

June 2010

theParentLink

Children's Ministry Edition



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Grow Kids' Faith This Summer

The warm, relaxing summer months are perfect for reconnecting as a family. They're also ideal for helping your children stay connected to God and boosting their faith in Him.

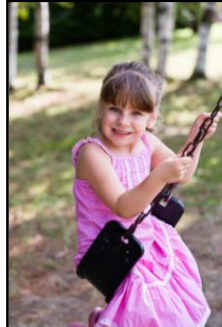
For starters, participate in faith-building opportunities available in your community. These include vacation Bible school, church camps, outdoor worship, mission projects, and more. But realize that faith growth can occur in unstructured, day-to-day settings, too. By talking to your children often about God—and your relationship with Him—you model faith in action for young Christians.

Use these ideas as a springboard for summer faith growth:

Take it all in. Admire God's handiwork as you travel and sight-see. Acknowledge and thank our Creator. Use simple object lessons; for example, draw a line of chalk in front of some ants and notice that most of them won't cross it. Then talk about what it means to follow and obey God.

Take out the "trash." Together, clean up a park or street. Then discuss what God wants us to fill our minds and hearts with (see Philippians 4:8).

Take it outside. For variety, conduct your family devotions outside in the shade. Use a book-club format to go through a book of the Bible or a children's Bible storybook. Encourage questions and have children put themselves in the people's shoes. Then apply the lessons to situations we face each day as we walk with God.



Summertime Stats

As you nurture your children's faith this summer, also keep tabs on their physical and mental well-being.

- More than 10% of children between the ages of 6 and 12 care for themselves during the summer months, without supervision. If you can't afford outside child care, arrange to swap baby-sitting with a trusted friend.
- Most kids lose an average of two months of learning during the summer. Keep them growing mentally by participating in your local library's summer reading program.

CONGRATULATIONS to the following Children for completing 90% of this School year's HOME COURT MONTHLY ASSIGNMENTS!

Clay Anderson
 Brian Barre
 Brittany Barre
 Christopher Camera
 Kevin Camera
 Mason Nelson
 Julia Patino
 Sarah Patino
 Isabella Palmieri
 Jillian Palmieri
 Sam Rasner
 Rachel Stanley
 Alexander Wilson
 Siena Welsh
 Caroline Wernli

They have memorized the following: Books of the Old and New Testament, John 3:16, Luke 6:31, the Apostles Creed, The Lord's Prayer, The 10 Commandments, and the Doxology!

Our party celebration will be Sunday the 13th!

OpenTheBook

**"Faith is the confidence that what we hope for will actually happen; it gives us assurance about things we cannot see."
Hebrews 11:1**

When we believe in God and trust his promises, we can be certain of his work in our lives—and of spending eternal life with him in heaven.

Teachable Moments

- 1. Fruits of Faith**—Pass around a basket of fruit. Have each person select a fruit that represents a character trait; then have that person share who their fruit represents and why. This is a great way to affirm the faith traits you see in one another.
- 2. Faith Stretchers**—Give each person a rubber band, and talk about how it feels when your faith is stretched. Have each person stretch their rubber band to show how stretched their faith has been lately—a little or a lot.
- 3. Faith Quilt**—Create a quilt-type mural to signify your family's commitment to faith in God. Brainstorm ways you serve God and new ways you can honor him in your home. Write or draw these ideas on squares of white card stock, and tape them to a wall. Add to your mural all summer long.



"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

KINGDOM COURT JUNE 2010

Virtue: Responsibility—showing you can be trusted with what is expected of you.

Memory Verse: "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much." *Luke 16:10a, NIV*

Home Court Advantage Monthly Assignments: Break for summer

Food Pantry: Mac and Cheese

Mission Project: All month we will be collecting used children's books and 8 or 10 pack Crayola Markers

Family Experience: God's Wonderful World

Learn about God's creation—and our role in it—by doing these summertime activities together.

- Shine**—To make your own "planetariums," place oatmeal containers on scrap wood to protect floors. Help kids use a hammer and nail to gently punch holes in the bottoms of the containers. Turn out the lights. Put flashlights inside the containers and enjoy the light show on a ceiling or wall.



Say: "Stars are large balls of gas that produce color, heat, and light. A star changes over time, but it takes millions—even billions—of years to live out its life span. The eye can typically see 2,000 stars on a clear night." Then ask: "What would night be like without stars?" Read aloud Matthew 5:14-16. Ask: "Why do you think God wants us to be lights on earth? How can you shine for God?"

- Grow**—Plant seeds close enough to the sides of clear plastic cups to be visible. Care for the seeds by giving them water and sunlight. After about a week, roots will be visible.

Read aloud 1 Corinthians 3:7. Ask: "How did your seed form roots? What role did you, the potting soil, and the water play? What role did God play? Could the plant have sprouted without God?" Talk about ways we rely on God for our spiritual and physical growth. Close in prayer, thanking God for making all things possible.

VBS HIGH SEAS EXPEDITION

Date: June 7 - 10

Online Registration is now closed, to register

Contact: Cindy Gangstad at cindyg@whpc.org

A few places are available for preschoolers and plenty of room in the evening!

Cost: \$35

Class lists will be posted beginning June 3 in the downstairs lobby. Stop by to see who your crew leader will be and who is in your group!

WACKY WEDNESDAYS

Dates:

July 7-Putt Putt and Sno beach *

July 14-Magenic Wall and donut bumpers

July 21-Rock Climbing*

July 28-Underground bowling at UT *

Cost: \$15 per session

Register: Pick up forms outside Children's Ministry office and return to Lisa Ruth Pullen

Note : Parent drivers needed for 3 Starred Events

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

Dates: May 30 - August 22

Times: 9:30 and 11 a.m.

Ages: Preschool and younger remain in their same classroom until August 29

Completed Kindergarten thru 4th Grade in Gym

5th Graders move up to Middle School June 13 after Discover VBS



Culture & Trends

What's happening right now that may affect your children and family:

- Smart phones have become handy baby-sitting tools for on-the-go parents. For \$1.99, the iStoryTime iPhone app will "read" a story to young listeners.
- The number of children with a food allergy has increased by 18%. One in every 25 kids is susceptible to allergic reactions from such ingredients as nuts, eggs, milk, and wheat.

(U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)



Quick Stats

- 85% of parents believe they have the primary responsibility for their children's moral and spiritual development.
- The number of day camps in the U.S. has grown by nearly 90% in the past 20 years. More than half of camps now include community-service programs.

(acacamps.org)

June 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
			Dylan Seaver	Gray Henderson William Propes	Garrett Dunn	Madison Hammond Lauren Clark
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Jack Chatmas Chris Hillin VBS Decorating 12 to 3 Kingdom Court 9:30 and 11	Rylan Weatherford William West VBS WEEK	Julie Pirtle VBS	Lauren Ward VBS	James Lane Last Day VBS		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Kingdom Court 9:30 and 11	Lincoln Clark-Bateman		Rachel Stanley	Matt Stanislaus	Hudson Berry	Chris Hoenig
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Kingdom Court 9:30 and 11		Colton Foster MacKenzie Matheson Sydney Imhoff Aaron Williamson		Taylor Chatmas Katelyn Mills		Seth Forman
27	28	29	30			
Kingdom Court 9:30 and 11	Abigail Garrison Rory Williams					

BIRTHDAYS LISTED IN RED!