




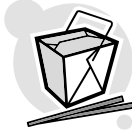








SUMMER TIME—TOGETHER TIME

A Calendar of Family Activities

<p>Celebrate God's gift of time. Make a plan to spend intentional time together during a busy summer. Write out your plans and post them in your home.</p> 	<p>Ice Cream Night! Go to your local ice cream shop, grocery store, or make your own—and eat it (with plenty of napkins handy)!</p> 	<p>Remember the past times you've had together by looking back at photo albums, home movies, or just remembering aloud some of the family stories.</p>	<p>Read Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 aloud. Offer a prayer, giving each family member a chance to add their own thoughts.</p>	<p>Game Night! Play a game, or several, together. You may discover a family favorite.</p> 	<p>Eat a meal with family members—breakfast, lunch, or dinner. Say a prayer of thanks for each person.</p>	<p>Movie Night! Watch or rent a movie the whole family will enjoy. Consider looking for a "classic" that will seem new to some members of the family.</p> 
<p>Celebrate God's great gift of creation. Go outside and make a list of the kinds of bugs, flowers, trees, and other parts of creation that you see.</p>	<p>Starry, Starry Night! Find a place where you can see at least one star in the evening sky. Say a prayer of thanks to God for all of the time that has passed since it was created.</p> 	<p>Using the word "creator" spelled vertically down the side of a piece of paper, write a word of adoration for God using each letter.</p>	<p>Find a place outside to enjoy a meal together. Celebrate the weather.</p> 	<p>Make a used paper towel tube into a telescope by wrapping plastic wrap around one end, secured with a rubber band. Take turns looking through the tube for other items that could be recycled. Commit to taking care of God's world.</p>	<p>Read the story of creation (Genesis 1). Make a list of all the things your family loves about God's creation.</p> 	<p>Water Day! Enjoy watermelon, a tall glass of ice water, and play in a sprinkler (or even the bathtub) wearing bathing suits.</p>
<p>Celebrate God's gift of love. Spend as much time with others as possible today. Participate in your favorite family activities.</p> 	<p>Ask each family member to write their name on a paper heart. Circulate the hearts and have each person write two things they love about each family member as they receive their heart.</p>	<p>As a family, find something special to do for someone you love. It may be making a phone call, sending an email, or taking them to lunch.</p>	<p>Create a greeting card that represents your family. Send it to someone, just because you love them.</p> 	<p>Read the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:29-37) and take a walk around your neighborhood or living space.</p>	<p>Make a banner to post on your front door. Consider making it a welcome banner that reflects the love that a visitor might find inside. You may choose to include a Bible verse that seems appropriate.</p>	<p>Make cookies together and deliver them to a neighbor who needs some special love today.</p> 
<p>Celebrate by giving thanks to God. Plan to participate in activities during the next week that highlight the many gifts with which each family member has been blessed.</p>	<p>Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 and talk together about how your family is similar to the body of Christ. Say a prayer of thanks for the importance of each person.</p>	<p>Make a family shield or crest that includes a section celebrating each family member's special gifts (i.e. soccer, drawing, singing, humor)</p> 	<p>Go through an area of your living space that is shared by family members. Find items that could be donated for use by others who have less. Say a prayer of thanks for all that you have been given.</p>	<p>Do something new! Find an activity in which family members don't often participate. Someone may discover a hidden talent.</p> 	<p>Create a family prayer that lists the many things for which each family member is thankful. Post this prayer in a place that family members pass throughout the day.</p>	<p>Turn off the TV for the day and engage in an activity that family members find fun. Thank God for the gift of laughter and family!</p> 