



june

thriving family 2011
summer fun & faith calendar

1
Wednesday

Make "story cards" to keep in your car. Write one word per card: patience, kindness, humility, forgiveness, honesty, perseverance, loyalty, courage, mercy, justice, etc. Let your kids choose a card, and then make up a story for your children to learn about that virtue.

2
Thursday

Make a small photo book of immediate family members and grandparents. Look through the book with your kids, and ask them to share something nice that each family member has done for them. Pray together for each person. (Ephesians 6:18)

3
Friday

Discuss ways to praise God. Make a CD of your children singing their favorite praise songs. (Keep it in the car or anyplace you spend time together.) Then sing praise songs as a family. (Psalm 9:11; 47:6; 147:1)

4
Saturday

Join Focus on the Family's Clubhouse Jr. summer service challenge. Find out what you can do at clubhousejr.com.



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5
Sunday

Think of a special word to listen for in the morning sermon, such as love or faith. (Or ask your pastor for a word related to the sermon topic.) Then have your child count how many times he hears that word. At lunch, talk about what the pastor meant by that word.

6
Monday

Write Psalm 119:11 on a large sheet of paper. Cut it into puzzle pieces, and hide the pieces around your home. Let the kids find and put the puzzle pieces together. Memorize this Scripture as a family during the week.

7
Tuesday

Give your child five pebbles to put in his pocket. Ask him to be kind to others today. Every time he does a random act of kindness, he can move one pebble into a different pocket. At the end of the day, discuss what he did to bless others. (Galatians 6:10)

8
Wednesday

Start a game of follow the leader or Simon says. Then discuss the One we should follow and obey. (Deuteronomy 13:4)

9
Thursday

To help your family memorize this week's verse (see June 6), toss a ball to one child. Have her say the first word of the verse before tossing the ball to someone else, who says the next word. Continue until you complete the verse. If the ball is dropped, start again.

10
Friday

Ask your children to shape a lump of modeling clay into a ball. Next, have them put the clay down. Ask them to shape a similar ball without using clay or anything else. Point out that God created the universe from nothing. (Hebrews 11:3)

11
Saturday

As you're driving with your kids today, point out the lines on the road. They are guides. They help us know where we should and should not be. They set limits for us. What limits does God put on us? On our behavior? Why? (Deuteronomy 5:6-21)



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12
Sunday Select a country where Christians are persecuted. (For a list of countries, visit persecution.com.) Look up information about the country, find its location on a map and have children draw its national flag. Then pray together for the believers there.

13
Monday Write out Jeremiah 29:13 on index cards, putting one word on each card. Shuffle the cards. Then have your kids put the cards in the correct order to form the verse. If they need help, let them look up the verse in the Bible. Memorize the verse as a family.

14
Tuesday Supply your children with encouragement and hope this morning. Kiss their cheeks, and whisper in their ears, "You can do great things with God!" (Hebrews 3:13)

15
Wednesday Take an evening walk and enjoy the full moon. Explain that the light from the moon is reflected from the sun. Tell your children that Jesus is the Light of the World, and we reflect His light by our faith and actions. (Matthew 5:16, John 8:12)

16
Thursday Look through your family photo book (see June 2). Ask your children to say why they're thankful for each family member. Pray together for each person. (1 Timothy 2:1)

17
Friday Drive with all your car windows rolled halfway down. Talk with your kids about the wind, explaining how you can all feel it but you can't see it. Share the concept that while we can't see God, He is always at work. (Ecclesiastes 11:5)

18
Saturday Hide in a tent that you and your children build from sheets. Remind them that God is their hiding place, a shelter to protect them during tough times. (Psalm 32:7)



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19
Sunday (Father's Day) Put on a skit for Dad by acting out a childhood story that he likes to tell. Let the kids take on the role of Dad's parents, favorite pets, best friends. Then as a family, say this prayer for Dad: Numbers 6:24-26.

20
Monday Write Philippians 4:13 as a scrambled verse on paper: "I nac od verintheyg rhutohg mhi how segiv em threnstg." See who can be the first to unscramble it. Memorize the verse as a family throughout the week.

