



THE BOLDNESS NEWSLETTER

"The wicked run away when no one is chasing them, but the godly are as bold as lions." Proverbs 28:1

LEARNING TO LET GO AND HAVE FAITH

PERSPECTIVE BY ANDY CLAYTON:

Have you ever held on so tightly to something that your grip begins to fatigue and the item drops? Or carried so many bags of groceries that your grip slips and that brand new gallon of milk hits the floor making a mess? Sometimes, when we cling so tightly to things, or situations, our grip can begin to fatigue to the point of failure.

In my own life, I can think of many times where I have had to acknowledge my own insecurities and expectations so I could place them at the foot of the cross. Minutes after our son's birth, we found out that he had some genetic concerns including a significant heart condition. For months I had anticipated and looked forward to having a son to do all the "father-son" things that Dads do with sons. In a moment, my months of anticipation felt trampled on as we were told our son had Down Syndrome. My expectations for my son became something that I was holding on to so tightly and I wasn't ready to let go of them. I wanted him to learn to wakeboard, ski, and work on engines. After hearing the news, I remember thinking about all the things I potentially could NOT do with my son (as if I was planning his whole life for him). Looking into his eyes, I remembered the words of Jeremiah 29:11-13:

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart."

It was in this moment, I was reminded that I have a Heavenly Father who has all of my life circumstances figured out. I did not need to rely on myself, I just needed to let go and cling to Jesus. God knows the things that worry and concern me. He calls me to surrender these things to Him. I prayed that God would take my worries and hopes that I was clinging to from me, and turn my focus toward my beautiful bride and son.

*"Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."
Matthew 6:34*

May God allow our faith in Him to grow so we can surrender to Him our insecurities, expectations, addictions, or perfect plans. Doing this causes us to learn to wait on the Lord, thus building our faith as we let go of "our plans" and rely on "His Greater plan" for our (or our children's) lives. This life is not ours to "figure out" like it is a big problem to be fixed, but rather it is an incredible journey to be fully experienced with the Jesus who created us all. I learned something valuable- my son will be able to do all these things with me, it will just look different, and that is okay.



Enjoy and explore the lyrics of the song, *Trust In You* from Lauren Daigle with your children!



RESOURCES FOR YOUR FAMILY:

I had a 2 week old baby when my oldest started kindergarten. At this point he had never driven with anyone other than family. When his first field trip came up I couldn't drive him. I had a nursing baby at home, but I wanted him to go. It was at this point I prayed: ok Lord I'm giving this to YOU, I'm giving my son to YOU. I released the tight grip I had on controlling everything and had to have faith in HIS plan. I prayed, trusted God, let my son go and discovered I was okay.

-Ms. Calli

At Home Activities:

- Around the dinner table, ask your child if they have any particular prayer requests.
- If you have a white board, write down prayer requests.
- Do a "Blind/Trust" Walk as a family: Blind fold one member of the family and set up an obstacle course (of course age appropriate). Another family member can either lead verbally with clues or lead them with their hand through the obstacles. Talk about how difficult it is to trust one another. Ask questions like: Who might be easier to trust (a parent or a sibling)? Why is it hard to trust God sometimes?

LAUGHTER IS GOOD MEDICINE:

Q: WHERE SHOULD YOU GO IF YOU WANT TO LEARN HOW TO MAKE ICE CREAM?

A: SUNDAY SCHOOL

Q: HOW DOES MOSES MAKE COFFEE?

A: HE-BREW'S IT!



Great Books to Check Out



- **Children's Book:** *Dead Sea Squirrels*, by Mike Nawrocki



- **Parent Book:** *Have a New Kid by Friday*, by Dr. Kevin Leman

Q: Dear Roary: When is a good time to get my child a cell phone?

Dear About to Explode Mom,

I recently talked to a professional therapist about this very thing. The answer given was 22 years of age after the frontal lobe is developed. Realistically we know that few to zero parents are waiting that long. Seriously, think about what is required for us to give our child the keys to a car: he/she must be sixteen, take a class, pass a written test, have a certain required number of hours of training, pass another test, and then drive with certain restrictions for a year. As parents, we want to make sure our children are adequately prepared and trained to drive a car with the power to hurt or destroy a life. Handing your child a cellphone with the power to communicate and do media productions is huge. Make sure that your child is mature, demonstrates the ability to follow rules at home and school, and is fully aware of the dangers of inappropriate use of a cell phone. Communicate and establish healthy boundaries. Pray for God's wisdom as you navigate this important step in your child's life.



Want to ask Roary a question?
Write your question and email it to:
Theboldness@lodichristianschool.org

Roary's Resources



familyeducation

Parent Fellowship Night

"Raising Your Children to Leave"

Establishing, Nurturing and Reinforcing Boundaries

Tuesday, February 7th @ 6:15pm

Childcare is free for all ages, preschool-8th grade.

SCRIPTURE ABOUT LETTING GO AND GROWING FAITH:

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3:5-6

"Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you."
1 Peter 5:7

"For we live by faith not by sight." 2 Corinthians 5:7