died for them personally and wants to wipe away all their sins. Read verses that promise the gift of forgiveness (Acts 3:19; Ephesians 1:7; 1 John 1:9).

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### Faith Formation

A recent study by the Barna Research Group found that most Christians (81%) equate spiritual maturity with "trying hard to follow the rules described in the Bible." This was true even of adults who belong to church groups that believe salvation isn't earned through good works.

Among the younger set, consciences are just forming. That means children won't always have a clear understanding of sin and forgiveness. For example, 6-year-old Jackson explained: "That's why we have a nervous system: When we're about to do something wrong, God makes us nervous so we'll know it's bad."

**PowerSource**

### Ask God:

1. That God will reveal his forgiving nature to your family members.
2. That God will forgive sins that have been burdening you.
3. That God's forgiveness will change how you relate to others.

### Parenting Insights

Abstract concepts such as forgiveness can be difficult for children to grasp. Here's how their thinking progresses:

#### Ages 3 to 5

Children this age are concrete thinkers who understand life in literal terms. Ask questions to help kids make connections. Show forgiveness to a repentant child with hugs and smiles. Say, "I love you. I forgive you."

#### Ages 6 to 8

Children this age have superficial ideas about God and the Bible. They're connecting new ideas to old information. Help kids make associations. Model a relational Christianity, showing kindness.

#### Ages 9 to 12

Some kids can now think abstractly. Older kids learn best by applying abstract concepts to familiar experiences. Let kids ask questions, and value their ideas.

## OpenTheBook

**"I—yes, I alone—will blot out your sins for my own sake and will never think of them again."  
Isaiah 43:25**

Our forgiving God promises to cast our sins as far as the east is from the west. Praise God for giving us a fresh start, no matter how often we mess up.

### Teachable Moments

1. **"I'm Sorry"**— Learning to apologize takes practice. Help young children learn to say they're sorry through nonverbal means such as drawing a picture or giving a hug. Practice saying "I'm sorry" together during family prayers. Admit to Jesus that we make mistakes and are sorry; then ask for forgiveness together.
2. **Lead by Example**—When you do something wrong, let your children see you apologize. Be specific about what you're apologizing for, and ask for forgiveness.
3. **Forgiveness Heals**—Read aloud Psalm 32:1-7. Discuss what caused David's "heart sickness" and how he got rid of it. Talk about times you've felt bad after doing something you knew you shouldn't do. Say: "When we confess our sins and tell God we're sorry, God forgives us and makes our hearts well."



**"So commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these words of mine. Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. Teach them to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are ON THE ROAD, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up." Deuteronomy 11:18-19, NLT**

**Share the good news of God's forgiveness with your children by using these discussion starters:**

1. What does sin feel like to you? When people believe in God, do they sin just as much as other people? Why or why not?
2. Do people always feel sorry when they sin or when they don't tell God about what they did wrong? Why or why not?
3. How does it feel to know that God is always ready to forgive you? Does that make it easier to tell God what you did wrong—and that you're sorry? Explain.

## Family Experience: Focus on Forgiveness

**Celebrate God's gift of forgiveness by using these hands-on activities from *Children's Ministry Magazine*.**

- **Repentance Run**—Outside, have family members line up some distance from you. Say: "On 'go,' run toward me. When I yell 'repent,' turn around and run the other way. Again, when I yell 'repent,' turn around and run the other way. When everyone's tired, gather together and ask: "What did you have to do when I yelled 'repent'?" Say: "To repent means to turn around and go the other way." Read aloud Mark 1:14-15. Ask: "What does Jesus want us to do? What things do people need to turn away from? What does Jesus say we need to do after we repent?" Read aloud Acts 3:19-20. Ask: "What happens when we repent and return to God?" Close in prayer, allowing each person to ask God for forgiveness.
- **I Confess**—Sit in a circle and give every family member five pennies. Say: "We'll each tell something we've done wrong that we think others may have done also, such as told a lie or yelled at a friend. When you name your sin, throw a penny into the circle. If anyone else has ever done that sin, throw your penny in also." Afterward, talk about what family members learned. Ask: "What's the difference between a sin and a mistake? How can we ask God's forgiveness for our sins?" Read aloud Romans 3:23-26. Say: "The Bible says we all have sinned. Take a penny and use a red marker to color one side. Keep this penny to remind you that Jesus' blood paid for our sins. Because he died for us, we can be forgiven when we ask God to forgive us."





