



**CHALLENGE
PACKET**

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Bible/Hymnal Challenge

This challenge will take you through the Bible and will introduce you to parts of our hymnal you may not be familiar with. We encounter God's Word in the Bible, music, and prayer. Use these clues to complete quotes of Martin Luther. Some quotes are shorter, so younger participants can help, and some are more difficult, intended to challenge the more mature in your group! There are a couple that use only the Bible- B (NRSV translation), a couple that use only the hymnal- H, and some that include both books- B&H. Have fun hearing what Luther has to say!!!

Please note that if you need to borrow an NRSV Translation of the Bible or a Hymnal, please let us know! We'll get you one!

1. a _____ and let b _____ c _____. (B)
 - a. Exodus 8:8, 9th word
 - b. Genesis 1:1, 5th word
 - c. Matthew 6:25, 7th word
2. a _____ is a b _____, c _____ d _____ in God's e _____, so sure and f _____ that a g _____ could stake his life on it a h _____ times. (B&H)
 - a. #812, title, 1st word
 - b. #477, title, 4th word
 - c. 2 Corinthians 10:2, 14th word
 - d. Job 11:18, 5th word
 - e. #337, 2nd verse, 2nd line, 3rd word
 - f. 1 Corinthians 15:31, 8th word
 - g. Numbers 1:10, 2nd word
 - h. #886, title, 4th word
3. a _____ is b _____ c _____. (H)
 - a. #648, verse 1, 2nd line, 2nd word
 - b. p1163, First Petition, 1st answer, 5th word
 - c. p109, 1st line after music in middle of page, 5th word
4. The a _____ the b _____, the c _____ the d _____. (B&H)
 - a. Leviticus 25:16, 16th word
 - b. Proverbs 16:24, 2nd word
 - c. 1 John 4:4, 19th word
 - d. #742, verse 1, 2nd line, last word

5. If you a_____ b_____ were c_____, the d_____ couldn't do e_____ to you, but since you aren't f_____, you need us who are g_____. (B&H)

- a. Deuteronomy 32:11, 12th word
- b. Leviticus 21:10, 18th word
- c. #687, verse 1, last line, 2nd word
- d. #378, verse 2, 1st line, 6th word
- e. Ecclesiastes 3:14, 16th word
- f. James 3:13, 3rd word
- g. #652, verse 1, 3rd line, 8th word

6. Be thou a_____, b_____ c_____, thou too in d_____ shall have a e_____ f_____ g_____. (B)

- a. Ruth 2:13, 18th word
- b. Philippians 4:12, 8th word
- c. 2 Peter 2:22, 12th word
- d. Revelation 20:6, 11th word
- e. Luke 5:3, 20th word
- f. Numbers 4:11, 3rd word
- g. Isaiah 19:15, 4th word

7. a_____ is the b_____ of the c_____ and the d_____ of e_____. (H)

- a. #763, verse 2, 1st line, 11th word
- b. #856, title, last word
- c. p19, Third Sunday of Advent, 2nd prayer, 2nd line, 8th word
- d. #377, verse 3, 4th line, 1st word
- e. #733, verse 1, 1st line, 6th word

8. a_____ that I may not b_____ c_____ with the d_____;
e_____ me that I may f_____ from the g_____ of my h_____. (B&H)

- a. Jeremiah 42:12, 3rd word
- b. 1 Samuel 7:5, 12th word
- c. #758, verse 1, 1st line, 7th word
- d. #723, verse 3, last line, 1st word
- e. Acts 12:9, 18th word
- f. Psalm 116:4, 13th word
- g. #605, verse 4, 1st line, 4th word

h. #473, 1st line (English), 5th word

9. Our a_____ has b_____ c_____ of d_____, not in e_____ alone, but in every f_____ g_____ -h_____. (B)

- a. Psalm 23, 2nd word
- b. 2 Kings 20:20, 28th word
- c. Haggai 2:5, 4th word
- d. John 11:24, 14th word
- e. Ecclesiastes 12:12, 11th word
- f. Job 13:25, 6th word
- g. 1 Thessalonians 2:3, 6th word
- h. Titus 1:3, 3rd word

10. Next to the a_____ of b_____, the c_____ d_____ of e_____ is the f_____ g_____ in the h_____. (B&H)

- a. #661, verse 2, last line, last word
- b. #482, verse 1, 1st line, 8th word
- c. Psalm, 16:3, 12th word
- d. 1 Chronicles 15:28, 28th word
- e. #863, title, last word
- f. Matthew 13:32, 17th word
- g. #775, title, last word
- h. John 1:10, 5th word

11. Even if I a_____ that b_____ the c_____ would go to d_____, I would e_____ my f_____ g_____. (B&H)

- a. Mark 1:34, 27th word
- b. Proverbs 27:1, 5th word
- c. #709, verse 2, 1st line, 8th word
- d. Luke 9:17, last word
- e. #516, verse 3, 1st line, 9th word
- f. Song of Solomon 2:5, 8th word
- g. #337, verse 2, 1st line, last word

Bible Baking Challenge

Find each ingredient by looking up the scripture reference and filling in the blank. (Check your answers at the bottom of the page before making the cookies.)

1/2 cup "When my steps were washed with _____" (Job 29:6).

3/4 cup "You have not bought me _____ with money..." (Isaiah 43:24).

1 "... and as one gathers _____ that have been forsaken..." (Isaiah 10:14).

1/2 teaspoon "... to bring you pure (lemon) _____ of beaten olives..." (Exodus 35:8).

1 3/4 cups "You shall take choice _____, and bake twelve loaves of it;" (Leviticus 24:5).

3/4 teaspoon "Then they understood that he had not told them to beware of the * _____ of bread, ..." (Galatians 5:9). **an alternative ingredient for this*

1/4 teaspoon "You are the _____ of the earth" (Matthew 5:13).

1 cup "..., their root is _____ up, they shall bear no _____." (Hosea 9:16).

1. Wash your hands and ask an adult to preheat the oven to 400°F (205°C).
2. Mix first four ingredients together.
3. Mix in remaining ingredients.
4. Roll dough into 1-inch (2.5-cm) balls and place on an ungreased baking sheet.
5. Flatten balls with fork, first one way and then the other, making a crisscross pattern.
6. Bake 8 to 10 minutes.

Answers:

- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of milk
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup sugar (sweet cane)
- 1 egg
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon of lemon oil or extract
- $1 \frac{3}{4}$ cup of flour
- $\frac{3}{4}$ teaspoon baking soda
- $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon salt
- 1 cup of dried fruit (your choice - mangos, cranberries, apricots, raisins, cherries, etc.)

Sermon Notes Challenge (Not Just for Confirmation!)

Many students who were confirmed in the last few decades know what a "sermon note" is. Here are some new ways to look at sermon notes. Think of them more as family worship reflections. These are ways for your family to listen and look during a worship service in different styles.

