

Summer Fun Activities

The time has finally arrived! You've waited 9 months for this day to be here! School is out for the summer!

Hopefully this is a time when families can spend more time together. Everyone knows that summer quickly fills up with ballgames, weekends on the lake, family reunions, and vacation. This year, why not take some time to help your church families to grow together in faith? Turn those family moments together into teachable moments. Below are some ideas to get you started. Offer these to your families in your monthly newsletter or make up your own. Tell families to cut them out and take them to the beach, on vacation, or to a backyard barbeque.

Sonshine

Wake up early and watch a sunrise or catch a sunset before bed. Read Psalm 19 or Genesis 1.

1. Talk about who made the sunrise or sunset.
2. Why do you think God made these?

Cut a circle in the center of a piece of blue paper. Tape a piece of yellow tissue paper over the hole. Hang this in your window and when the sun shines through, remember that God is in control. He cares about the sun and he cares about you!

God's Handiwork

Go outside on a partly cloudy day. Lay on the ground and look at the clouds. Watch for animals, a person, or other fun shapes in the sky. When a family member spots a shape, have him or her describe it to everyone else. Then read Psalm 139.

1. Each of us is unique just like every cloud is different from others. How are you unique from others in your family?
2. How does it make you feel knowing that God knew you even before you were born?
3. Share a prayer thanking God for making each of you different and special.

Starry, Starry Night

Go outside on a starry night. Take along a late night snack, a lawn chair or blanket, a flashlight, and your Bible. Sit outside in peace for a little while looking at the stars. When people start to get restless, read Genesis 15. After reading the story about Abram, or Abraham, talk about the following questions. You could use this activity when you are camping or out on the boat at night.

1. Do you know what a covenant is?
2. What covenant did God make with Abraham?
3. Why was this covenant such a big deal? Do you remember how old Abraham and Sarah were? If not, look up Genesis 17:1 and 17.
4. What can we learn about God from this story?
5. Why does this story help us trust God?

Feast of Booths Celebration

The Jews celebrate the "Feast of Booths." They did something special to help them remember God's care for them. For seven days God's people lived in booths, or tents. They remembered how God had brought them out of Egypt long ago. They remembered how their families had lived in tents in the desert.

Have you ever had a party to remember a special event? Maybe you could have your own Feast of Booths. Put up a tent in your yard. Spend some time inside it. Think of how God has taken care of your family and has given you a home to live in. Even without a tent, you can still remember all the good things God has done for you.

(From The Little Kids' Adventure Bible)

Use these questions if you would like:

1. Think of your favorite party memory. Share with your family.
2. Think about the past few months. What are some ways that God has provided for you?
3. Have you had a prayer answered lately? Share this with each other.
4. Name a few things God has done for you and for which you are thankful.

Nature Talk

Go to your favorite nature spot. Maybe that spot is on the lake, in the woods, in the mountains, or at your favorite park. Use these questions or come up with your own.

(From Funtastic Family Nights)

1. What do you like about this spot?
2. What is mysterious or interesting to you?
3. What are your earliest memories about being out in nature?
4. Read Psalm 8.
5. How important are you to God according to this psalm?
6. Say a prayer having everyone complete this sentence:
Lord, you have blessed me in my family by...