## What's Playing at the Movies

**Movie:** *Alice in Wonderland* (March 5)

**Genre:** Fantasy/adventure

**Rating:** PG

**Cast:** Mia Wasikowska, Johnny Depp, Anne Hathaway

**Synopsis:** In director Tim Burton's sequel to Lewis Carroll's stories, 19-year-old Alice revisits Wonderland and reunites with her childhood friends. They need her help to overthrow the evil Red Queen and the Jabberwock dragon. As Alice discovers her voice, she becomes an empowered heroine—evident through how she grows in size throughout the film.



**Discussion Questions:** What are the best things about being a child? What are you most looking forward to about growing up, and why? Read 1 Samuel 17:32-50. Think of a time when you've felt like David. What kind of "giants" have you faced? Where do you get power and strength?

## What Music Is Releasing

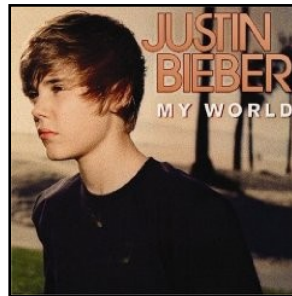
**Artist:** Justin Bieber

**Album:** *My World*

**Artist Info:** Bieber, an R&B phenom who just turned 16, was named one of the hottest stars of 2009. A self-taught musician from Canada, Bieber gained fame through YouTube. He's the first artist to have four singles from a debut album reach *Billboard's* Top 40 before the album's release. Bieber also sings the first line in the new "We Are the World" video.

**Summary:** The first part of Bieber's debut album, *My World*, released in November. The hit single "One Time" features guest vocals from hip-hop star Usher. In "One Less Lonely Girl," Bieber sings: "I'm gonna put you first, I'll show you what you're worth if you let me inside your world."

**Discussion Questions:** Where does your "worth" come from? What are some situations that make you feel lonely? Read aloud Hebrews 13:5b. How can God's promise of never abandoning you change your life?



## What Games Are Out

Title	Content	Rating & Platform
<i>Playmobil Pirates</i>	This adventure game features 70 tricky missions on 16 islands. Players have to sink enemy soldiers and rescue a mermaid.	E; Nintendo DS
<i>Fast Food Panic</i>	Players step behind the grill to cook for a room of hungry customers. Much of the gameplay is a high-speed juggling act.	E; Wii, Nintendo DS
<i>Lunar: Silver Star Harmony</i>	Young Alex dreams of becoming the next Dragonmaster. In his adventures, the entire world is at stake.	T; PlayStation Portable

**RATINGS:** 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:**

- Parents are toning down children's birthday parties, due to the recession. Instead of hosting lavish events, more parents are letting their kids choose a special outing or meal. (msnbc.com)
- Children are more likely to get bullied when they struggle with nonverbal communication, reading nonverbal cues, and coming up with options for resolving social conflict, researchers say. (livescience.com)

## Quick Stats

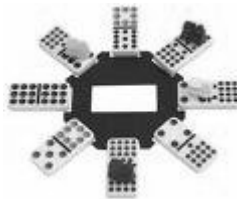
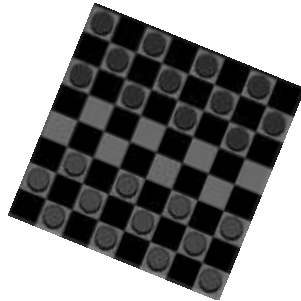
- Children as young as 3 have negative bias against older people. Preschoolers who aren't biased have regular contact with senior citizens. (University of Alberta)
- About 1.3 million children under the age of 18 live with their grandparents. (healthychildren.org)