21
Tuesday Blindfold your child and spin her around gently. Let her try leading you to a nearby tree or swing set. Remove the blindfold and explain how those who don't know Jesus are like blind people who don't know where to go. Pray for someone who needs to know Jesus. (Isaiah 59:10)

22
Wednesday Open an umbrella and ask your kids, "When do we use umbrellas?" Then read Psalm 91:1 to discover what kind of protection God gives to His children. Ask: "Who will you run to in the storms of life?"

23
Thursday Help your kids think about how words affect others. If we say something mean, what happens? If we say something kind, how does it make people feel? Ask your children to look for five people they can say kind things to. At the end of the day, discuss their experiences. (Proverbs 18:21)

24
Friday Have your kids help water the plants in your house or yard. Explain to them how water makes things grow. Tell them that God's Word is living water that helps us grow into the people God wants us to be. (Psalm 1:1-3)

25
Saturday Have a camping trip in your living room or backyard. Count the stars as you count things that you are most thankful for. (1 Thessalonians 5:18)



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26

Sunday

Before church, pray for your pastors and their families. Think of one thing your family might do for a pastor's family to help them on a busy Sunday.

27

Monday

Let each child write Proverbs 3:5 on a strip of masking tape. Tear each strip into several pieces, with one to two words on each piece. Let the kids race to stick the pieces in order on their shirts. Memorize the verse as a family throughout the week.

28

Tuesday

Jump for Jesus! "I love orange juice. I love tea. I love Jesus, and He loves me." Make up your own rhymes and jump rope together. (Acts 3:8)

29

Wednesday

Cut an apple in half widthwise. See the surprise star inside. Now take a "surprise walk" looking for God's surprises: a snail, feather, white stone. (Jeremiah 33:3)

30

Thursday

Blindfold your children, and have them guess the scents (spices, perfumes, foods) that you place under their noses. Mention that we rely on our noses to identify odors, just as we rely on God's Word to tell the difference between right and wrong. (2 Timothy 3:16)

1

Friday

Play "stop sign." Every time you come to a stop sign, have your kids tell you one thing the Bible says not to do. Then as you start driving again, have them tell you one thing the Bible says we should do. (Deuteronomy 6:6-7)

2

Saturday

During the hottest part of the day, eat Popsicles together. How refreshing! Explain that Jesus refreshes our souls when we turn to God and confess our sins. (Acts 3:19)

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3
Sunday

Spend time talking as a family about the symbolism of your country's flag, its pattern and colors, and how to become a citizen. Then talk about what it means to have "citizenship in heaven." Let the kids design a flag for God's kingdom. (John 18:36, Philippians 3:20)

4
Monday

Talk about how our country's freedom was secured through the sacrifice and service of others. Point out that personal sacrifice continues to be necessary to defend our freedoms. Ask your kids to serve four people today. (1 Peter 4:10)

5
Tuesday

Do a "Scripture puzzle" using Galatians 5:22-23 (see June 6). But this time, let your kids cut the puzzle pieces and hide them around your home. You get to find and put the puzzle pieces together. Memorize this Scripture as a family this week.

6
Wednesday

Mark out a finish line on the sidewalk or grass. Talk about what gets in the way of running our best. Before putting on their sneakers, have your kids put a small stone in their shoe. Ready, set, go. The stone hurts. Take out the pebble and repeat the race. What a difference! Discuss Hebrews 12:1.

7
Thursday

Look through your family photo book (see June 2). Ask your children to name at least one need that each family member might have. Pray together for those needs. (Philippians 4:6)

8
Friday

Play flashlight tag. After dark, everyone finds a hiding place. The person who is "it" uses a flashlight beam to "tag" other players. Young children can partner with a parent. After everyone is tagged, talk about how God sees us wherever we go and shines His light on our lives. (1 Corinthians 4:5, Hebrews 4:13)

9
Saturday

Make a rainbow. Put on bathing suits and use a garden hose to spray a shower of water into the sunlight. Talk about Noah and his family; then discuss how God protects your family. (Genesis 9:8-16)



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10
Sunday

Help your children write a letter or email to a friend or relative who lives far away. Ask them to share what they learned in church. Discuss Proverbs 25:25: "Like cold water to a weary soul is good news from a distant land."

11
Monday

Write out James 4:7 on index cards. Stand up each card in a different shoe that belongs to someone in your family. Have your kids put the shoes in the correct order to form the verse. If they need help, let them look up the verse in the Bible. Memorize the verse as a family throughout the week.

