

From the Family Room

**Creekwood Church of Christ
Mobile, AL**

5 June, 2016

10 Fun Ways to Develop Faith in Your Children in the Summer of '16!

You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up. Deuteronomy 6:5-7



Summer is finally here! Our schedules have changed somewhat. There is less traffic in the morning as we go to work. Our children have more free time. Their time at home is freed up for a variety of activities. It is great to have this time when there is less pressure on the family. This would be a great time to do some fun activities with our children or grandchildren that would also be great learning opportunities to teach them about God. We can teach about His creative work in nature, His characteristics found in the Bible, and how we can glorify Him by serving others. Listed below are 10 suggestions for those activities.

1. *Experience God by taking several one day local field trips and look at God's creation. We are blessed with many cool places to visit on day trips in this area. A few suggested destinations include the Environmental Center on Girby Road, Dauphin Island and the Sea Lab, bird sanctuary, and the beach, Five Rivers Delta Resource Center on the Causeway, a half-day canoe trip, and on, and on.*
2. *Grow a small garden in the backyard or even in containers. The garden may be flowers, tomatoes or other vegetables. Let each child pick the seeds or plants they want to plant. Keep it simple. Let them see how we fit in taking care of God's creation. Share the end results with others.*
3. *Read Bible stories together. They could be straight out of the Bible with help from Bible story books for children. Help your children to really understand what is happening and the emotions felt by the people in the story. Help them to bring the story to life in their minds.*
4. *Read the Bible together and search for Bible scriptures that each child finds especially meaningful. Have them copy their scriptures in their journals and memorize those scriptures.*
5. *Pray together each day. Have children write in their journals things they thanked God for, requests they made, and prayers God answered.*
6. *Visit an older person and ask them to tell how God has blessed their life. Make a gift for them.*
7. *Visit someone you know who lives in a nursing home. Visit some of the other residents while there.*
8. *Serve others by helping an elderly person at their home. This may be by doing yard or house work. Make sure the children know how helpful and valuable their work is. Pray with the ones you visit.*
9. *Serve together at the church building. As you work in various parts of the building, explain the function of that area. For example, when cleaning up the room where communion is prepared, explain why we partake of communion each Sunday. Explain why we have an auditorium in which we worship God, a baptistery, an office, classrooms, meals on wheels kitchen, fellowship hall, etc.*
10. *Write a snail mail letter to a family member like a grandparent, aunt, or uncle. Or you could write a letter to a church member. Express how much you love them, why they are meaningful to you, etc.*

Get each child a good journal in which they can write, in their own handwriting (assuming they are old enough), their thoughts about God, discoveries, and other details they observe. The older ones could use a camera on each trip. Then they could actually print the pictures (novel idea) and attach them in their journal. The journal is something that will grow in value as time marches on to when they become adults who are faithful to God. Make the summer of '16 a summer to remember. Build a firm foundation for a lifelong faith.

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