

Louisa's thoughts for parents

Did you know that there are 936 weeks between your child's birth and the age of 18? I didn't until I was asked to write a review on a book written by Eryn Lynum. When Eryn received a jar of 936 pennies she realized how quickly children grow up and she decided to live each day intentionally, knowing that it is impossible to slow down time.



Sometimes we get too occupied trying to do our best for our children. We don't want to let them down and will strive to make sure that they are given every opportunity. At the beginning we will read every book, blog and website to make sure they have the best sleeping routine, weaning food and potty contraption. Then as time goes on we will fight for their education rights, make sure they are able to take up any hobby they want, even the ones that only last 3 months. We want them to go through life without seeing the stresses and we want the very best for them, which means that sometimes we will put that stress upon ourselves.

Time changes, I am of that age where as a child more time was spent with me my by parents, rather than me going to sports activities. I was weaned on the same food my parents ate (just mushed down), I ate mud pies and played outside after school. Would you say that the parents didn't do everything they could for their children throughout previous generations? The answer would be no. Every generation does their best, but it is what is expected of them that changes. The pressure many would say that is put on parents now is too much.

During the last three months the thoughts of Eryn Lynum have become more important as many of us have taken a week at a time, our expectations have been less, and even with school work, we have had the opportunity to spend an unusual amount of time with our children. The days of being a taxi service have disappeared and there has been less juggling of dinner time for it not to clash with football, ballet, karate, swimming and so on.

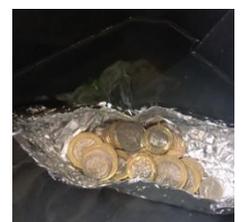
God, who created the Sabbath day knows our so called need for busyness where we live for pressured days and stress-filled days. But He wants more for us. He wants us to know rest, time to enjoy His creation and everything that has been granted to us. We have been given this opportunity, so let's grab it with both hands. Yes we have school and work to balance, but let's take time out and enjoy the cup of tea while watching our children dance around the living room. Slow down and notice the small things, the way you child slurps an ice lolly or the way they chase a butterfly. Noticing these small moments is one of the biggest gifts we can give our children. This is the gift of time. Sometimes when we don't have a plan for the day we feel out of control. John 14:27 says "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." Give you stressed-filled days to God, let Him guide you in enjoying the simple things in the everyday, lock the memory and relax in the comfort that you will be able to share these memories with your children in the years to come.

Louisa's thoughts for the young people

Hi guys

This week for the community challenge I asked you to make a boat and to see how many coins it would take for it to sink.

Well for me it took 23 coins.



The community bit of the challenge was to send all the coins you used to charity. Mine are going to Autism Berkshire. I wonder where yours are going. I have also saved my boat and I am going to continue to fill it with coins for charity.

You never know, perhaps some of the adults reading this will make a boat to save coins.



I thought I could fill you in on the science bit about how things float or not. Did you know that things float if they are less dense than the liquid they are in (in this case water)? If they are denser they sink!!

Adding coins to the boats increased their density and when the density became greater than that of water the boat sank.

There you go, you can now impress your teachers with your knowledge.

I also began to think how amazing creation is. God created everything for us to use, love and look after, but sometimes we forget that even the smallest things are important and clever.

You have just got to take a look at ants and see how they carry items that are so much heavier than they are. Did you know there are over 12,000 ant species and each of them can carry up to 50 x their own body weight? Could you imagine carrying 50 of yourselves?



What interesting thing could you find out about God's creation to share with us?

I nearly forgot. Answers to the riddles last week.

What can you hear, but not see or touch, even though you control it?

Answer: Your Voice

What runs, but never walks, often murmurs - never talks, has a bed, but never sleeps, has a mouth, but never eats?

Answer: A River

What has lots of eyes, but can't see?

Answer: A Potato

I add lots of flavour and have many layers, but if you get too close I'll make you cry.

What am I?

Answer: An Onion

I am often following you and copying your every move. Yet you can never touch me or catch me.

What am I?

Answer: Your Shadow

What has legs, but doesn't walk?

Answer: A Table