

# summerrific

FAITH ADVENTURES

Use these fun-filled activity cards to explore God's Word as a family

This year, let summer curl its warm rays around your family and welcome you into its possibilities—fun projects, amusement park rides, hiking trails, sandy beaches, afternoon sprinklers and more. But don't stop there. *Focus on the Family* invites you to make the most of this summer by guiding your family on a faith-filled adventure, too.

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Illustrations by Kevin Zimmer





Romans 12:2

# Going Against the Flow

**ACTIVITY:** Fill a bucket with water, and churn with one hand. Take turns dipping hands into the resulting whirlpool, noting how it's easier to move "with the flow" than to go the other way. Explain that it's often easier to follow others, but obeying God sometimes means we must go against the flow.



Psalm 34:8

# No Tasting Allowed

**ACTIVITY:** At mealtime, tell your children to look at and smell their food, but no tasting is allowed. Explain how food is delicious and satisfying, but only if it's eaten. Then let them eat. Tell them that they can read, talk and sing about Jesus, but if they never experience Him, they won't know His goodness.



Proverbs 3:5

# Incomplete Puzzle

**ACTIVITY:** As you work on a puzzle, discuss how you can't see the whole picture until every piece is in place. Then explain how our lives are like an incomplete puzzle. Though it's hard to understand how certain events fit into God's plan, we can trust that He sees the whole picture and knows how all the pieces fit together.



Hebrews 11:1

# The Ice Cube Rattle

**ACTIVITY:** Rattle ice cubes in an opaque cup. Ask your kids what they hear. Are they certain there is ice in the cup even though they can't see it? How do they know? Give each child an ice cube as a cool refreshment while talking about what faith really means.



Colossians 3:15-16

## No-Rules Chaos

**ACTIVITY:** After watching (or playing) a favorite sport or game, 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.



Isaiah 45:11-12

## Creative Reflections

**ACTIVITY:** 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 everything else that exists.



Psalm 105:5

## Special People Pics

**ACTIVITY:** Look through some family photos. Ask your children to talk about a special memory they have of each family member. When done, tell them that the Bible helps them remember the special things that God has done for them, too. Pray together for each person.



Isaiah 59:10

## Blind Travelers

**ACTIVITY:** Blindfold your child and gently spin her around. 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.





Hebrews 12:1

## sticky Words

**ACTIVITY:** Let each child write Hebrews 12:1 on a strip of masking tape. Tear each strip into several pieces, with one or two words on each piece. Let the kids race to stick the pieces in order on their shirts. Memorize the verse as a family.



Psalm 1:1-3

## Crucial H<sub>2</sub>O

**ACTIVITY:** Have your kids help water the plants in your house or yard. Explain how water is crucial for life. Tell them that God's Word is living water that helps us grow into the people God wants us to be.



Ezekiel 34:26

## Good Showers

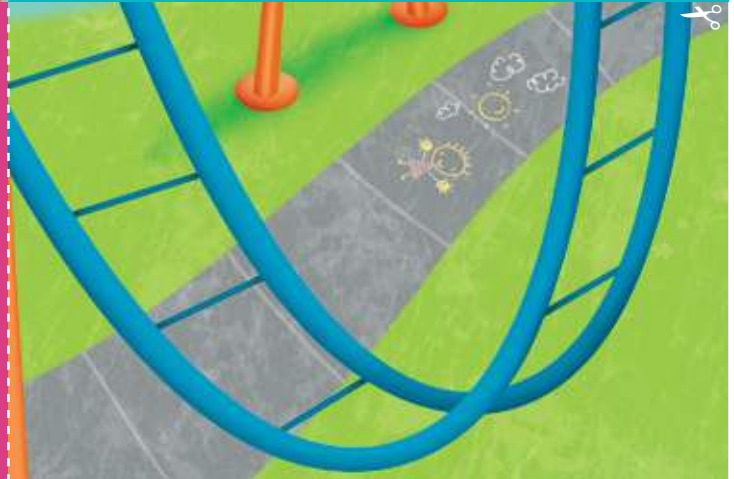
**ACTIVITY:** Cut out large paper raindrops. On each one, write one thing that you're thankful for. Hang them in a window so you can be reminded how God showers us with His blessings.



Romans 1:20

## God's Fingerprints

**ACTIVITY:** Using an inkpad, have your kids press their fingertips to the ink, then to paper. With a marker, add details to the imprints to create animals or plants. Talk about how we can see God's fingerprints in nature.





Isaiah 52:7

## Beautiful Footsteps

**ACTIVITY:** Have family members trace their feet on a piece of paper. Color the outlines of their feet with polka dots or other designs. Think of a person with whom your family could share the Good News of salvation.



James 4:17

## Fancy Colors, Fancy Lies

**ACTIVITY:** Try out crayons with fancy names, such as cerulean or burnt sienna. Identify the crayon's common name, such as blue or brown. Explain that some people give fancy names to sin: "white lie," "five-finger discount," "to fudge," but the names do not change that it is still sin.



John 8:12

## Into the Shadows

**ACTIVITY:** Using a small mirror, help your children reflect light from the sun into darker areas—under a car, into a cluster of trees, etc. Pray together, asking God to help you reflect His light and love to those who do not know Him.



Psalms 104:1-3

## Floating on a Breeze

**ACTIVITY:** Make paper helicopters [find instructions at [ThrivingFamily.com/helicopter](http://ThrivingFamily.com/helicopter)], and drop them from a high place. Observe how they move in the breeze. Explain that the wind is a good picture of God's presence. We can't see Him, but He is always present.





