



AT THE CROSS

Hiz Kidz News

October-
December
2017

CHILDREN'S PASTOR: ASHLEY RUTTER

Transformation

In a world filled with clutter, chaos, and confusion, I find myself continually trying to transform the way I think about things. It seems as if our world and more specifically our nation, is experiencing a great divide. Things that were once considered wholesome, right, and good, are now called into question. Ideals and principles that were once held dear and were commonplace in society have become skewed. I've always expected for Christian values to be challenged and put on trial by the world, however, there has been a dramatic shift, even in the last decade, from the world calling the church's values into question, to a place where now the church itself is experiencing division and confusion more than ever before. We're now asking ourselves, "What do we believe?" The church in America has gradually shifted to becoming politically correct instead of *Biblically* correct. Instead of the church changing the world, it seems that the world is changing us. I was thinking about this the other day and trying to determine the underlying causes, when it occurred to me that the Lord never designed us with the capacity to allow so much input from others into our lives. The floodgates of social media have produced an onslaught of opinion into our lives. God never meant for us to have this kind of capacity. Although social media has many benefits and we frequently use this as a means to stay in

touch with loved ones or also utilize these outlets for ministry updates and contacts, I often feel that if we were living in a world 'unplugged' that we would be better off. I think it's important to note that the Lord didn't design your heart, emotions, spirit, and mind to be a dumping ground for thousands of public opinions and agendas. Our overuse and abuse of social media has resulted in some pretty serious side effects. What is the result of inviting so much into our lives and thoughts? Anger. Bitterness. And most notably, division. Think about it for a moment, how many 'Facebook wars' have you witnessed? How many times have you lost respect for someone because of their posts on social media? Although social media can certainly have its perks, don't let it dominate your thought life. Don't let the opinion of others be what shapes you—let the Word of God do that. Let His thoughts and opinions be the ones that rule your heart and govern your mind. I encourage and challenge you today to 'scroll' through the Bible more than you scroll through your newsfeed, because His News is truly the Good news that your heart and mind needs. "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will." Romans 12:2.



White Fall Farm

Hiz Kidz of all ages are invited to a fun-filled day at White Fall Farm in Gretna on Oct. 21st @ 11:00. The cost is \$10 per person and the admission price includes 3 activity tickets. There are plenty of activities for family fun like hay rides, hay maze, farm animals, and a pumpkin patch. Concessions are available, but you may also pack a lunch as well. Since this pumpkin patch isn't far from home, we will meet at the venue @ 6135 Riceville Rd. Gretna. ***Cash and checks are accepted (no debit/credit cards are accepted) at the Farm. Please sign up using your connection card or contact Ashley Rutter for additional information.



Samaritan's Purse: Operation Christmas Child

Looking for a way to bless others in need this Christmas? Hiz Kidz will be participating in Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child. Families who would like to participate are to send a shoebox, selected toys (suggested list will be provided to participating families), gift wrap, and the \$9 shipping label fee with their child to church on Wednesday Nov 8th. Both Hiz Kidz classes will pack and wrap (with assistance) their shoebox. Children's Pastor Ashley Rutter will then collect the boxes to take to a donation center the following week. This will be a hands-on way to encourage your child to give to those less fortunate and serve as an interactive lesson on letting Christ love others through us.



Harvest Party

Please join us on October 31st beginning at 5:30 for our annual Hiz Kidz Harvest Party! Our goal is to let our light for Jesus shine throughout our town. This free event will include inflatables, free prize giveaways, carnival style games, face painting, candy and much more! Last year, we were able to hand out over 700 candy bags, so this year

we will be preparing 1,000! This is a great opportunity to connect with our community—which is the true Harvest! So let's celebrate that we have this amazing opportunity! It takes an army of volunteers and candy to make this community outreach a success, so please contact Ashley Rutter to see how you can help.

An Unplugged Christmas

Does your child have a special talent for acting and singing? Then this year's musical production, *An Unplugged Christmas*, will be something they don't want to miss! We have singing parts for all ages and speaking parts for older children. This year the program will be during our Sunday morning service on December 17th. Please let Ashley Rutter know today if your child would like to use their talents to spread the Good News in a fun and exciting way.

Play Practice Schedule

October 18th @ 6:00

November 1st @ 6:00

November 15th @ 6:00

December 2nd @ 11:00

December 6th @ 6:00

December 13th @ 6:00

December 16th @ 1:00 (Dress Rehearsal)