Check out a few of the different types of sermon/worship notes below. There are some that require some real thought, and some that just need simple observations. There are even some styles for families with younger children including counting and drawing! Feel free to make your own as well!

Look them over and see what works for you. Each person can turn one in, or you can do it as a family. Do one on a Sunday or choose a different kind each time you're participating in worship.

Date: _____

Sermon Title: _____

Speaker: _____

songs We Sang/Heard:

Bible Verses I heard:

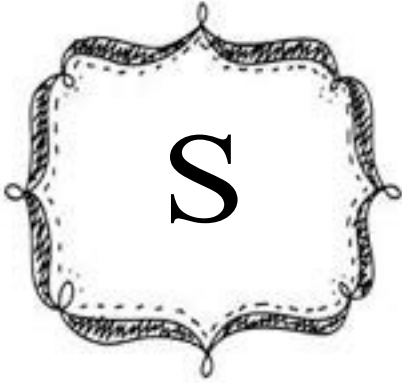
Things I learned:

Questions I have:

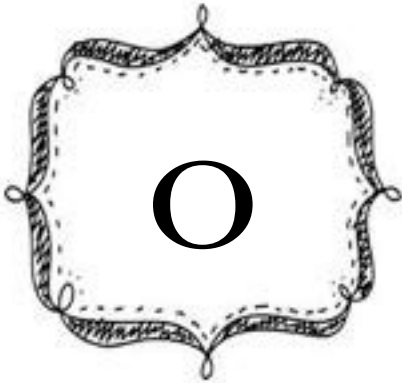
Date: _____

Sermon Title: _____

Speaker: _____

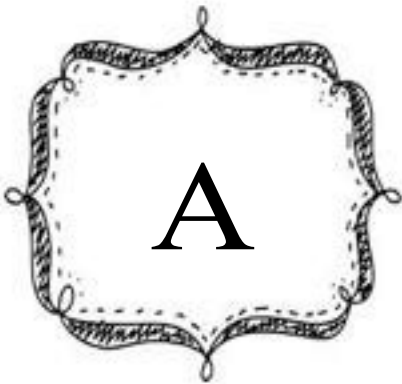


Scripture:



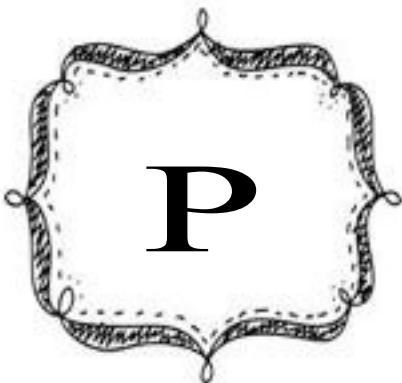
Observation:

**What do you observe in the passage? Who is speaking?
Where are they? What is happening?**



Application:

**What have you learned? How can you apply this Scripture
to your life this week?**



Prayer:

*Main
Idea*

Date: _____

Sermon Title: _____

Speaker: _____

*B
ible Verses*

*Things I Want
to
Remember*

*Words I Don't
Know:*

Questions??

Christmas in "July" Challenge

The Nativity scene. The tree decorated with ornaments and lights. Silent Night playing in the background. WAIT, IT'S SUMMER! Who doesn't wish the happiness and loving holiday spirit would last all year long? Here is a fun way for you to celebrate the birth of our Savior, but in a different way, and at a different time of the year!

Basically, do stuff you'd do if you were preparing for December 25.

- Decorate the house, yard, and/or tree
- Listen to your favorite Christmas music
- Dress in silly elf attire, or colors of the Christmas season
- Bake holiday food and treats
- Watch your favorite Christmas movies

Check out this Pinterest board for lots of ideas:

<https://www.pinterest.com/lepperdchef/christmas-in-july/>

- Christmas coloring pages
- Game ideas
- Art projects
- Decorating ideas

Celebrate any time this summer, it doesn't have to be in July! Do it for a day, a few days, or a whole week! Anytime you can celebrate the REAL reason for Christmas is a good thing. Here are some ways to experience the Christmas story:

- Read the birth narratives in the Bible:
 - Matthew 1:18-2:15
 - Luke 1:26-56, 2:1-40
- Set out a Nativity scene in your home, and talk about each piece as you put it out.
- Think of things you do for others during the Christmas season, and do them at some point during the summer, as part of this challenge.
- Have your own candlelight Christmas worship service. Sing hymns, read lessons from Isaiah, and Luke, and then light a candle to remember that Jesus is the light of the world.

Zoo/Aquarium Scavenger Hunt

Go visit a Zoo or an Aquarium. You can do it in person or virtually using some of the links below! Use the following scavenger hunt to enhance your experience and try to find time during or after your visit to do one of the devotions.

Zoo Animal Cams:

- **San Diego Zoo:** <https://zoo.sandiegozoo.org/live-cams>
(Hippo, Platypus, Baboon, Panda, Penguin, Polar Bear, Ape, Tiger, Elephant, Giraffe, Burrowing Owl, Koala, Condor)
- **San Diego Zoo: Kid Activities, Learning Videos, Games:**
<https://kids.sandiegozoo.org/>
- **Monterey Bay Aquarium:** <https://www.montereybayaquarium.org/animals/live-cams>
(Aviary, Coral Reef, Jelly, Kelp Forest, Monterey Bay, Moon Jelly, Open Sea, Penguin, Sea Otter, Shark)
- **Zoo Atlanta:** <https://zooatlanta.org/panda-cam/>
(Panda)
- **Houston Zoo:** <https://www.houstonzoo.org/explore/webcams/>
(Giraffe Feeding Platform, Gorilla, Elephant, Leafcutter Ant, Rhino, Chimp, Flamingo)
- **Georgia Aquarium:** <https://www.georgiaaquarium.org/webcam/beluga-whale-webcam/>
(Beluga, California Sea Lion, Piranha, Jelly, Barrier Reef, African Penguin, Ocean Voyager, Sea Otter, Gator Crossing)
- **Zoo Cameras Around the World:** <https://zoo cameras around the world.com/live-zoo-cameras/>
(Pick your Animal)

Scavenger Hunt:

<u>Things to Find</u>	<u>What I found</u>
An animal that is smaller than you	
An animal playing with another animal	
An animal eating	
A baby animal	
An animal that hops	
An animal that has no fur	
An animal with more than 2 colors	
An animal that lives in a cold climate	
An animal that lives in a hot climate	
An animal getting a bath	
An animal that begins with the letter "G"	
An animal that lives in water	
A caretaker cleaning an animal's home	
An animal that is swimming	
An animal with stripes	
A species of animal that could live over 100 years	
An animal resting in the shade	
An animal with spots	
An animal running	
An animal in a tree	
An animal you could see in Australia	
Add your own:	

Zoo Devotion #1:

After Adam and Eve left the garden, many people were born. The people kept doing bad things and they forgot about God.

Except Noah. Noah Loved God.

