

**AROUND**

**THE WORLD IN**

**60 DAYS**



**THRIVING FAMILY'S  
2013 SUMMER ACTIVITY CALENDAR**

**BON VOYAGE!**



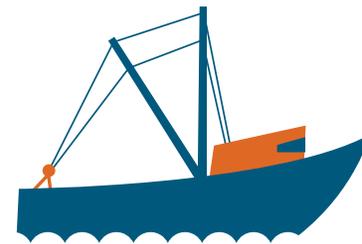
ILLUSTRATIONS BY SHAW NIELSEN

# YOUR JOURNEY BEGINS

**HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED** what life is like in other countries? This summer, *Thriving Family* invites you to join us on a virtual trip around the world! Over the next 60 days, you'll have the opportunity to explore 27 different countries on six continents. For each day of the trip, we've packed a biblical lesson and an activity that will give your family a glimpse into another culture.

On the following pages, you'll find an itinerary that includes each day's activity and additional information about each region. You'll also find a passport, as well as stamps that you can add to your passport as you journey to each country. Before you depart, be sure to print a passport for each "traveler" in your family. And don't forget your travel map. If you missed the poster-sized map in *Thriving Family's* summer issue, you can order a copy at [family.christianbook.com](http://family.christianbook.com).

A smaller map is also available on the Web page where you found this itinerary. Bon voyage!



## WEEK ONE

# OCEANIA

### OCEANIA IS A GREAT NAME

for this group of islands—thousands of them—in the Central and South Pacific Ocean. The continent of Australia is also included in Oceania. Other country names you might recognize include New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Fiji and Samoa. The Hawaiian Islands are part of this region. English is common throughout Oceania, but people also speak many tribal languages. Many of these islands are the tops of volcanic mountains sticking above the water. Others are low-lying islands made of coral, with few or no people living there.

**FOCUS ON THE FAMILY IS STRENGTHENING FAMILIES** in Oceania. To learn how, visit [Families.org.au](http://Families.org.au) and [Focus.org.nz](http://Focus.org.nz).

#### SUNDAY, JUNE 2 HOW TO PRAY FOR OCEANIA:

- This region contains many different cultures. Pray that the various groups will find unity in Jesus.
- Large storms can be devastating to many islands. Ask God to protect the people of Oceania.
- There are many Christians in Oceania. Pray that people will grow deeper in their love for Jesus.

#### MONDAY, JUNE 3 NEW ZEALAND

**1** For every person in the country of New Zealand, there are at least seven sheep! Hide a plush lamb or other stuffed animal in the backyard, and take turns seeing who can be the first to find it. Read **Matthew 18:12-14**. God cares for each of us so much He comes to find us when we wander away from Him.

#### TUESDAY, JUNE 4 NEW ZEALAND

Do you live near mountains? A beach? Farmland? The landscape of New Zealand includes all of these, as well as volcanoes and glaciers, fjords and forests! There are few other countries on earth with the geographical diversity found here. As a family, draw a picture of a landscape that includes as many types of scenery as you can think of. The majestic landscapes in New Zealand and the rest of the world bring glory to God, the one who made them. **Psalm 98:4-9**

#### WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5 AUSTRALIA

**2** Look at a globe or world map and discuss why Australia is called the Land Down Under (because it is south of the equator). No matter where on earth we live, our hope is in God. **Psalm 65:5-8**

#### THURSDAY, JUNE 6 AUSTRALIA

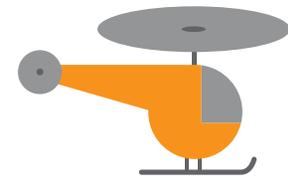
Wintertime in Australia is during the months of June, July and August, while you are enjoying summer! Read a picture book about winter, and drink hot chocolate together. God made all of the seasons. **Psalm 74:17**

#### FRIDAY, JUNE 7 PAPUA NEW GUINEA

**3** In Papua New Guinea, native tribes participate in festivals called “sing-sings,” which are celebrations of the island nation’s cultural diversity. People paint themselves and dress in colorful costumes, then dance and sing. Dress up and gather together for your own family sing-sing. God is King over all the earth, and He loves to hear your songs! **Psalm 47:7**

