

## WATCH YOUR WORDS! HELP KIDS STAND UP AGAINST PROFANITY

Compared to other sins, cursing might seem tame. But Scripture takes a strong stand against sins of the tongue. God makes it clear that obscenities and impurities have no place coming out of the mouths of Christ-followers. Unfortunately, Christian kids often struggle just as much with their words as their unchurched peers do. Infractions range from the ubiquitous and casual use of the f-word to rude, suggestive, and vicious references about other people. "Profane" means "to treat something sacred with abuse, irreverence, or contempt." So when kids use the f-word, they treat something sacred (the act of intercourse) with contempt. Try these approaches to tackle profanity:

- **Ask kids to keep a running tally** of the number of profanities they hear during one day at school or one night of TV-watching. Have them report back; then ask them if they were surprised by what they learned.
- **Tell kids the truth.** Research shows that people who curse are respected less in our society and have fewer deep relationships. Cursing also can cause other people to stumble and violates our calling to love our neighbors as ourselves.
- **Challenge kids to use only "prayer" words.** If they wouldn't use the word in conversation with God, then it isn't appropriate in any other context. Give kids alternative attention-grabbing words that can substitute for profanity.

## THE VIEW

- When Gallup researchers asked 13- to 17-year-olds to rank a long list of "serious behaviors," kids said using profanity in public was the least serious offense of all.
- The Center for Media and Public Affairs found that profanity is used every six minutes on network TV shows, every three minutes in movies, and every two minutes on premium cable shows.
- To combat high-tech gossip, some schools are punishing students for what they post on the Internet after school hours.

## TIPS >>>

**Media editor and screenwriter Bryan Belknap offers these insights into language:**

- **Cursing is akin to unbelief** because it denies Jesus' presence in all things, at all times. Why is speech that's unacceptable for Jesus okay for us?
- **It's impossible to unconditionally love someone using foul language.** Cursing does nothing to communicate grace.
- **Cursing violates the spirit of humility.** Words are a barometer of character and can show an unwillingness to submit to authority.
- **Cursing undermines integrity.** When kids use swear words in

certain situations but not others, they're teaching themselves to play fast-and-loose with their morals.

- **The broader culture still labels foul-talkers as ill-educated, uncreative, and lacking in self-control.** Initial impressions of people who cuss don't include happiness, intelligence, or Christianity.
- **Clean language is the ultimate counterculture rebellion.** Even a 2-year-old can say potty words. The world notices and respects people who refrain from using profanity. All kids want to stand out from the crowd and carve their own path as unique individuals. Clean speech is one way to do it. In fact, pure language might become the new cool.

## PONDER THIS

- What do your own words say about your character, your values, and your relationship with God?
- What sins of the tongue are the most challenging for you? for your teenagers?
- How might your family members be able to hold one another accountable for how they speak?





# GOING DEEPER

Expert Insights for Parents of Teenagers

By Jasper Rains

At [SimplyYouthMinistry.com](http://SimplyYouthMinistry.com), Jasper Rains offers suggestions for ways that adults can use their words wisely, especially in tricky situations:

**Clear the air.** People-pleasers don't want to rock the boat. This is a major way the enemy gets a foothold in relationships. We tend to bottle up our anger until we blow. If you don't lovingly confront an issue right away, it will only fuel anger until you confront in frustration.

Often, things that eventually become major issues start with bad communication and continue to build. Put concerns on the table as

soon as they happen. That clears up misunderstandings and opens the door to speedy reconciliation.

**Speak less.** This may seem like a contradiction to the first point, but sometimes when we're stressed we tend to be too confrontational. We want to put people in their place. We often end up in arguments that only contribute to the problem and don't preemptively lead us to healing.

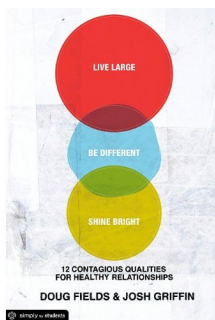
Sometimes the best thing to say is nothing at all. Prayerfully seek when it's right to confront and when it's right to be silent.

**Stop gossiping.** Even if you dress

something up as a "prayer request," talking to others about a frustrating situation shouldn't be your only step. Instead, go to the source of the issue rather than speaking behind other people's backs.

A good rule is to share frustrations with only one person, such as an accountability partner. This will help you release some steam but will also give an opportunity for this person to hold you accountable to making things right while they pray for the situation as a whole.