# *Family Game Night*



*Saturday, March 20*  
*6:30-8:30 pm*



*Bring your favorite game*  
*and a dessert to share for*  
*a night of family fun!*

# Family Worship

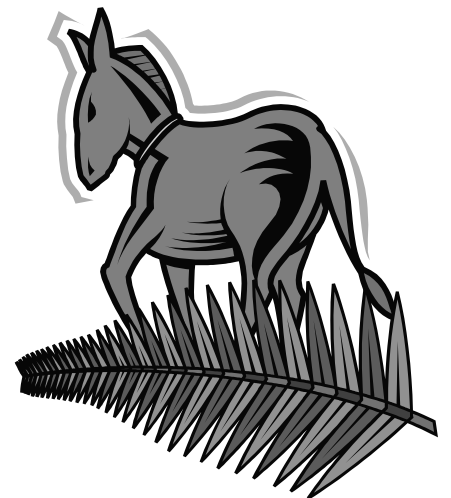
Sunday, March 21

9:15 am




This family oriented worship service will be interactive and an opportunity for parents and children to worship and learn together.

After our worship together, gather with your child's Sunday school class for snacks and help them make Easter cards for Redeemer's homebound members.

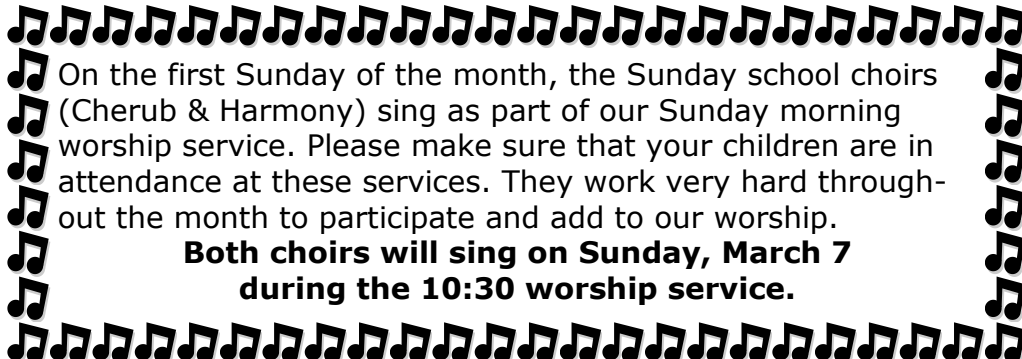


# March 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
			Soup & Sandwich Supper: 5pm Lenten Worship: 6pm		Ladies Craft Night 7:00 pm~?? @ Redeemer Everyone welcome!	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
 Sunday School Choirs Sing at 10:30 Worship			Soup & Sandwich Supper: 5pm Lenten Worship: 6pm			
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
			Soup & Sandwich Supper: 5pm Lenten Worship: 6pm			<b>FAMILY GAME NIGHT</b> 6:30-8:30 pm
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
<b>FAMILY WORSHIP SERVICE</b> 9:15 AM	-		Soup & Sandwich Supper: 5pm Lenten Worship: 6pm			
28	29	30	31	April 1	April 2	April 3
<b>PALM SUNDAY</b>				<b>Maundy Thursday</b> Worship 6pm	<b>Good Friday</b> Worship 1 & 6pm	

**Easter Sunday Worship Schedule (4/4/2010)**  
8 am & 10:30 am  
Easter Breakfast at 9:00 am  
Everyone Welcome!!




  
 On the first Sunday of the month, the Sunday school choirs (Cherub & Harmony) sing as part of our Sunday morning worship service. Please make sure that your children are in attendance at these services. They work very hard throughout the month to participate and add to our worship.  
**Both choirs will sing on Sunday, March 7 during the 10:30 worship service.**