#### SATURDAY, JUNE 8 PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Not all children attend school in Papua New Guinea. Many children must drop out to help with family responsibilities. Some schools have few teachers or supplies. Look around your house for extra school supplies that you could donate to an organization that provides school supplies for kids who can’t afford their own. **Luke 3:11**



## WEEK TWO

# ASIA

### ASIA IS THE LARGEST CONTINENT ON EARTH,

containing more people than any other continent. The size of Asia means there are many differences in cultures and environments. China, Japan and India have strong economies and modern, industrialized cities, but many rural areas are less developed and poor. Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism are the major religions of this region.

### SUNDAY, JUNE 9 HOW TO PRAY FOR ASIA:

- Some Asian governments have been closed to Christianity. But today, many people throughout Asia are hearing the Gospel. Pray that people's hearts will be open to Jesus.
- Christians in some areas of Asia still meet in secret to avoid being arrested. Pray that Christians will have courage and be safe.
- In some poor areas, many children must work to support their families. Pray for their care and protection.

### MONDAY, JUNE 10 JAPAN

**4** In Japan, when people greet or thank someone, they often bow as a sign of respect, especially when the other person is older or has a higher social status. Have fun greeting and bowing to one another. See who can bow the lowest without falling down! Read **Philippians 2:9-11**. One day every person on earth will bow to Jesus as a sign of respect and worship.

### TUESDAY, JUNE 11 JAPAN

A popular pastime in Japan is origami. Try to fold a paper crane. Search for "Origami Crane" at **Thriving Family.com** for instructions. A crane is a symbol of long life in Japan. Some Japanese believe that folding 1,000 origami cranes will bring them good luck and long life, but there is only one path to eternal life. **John 14:6**

### WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12 CHINA

**5** More than 2,000 years ago, China built a wall approximately 5,500 miles long to protect itself from invaders. With your child, build a fort using pillows for the walls. Read **Psalms 91:2**. God is our true fortress!

### THURSDAY, JUNE 13 CHINA

In the Chinese language, words are composed of symbols called "characters." The word *righteousness* is made up of the character for "lamb" placed above the character for "me." This tells a story: "The lamb over me is righteousness" (**John 1:29**). Although most people in China are not Christian, the truth of the Lamb of God is hidden in their language. Using a paintbrush and watercolors, draw the character for "righteousness" on a piece of paper.



### FRIDAY, JUNE 14 INDIA

**6** India has the world's second largest population, but only a small percentage of people there are Christian. Most Indian families are Hindu, but there are Christian missionaries in India sharing the Gospel. You don't have to be a missionary in a foreign country to share the Good News—there are opportunities for all of us to share our faith! Gather art supplies and create an invitation to church for a friend who doesn't know Jesus. **Mark 16:15**

### SATURDAY, JUNE 15 INDIA

You may be accustomed to traveling by car, bus, bicycle or subway, but in India, *tuk tuks* are a popular way to get around. These three-wheeled, motorized carts are narrow and speedy—perfect for maneuvering through India's crowded city streets. But trusting the driver's ability to safely navigate obstacles can be tough for inexperienced passengers. Place obstacles in your yard or driveway and pretend to be *tuk tuks*, driving around them. Close your eyes, and rely on another player to "drive" you through the obstacles safely. Trusting others can be hard, but we can *always* trust in God.

**Proverbs 3:5-6**

### FOCUS ON THE FAMILY IS SUPPORTING PARENTS

and couples in Asia. To find out how, visit **Family.org.my** and **Family.org.sg**.

## WEEK THREE

# CENTRAL ASIA/EASTERN EUROPE

## CENTRAL ASIA AND EASTERN EUROPE HAVE SEEN A LOT OF CHANGE

in recent decades. Many countries such as Ukraine, Serbia and Russia have changed their governments and borders—some peacefully but others through war. The people, history and languages of this region are very diverse. So is the land; it spans huge mountains, vast deserts and flat, grassy areas known as steppes. Islam and Buddhism are dominant religions in much of this region. The Russian Orthodox Church is strong in other areas.

