

SUMMER FAMILY NIGHTS

Take advantage of the warm evenings to plan a few outdoor Family Night activities. Try this one to get started and discover more Family Night ideas at heritagebuilders.com.

Following the Map:

Create a map with "Turn Left" and "Turn Right" directions to a favorite destination such as an ice-cream shop or park. Load the kids in the car and tell them you are heading off for a really fun surprise. Give one of the children your map and ask them to guide you step-by-step as you drive. When they give you each direction, however, turn the wrong way – insisting you know best. Try to end up at some dead-end or remote location and admit that you got lost. Ask the kids what you should do. (Answer: Go back to the beginning and follow the directions properly!) When you arrive at the destination after properly following the directions, read Psalm 119:104-105 together and ask the following questions...

- What went wrong the first time we drove? (Answer: I ignored the map)
- What is "the map" for us to make right choices in life? (Answer: The Bible)
- How much fun would we be having now if I kept insisting I knew best? (Answer: None!)

SUMMER SERVING

Summer is a great time to serve together in a ministry or help those in need. Guide your child to work or save allowance to support a trustworthy cause. Sign up with your teen at the church office for The Call and take the Gospel to your community. Get your kids involved in assisting a family member, neighbor, or friend. Your project can be as simple as baking a neighbor some cookies or helping with the cleaning ministry at church, or as involved as going on a mission trip with your family.

SUMMER RESOURCES

It should be noted that Calvary Chapel Chino Hills does not necessarily agree or endorse any particular site or book and the entirety of its content.

Recommended Books: Available from the CCCH Bookstore *Just Add Family Kit "Easy Recipes for Faith-filled Fun"* includes bedtime, mealtime, playtime ideas, and a "Memory Pantry" to store goods and giggles. All you have to do is add your family. *The 4:8 Principle* by Tommy Newberry, is a great Date Night resource for couples to go through together. *150 Quick Questions to Get Your Kids Talking* by Mary DeMuth, keeps the chats going, she offers engaging conversation starters to reconnect families at dinner time, while in the car, at bedtime, or anytime.

Recommended Websites:

PluggedIn.com Focus on the Family reviews movies, videos, music, TV and games from a Christian perspective. **Heritagebuilders.com** Heritage Builders' goal is to encourage and empower you in this great mission with practical resources and inspiring ideas that really work and help your children develop a lasting love for God.

SUMMER @CCCH

Children's Ministry Activities Vacation Bible School

A fun-filled week of learning about God and the Bible. This event is for 1st-6th graders only.

4th – 6th Grade Summer Camp

Every year there is a new theme and creative ways for kids to learn more about God at this week-long camp at Forest Home Christian Camp in Forest Falls, CA.

Grounded High School Summer Camp & Other Activities

Your high schooler will truly benefit from camp and other amazing activities planned throughout the summer. Go to www.groundedhs.com for dates and times.

Jr High Summer Camp & Other Activities

Jr Highers will learn more about God and grow in their relationship with Him through these camps. Go to www.truth311.org for dates, times and locations.

Special Needs Family Picnic

Every year the Special Needs Ministry gets their families together for a time of fun, food and fellowship. Go to www.calvarycch.org for more information.

A ministry of Calvary Chapel Chino Hills • calvarycch.org
Go to www.athomecalvary.org
for more information and resources.
Like us at: [Facebook.com/athomecalvary](https://www.facebook.com/athomecalvary)

@Home
Building Strong Families

Rather than dread the words "I'm bored!" this summer, become proactive with Summer@Home intentionality.



SUMMER@Home

BEATING BOREDOM WITH INTENTIONALITY

Create great memories together by selecting one or all of the ideas from this guide to make this a summer your family will never forget.





SUMMER SCRIPTURE

Choosing summer Scriptures for your home helps everyone focus on the importance and power of God's Word while having fun together. The following ideas can help you get started:

PICK: Work together as a family to pick a scripture to start your summer. Bring two or three suggested passages based upon whatever theme, virtue or discipline you consider important for your family situation. (For ideas, search online at biblegateway.com) Let each person share which verse they think is best for the family, and why, before voting.