God was sad that everyone, but Noah, forgot about God. God told Noah about a plan to start over. "Make yourself an ark," God said. "Here's how." So, Noah and his family began working on the ark.

When it was done, God said, "Take your family and two of every animal into the ark." Animals crept, crawled, hopped, and galloped onto Noah's new boat.

After everyone was inside, the rain began to fall. And fall. And fall. The ark rocked this way and that way on the rising water. Finally, the rain stopped. Water covered everything! Everyone inside the ark was safe. Noah and his family were very happy.

One day, Noah sent a dove to find land. It flew and flew but never found any. So, it came back. One week later, Noah sent the dove out again. This time it brought him an olive leaf. Noah cheered, "It must have found land!"

The ark finally came to rest on the top of a mountain. God told Noah to leave the ark. Noah and his family praised God. God put a beautiful rainbow in the sky. It was a sign of God's promise to never flood the whole earth again.

This is the story of Noah and his big floating "zoo." He built an enormous boat, called an ark, just because God told him to do it.

God told Noah to do something that, to a lot of people, didn't make much sense. A lot of people told Noah he was silly for building a big boat, but God didn't think Noah was silly. God knew Noah was a good man who believed in Him. God sent all the animals to Noah to go on the ark, and when it was time for the rain to come, God closed the door on the boat so Noah and his family would all be safe inside.

Sometimes when God tells us to do something, other people won't know why. When we do nice things for others, or tell people about Jesus, others might not know

why we do them. But God knows why. He knows that we do what He tells us because we love him, just like Noah did. Let's pray.

Dear God, we thank you for all that you do for us. We know that when we have faith in you, you will always be there for us. Just like Noah, we want to have faith in you to do things that others won't understand, because we love you. Amen.

Zoo Devotion #2:

Monkeys and humans share many traits. One of them is curiosity. Like monkeys, we love to question, discover, and explore. Curiosity is the key to discovering God and God's will. When we seek God, we will find God, and when we do, God will make the purpose of our life clear. Curiosity is the key to finding the adventure God has in store for our lives.

Talk about this: If monkeys could actually have a monkey business, what business would they open?

One of the most entertaining exhibits in any zoo has to be the monkeys. Monkeys are fun to watch because they're so active. On a good day you'll see them flipping from tree to tree using all four limbs and their tails. You'll see a pair some place in the exhibit picking and eating bugs off each other, and you'll see several of them munching on fruits - including the ever popular banana. Monkey exhibits are always full of ropes, tires, runnels, nets, and toys. Why? Because monkeys like to have fun! They love to explore, and they are very curious creatures.

Curiosity is just one of many traits we share with monkeys. Curiosity is a God-given trait that has led to hundreds of scientific discoveries. Curiosity led us to explore the dark jungles, the deepest oceans, and even outer space. Curiosity causes us to ask why, to break things down into parts, and to discover what makes people tick. Curiosity also leads us to the Bible. In the Bible, we can satisfy our curiosity about a number of big questions: Who are we? Who made us? Why did they make us? Why are we the way we are? Spiritual curiosity can lead us to discover God's plan for our lives and to make a difference in the world. Believe it

or not, you don't have to be grown up to have that impact either. Even a child can change their community in the name of our Lord.

Talk about this: Read this story about a boy who became king.

(Read 2 Kings 22 for the whole story!)

There was a boy named Josiah, and at the young age of eight, he became king of Judah. Judah was the southern kingdom of Israel, and for several generations before Josiah, Judah was ruled by a series of wicked kings. These men led the people of God in the worshipping of false gods and idols. God became angry with Judah and had sent prophets to warn the people that a time of judgment was coming. Josiah's father only ruled two years before his own officials assassinated him, and Josiah was named king.

What would it feel like to be king at such a young age?

We don't know who influenced Josiah to follow the Lord. Whether it was his mother or his advisors, Josiah took a different direction than the one that killed his father. He chose to be like his ancestor David - the king who, as a boy, had killed Goliath. He chose to serve the Lord. Josiah's desire to please God led him to rebuild the temple.

The temple, built by David's son Solomon, was the center of worship in Jerusalem. It was once a beautiful place where the God of Israel was honored and remembered. By the time Josiah took the throne, the temple was in terrible condition. Josiah gave the word, and the finest craftsmen in all the land were assembled to do the work.

It's sad to think that God's Word had been completely lost, but according to this story, it was! The workers in the temple found it, and for the first time in generations, God's Word was read in the palace of the king. Only then did Josiah realize fully how wicked his people had become. He tore his clothes - a sign of great anguish and regret in that time - and begged the priest to ask the Lord for mercy. The Lord knew the people were too far-gone, and his mind was already made up, but he promised that he would not bring his judgment during the reign of

Josiah. Josiah was grateful, and he went to work bringing his people back to the Lord.

Why do you think Josiah continued to bring his people to the Lord? What kinds of things do you think helped him do that?

Josiah shows us what happens when curiosity leads us to God's Word. First, we get to know the one true God. Josiah had no idea who God really was until he heard the Word of the Lord for himself.

Second, when we are curious about the Lord, we hear from Him ourselves. When Josiah inquired of the Lord, the Lord responded. He gave Josiah a message through the priest, letting Josiah know he had heard his prayer and giving Josiah the promise to withhold his judgment.

Third, when we are curious about the Lord, we will find his plan for our lives. God led Josiah to restore the nation of Judah to their God. He destroyed all the idols and reestablished the faith given to his ancestors.

God can use each of you in the same way. Whether you are eight, eighteen, or eighty, God can use you to share his love with other people. If you seek God in the Bible, you will find him. He will answer you, and he will show you who he is. What's more, he will show you his plan for your life. Each one of us is unique, and God has a plan for your life as unique as you are. All it takes to find that plan is a little curiosity.

A prayer: Dear God, Thank you for Josiah, and for showing us the power of curiosity. Give us the same curiosity to discover who you are and what your plans are, and give us the courage to follow you on our own adventure. In Jesus' name, Amen

Hiking Challenge

Here is a devotion to use while you are trekking through the forest, hoofing it over trails, maybe even running through the meadows! You can adapt this to your family comfort level, and do as much or as little of it as you want. This could take just a few minutes, or it can be done to give yourself a nice break. Read through it before you go on your hike, so you know what to expect, and bring a pen or pencil to record your thoughts. This devotion is adapted from the book Earth trek: Celebrating and Sustaining God's Creation, by Joanne Moyer. (If you want to go deeper, we suggest getting the book!)

Let's begin by reviewing the creation story:

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.

Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, **the first day**.

And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters."- **the second day**

And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was good. - **the third day**

And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night." - **the fourth day**

And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." - **the fifth day**.

And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind."

It was good: the light, the sky, the land, the waters were good. The plants the fish, the birds, the animals were good. But creation was not complete.

Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over all the earth. So God created humankind male and female he created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." **the sixth day**

Question: What has happened since we took over the earth, as God instructed us to do?