### SUNDAY, JUNE 16 HOW TO PRAY FOR CENTRAL ASIA AND EASTERN EUROPE:

- Most economic activity takes place in cities, but many people live in isolated farming areas. Pray that these people will have the food, water and shelter they need.
- The diversity of this region sometimes causes conflict and war. Pray that people will find peaceful ways to work out their differences.
- Eastern Europe has countless beautiful and ornate church buildings. But many are empty. Pray that the people will be open to the love of Jesus.

### MONDAY, JUNE 17 RUSSIA

**7** There are more time zones in Russia than in any other country. So while some people in Russia are eating breakfast, others are eating dinner! Pretend that *you* are in a different time zone today by having dinner for breakfast and wearing your pajamas during the day. Read **Psalm 139:1-3**. No matter what time zone we are in, God knows when we lie down and when we get up!

### TUESDAY, JUNE 18 RUSSIA

Teach your children how to play chess or any other new board game. Children in Russian schools learn how to play chess. It's part of the curriculum. Learning something new requires discipline and concentration, but when we put our trust in God, He will give us the strength to accomplish it. **Philippians 4:13**



### WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19 KAZAKHSTAN

**8** Kazakhstan produces some of the tastiest apples in the world. A huge variety of apples grows there, in orchards and wild in the forests. God has given us so many wonderful fruits to eat. How many different fruits can you name? Make a fruit salad together—and don't forget the apples! **Genesis 1:29**

### THURSDAY, JUNE 20 KAZAKHSTAN

You are probably used to standing in line at places such as restaurants, bus stops and amusement parks. But in Kazakhstan, there are no lines to stand in. People must work their way to the front of a crowd in order to get a turn. Have everyone in your family crowd around one person while moving from one room of your house to another. Read **Matthew 15:29-30**. Jesus was often surrounded by crowds of people, all wanting to be closer to Him.

### FRIDAY, JUNE 21 ARMENIA

**9** Give each person an unpeeled hard-boiled egg, and “joust” by tapping the ends together. The winner's eggshell remains solid. This is a game the children of Armenia play at Easter time. It's called “Egg Jousting,” and it requires players to stand firm and not flinch. We can stand firm in our faith, too, knowing that God is always with us.

**1 Corinthians 16:13**

### SATURDAY, JUNE 22 ARMENIA

Play a game of “Mother May I?” Take turns being “Mother.” In Armenian culture, the mother is considered the manager of the home. She is responsible for teaching culture and customs to the children. God has given us parents to teach and guide us.

**Proverbs 22:6**

## WEEK FOUR

# MIDDLE EAST

### THE MIDDLE EAST

has a long history of conflict and unrest. You may have heard in the news about wars and violence in Iraq, Israel and Syria. But there is also rich history here. This region is special to Christianity, Judaism and Islam because all three religions began here. This is the land of the Bible. It's the area where Jesus lived when He was on earth.

### SUNDAY, JUNE 23 HOW TO PRAY FOR THE MIDDLE EAST:

- Women and girls in this region don't always have the same opportunities and freedoms that men and boys do. Pray that they will be strong and have increased opportunities to learn.
- There is much political and religious unrest in many of the countries here. Pray that leaders will have wisdom and work toward peace.
- Christians are persecuted in parts of this region. Pray that people who believe in Jesus will have courage and be safe.

### MONDAY, JUNE 24 LEBANON

**10** Food and hospitality are central to the Lebanese culture. Guests are invited to share a meal—or *mezze*—made up of assorted sweet and savory dishes. Read **1 Peter 4:9**. God calls us to show hospitality to others. Invite someone over to share a meal with your family today. Look on the next page of your itinerary for two Lebanese recipes to try.

### TUESDAY, JUNE 25 LEBANON

The main language used throughout Lebanon is Arabic, and the Arabic expression *Albamdulillah*—“praise to God”—is commonly spoken by both Christians and Muslims. The Lebanese use this phrase throughout their daily activities to offer thanks to God. Be intentional about praising God throughout your day today. This evening, make a collage that represents some of the things each member of your family praised God for. **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**

### WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26 ISRAEL

**11** Play “Hold the Rope,” an Israeli game that focuses on teamwork. Put a hat for each person in the middle of a circle. With both hands holding a rope, players use any body part except their hands to help each other get hats on heads! Everyone must work together to accomplish the goal. Read **1 Corinthians 12:12-31**. Christians must work together to accomplish the goal of introducing others to Christ.