Ephesians 3:20

# Jump for the Goal

**ACTIVITY:** Ask your kids to predict how far they can jump. Then on soft grass, have them try to reach their goal. Measure the results, giving praise for effort and improvement. Explain to your kids that God's abilities are so great they are immeasurable.



Psalm 103:12 (read after the activity)

# An East-West Conundrum

**ACTIVITY:** Take a walk with a compass. Go east. Ask your kids when they think the compass will say they've gone as far east as possible. After a while, explain that you could travel east—or west—forever (if you had the right vehicles). Discuss how this is similar to God's forgiveness. As far as the east is from the west—that's how far God has removed our sins from us.



Joshua 4:1-7

# Rocky Reminders

**ACTIVITY:** God asked His people to use stones as reminders of His faithfulness. Hunt for and collect interesting rocks. Recall ways God has been faithful to your family. Leave your rocks at your front door as reminders of God's faithfulness.



1 Kings 19:12-13; Psalm 46:10

# The sounds in silence

**ACTIVITY:** 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.

Psalm 150:1-2

## A Praise Recording

**ACTIVITY:** Discuss ways to praise God. Record your children singing their favorite praise songs. Play it when you're in the car together or at home and sing along with it.



Galatians 6:10

## Pebble Kindness

**ACTIVITY:** Give each 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.



Psalm 32:7

## Hiding Place

**ACTIVITY:** Hide in a tent that you and your children build from sheets or couch pillows. Remind them that God is their hiding place, a shelter to protect them during tough times.



Philippians 4:13 (read after the activity)

## A Mixed-Up Verse

**ACTIVITY:** Write Philippians 4:13 as a scrambled verse on paper: "I nac od lal sinthg rhutohg mhi how threennstg em." See who can be the first to unscramble it. Memorize the verse as a family throughout the week.







Psalm 91:1-2

# Storm Umbrellas

**ACTIVITY:** Open an umbrella and ask your kids, "When do we use umbrellas?" Discuss the protection God gives to His children. Ask: "Who will you run to during the storms of life?"



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Proverbs 25:25

# Sunday Words

**ACTIVITY:** Help your children write a letter to, email or text a friend or relative who lives far away. Ask them to share what they learned in church last Sunday. Then discuss the proverb together.



Numbers 6:24-26 (read after the activity)

# Acting Like a Child

**ACTIVITY:** Have your kids put on a skit for Dad or Mom by acting out a childhood story that this parent likes to tell. Let the kids take on the role of their grandparents, favorite pet, best friend, etc. Then as a family, read the Scripture together as a prayer for this parent.



1 Timothy 2:1

# Foreign Products

**ACTIVITY:** Read product labels on different items found in your home. What countries were they made in? Locate those countries on a map, and look up facts about them. Pray for the people who made the products you're using.



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Galatians 5:22-23

# Story Cards

**ACTIVITY:** Make story cards. Write one word per card: patience, kindness, humility, forgiveness, honesty, perseverance, loyalty, courage, mercy, justice, etc. Let your kids choose a card, and then have the whole family make up a story that illustrates that character value.



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Psalm 37:23-24

# Hopping and stumbling

**ACTIVITY:** 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 always start "hopping" again with the help of the Lord.



Proverbs 28:1; Proverbs 6:6-8

# sloths, Ants and Lions

**ACTIVITY:** Look up pictures of animals to use as examples of character qualities. Compare the sluggishness of a sloth to the diligence of an ant. Marvel at the boldness of a lion. Talk about character traits God desires for us.



Ephesians 1:16

# Collaged Prayers

**ACTIVITY:** Make a prayer collage to help kids remember the people they want to pray for. From photographs of family members to a picture of your country's leaders, cut out the images and paste them to a sheet of paper to hang by your child's bed.



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# Hidden Objects List

Find all 45 objects hidden in your completed puzzle.

	<input type="checkbox"/> sidewalk chalk designs		<input type="checkbox"/> feet		<input type="checkbox"/> Bible		<input type="checkbox"/> honesty
	<input type="checkbox"/> helicopter		<input type="checkbox"/> cup		<input type="checkbox"/> church		<input type="checkbox"/> lightning
	<input type="checkbox"/> tape roll		<input type="checkbox"/> blindfold		<input type="checkbox"/> praying hands		<input type="checkbox"/> forgiveness
	<input type="checkbox"/> rubber stamp		<input type="checkbox"/> ice cubes		<input type="checkbox"/> staff and notes		<input type="checkbox"/> staff and notes
	<input type="checkbox"/> raindrops		<input type="checkbox"/> carrot		<input type="checkbox"/> compass		<input type="checkbox"/> letter
	<input type="checkbox"/> hockey stick		<input type="checkbox"/> chalk		<input type="checkbox"/> globe		<input type="checkbox"/> courage
	<input type="checkbox"/> tennis ball		<input type="checkbox"/> mirror		<input type="checkbox"/> rocks		<input type="checkbox"/> umbrella
	<input type="checkbox"/> banana		<input type="checkbox"/> whirlpool		<input type="checkbox"/> ruler		<input type="checkbox"/> ant
	<input type="checkbox"/> bucket		<input type="checkbox"/> watering can		<input type="checkbox"/> made in China tag		<input type="checkbox"/> pocket
	<input type="checkbox"/> crayon		<input type="checkbox"/> map		<input type="checkbox"/> tent		<input type="checkbox"/> lion face
	<input type="checkbox"/> soccer ball		<input type="checkbox"/> puzzle pieces		<input type="checkbox"/> book		
	<input type="checkbox"/> photo		<input type="checkbox"/> football		<input type="checkbox"/> pebbles		

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## Hidden Objects Answer Key

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