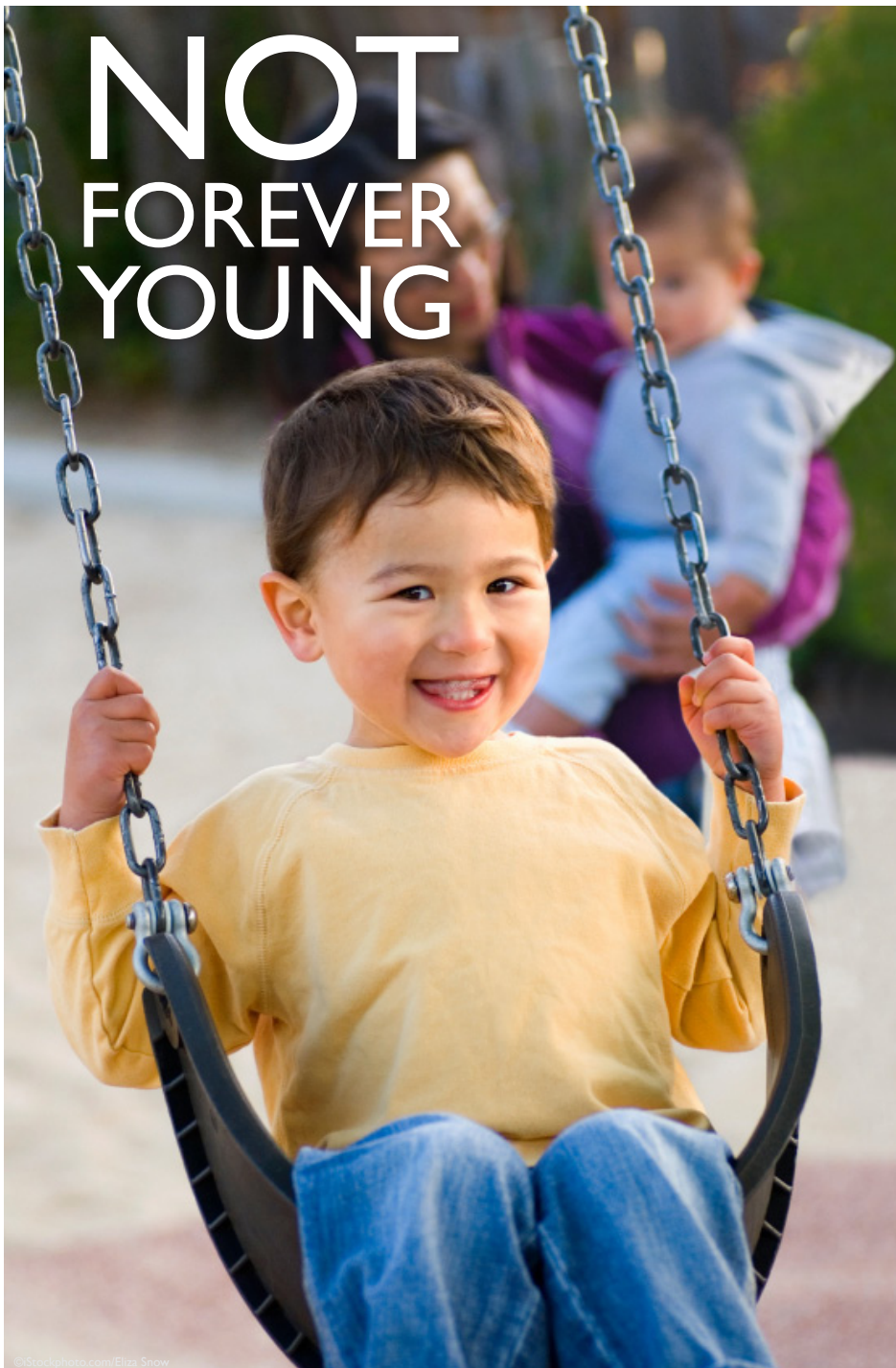


ParentPause

Ideas to Grow Your Preschooler's Faith at Home

JANUARY 2012



Every parent of young children receives one bit of advice over and over again: “**Spend a lot of time with your kids. The years go by very quickly.**”

The thing is, even though we all receive that advice, and even though we all intend to spend a lot of time with our kids, we're never quite ready for just how fast the time goes.

I wish we had realized that the “golden time” for teaching ends a LOT sooner than we expected. We figured we had 18 years — not true! And once they began driving, forget it. (Not really forget it, but it gets so much harder to reach them!) Work really, really, really hard when they're very young and receptive — don't lose focus — because time runs out. It's amazing, not to mention frightening, how soon. — Carol

I wish I had listened more closely to the advice people gave me and then taken their advice as I was raising my kids. How often have we heard it said that the young think they are invincible and that they already know everything? Well, that's often the case with mothers. The cares of life get overwhelming and very good advice gets buried under the effort of just trying to cope. When the kids are grown and your opportunities to use the very

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good advice are gone, you realize that you have missed the boat. It's too late to do anything but share that very good advice with another young mother and pray that she will use it better than you did.

— Marie

Spend lots of time with your kids because (even though everyone says it) time DOES go fast and you won't get those days back when you were too busy to sit down, play with them and enjoy them.

— Lynn

The Bible doesn't have a lot to say about the details of raising children, but it does have a lot to say about how we should treat other people. And (this may come as a surprise to you) — children are "other people." So those things the Bible says about making the most of every opportunity (see Ephesians 5:16 and Colossians 4:5) apply directly to the way you raise your children.

Here are some other verses that speak to the same issue.

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. (Galatians 6:9-10)

Yes, life is stressful, and yes, a day here or a weekend there don't seem to matter much. But the time IS flying by. Don't waste a minute of it.



TIME TOGETHER

Instead of taking time away from your kids to do the things you enjoy, look for ways to involve them.

Like to cook? Make it a habit to invite your kids into the kitchen as "taste testers" and to help with simple tasks.

Have a hobby? One father who liked bird watching brought his young daughter with him. He set a reachable goal for the number of different birds they were trying to see. When she was old

enough, he let her keep the list. (She once wrote down "furry woodpecker" instead of "downy woodpecker"!)

If they reached the goal (and they always did), they stopped on the way home for ice cream. The girl couldn't wait for the next trip.

If you'd like to spend time with your child, we have a fun craft you can make together on the Cubbie Bear Corner page of this newsletter:

PARENTS, here's a fun way to spend some time with your child. (If you wish, photo copy this page onto heavy paper.) Color all the pieces: puppy's body, front and back legs, and tail. Carefully cut them out. Using paper fasteners (or brads), attach the legs and tail to the body as shown. If paper fasteners aren't available, secure them with glue.