### THURSDAY, JUNE 27 ISRAEL

Many Israeli children are Jewish. At age 13, Jewish boys have a celebration called a bar mitzvah to acknowledge that they are now adults. Jewish girls celebrate this milestone, too, with a bat mitzvah at age 12. Look at family pictures from birthdays, graduations and other big celebrations. What events mark your transition from childhood to adulthood? What milestones of faith does your family celebrate? **Colossians 2:6-7**

### FRIDAY, JUNE 28 EGYPT

**12** Cereal or scrambled eggs may be standard breakfast foods at your house, but in Egypt, families often eat a dish called *ful medames* for their morning meal. This consists of cooked fava beans served with hard-boiled eggs and pita bread. Look on the next page of your itinerary for a recipe to try. No matter what's on the menu, every meal is a gift from God. **Matthew 6:11**

### SATURDAY, JUNE 29 EGYPT

In America, we are free to worship God. But in Egypt, Christians often face persecution for worshiping God or reading the Bible. How would you feel if you had to hide your faith? Parents: Write out the words from **1 Peter 3:14** on index cards and hide them around the house. Let your kids find them and put the verse together.

**FOCUS ON THE FAMILY IS STRENGTHENING FAMILIES** in the Middle East. To find out how, visit [FocusOnTheFamily.me/english](http://FocusOnTheFamily.me/english).

## WEEK FOUR

# MIDDLE EASTERN RECIPES

### LEBANESE SALAD:

#### TABBOULEH

- ½ cup bulgur
- 1 cup fresh mint
- 3 cups flat-leaf parsley
- ½ onion
- 2 medium tomatoes
- ½ cup fresh lemon juice
- ½ cup olive oil
- ½ teaspoon salt

Place bulgur in a large bowl and add enough water to cover it by a few inches. Let stand at room temperature for at least three hours, until the grain is soft. Drain in a fine-mesh colander, pressing on the bulgur to remove excess water. (If you don't have a fine-mesh colander, squeezing the water out by hand also works.) Coarsely chop mint and parsley (leaves only, no stems). Chop onion and tomatoes. Place chopped ingredients into a large bowl with bulgur, and add lemon juice, olive oil and salt.

### LEBANESE EGGPLANT DIP:

#### BABA GHANOUJ

- 1 medium eggplant
- 3 tablespoons tahini (sesame paste)
- ¼ cup fresh lemon juice
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- teaspoon salt
- olive oil
- pita bread

Using a fork, prick holes in the skin of the eggplant in several places to prevent it from bursting while cooking. Then roast it whole in a 350-degree oven for 30-40 minutes or until tender. Allow roasted eggplant to cool for 10 minutes. Peel and discard the skin, and place the rest of the eggplant into a bowl. Using a fork, mash the eggplant into a paste. Mix in tahini, lemon juice, garlic and salt. Transfer to a serving bowl and drizzle olive oil on top. Serve with pita bread or other flatbread.

### EGYPTIAN BREAKFAST:

#### FUL MEDAMES

- 2 cups small fava beans, soaked overnight
- pita bread
- hard-boiled eggs
- salt and pepper

Drain beans, then put them in a large saucepan and cover with water. Cover and simmer until beans are tender, about 1½-2 hours, adding water as needed to keep beans submerged. When the beans have softened, remove the lid and let the liquid reduce for 20 minutes. With a wooden spoon, mash a small amount of the beans in the pan to thicken the sauce. Scoop into soup bowls and serve with pita bread and hard-boiled eggs. Salt and pepper to taste.

## WEEK FIVE

# AFRICA

### AFRICA IS THE SECOND LARGEST CONTINENT.

The equator intersects Africa, so part of the continent lies in the Northern Hemisphere and part in the Southern Hemisphere. Africa is known for its natural beauty and wild-life, including lions, giraffes and elephants. But many parts of Africa are underdeveloped and poor. People suffer from disease and don't have enough food, clean water or shelter. The people of Africa are diverse, speaking many different languages. Christianity and Islam are the two most common religions.