## RESOURCE



In *Live Large, Be Different, Shine Bright* (Simply Youth Ministry), Doug Fields and Joshua Griffin explore 12 contagious qualities for healthy relationships, including communication.

## BIBLE FOCUS

The tongue is a small thing that makes grand speeches. But a tiny spark can set a great forest on fire. And the tongue is a flame of fire. It is a whole world of wickedness, corrupting your entire body. It can set your whole life on fire, for it is set on fire by hell itself.

**James 3:5-6**

# MEDIA SPOTLIGHT

## MAINSTREAM MUSIC



### THRICE

**Background:** This Orange County band has never been labeled a Christian band, despite the fact that lead singer Dustin Kensrue is a staunch Christian and his lyrics are often straight from the Bible. Their songs deal with topics such as Peter's dark night of betrayal, Christ's invitation for us to take rest in him, and how earth isn't our real home. The music is as deep and thoughtful as the lyrics. Kensrue recently became worship leader at the O.C. branch of Mars Hill Church.

**Albums:** *Major/Minor* (2011), *The Alchemy Index* (2007), *Vheissu* (2005)

**What Thrice Says:** Regarding where he gets inspiration, singer Dustin Kensrue says, "Definitely the Bible; I draw from that a lot. Usually not as the starting point for things, but it is very much where I am rooted. I feel like it speaks to a lot of things.... I'm constantly inspired and challenged by reading it."

**Explore:** Check out Thrice on Spotify or on their mySpace page at [www.myspace.com/thrice](http://www.myspace.com/thrice).

## CHRISTIAN MUSIC



### FAMILY FORCE 5

**Background:** This crunk band incorporates punk, hardcore, R&B, dance, electronica, funk, and rap metal into party songs. It's as crazy as it sounds, but the songs are hits. Three band members are brothers. They've been criticized for using almost no overt references to God or their faith, though they do maintain positive lyrics.

**Albums:** *III* (2011), *Dance or Die* (2008), *Business Up Front/Party In the Back* (2006)

**What Family Force 5 Says:** Regarding the band's Christian image, singer Solomon Olds says, "They want Sandi Patty all over again. They want Amy Grant.... We want to make music that is for God, but at the same time, we want to make music that people enjoy and that they're not turned off by."

**Explore:** Check out their videos at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=zSkzHFUheXA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zSkzHFUheXA).

## MOVIES

**Movie:** *The Three Musketeers*

**Genre:** Action, Adventure, Romance

**Rating:** PG-13

**Synopsis:** A spirited young man named d'Artagnan joins forces with three Musketeers who have rebelled against their order and try to take down the evil forces threatening their land.

**Our Take:** Despite director Paul W.S. Anderson's history of the *Resident Evil* movies, the action here will likely be closer to the recent *Pirates of the Caribbean* films—epic action with a few laughs, but nothing too offensive.

**Movie:** *Real Steel*

**Genre:** Action, Drama

**Rating:** PG-13

**Synopsis:** In this futuristic boxing ex-fighter. He makes a comeback as a trainer for a huge battling robot—and draws close to his estranged young son in the process.

**Our Take:** The premise sounds ridiculous, but this movie looks like it has heart to accompany the special effects.

For more media discussions and ideas, go to [www.MinistryandMedia.com](http://www.MinistryandMedia.com).












## VIDEO GAMES



**Batman: Arkham City**—This is a sequel to one of the best games to come out in recent years. The first game was a blast, with a wide-open world and gameplay that was a super-fun mixture of stealth and fighting. The female villains Harley Quinn and Poison Ivy wore skimpy outfits, so if they make a reappearance, that would be the biggest red flag in an otherwise teenage-friendly game.

**Dark Souls**—This sequel to the cult hit *Demon's Souls* will likely be very similar to that dark, violent action game. The gimmick here is that the game is incredibly hard, and there are no places to save within levels; players die and go all the way back to the beginning. This one isn't for the kiddos.