Unfortunately, we have not always taken very good care of the earth. Destruction, pollution, and extermination are all issues we have created. BUT- even though we are not always great care-takers of Creation, we can't take away the goodness of what God has made, nor walk away from our calling as creatures made in God's image.

Here are some things to discuss during this devotional time:

- God loves all creation: God delights in and cares for the creatures of the earth. What are some ways you can care for the earth?

- Creation reveals God's character: Through creation itself, God's character is experienced, and all creation gives praise to God. Wilderness places offer close encounters with God, and can test us and give us rest. How do you experience God in his creation?

- Creation belongs to God: God reigns over the earth, and all it produces is a gift from God. Name some things that come from the earth that are gifts from God.
-
-

- Humans are an inseparable part of God's creation: Our connection to creation is told when God forms Adam from the dust of the ground, and the fact that we share our creation day with the creation of animals. What are some ways we depend on or are connected to animals?
-
-

- Humans have a responsibility within creation: We were made in the image of God, and that gives us both privilege and responsibility in regards to creation. It is a stewardship, serving creation under the rule of God. Name some responsibilities we have in caring for creation.
-
-

- Jesus cares for creation: Through his teaching, his simple lifestyle, his concern for the weak and poor, and his attitude of service and humility, Jesus shows care for creation and a creation-friendly way to live. How do we show a care for creation?
-
-

Here is a prayer to end your devotion time together:

Creator God, Help us be gentle with your creatures and handiwork so that we may abide in your eternal salvation and continue to be held in the love of your creative hand. Amen

Gross Food Challenges

Use these ideas for some messy fun with your faith! Be sure to take pictures of your messes!

Spell it!

Get a few cans of alphabet soup, or for a less messy option, a box of *Alphabits* cereal. Use the letters in the food to write these sentences:

- The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog
(This sentence uses every letter in the alphabet!)
- Spell your name(s)
- Jesus loves me
- Amazing grace how sweet the sound
- This little light of mine I'm gonna let it shine
- For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life

Come up with at least 3 sentences of your own!

Egg roulette

Eggs are a symbol of Christianity because they symbolize new life, and rising from the tomb. While we may not always think about them in this way, they can still be a good way to talk about the resurrection.

This is fun, with a possibility of mess... If you can spare one dozen eggs (or more if you have a larger group), this is a silly game to play! Make sure you are somewhere that you can clean up eggs easily! Here is what you do: Boil 9 eggs out of the dozen. Cool them completely, and put them back in the carton, randomly placing the raw eggs in the carton also. Each person participating selects an egg, then smashes it on their own forehead. Who gets the raw egg?!

Banana Split & Slide

Everyone remembers their very first slip and slide out in the yard on a hot summer day. Water is always a powerful reminder of our baptisms, but that's not what you will use to slide over! Here's the variation.

Get approximately 50 feet of plastic tarp and items that would be found on a banana split (ice cream, strawberry syrup, caramel syrup, chocolate syrup, banana pieces and maraschino cherries). Pile items on top of the tarp and spread it out. Add a little cooking oil for extra slip and slide. Line up and take off one at a time!

Banana Split Feet

This is one game that will cool you off and gross you out all at the same time. Here's what you do.

You need partners for this one! Set several tubs of ice cream and condiments in front of one of the partners that they will use to make a Banana Split. Make sure to include three flavors of ice cream, bananas, chocolate syrup, nuts, whip cream, and of course, some cherries.

One partner will make the banana split, and one will eat it. Here's the catch. (Isn't there always a catch?) *

The "making" partner has to make the "eating" partner's banana split using their bare feet! After the "making" partner has taken off their socks and shoes, let them loose on the ingredients, giving them a set amount of time to make the treat, and a set amount of time to eat the treat!

NOTE #1: Make sure the ice cream is fairly soft, or else the game will flop because they won't be able to get it out with their feet.

NOTE #2: You can do this so one makes and one eats, then they flip flop roles, or have both partners each make the treat for the other, and both eat at the same time!

*an alternative option if you don't want to use feet is to simply have the maker be blindfolded while they make the banana split for their partner.

Banana Surgery

This needs bananas, string, pins, tape... whatever you might use to put things together. Have each participant peel and cut up a banana into equal parts. (Don't tell them what comes next until they're done.) Then tell them they must put the banana back together using pins, needles, tape, or whatever. Then take pictures of everyone's "Frankenstein bananas!"

The point: Things taken apart or broken (trust, relationships, reputations, etc.) aren't as easily put back together. You can try to piece them back together, but it may not ever be the same, and will probably have some scars. When we treat each other with Christian love and respect, we can avoid the brokenness that comes from cruel actions (being mean) or apathy (not caring), and can maybe help heal those who have been hurt.

Bobbing For Toast

For a team of 3, you will need:

- a kiddie pool, or tarp
- 2-3 boxes of Cinnamon Toast Crunch cereal
- swimming cap, or shower cap
- jar of creamy peanut butter

Pour out the cereal into the kiddie pool, or over the tarp. Have the smallest member of the team put on a swim cap. The other team members need to be able to pick the smallest member up by the legs and hold upside-down. Have those two members spread the peanut butter on the swimming cap.

When everyone is ready, count down from 5 and have the team try to get as many pieces of Cinnamon Toast Crunch stuck to the swim cap as they possibly can. **DON'T DROP THE PERSON** you are holding! Pick a time limit- 30 seconds, 1 min, etc. This would be fun to do with a few teams as a competition!

Bobbing For Worms

Outdoor or indoor (lay tarp if inside). Similar to Bobbing for Apples, only with gummy worms in a kiddie swimming pool.

Fill the kiddie pool with water. Add one bag of gummy worms, which will sink to the bottom. Have participants take turns at bobbing for the worms. The person who can get and keep the most worms in their mouth during their one minute try time wins. You can have the youth wear goggles to protect eyes. If playing with younger kids, have them see how long it takes them to gather and eat 5 worms, instead of holding the worms in their mouth!

Bologna Artists

Remember cutting out "snowflakes" from folded paper in kindergarten? Well this challenge takes on that same idea only using a piece of bologna instead of paper and using only your teeth instead of scissors!

Each artist is given a piece of bologna. (Thicker pieces hold up better once finished!) Each artist has 1 minute to create a snowflake design out of their piece of bologna.

After the time limit is up, share your "bologna snowflakes" with each other. It's really funny to see the faces of those who are biting off pieces of bologna...some like it and eat it and some make some fun faces!

Cake Head

Mix a cake on the head - yes, directly on the head - of a brave volunteer who will be a good sport if their hair gets messed up. Just dump it all on their head. Use cake mix, eggs, water, oil, and icing. Mmm, yummy! Lathers up good, too!

The Point: This is sort of an illustration for a talk about faith and deeds. You wouldn't want to actually bake the cake you just mixed on that person's head, right? You'd want to do it in a bowl. Think of Christ as the bowl! Without Christ as the foundation of a life, we can have all the right ingredients in our lives (church, Bible study, Christian friends, etc.), but they won't matter. If we don't have the right foundation, all that great stuff is useless.