SUNDAY, JUNE 30

### HOW TO PRAY FOR AFRICA:

- War is common throughout Africa. Pray for safety for the many children and families impacted by violence.
- Pray that the leaders of African countries will lead with wisdom, patience, honesty and peace.
- Pray that people will have enough food and clean water.

MONDAY, JULY 1  
ETHIOPIA

**13** What types of bread do you typically eat? Ethiopians eat *injera*—a large, flat bread. They tear it into pieces and use it as a utensil to scoop up other foods. Try using tortillas, pitas or other varieties of flat bread to scoop up meats, vegetables or sauces. Western bread differs from Ethiopian *injera*, but both nourish the body. Jesus is the Bread of Life, and He nourishes our souls. **John 6:35**

TUESDAY, JULY 2  
ETHIOPIA

In Ethiopia, long periods without rain mean that there is not enough food to eat, and sometimes people go hungry. Some families in our own communities may also be without enough to eat. Read **1 John 3:17**. Then, take canned food to a food pantry in your area.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 3  
ZIMBABWE

**14** Most people in Zimbabwe either have no electricity or only have it for part of the day. Spend an evening without using any electricity. Besides electricity, what other comforts of home do you sometimes take for granted? Thank God for all of your blessings. **Psalm 100:4**

THURSDAY, JULY 4  
ZIMBABWE

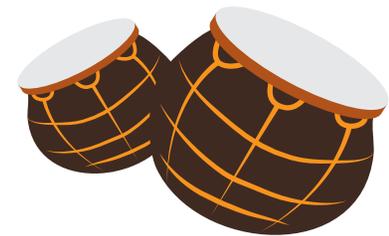
Only about one in five children in Zimbabwe go to school. What opportunities might you miss out on if you were not able to get an education? Read a new book as a family, and give thanks to God for your opportunity to learn. **Proverbs 23:12**

FRIDAY, JULY 5  
SOUTH AFRICA

**15** South Africa has 11 official languages. In the Xhosa language, the way to say hello is *molo*. In Setswana, you would say, *dumela*. Pretend that family members are new friends who do not speak your language, and take turns demonstrating ways to show love and kindness without using words. **1 John 3:18**

SATURDAY, JULY 6  
SOUTH AFRICA

Because of disease, many children in South Africa have lost their moms and dads and are waiting to be adopted into loving families. Write things you love about your family on slips of paper. Put the slips into a bowl on your dining table. Before dinner, take turns pulling a paper from the bowl and reading it aloud. Then pray that orphans in South Africa would one day experience the blessings of a family, too. **John 14:18**



TO LEARN ABOUT THE WORK FOCUS ON THE FAMILY is doing in Africa, visit [SaFamily.org.za](http://SaFamily.org.za).

## WEEK SIX

# EUROPE

## EUROPE CONTAINS

France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Spain and many other countries. These countries are generally developed nations, and the region is wealthy compared to much of the world. Europe's history is tied to our own because many people who settled North America came from Europe. Christianity is the main religion of Europe, but today many Europeans don't consider God an important part of their lives.

### SUNDAY, JULY 7 HOW TO PRAY FOR EUROPE:

- Despite their relative wealth, many countries in Europe face economic troubles. Pray for families who are having a hard time finding work and paying for the things they need.
- The countries of Europe have a lot of influence over the rest of the world. Pray for wise, humble, strong leaders.
- Pray that people will understand their need for Jesus and that their hearts will be open to His love.

### MONDAY, JULY 8 IRELAND

**16** Play "Mr. Fox," a popular Irish game. One person is Mr. Fox, while other players form a row about 20 feet away from Mr. Fox, whose back is turned. The players in the line ask, "What time is it, Mr. Fox?" Fox replies, "1 o'clock." Players walk toward Mr. Fox, repeating the question with each step they take until Mr. Fox answers, "Dinner time." Mr. Fox then chases everyone back to the wall. The first person tagged is now the Fox. After the game, thank God for laughter and fun times together. **Proverbs 17:22**

### TUESDAY, JULY 9 IRELAND

What is the weather like where you live? Ireland is one of the rainiest countries in Europe, making it one of the greenest places, too! In fact, Ireland is often known as the Emerald Isle. All that rain means rainbows are a frequent sight in the Irish skies. Read **Genesis 9:8-17**. Then, use colorful Froot Loops cereal to make rainbow necklaces as reminders of God's promise to Noah.