# OCTOBER 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
						1 Youth Parenting Support Group 7-8:30 p.m. YH yes/no RSVPs needed! Michael Robinson 
2	3 Joe Howard 	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 Collin Benson Emily Wallace  Sr. Youth Gathering Registration Deadline!	13	14	15 1 of 2 Jr. Yth. Early Communion Class 9-11 a.m. with Pastor Kip: sign up on Youth bulletin board!
16	17	18	19 Zach Booth 	20	21	22 2 of 2 Early Communion Class 9-11 a.m. Youth Coffee House 7-10 p.m. Yes/No RSVPs a must!
23/30	24/31	25	26	27	28	29
23: Casey O'Brien  Sydney Brown  30: Judgement House Hudson-sign up on Youth bulletin board by 10/23!	31: Kaleb Ludwig  Sydney Booth 	Ian Marker 	Alli Reiman 	Alex Reed 		

Happy October! We are off to a great start to our Youth year! We have a whopping 76 kids total and right now more than half are participating in either Sunday school, Wednesday Night, or both! Woohoo! If your youth is not attending a Bible study, please stress the importance of your family unit coming, being in God's Word and growing in your faith in Church and Bible study! Such a great example and lesson to teach our kids to help them grow into mature Christian adults! ☺ And, if that doesn't work, we will start text-bombing missing kids on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings...just sayin'. Lol. We care THAT much about your kids being here!

Friends are also such an important part of the teen years. Like I've shared before, I firmly believe that giving our youth the opportunity to have Christian friends here and have a Christian support group in those friends is crucial in helping them in their faith walk. That is why I continue to plan youth events outside of Wednesday night and Sunday school. I want to give the kids more opportunities to be together to strengthen those friendships as well as reaching out and bringing other friends who may not go to church and know Christ to give them a casual and fun way to introduce them to the church and God's love!

So, with that said, and to prevent the youth group from showing up in your driveway if your kid doesn't come to an event, I am getting this newsletter out early to you to give you advance notice of our upcoming events so you can work them into your schedules! ;p Parents please read these monthly newsletters and save the calendars even though, as you hopefully well know, I do also send out this information via the church monthly newsletter as well as my many emails, Facebook reminders, postings on our church website calendar and narthex TV screen, but having the calendar posted just like your regular school calendar does help too. I do need Yes or No RSVPs to all events from everyone so I can plan as efficiently as possible. Maybe's don't work too well when planning on having enough food, drinks, drivers, etc. so I definitely appreciate that courtesy! ☺

Our next Youth Parenting meeting will be **Saturday, OCTOBER 1 from 7-8:30 p.m. at the Youth House!** Meetings are open to all parents of Jr. & Sr. Youth, grades 6-12. Please RSVP to me and if you can bring a snack/beverage to share with the group ☺ Thanks! Soon to come will be a planning meeting on how to further fund our 2013 National Gathering trip to San Antonio as well as meeting with a family/teen counselor from the Chapel in North Canton to answer teen issue questions!

We have a HUGE ministry opportunity with the now Junior and Senior Youth Coffee House! Bring your friends to hang out in a casual, safe place and watch God open up opportunities to share His love with them! October Coffee House will be Saturday, October 22 from 7-10 p.m. Last month's theme was Dancing Pizza Party! We need a theme for this month-please let me know your ideas! ! I would to do a fall theme (hmmmm...maybe we could set up a corn/hale bay maze outside! Lol). We'll see ;p Parent help is needed to collect coffee/snack money, chaperone, etc. Please RSVP! We will not have Coffee House in November due to the Senior Youth Gathering in Columbus and Thanksgiving holiday. We will have our annual Youth Christmas party the first weekend of December followed by A Night in Bethlehem so no coffee house in December either.

\*Speaking of the High school Gathering-registration is now open and you should have received your information packets in your church mailboxes-registration deadline is **OCTOBER 12!** Please let me know if you did not get one!

We will be going to Judgement House this month in Hudson (for more info and to find out why there's an 'e' in Judgement, go to [www.judgementhouse.com](http://www.judgementhouse.com) or [www.tourjh.com](http://www.tourjh.com) ! We will meet at church to carpool up on Sunday, October 30 for the afternoon into the evening. Youth, friends and parent drivers sign up on the youth bulletin board by October 23! I need to confirm our reservation # with JH.

Don't forget to be using [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) as your regular Internet search engine, with Holy Cross North Canton as the beneficiary charity organization. Every search helps our Youth Group get to San Antonio as well as recycling your aluminum cans (drop off in church boiler room), and PaperRetriever bin recycling! Keep 'em coming! Thank you so much for your ongoing support and make sure to give a Happy Birthday and Baptism Anniversary shout-out to those listed above on that all-important calendar! ☺ Looking forward to a great month growing in our faith TOGETHER!!!!!!!!!!

Lorin