Science Experiments Challenge

Some people don't think of science when they think of the Bible or their faith. Think of it this way: science answers the "how," and faith answers the "who and why." Here are a handful of fun science experiments to try with your family that help illustrate ideas and truths we encounter in the Bible and the everyday world around us. These are easy experiments, but a few are included that might be a little more difficult or messy. Make sure to practice good safety with goggles and gloves when necessary, and always have some adult supervision! Please note that these science experiments are written in a way that you can teach them to your children. Enjoy the conversations!

These experiments are taken from the book: 77 Fairly Safe Science Activities for Illustrating Bible Lessons by Donald B DeYoung. If you have fun with these, and want to try more, we encourage you to check out the book!

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Science Experiment 1. Nifty Knitting (Grades K-6)

Kids will learn that they're uniquely created by God.

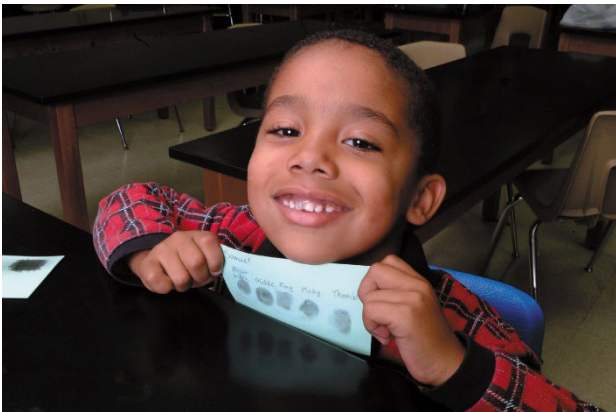
"For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb" ([Psalm 139:13](#)).

You'll need:

- a dark-colored plate made of pottery or glass,
- a half-eaten cookie,
- talcum powder,
- a small soft paintbrush,
- pencils,
- 3×5 cards,
- Scotch tape,
- baby wipes, and
- a Bible.

The Experiment

Before you begin, place a half-eaten cookie on the plate. Then make very clear fingerprints on the top of the plate. Make sure no one else touches the plate.



As the kids enter the room, say: **Someone has mysteriously eaten the cookie on this plate! I'm going to need your help to figure out who ate my cookie.**

Ask:

- **What's one thing that each person has and no two are alike? (fingerprints!)**

Say: **Let's get to work solving our mystery.**

Remove the cookie and have a child lightly sprinkle talcum powder on the plate. Have a second child use the soft paintbrush to lightly brush the talcum powder across the plate.

Ask:

- **What did the powder reveal?**

Say: **We all have a little oil on our fingers, and we leave that oil on everything we touch. In this case, the oil left behind fingerprints! Each of us has a different fingerprint; it's part of what makes us special. Let's make pictures of our unique fingerprints.**

Fingerprint Testing

Give each child two 3×5 cards, a pencil, and 10 one-inch pieces of tape. Say: **Rub your pencil on one of your cards to make a dark smudge the size of your fingertip. After you've done that, rub your fingertip over the smudge until your fingertip is completely silver. Press one piece of tape to that fingertip. Then take the tape off your finger and stick it on your other card. Label your print with which finger it is and which hand it came from. Continue this process until you've made a print of each finger on both hands.**

While the kids do this, make a set of your fingerprints. When kids are finished, give them baby wipes to wash their fingers.

Then ask:

- **What do you notice about your fingerprints?**
- **Do they look like the fingerprints of the person sitting next to you?**
- **What's the same and what's different?**

The Science Behind Fingerprints

Say: **The science of identifying fingerprints is called dactylography. People who investigate crimes use fingerprints to help capture criminals because no two prints are alike. One of the ways your fingers got those little prints on them is from moving around in your mother's womb. That's where God formed you, and you grew there until it was time for you to be born. All of your movements in the womb made those little swirls on your fingers.**

Read aloud [Psalm 139:13](#). Then say: **God was working on your uniqueness even before you were born. Now let's try to figure out which one of God's special creations ate my cookie. Let's try to match someone's fingerprints with the ones on the plate.**

Kids will discover that the fingerprints are yours. Ask:

- **How did you figure out that the prints belonged to me?**
- **How are my fingerprints different from yours?**

Say: **I'm glad God made our fingerprints so different and special!**

Science Experiment 2. Full of Life (Grades 3 & Up)

Kids will learn that Jesus desires for us to have full lives.

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full” (John 10:10).

Kids will learn that Jesus desires for us to have full lives.

You'll need:

For each child you'll need:

- a large marshmallow,
- a marker,
- a small glass iced tea or juice bottle with an opening slightly larger than the marshmallow (or one for every two children to share),
- a small piece of clay, and

- a straw.
- a Bible.

The Experiment

Give each child a marshmallow and a marker. Tell kids to draw faces on the flat end of their marshmallows.

Say: **We're going to do an experiment to see how much pressure your marshmallow face can take.**

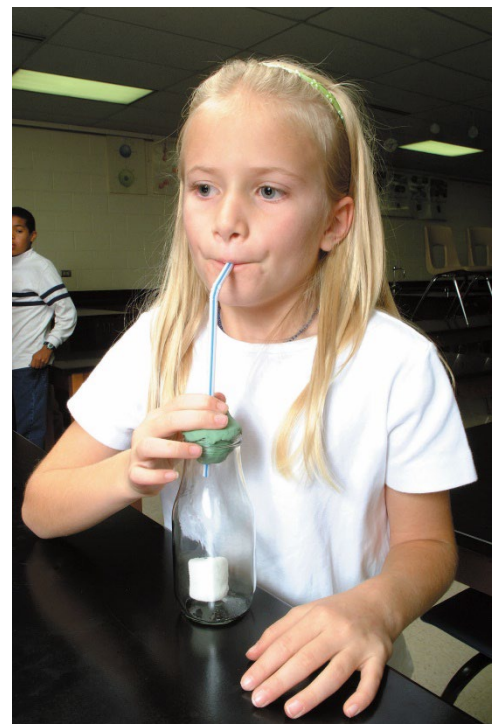
Give a glass bottle to each child. Tell kids to drop their marshmallows into the glass bottles. Give each child a lump of clay and a straw. Show kids how to wrap the clay 1 inch from one end of the straw so the clay forms a ring around the end of the straw. Have each child place the short end of the straw in the bottle so the clay prevents the straw from dropping into the bottle. Then have each child press the clay tightly around the mouth of the bottle so no air can get in or out.

Say: **Your marshmallow face is plump and 'full of life.'**

Ask:

- **What do you think will happen to the faces if you blow air into the bottle through the straw?**

Say: **Let's experiment and see what happens.**



Breathing Life

Take turns quickly blowing air into the bottle and quickly sucking it out. Do this until their partners can see the marshmallows expanding and shrinking slightly. They may be surprised to discover that the marshmallows expand when the air is blown in and shrink when the air is sucked out.