### WEDNESDAY, JULY 10 SWEDEN

**17** Cut the shape of a horse from red construction paper, and paint it to look like a Swedish *dala* horse with the traditional floral *kurbit* saddle. According to Swedish tradition, the *kurbit* symbolizes Jonah's vine. Read the story in **Jonah 4**, and talk about the compassion we should have for those who do not know the Lord.

### THURSDAY, JULY 11 SWEDEN

What is your most prized possession? Find the item and bring it back to show your family. Was it hard for you to choose only one favorite thing? Just as you might have many material blessings to be thankful for, families in Sweden typically have many material blessings, too. No matter what earthly treasure we possess, our true fortune is in heaven. How are heavenly treasures different from earthly ones? **Matthew 6:19-21**

### FRIDAY, JULY 12 FRANCE

**18** The Eiffel Tower, located in Paris, has 1,665 steps to the top. Using toy building blocks, see who can build the tallest tower without it falling. Read **Isaiah 28:16**. Jesus is the solid foundation on which we build.

### SATURDAY, JULY 13 FRANCE

Tomorrow is French Independence Day—called Bastille Day. French families celebrate their independence by watching fireworks and enjoying time with friends, just as you may do on the Fourth of July. Make freedom hats. Cut a wide strip of construction paper to fit around your head. Then, attach pipe cleaners or strips of colorful paper around the top rim of the hat to make "fireworks." Tape or glue the ends to form a hat. Read **Romans 6:22-23**. Jesus' death and resurrection gave us freedom from sin and death!

**FOCUS ON THE FAMILY IS ENCOURAGING FAMILIES**  
in Europe. To discover how, visit [Family.ie](http://Family.ie).



# SOUTH AMERICA

## SOUTH AMERICA INCLUDES 12 COUNTRIES,

including Brazil and Peru. It's a beautiful region that includes the world's largest rain forest, the Andes Mountains and the Amazon River. Spanish is the official language of most countries, but Portuguese, English, French and many tribal languages are also spoken. There are large, modern cities throughout South America. But alongside the rich live many people who are extremely poor. They do not have the basics of clean water, good food, safe houses or medical services.



### SUNDAY, JULY 14 HOW TO PRAY FOR SOUTH AMERICA:

- Pray for projects that provide wells and filters that bring clean water. These projects can help many people avoid diseases caused by unclean water.
- Pray that people isolated in the deepest jungles and the highest mountains would learn about God's love for them.
- Pray that children can go to school and learn skills to help them have a better life.

### MONDAY, JULY 15 COLOMBIA

**19** Play "The Round Street," a popular Colombian game using spinning tops. One player leaves his top in a chalk circle on the ground. Other players attempt to knock it out with their tops. No tops? Play the game using balls or marbles instead. Read **2 Corinthians 4:8-9**. Even when we are knocked down by others, God is always with us.

### TUESDAY JULY 16 COLOMBIA

In Colombia, older members of the family are greatly respected for their wisdom. They are always served first at mealtimes. At your next meal, serve the people at the table in order from oldest to youngest. **Leviticus 19:32**

### WEDNESDAY, JULY 17 SURINAME

**20** The Creole people of Suriname have a common expression in their language that reveals the heart of their culture: *no span*, which means, "keep cool, don't worry." Homes have a relaxed atmosphere, and shoes are always removed upon entering. Write several things you are anxious about on a piece of paper, and tape it to the bottom of your shoe. Bring these worries to God in prayer. Then kick off your shoes—and your worries—and relax with your family. **Philippians 4:6-7**

### THURSDAY, JULY 18 SURINAME

*Kaseko* is a popular form of music in Suriname. Call-and-response style singing is accompanied by quick rhythms on a big drum called a *skratji*. Sometimes saxophones, trumpets and trombones are also played. (Samples of *kaseko* music can be easily found on the Internet.) Make drums by stretching fabric circles over empty cans and securing the fabric with rubber bands. Then play the drums and take turns singing lines for everyone to repeat. Sing to the Lord a new song! **Psalms 96:1**