WRITE: Spend time writing out the verse in different ways. Use little cards to put on bathroom mirrors, computers, in the car, create place mats, etc. Have kids draw if they are too young to write.

MOVE: Create hand motions for each word in the verse. This is helpful for memorization and fun!

SING: Put your verse to a popular tune to sing together.

PLAY: Use your verse to play a fun game using bean bags. For example, sit in a circle and toss the bean bag to each other. The first person starts with the first word of the verse and tosses the bag. Whoever catches the bean bag next says the second word and so on.

REPEAT: In the days ahead, choose specific times like dinner or bedtime to go through your verse together.

GROW: After your family has learned one Scripture, start the process over again and choose a new one to learn. For more ideas about hiding God's Word in the hearts of your family members, read through *Bible Discovery Devotions* by Martha Larchar or Henrietta C. Mears' *What the Bible is All About: Bible Handbook for Kids*.

SUMMER TRAVEL

"Are we there yet?" Summer is often a time with hours in a car or plane. Make the most of travel time together with these great ideas:

PREPARATION

- Include your kids in the preparations for the trip. Get a road map for each school-age child, and check the library or search the web for books about the places you will see.
- Pack a special activity bag for each child. Ideas to include in the bag: games, notepad, their favorite snacks, a fun craft or activity, books, and an age-appropriate "fun" Bible such as *The Beginner's Bible*, *The Amazing Treasure Bible Storybook*, or *The Picture Bible*.
- If packing an iPod or MP3 player, be sure to include worship and Bible-based songs such as *100 Bible Stories*, *100 Bible Songs* and *Ultimate Praise Songs that Kids Love to Sing*.

ACTIVITIES

You can also get creative and work together to make up your own games.

- **Alphabet Thankfulness:** You can play this game out loud or have older kids write out their lists. Starting with the letter A, each person names something starting with that letter that they can be thankful to God for. This can be a person, place or anything!
Examples: A-Aunt Peggy, B-Brothers, C-Chocolate. At the end of the game, say a prayer thanking God for all the things He has blessed you with.
- **Car Bingo:** Car Bingo is a fun travel game. You can make your own before you leave by drawing pictures or using stickers of items you might see. You can also print free Car Bingo games online at: momsminivan.com.
- **Talk Time:** Travel time is a great opportunity to connect and communicate with each other. Have a list of questions to talk through. (You can get a list of questions for teens from athomecalvary.org under the "Campaign-Summer@Home" section) Take turns asking questions, letting your kids ask you questions as well.
- **Drive-time Audio:** Audio versions or CDs of *Adventures in Odyssey* are great for families! Hours in the car fly by when enjoying these wonderful stories that reinforce Christian faith and values.



SUMMER JOURNAL

Kick-off an "All About Me" project that can continue through the entire summer!

Make A Journal:

Gather items to make a small journal or notebook for each child. Let them use stickers, pictures from magazines, etc. to decorate it.

Pose Questions: Create questions for them to answer in their journal about themselves, their age, their favorite things, etc.

Self-Worth: Validate the special place they hold in God's heart. Help them collect Scriptures that affirm God's love for them. Use a Bible promise book to make a list of biblical promises they can stand on in times of difficulty. Have them draw pictures or write about some of the ways they use the gifts and spiritual fruit God is developing within them.

Keepsakes: Encourage them to collect keepsakes from activities you do to add to their journal. You might collect a leaf from a trip to the park or a ticket stub from a special place you visit.

Pictures: Buy a disposable camera for them to take photos of their summer fun to add to the journal.

Celebrate: At the end of the summer go through the "All About Me" book and talk about all the wonderful memories that you have made. Celebrate God's goodness and His many blessings!

Share: This is also a great project for kids to take back to school to share when their teacher asks them what they did this summer.