Let kids experiment for three minutes. Afterward, ask:

- **Were you surprised at which action gave 'life' to your marshmallow? Why or why not?**
- **What makes a person's life full? Can a life ever become too full? Why or why not?**
- **What kinds of things can lead to an unfulfilling life?**

Read aloud [John 10:10](#). Then say: **The air that you blew into the bottle caused the marshmallow faces to expand. You were breathing life into your marshmallow. The air blown in caused the tiny air pockets in the marshmallow to expand, so it grew. But when you sucked out to take away the air pressure, the marshmallows shrunk. When Jesus comes into our lives, we have full lives.**

Science Experiment 3. Joyful Raisins (grades PreK-3)

Kids will experience the joy of praising the Lord.

“Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations” ([Psalm 100](#)).

You'll need:

- raisins,
- a clear drinking glass
- 2-liter bottles of carbonated soda water,
- a CD or cassette player,
- lively praise music, and
- a Bible.

The Experiment

Say: **Tell about a time you were so excited about something that you were bursting with joy and excitement.**

Ask: **What kinds of things make you that excited about God?**



Read aloud [Psalm 100](#). Then say: **God wants us to be filled with joy and excitement when we praise and worship. We're going to try an experiment that reflects excitement.**

Form groups of five. Fill one glass with carbonated soda water for each group of five kids. Tell them not to drink their experiment. Play the praise music and encourage kids to clap their hands and get excited about praising the Lord. While the music plays, pass out five raisins to each child. Say: **Drop your raisins into the glass, and see how the raisins react.**

The raisins may not move immediately, but soon they'll be bouncing around in the glass because of the bubbles around them. Say: **The raisins are dancing because they're reacting to the soda water's carbonation. The carbonation in the soda is a gas called carbon dioxide. Tiny bubbles form on the raisins when they're dropped into the soda water. The bubbles collect carbon dioxide and grow; that's what lifts the raisin. When the raisin reaches the top of the water, the bubbles pop, and the raisin sinks. Then the process starts over again.**

Ask: **Tell about a time you felt like your life was out of energy. How can worshipping God give you excitement?**

Science Experiment 4. Bursting With Joy (Grades K-3)

Kids will learn that God wants our lives to be filled with joy.

“Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music” ([Psalm 98:4](#)).

You'll need:

- adult helpers,
- a Bible,
- a facial tissue for every four kids,
- a teaspoon,
- baking soda,
- vinegar, and
- one plastic 35mm film container for each child.

Before kids arrive, tear each facial tissue into fourths, and pour two teaspoons of vinegar into each film canister.

The Experiment

Read [Psalm 98:4](#). Say: **On “go,” I want each of you to act out Psalm 98:4. Ready, set, go!**



Allow kids to shout for joy for one minute. Then give each child a torn tissue piece and a film canister filled with vinegar.

Say: **The Bible tells us that we can be really excited about God. Tell about a time when you were so excited about something that you felt like you were going to burst.**

Then say: **I watched how well you all acted out our Bible verse. Now let's try to make something else burst forth.**

Show kids how to measure one teaspoon of baking soda and place it in the center of the tissue square. Have kids wrap the tissue around the baking soda. Tell kids to remove the lids of their film canisters and wait.

Say: **We need to be careful with the next step of our experiment. You're going to place the tissue inside your film canister and quickly put the lid on. Then we're going to stand back. A lot of pressure is going to build up inside—so much pressure, it just might burst!**

Allow two kids at a time to conduct the experiment. Tell kids to quickly step back after they secure the lids. (Small children might need help securing the lids quickly.) The lids will pop into the air, creating a lot of foam and giggles.

When everyone has had a turn, say: **I think our whole class is bursting with joy. God wants us to be bursting with the good news of Jesus. When we have so much of God's joy built up inside, we just have to let it out! I hope that you're so excited about God that you'll be bursting all week!**

Science Experiment 5. Listen Up (Grades 3 & Up)



Kids will learn that we need to be spiritually healthy.

“Would not God have discovered it, since he knows the secrets of the heart?” ([Psalm 44:21](#)).

You'll need:

- electrical tape,
- a Bible
- one plastic funnel for every two children, and
- 1 foot of plastic or rubber tubing for every two children.

The Experiment

Form pairs. Say: **Listen! Can you hear your heart beating? Let's try to hear our hearts beat after we do 20 jumping jacks. Ready? Go!** Afterward, ask,

- **Can you hear your heart beating now?**
- **Can you feel it beating?**
- **What does it sound or feel like?**

Say: **Let's try an experiment to see if we can hear our hearts more clearly. We're going to make stethoscopes to help us listen to our hearts.**

Give each pair a funnel and 1 foot of tubing. Show kids how to fit the tubing over the funnel's spout. If the tubing doesn't fit tightly on the funnel's spout, secure it with tape. Partners can listen to each other's hearts by having one child put the funnel over his heart while the other partner listens through the end of the tubing.

After every child has had a chance to listen, say: **Your heart pumps blood 24 hours a day. There are valves in your heart that keep the blood moving through your body. These valves open and close as the heart pumps the blood. That's what makes the sound of your heartbeat.**

Ask:

- **How was the sound of a heart different when you used the stethoscope?**
- **Do you think everyone's heart sounds the same? Why or why not?**
- **What do you think God hears when he listens to our hearts?**

Say: **God has a special interest in your heart because your heart indicates more than your physical health. It also reveals your spiritual health.**

Read aloud [Psalm 44:21](#). Ask:

- **What kind of secrets does your heart hide?**
- **How can our hearts be spiritually unhealthy?**
- **What can you do to make your heart spiritually healthy?**

Morse code challenge:

Use the key below to read the Scripture quotes that are written around the pictures from the story of Moses. Start at the top left corner of each picture (look for a star) to find the answer. When you're done, read the whole story in the book of Exodus!