### FRIDAY, JULY 19 BOLIVIA

**21** Make a Bolivian *balero*. Tie a string through a hole in the bottom of a paper cup. Attach a plastic spoon to the other end of the string. Hold the spoon and swing the cup, then tug on the spoon at the right moment to catch the cup with the spoon. The game requires patience because it may take many attempts before you are able to catch the cup. Read **Galatians 6:9**. God asks us to wait patiently for the reward waiting for us in heaven.

### SATURDAY, JULY 20 BOLIVIA

In Bolivia, as in many South American countries, children are expected to assist with many family responsibilities. Kids from rural areas help parents with planting and harvesting crops or tending sheep. Those from the city often work with their mothers, selling goods at marketplaces. Have a family workday—wash the car, pull weeds, carry in groceries, and so on. **Galatians 6:2**

# CENTRAL AMERICA / CARIBBEAN

## COUNTRIES IN CENTRAL AMERICA INCLUDE COSTA RICA, NICARAGUA,

Panama and Honduras. To the east of Central America, in the Caribbean Sea, are many island nations, including Jamaica and the Bahamas. The climate of this region is mostly tropical. Many fruit crops such as bananas, pineapples and mangoes are grown here. Unfortunately many people in this region struggle to provide shelter and food for their families, and they don't have the education or skills to make their situation better. The majority of people in this region are Roman Catholic.

## SUNDAY, JULY 21 HOW TO PRAY FOR CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN:

- Pray that government leaders will be honest and fair and work toward helping poor people improve their lives.
- Natural disasters such as volcanic eruptions, earthquakes and hurricanes can cause lots of damage to these countries. Pray for families' safety.
- The natural beauty of Central America and the Caribbean draws many tourists. Pray that countries would use their resources wisely and preserve them for the future.

## MONDAY, JULY 22 COSTA RICA

**22** Costa Rica is known for its beaches and tropical rain forests, and the people of Costa Rica try hard to preserve their beautiful surroundings—national parks and wildlife refuges cover a quarter of the country's land! Read **Genesis 1:26**. No matter where we live, we can care for God's creation. Make a feeder for the birds in your neighborhood. Search for "**Bright Bird Feeder**" at **ClubhouseJr.com** for instructions.

## TUESDAY, JULY 23 COSTA RICA

Jesus loves every person throughout the entire world, and He wants us to share that wonderful news every chance we get. Try singing "Jesus Loves Me" in Spanish, the main language of Costa Rica, as a reminder that God's love crosses all language barriers. Search "Jesus Loves Me" at **ThrivingFamily.com** to listen to the song in both English and Spanish. **Psalm 96:3**

## WEDNESDAY, JULY 24 JAMAICA

**23** Some of the fastest runners in the world are from Jamaica, and many Jamaican children grow up running everywhere they go! Try running around the block as a family. Eventually, you'll get tired and start to slow down. Read **Isaiah 40:29-31**. God is the source of our strength when we are weary.

## THURSDAY, JULY 25 JAMAICA

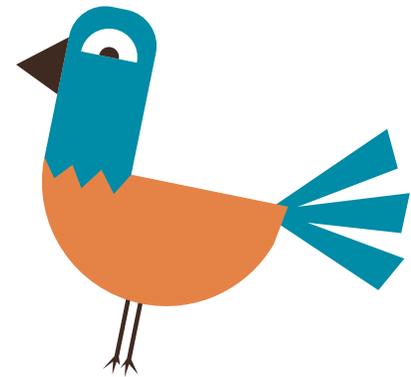
The nation of Jamaica has deep spiritual history and more churches per square mile than any other place in the world. Though most of the island's people are Christians, others such as Jews, Hindus, Muslims and Rastafarians also call Jamaica home. Drive around your community, and count how many different churches you see. Just going to church doesn't make someone a Christian. What does? **John 6:44**

