

# HAM LANE FLN

FAMILY LIFE NEWSLETTER

## GOD SAW THAT IT WAS GOOD.

“And God saw that it was good” (Gen. 1:10), is the cadence of the creation story in Genesis, and for good reason! We live in an incredible environment that is perfectly suited to meet our needs, but not without a little help. And that’s why God gave humanity the responsibility of working and taking care of it (Gen. 2:15); a responsibility that still holds to this day. God invites us to participate in the rule and reign of all that He has made. The month of April especially brings this godly purpose into view as Apr. 22<sup>nd</sup> is Earth Day, followed closely by Love Lodi day on Apr. 25<sup>th</sup>. What a great opportunity to demonstrate to our families that our faith and theology translates directly into our actions in caring for the earth! The goodness of creation is worth preserving, protecting, and redeeming, not just because we want to leave behind something good for our kids, but because it is our divinely-given purpose. What can you do with your family this month that invites them to join in with our Creator and help redeem His goodness?



## APRIL FREEBIE FROM LOWE'S KIDS CLUB

Each month Lowe's has a free woodworking project for kids to make with their parents. All you have to do is sign up through their website! We've done several of these over the past few years and have always enjoyed them and the quality time we get to spend together in the process. The project for the month of April is a garden terrarium. Hurry, space is limited and does fill up! <https://www.lowes.com/diy-projects-and-ideas/workshops>.

## SOMETHING WE LIKE

The Wingfeather Saga is a four-book children's fantasy series by Andrew Peterson, following the Igiby siblings (Janner, Tink, and Leeli) as they discover their royal heritage and fight against the evil Fangs of Dang in the world of Aerwiar. It has also been made into an animated T.V. series by Angel Studios. Go check it out!



## TEACHING OUR KIDS TO PRAY

Excerpt. Written By: Jennifer Barnett / <https://d6family.com/teaching-kids-to-pray/>

How do we help our children learn to pray more authentically?

- 1. Start with simple thanksgiving in their own words.** With toddlers and preschoolers, a great first step is to invite them to name things they are thankful for. One day it might be mac and cheese; the next might be a favorite toy, or a friend at school. This is okay! If it is something they are thankful for and they thought of it, then it's a real conversation, not just a recitation.
- 2. Help them pray Scripture.** We learn by example long before we realize we are learning. There is tremendous value in memorizing Scripture and hiding God's Word in our hearts. When we teach our kids to pray Scripture—turning verses into their own words—God's Word begins to shape their thoughts, requests, and their view of who He is.

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3. **Explain what verses mean as you pray them together.** Kids ask the best questions when we actually pray with them instead of just reciting something.
4. **Teach them to look at verses in context and learn together as a family.** Kids are never too young to learn that we don't build faith from one single verse. We need to read passages and look at the whole story. I can almost hear those little voices now: "I want a new pony for Christmas, in Jesus' Name!" This is a great opportunity to open the Bible together and say, "Let's see what Jesus was talking about here." Show them how to look at more than one verse. Explain that God cares about our needs, and He wants to reshape our desires to match His will.
5. **Show them that real prayer changes our desires.** As we grow and mature in our faith and as we continue walking with Jesus, our desires begin to line up with God's will.



## FAMILY NIGHT FUN!

If you haven't been to a Family Night recently, you've been missing out! This last month started with a rousing game of Simon Says, followed by a scavenger hunt that sent families all over the building to gather clues and solve the puzzle. Finally we got a little competitive over a game of charades, pitting family vs. family, with the Mills coming out on top! Be sure to join us April 24<sup>th</sup> for more great times together.

## FAITH CONVERSATION STARTERS

- What is the most unique animal God created?
- What is your favorite place to go see nature?
- Why do you think God put us in charge of caring for the earth?
- What is one problem you'd like to solve to make the world a better place?
- Would you rather only eat food from trees, or only eat foods from the ground?
- What's a place in Lodi that could use a little TLC from our family?

## COMING UP THIS MONTH

Love  
Lodi  
April 25<sup>th</sup>

Love Lodi is a city-wide volunteer day on the last Saturday in April. Head over to [lovelodi.org](http://lovelodi.org) to see a list of the projects all over town, sign up for your favorite project, and show up at Hutchins Street Square on the 25<sup>th</sup> at 8am for the pre-project rally. Work begins at 9am, and free lunch is served 12-2pm after all the work is done!



All families are invited to join us for a fun-filled Friday evening on April 24<sup>th</sup>. Games, movies, video games, snacks, and awesome church family. What more could you ask for!!

## MEMORY VERSE

“The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it,”  
—Psalm 24:1