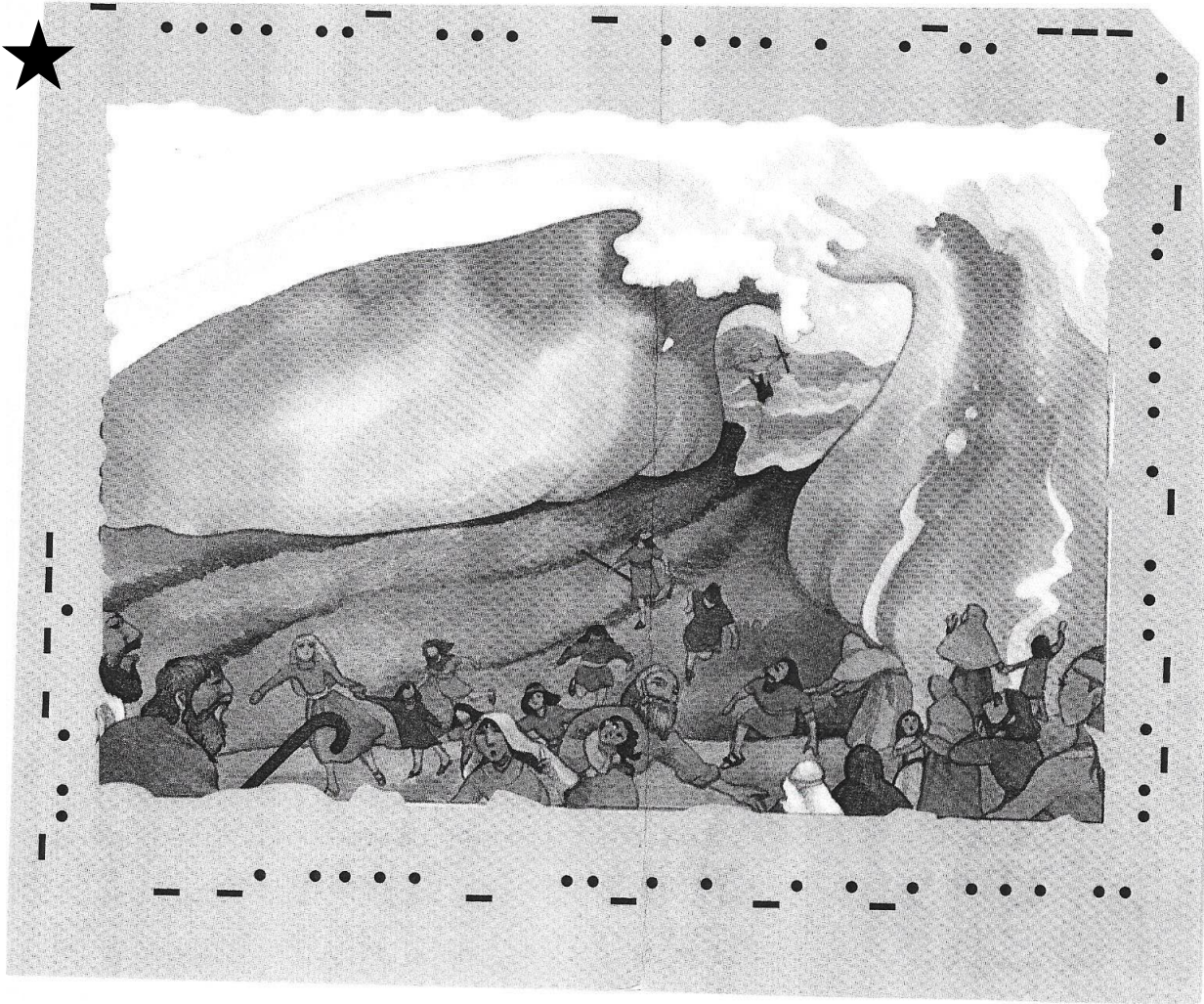
Key for Morse Code

A . _	N _ .
B _ . . .	O _ _ _
C _ . _ .	P . _ _ .
D _ . .	Q _ _ . _
E .	R . _ .
F . . _ .	S . . .
G _ _ .	T _
H	U . . _
I . .	V . . . _
J . _ _ _	W . _ _
K _ . _	X _ . . _
L . _ . .	Y _ . _ _
M _ _	Z _ _ . .



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Language Challenge

Watch these videos before you start learning "Jesus Loves Me" in a different language! The translation for Spanish and the instructions for Sign Language are written out below.

<https://youtu.be/tgaNt0saGEI> This video is kids singing not only in English, but Spanish, Indonesian, Samoan, Nigerian, and Korean! It starts right away with Spanish, so listen carefully! (And the girl who is supposed to sing Samoan is so sweet!)

<https://youtu.be/tdZSrF03-jk> Watch the mother in this video for the motions for this song.

"Jesus Loves Me" in Spanish

Cristo me ama, bien lo se
Su palabra me hace ver
Que los ninos son de aquel
Quien es nuestro amigo fiel

Si, Cristo me ama
Si, Cristo me ama
Si, Cristo me ama
La Biblia dice asi

Cristo me ama, me salvo
En la cruz por mi murio;
Mi pecado perdono;
Vida eterna me dono

Si, Cristo me ama
Si, Cristo me ama
Si, Cristo me ama
La Biblia dice asi

"Jesus Loves Me" in Sign Language

Jesus- tap right middle finger to left palm, tap left middle finger to right palm

Loves- cross arms in front of chest

Me- tap chest with both hands

This I know- tap right hand to right of forehead

For the Bible Tells me so- hold hands palms together in front of body, open like a book

Little ones- point hands down, act like they are skipping away to the right

To Him- point with right forefinger up to sky

Belong- make circle on each hand with middle finger and thumb, link circles and move up on a diagonal to the right

They are weak- hold left hand palm up, place right fingers upright on palm, wiggle back and forth

But He- point with right forefinger up to sky

Is strong- both arms at right angles with fists, to right of body

Yes- with right hand in fist, bend forward and back

Jesus- Jesus- tap right middle finger to left palm, tap left middle finger to right palm

Loves- cross arms in front of chest

Me- tap chest with both hands

(Repeat two more times)

The Bible Tells me so- hold hands palms together in front of body, open like a book

Bible Drama Challenge

This challenge is for those who like to ham it up, and also for those who like to work behind the scenes. Whether you're a writer, actor, stagehand, director, or videographer, you can help with this challenge! The stories in the bible are wonderful to act out. It gives you another way of connecting the words on the page to how you interpret and understand the Bible. Use these tips to come up with your own Bible action skit!

- Use dolls, LEGOs, toys, or pictures instead of people in your skit.
- Decide if you want to say exactly what is said in the Bible story, or maybe if you want to re-write the words to more modern language.
- You can use the bible story itself, or re-interpret the story.

Here are some websites to check out for inspiration, and skit ideas:

- <https://skitguys.com/>
- <http://church-skits.com/>
- https://www.crossthesky.com/christian_skits

Try these Bible stories:

- Joshua and the walls of Jericho: from Joshua 6
- Noah and the flood: from Genesis 6-8
- Creation Story: from Genesis 1-3
- Any of Jesus miracles. Some examples:
 - Jesus Feeding the 5000: from Mark 6
 - An overview of healings: possessions, diseases, blindness
 - Jesus raises 3 people from the dead
- Jesus' parables. Some examples:
 - Sower (In Matthew, Mark, and Luke)
 - Lost coin found in Luke 15
 - Prodigal son found in Luke 15
- Jesus teachings. Some examples:
 - Beatitudes found in Matthew 5
 - Lord's prayer found in matthew 6
 - Greatest commandment found in matthew 22

Have fun with the Bible!

Devotion Challenge

Faith formation begins at home. In Baptism, we make promises for our children, for ourselves, and for each other to live with God and nurture each other's faith. This is no small task, but it is not difficult to do! The church is a great place to fulfill some of these promises, but the bulk of the work is done with the family at "home." Carving out time during your day to spend time with God is hard to do, let alone trying to make time for your whole family to do it! It is worthwhile, calming, and holy to spend time in prayer with your family.