## FRIDAY, JULY 26 BAHAMAS

**24** Bright costumes and lively music fill the streets of the Bahamas during *Junkanoo*—a street parade that takes place several times a year. Help your kids make horns from paper towel rolls, and use scarves to make fun costumes. Let them parade around and make a joyful noise! **Psalm 100:1-2**

## SATURDAY, JULY 27 BAHAMAS

Many Bahamians make a living working in the fishing industry, either on commercial fishing boats or as guides on sport-fishing boats. Read **Matthew 4:19**. Jesus wants us to become "fishers of men" by bringing people to Him. Draw and cut out paper fish. Place a paperclip on each fish's head. Put the fish in a bowl. Make a fishing pole with a stick, string and a small magnet. Take turns "catching" fish, and discuss ways you can bring people to Jesus.



## WEEK NINE

# NORTH AMERICA

### NORTH AMERICA IS THE THIRD LARGEST CONTINENT,

but it comes in fourth for population. It includes Canada, Mexico and the United States. English and Spanish are the main languages of these industrialized countries, and Christianity is the most common religion. Compared with much of the world, this region is characterized by more stable governments and wealth.

#### SUNDAY, JULY 28 HOW TO PRAY FOR NORTH AMERICA:

- Parts of Mexico have experienced increased violence because of the illegal drug trade. Pray for safety and security for people in these areas.
- Pray that people will recognize that only God—not money or possessions—can give them true peace and joy.
- Although wealthy compared to much of the world, many people in North America struggle to get work and provide for their families. Pray that God will provide for their needs and that Christians will be generous to those around them.

#### MONDAY, JULY 29 MEXICO

**25** Have a picnic lunch outdoors with your children. In Mexico, most people eat their main meal, *comida*, between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. It often consists of soup, rice or pasta, meat, tortillas, refried beans and dessert. Thank God for the food He provides. **Matthew 6:25-26**

#### TUESDAY, JULY 30 CANADA

**26** Set up two goals and give each player a broom. Whoever sweeps a ball into his opponent's goal, scores a point. The first team to score five points wins! One of the most popular sports for kids in Canada is ice hockey. It's similar to broom hockey except it's played on ice—something you probably don't have in your yard on this summer day! Ice hockey is Canada's national winter sport. Just as there are seasons for each type of sport, there is also a "season for every activity under the heavens." **Ecclesiastes 3:1.**

#### WEDNESDAY, JULY 31 UNITED STATES

**27** America is a collage of different cultures and traditions. Americans are encouraged to embrace not only the things that we have in common but also those things that make us different because those differences are what makes American society so vibrant! What are some things that make your family unique? Read **1 Corinthians 12:27-31**. Email a picture of your family enjoying your favorite summer tradition to [editor@thrivingfamily.com](mailto:editor@thrivingfamily.com) for a chance to win a VeggieTales DVD!

### FOCUS ON THE FAMILY IS STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

in North America. To learn how, visit [FocusOnTheFamily.ca](http://FocusOnTheFamily.ca) and [FocusOnTheFamily.com](http://FocusOnTheFamily.com).



## Assembling your passport

1. Print out all four pages.
2. Cut along the dotted lines.
3. Stack pages in order according to page numbers.
4. Staple along left edge to create a book.



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**YOUR NAME**

**thriving**  
FAMILY

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## Week One **OCEANIA**



On the back of this page, write how you prayed for Oceania.

Week Two  
**ASIA**



On the back of this page, write how you prayed for Asia.

Week Three  
**CENTRAL ASIA /  
EASTERN EUROPE**



On the back of this page, write how you prayed for Central Asia and Eastern Europe.

Week Four  
**MIDDLE EAST**



On the back of this page, write how you prayed for the Middle East.

Week Five  
**AFRICA**



On the back of this page, write how you prayed for Africa.

Week Six  
**EUROPE**



On the back of this page, write how you prayed for Europe.

Week Seven  
**SOUTH AMERICA**



On the back of this page, write how you prayed for South America.

Week Eight  
**CENTRAL AMERICA /  
CARIBBEAN**



On the back of this page, write how you prayed for Central America and the Caribbean.

Week Nine  
**NORTH AMERICA**



On the back of this page, write how you prayed for North America.



Color, cut and paste these stamps into your passport when you "visit" each country.