



July 2010

KID'S CONNECTION

10:00-11:00 Kid's Connection
11:00-11:30 Transition Snacks
11:30-12:30 The Source

Maximize Your "Together Time"

Summertime is ideal for hanging out together and creating lasting memories. It's also ideal for spending time with God and creating lasting faith. With the economic downturn, many families are now looking for ways to bond on a budget. Thankfully, fancy trips and high-tech gadgets aren't required.

This summer, grow closer to each other and to God with these easy, practical ideas. Make the most of your family time, and have fun in the process. Then continue these habits long after packing away the flip-flops!

Family Mission Statements—First, pause to plan out your purpose as a family. Begin with short-term goals for your summer, letting each family member contribute. Then brainstorm big-picture, long-term goals. Ask: "What does our family stand for? What are our values, and how will we live them out?" Then have everyone commit to live according to your family's mission statement.

On-the-Go Togetherness—Road trips provide family members with lots of undivided attention. Enjoy long conversations, play games, and sing along to Christian music. Pray aloud for residents of towns you pass and for rescue crews heading to accidents.



The Wonder of Worship—During the summer, add variety to your routine by worshipping at a different time. Try a new style of worship or visit other churches together. Take children to vacation Bible school at local churches, and invite friends to go along.

For a fun, convenient way to capture and share all your summer memories, visit www.groupsmilebox.com.

The Value of Time

Of 1,500 Boys and Girls Club members surveyed:

- 39% of children say they want their parents to work less.
- 43% say they want their parents to spend more outdoor time with them.
- 68% say their parents or guardians are the most important role models in their lives.
- 37% say positive values are the most important thing they learn from their parents.

PowerSource

Ask God:

1. To help you safeguard uninterrupted family time.
2. To strengthen your family's bonds.
3. To help your kids value spending time with God.

Parenting Insights

Dr. David Anderson of the Youth & Family Institute offers these "Four Keys for Daily Living" to nurture faith life in the home:

1. **Caring Conversations**—Listening and responding to our children's daily concerns makes it easier to have meaningful talks about God's love. We express that love to others.
2. **Family Devotions**—Infusing caring conversations with "God-talk" elevates them into devotions. We find God in our everyday experiences.
3. **Rituals and Traditions**—These identify who we are and tell a family's stories. We bless and pray for one another and have bedtime rituals that include God's presence.
4. **Family Service**—This isn't an obligation but a loving, grateful response to God's love for us. We live our faith.

OpenTheBook

**"I remember your genuine faith, for you share the faith that first filled your grandmother Lois and your mother, Eunice. And I know that same faith continues strong in you."
2 Timothy 1:5**

Paul was aware of Timothy's strong faith but also where it came from: Timothy's family. When we spend time with family members and close friends who love the Lord, faith gets passed on.

Teachable Moments

- 1. Let It Shine**—Place some floating candles in a kiddie pool, and have children use squirt guns to try to extinguish the candles. Talk about how God wants us to let our light shine for him no matter what tries to extinguish it.
- 2. Express Yourself**—Use sidewalk chalk to declare your love for one another and God. Fill your driveway or sidewalks with special messages, family portraits, and short Bible passages.
- 3. Go for "Some More"**—Set out ingredients for S'mores and make them together, assembly-line fashion. As you eat, ask: "When has God done 'some more' for you? Why do you think God wants us to do 'some more' for others?"



"So commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these words of mine. Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. Teach them to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are ON THE ROAD, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up." Deuteronomy 11:18-19, NLT

Encourage your children to share their thoughts about how you spend your family time. Use these questions as a springboard for insightful conversations.

1. What times that our family spends together are most special to you, and why? How does that "together time" make you feel?
2. What do you wish we did more of together, and why?
3. What do our favorite things to do as a family say about us? How can we demonstrate our faith during these together times?
4. Why does Jesus like us to spend time with him?

Family Experience: Destination Heaven

Eternal life in heaven will be the ultimate "together time." With your family members, explore how we arrive at that wonderful destination. This experience will definitely build excitement about spending forever with God.

Have family members use their bodies to form a statue representing something at a favorite vacation destination. Ask: "What's the best thing about that place? How long would you want to stay there, and why?"

Say: "There are many great places to visit, but none compares to our ultimate destination. Heaven is a wonderful place, and Jesus is the way to heaven."

Have family members line up along a wall. Say: "Your goal is to get to the other side of the room without touching the floor in any way. Go!" Afterward, ask: "What did you need to make it across the room?" Say: "You couldn't cross the room by yourself. You needed someone else's help. Getting to heaven is the same way."

Read Romans 10:9. Say: "The only way you get to heaven is by believing that Jesus died on the cross and rose again. He helps us get to heaven. I'm looking forward to spending forever there with you all!"

Close by taking turns sharing things that you're most looking forward to about heaven. Then share things you'll be glad to leave behind when you go to heaven!