If you already have a family Bible ritual, or devotion time, please share it with us! We'd love to see what is working for you! If you'd like to start one but don't know where to begin, let us help you! This is a challenge in the way that we are challenging you to try something new, not something difficult. Understand that this may be uncomfortable at first. If you stick with it, it will become a natural part of your daily activities, and WILL be noticed if it is missed or forgotten!

Here are some websites and other helpful ideas to get you started:

- www.Faith5.org This is a website that has lots of good information about the FAITH5 initiative. This is a 5-15 minute nightly (or whenever) family time where you 1-share, 2-read, 3-talk, 4-pray, and 5-bless. You share highs and lows, read a Bible verse/story or devotion, talk about how that applies to your highs/lows, pray for each other's highs/lows, and then give each other a physical blessing- a cross on the forehead or hand and a reminder that each of you are a blessed child of God.
- <http://faithformationjourneys.org/> This site has some nice content, as well as resources for your family's devotions and ministry.
- This company, Vibrant Faith, is an innovator in inter-generational faith formation. If you sign up for emails, they will send you wonderful information and devotions to use with your family and other groups. <https://vibrantfaith.org/resources/>
- The Book of Faith initiative was started by the NC Synod of the ELCA in 2008 to help promote Bible literacy in congregations across the country. There are many different studies and devotions incorporated into this initiative, so there are lots of opportunities to become more fluent in the Bible. <http://www.bookoffaith.org/>

- Look over the prayer ideas included with this packet. They may inspire you!
- Look at the devotion book suggestions included with this packet. All are good tools to use in your life of prayer!

Prayer ideas:

- **Tablecloth devotion-** Get a white or light-colored paper tablecloth, or cloth if you are adventurous! Use markers, (permanent will STAY on the cloth) or crayons and write daily thanks/hope/prayer/word/Bible verse/drawing ... whatever! Do this at whatever meal you share during the day- as long as you are together. You can keep it for the week, then start over by putting a new piece of paper or washing the tablecloth. You can do this on a smaller scale so you can keep it, also. Use a blank sheet of paper, white or colored, and pass it around the table for the family to write and/or draw on. When the paper is full, or do one each day, put it in a binder or scrapbook so you can look back and see what your family was praying for last week, last month, or even farther!
- **The Five Finger Prayer-** Use your fingers to pray to God, for others, and for yourself.
 - Thumb- Family and Friends
 - Pointer- Teachers (any kind of teacher)
 - Middle- Leaders (Government, Pastors, anyone in authority)
 - Ring- Sick and poor (anyone who needs help)
 - Pinky- You (pray for yourself last)
- **M&M prayer-** Use each of the different colors to pray for something, or use it to share things about your day. Go around your group, and take few candies out of a bowl or bag, but don't eat them yet. Use the suggestions below, or come up with your own! (you could also do this with any other multi-colored treat!)
 - Tell us about your day/week
 - Red- tell something about yesterday
 - Orange- tell something you did well today
 - Yellow- tell something you like about your family

- Green- tell something you learned last week
- Brown- tell something you hope will happen this week
- Blue- tell something you watched or listened to that you enjoyed
- Say a prayer for...
 - Red- Family member by name (immediate or extended family)
 - Orange- Teacher in your life (could be at school, work, church...)
 - Yellow- Neighbors (near and far)
 - Green- Creation (as a gift or to help heal, be specific if you can)
 - Brown- Leaders (national, local, school, church...)
 - Blue- Christians in other countries (missionaries, martyrs...)
- **Praying for your child from head to toe** (insert spouse, family member, or friend if you want to pray for someone else!)
 - Pray for Their Mind: Pray that your children would earnestly seek wisdom and understanding; that they would value knowledge and discernment; and that their thoughts would stay centered on the truth of God's Word. (Proverbs 2:1-6; Proverbs 3:21; James 1:5; Psalm 119:97)
 - Pray for Their Eyes: Ask God to guard your children's eyes and protect their innocence. Pray that they would focus their attention on doing what is right. (Romans 16:19; Proverbs 4:25)
 - Pray for Their Ears: Pray that your children would be quick to hear and that they would incline their ears to listen to instruction. (James 1:19; Isaiah 55:3; Proverbs 8:32-34)
 - Pray for Their Mouth: Ask God to keep their tongues from evil and their lips from speaking lies. Pray that all their words would be pleasing to Him and edifying to others. (Psalm 34:13; Psalm 19:14)
 - Pray for Their Heart: Ask God to give your children a happy, cheerful heart. Pray that they'd come to faith early and would trust easily and completely in Him. (Proverbs 15:13; Psalm 28:7)
 - Pray for Their Hands: Pray that they would be diligent in their work and that their hands would not be idle, but that God would bless,

confirm, and establish the work of their hands. (Ecclesiastes 9:10; Ecclesiastes 11:6; Proverbs 10:4-5)

- Pray for Their Legs: Pray that your children would not walk in step with the wicked nor stand in the way of sinners, but that they'd find wise and godly companions along life's journey. (Psalm 1:1; Proverbs 13:20)
- Pray for Their Feet: Ask God to direct their steps, to help them stand fast, and to protect them from stumbling. (Psalm 17:5; Psalm 37:23-24; Psalm 121:3; Psalm 119:133)

Devotion books:

Christ in our Home: you can pick one up at church. This is a quarterly small booklet that has daily bible verse, devotions, and prayers.

Look at the bookshelf by the doors leading to the ramp. There are many different devotions to choose from!

Creative Family Prayer Times by Mike and Amy Nappa: This has 52 fun and meaningful ways for your family to pray together. Ask for it from Amanda or from your library, or if you want to have one yourself, you can buy it on Amazon.com.

Summer Reading Challenge

Summer is a great time to catch up on some long overdue reading time. Novels or short stories, historical or fiction, hard cover or paperback, books have the ability to take us to another place and time. If and when you have time to do some reading this summer, consider reading something from a Christian author! Every genre is represented: biography, fiction, romance, mystery... and everything else! Each age level has books just waiting to be opened to enrich your life, calm your soul, or spark a flame in your faith. Look at the websites listed below, for book reviews and reading lists. You can also find lots of good books here at church!

- <http://storypath.upsem.edu/> This website is amazing! It gives you reading ideas for children's books that go along with the lectionary! It can be hard for young ones to connect the lessons they hear in church to their lives. Using these book ideas can help make those connections!
- Here is a pretty comprehensive list to look through by genre:
<http://www.goodreads.com/list/tag/christian>
- This site is good to look for Kids, Tween, and Teen books:
<http://www.christianbook.com/page/kids/childrens-books/summer-reading>
- This site is suggestions for Christian book clubs. Maybe you will be inspired to start your own!
<http://bestsellers.about.com/od/bookclubreadinglists/tp/Christian-Book-Club-Recommendations.htm>