12
Tuesday

Have your kids find as many different flowers as they can in your yard or a field. Remind them that God could have made everything the same shape and color, but He created great variety in plants—different colors, looks, purposes—to bring us joy and meet our needs. (Genesis 1:11-13)

13
Wednesday

Have family members trace their feet on a piece of paper. Color the outlines of their feet with polka dots or other designs. Read Isaiah 52:7, which talks about how beautiful are "the feet of those who bring good news." Think of a person with whom your family could share the Good News of salvation.

14
Thursday

Hold a contest to see who can make the most people smile by smiling at them first and saying hello. Remind your children that we get to spread God's joy to others, encouraging them by our actions. (1 Thessalonians 5:11)

15
Friday

Have a family karaoke event, choosing songs to represent each person in the family. Read Zephaniah 3:17, which says God "will rejoice over you with singing." Discuss what God's song about you might say.

16
Saturday

Have a show-and-tell time where your children display their most valuable possessions. Ask if they would be willing to give them up for something else. Then talk about John 3:16 and how God gave up his precious Son, Jesus, for us.

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17
Sunday Ask each person in your family to find a quiet spot. Practice being still and listening. Later, talk about the sounds you heard. Discuss how to be still and listen for God's voice. (1 Kings 19:12-13, Psalm 46:10)

18
Monday Write Philippians 2:14 as a scrambled verse on paper: "od verynigeth totwihu plingcomain ro garingu." See who can unscramble it first. Memorize the verse as a family throughout the week.

19
Tuesday Help your children write down the names of everyone who loves them. Explain that we don't need the list to know who they are because their names are written in our hearts. Remind your kids that the way we love others will cause our names to be written on people's hearts, too. (2 Corinthians 3:2-3)

20
Wednesday When your children come inside after playing in the hot sun, rattle ice cubes in an opaque cup. Ask what they hear. Are they certain there is ice in the cup even though they can't see it? How do they know? Read the definition of faith in Hebrews 11:1. Give each child an ice cube.

21
Thursday After watching (or playing) a favorite sport, ask: "What would the game be like if there were no rules?" While discussing how the rules ensure that the game is fair and fun, explain how God's Word helps us get the most out of our lives. (Colossians 3:15-16)

22
Friday Have your children take turns hopping on one foot down the sidewalk. Mark with chalk where they first stumble. Tell your kids that although they will stumble and make mistakes in life, they can start "hopping" again with the help of Jesus. (Psalm 37:23-24)

23
Saturday Collect insects in a jar. Study the differences in their bodies, wings and legs. Then let them go. Tell your child that God made everything that creeps on the earth. (Genesis 1:24)

24
Sunday On the way to church, ask your children to make the grumpiest, sourest, maddest faces possible. Then see who bursts out laughing first. Talk about how the joy of the Lord can't help but shine on their faces. (Habakkuk 3:18)

25
Monday Help your kids cut out the individual words for 1 John 4:7 from junk mail, magazines or church bulletins. Glue the words to a sheet of paper and memorize the verse as a family throughout the week.

26
Tuesday Using fabric markers, decorate an old pillowcase or plain white pillowcase. Write Psalm 63:6, "On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night." Embellish with your favorite designs.

27
Wednesday Place a piece of construction paper in the sun and put a flat, heavy object on part of the paper. After a few hours, remove the object. The object's shape will be visible on the faded paper. Tell your children that the more time spent in prayer, the clearer we'll see God's will for us. (Romans 12:2)

28
Thursday Look through your family photo book (see June 2). Ask your children to talk about a special memory they have of each family member. When done, tell them that they can remember the special things God has done for them, too. Pray together for each person. (Psalm 105:5)

29
Friday Allow your children to take turns putting on their mom's perfume or their dad's cologne. Ask them to walk around the room and "spread the fragrance." Read 2 Corinthians 2:14-15 and talk about how we are to share the Good News of Jesus with others.

30
Saturday As a family, use chalk to decorate your sidewalk or driveway. Describe how our ability to create is a reflection of the creativity of God, who formed the earth, animals, galaxies and all that exists. (Isaiah 45:11-12)

31
Sunday Serve a glass of milk. Ask your children if milk alone is enough for their growth. Explain how God desires His children to grow spiritually. Ask for some ways that this can happen. Follow by serving a well-balanced meal as you read Hebrews 5:13-14.

