

Parent Link *Faith@home*

Summer Edition

2014

A Parent Resource from the Children's Ministry of Faith Bible Church, DeSoto, TX

Avoiding the Summer Slump

It's summer, which means kids are out of school and schedules and routines go out the window. Kids stay up later, sleep in longer, and look to you to fill their days with stuff to do.

As our summer schedules relax, it's easy for kids to fall into a slump. They're not engaging their brains as much as they were during the school year. And while breaks are healthy, it's not always good for kids to completely disengage for months at a time. Our kids' faith growth can also fall into a summer slump.

But, there's good news! The effects

of the slump are less pronounced in kids whose families intentionally engage their kids with growth opportunities—whether it's special summer camps and activities offered at church, or library visits and art classes, even simple nature walks. Keeping your kids engaged translates into their spiritual growth, too.



By intentionally involving your kids in faith conversations, sharing your wonder at God's creation while camping, or simply praying together daily will keep their spiritual minds sharp and expanding. You're the #1 influencer in your kids' spiritual lives; take the summer as an opportunity to keep learning—and growing—together. (More...pg. 2)

ASK GOD:

1. To help you connect with your kids over the summer.
2. To show you areas where you can grow as a parent.
3. For opportunities to let your kids expand their responsibilities.

Upcoming Events

Can't wait for summer?

Neither can we. Join us! Camp is even more fun when you invite your friends, neighbors, and teammates.

Summer Camps 2014

Faith Adventure Camps:

June 16-19, June 30-July 2, and July 14-15

NEW!

Lil' Kids Camp: June 9-10

Soccer Camp: June 11-13

Basketball Camp: June 23-28

Details, Pricing, and
Register online at:

FaithBible.com

FBC Kids

Ultimate Adventure

Sundays, 9am

In The GOSPEL PROJECT we'll see how God restored a faithful remnant and reminded them of His promise of a new covenant through Jesus Christ. Later, we begin a study in the NT of Jesus, both as the promised Messiah and the Son of God.

Children's Church

Sundays, 10:30am

This summer, we are exploring the book of Acts, learning how the Church grew and spread to the world through the ministry of the apostles.

Lil' FBC Kids

Nursery & Pre-K

Available during both
Sunday services.

Faith Adventure

Lil' Kids Evening Camp

June 9-10, 5:30-7:30pm, \$20
A pint-sized camp adventure
for 4's-K's to share with an
adult family member.

Mother's Day Out

Tu &/or Th, 9-2:30pm
Info at 972-223-0000 x136
Enrolling now for fall.

The Preschool Playground

project is about to get
underway! Watch for
progress! Please pray and
consider giving to this need.

VBS

Vacation Bible School

June 7-11, 9am-noon

Check-in at the FLC lobby.



Caravan with Moses & the
Israelites in this one-of-a-kind
Bible-times VBS.

Invite your friends!

Participants and Volunteers
should **REGISTER ONLINE:**
Faith Bible.com

Hawaiian Falls Family Night
will be **Wed. July 9**



Intentional Engagement

So how can you integrate intentionality into your family's summer routine? Here are easy ideas to choose from. Some may be things you're already doing, but with an added twist, can be a great time of growing closer together and closer to God.

Quick Ideas

- Sign up your kids for Summer Camp. Faith Bible Church is offering multiple Faith Adventure Camps, ONEGOAL Soccer Camp, and a Heads up! Basketball Camp—all Christian faith-based and tons of fun and skills development.
- Take your kids to Vacation Bible School. Each day, ask your kids what they learned and talk through practical ways to live that out. Help them impact their friends by inviting them to come along too.
- Go for a hike. Look for and talk about God's creation.
- Have a movie night. Look for biblical truths you see—and don't see—in the film.
- Invite your kids' friends over for dinner and games. Your family might be one of the only stable influences in a kid's life, and your home could be an oasis.

TEACHABLE MOMENTS

Honoring God

In June, we celebrate dads. Here's a project to help kids show their appreciation for their Heavenly Father.

Gather art supplies such as paper, markers, or paints. Have family members each draw or paint a picture of something he or she is thankful to God for.

Take turns sharing your pictures and explaining why you each chose that picture. Then discuss these questions:

- What does it mean that God is our heavenly father?
- Why does it matter if we're thankful for what God gives us?
- What are other ways we can show our thankfulness to God?

Close by praying, "God, thank you for being our heavenly father, and for all of the ways you have blessed us. Amen."

"And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all He has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind He will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship Him."
Romans 12:1

Start a family book club.

Take turns selecting a book; then meet weekly to discuss it. While you do so, weave in questions and discussion about faith and how it shows up in the book. Perhaps a character exhibited Christian behavior, or someone's selfish motivations led to a downfall.

This idea is a good excuse to wade into the books your kids are reading and interested in. You can grapple with principles in the book or explore challenging concepts together through thoughtful conversation.

A family book club has the added benefit of keeping your kids reading over the summer, helping to stave off the summer slump. In addition, many libraries offer free summer reading programs.

Teach your kids life skills.

One of our main jobs as parents is to raise kids who can function once they leave the nest. So use the summer months to teach kids skills they'll need in life. Here are some possibilities: cooking, laundry, cleaning a bathroom, sewing, creating a grocery list, simple budgeting, basic repairs, yard maintenance, maybe even ironing.

Teaching kids these skills will take effort, but once they've learned, you can integrate them into their normal chores. You'll save yourself time in the long run and teach your kids self-sufficiency.

Adopt a neighbor.

If you have a neighbor who's elderly or a single parent, that person might be struggling to keep up with yard work. Consider tasking your kids with helping out by going over once a week to pull weeds, water, or plant flowers. (After you ask the neighbor for permission, of course.) You can talk in the evening and discuss what they experienced that day and why lending a hand to others is something Jesus wants us to do.