July2009

Trinity Children's Ministry
Trinity UMC
1400 Oxmoor Road, Birmingham, AL 35209
205-879-1737 www.trinitybirmingham.com

Maximize Your "Together Time"

Summertime is ideal for hanging out together and creating lasting memories. It's also ideal for spending time with God and creating lasting faith. With the economic downturn, many families are now looking for ways to bond on a budget. Thankfully, fancy trips and high-tech gadgets aren't required.

This summer, grow closer to each other and to God with these easy, practical ideas. Make the most of your family time, and have fun in the process. Then continue these habits long after packing away the flip-flops!

Family Mission Statements—First, pause to plan out your purpose as a family. Begin with short-term goals for your summer, letting each family member contribute. Then brainstorm big-picture, long-term goals. Ask: "What does our family stand for? What are our values, and how will we live them out?" Then have everyone commit to live according to your family's mission statement.

On-the-Go Togetherness—Road trips provide family members with lots of undivided attention. Enjoy long conversations, play games, and sing along to Christian music. Pray aloud for residents of towns you pass and for rescue crews heading to accidents.

The Wonder of Worship—During the summer, add variety to your routine by worshipping at a different time. Try a new style of worship or visit other churches together. Take children to vacation Bible school at local churches, and invite friends to go along.

For a fun, convenient way to capture and share all your summer memories, visit www.groupsmilebox.com.

The Value of Time

Of 1,500 Boys and Girls Club members surveyed:

- 39% of children say they want their parents to work less.
- 43% say they want their parents to spend more outdoor time with them.
- 68% say their parents or guardians are the most important role models in their lives.
- 37% say positive values are the most important thing they learn from their parents.

Ask God:

1. To help you safeguard uninterrupted family time.
2. To strengthen your family's bonds.
3. To help your kids value spending time with God.

Parenting Insights

Dr. David Anderson of the Youth & Family Institute offers these "Four Keys for Daily Living" to nurture faith life in the home:

1. **Caring Conversations**—Listening and responding to our children's daily concerns makes it easier to have meaningful talks about God's love. We express that love to others.
2. **Family Devotions**—Infusing caring conversations with "God-talk" elevates them into devotions. We find God in our everyday experiences.
3. **Rituals and Traditions**—These identify who we are and tell a family's stories. We bless and pray for one another and have bedtime rituals that include God's presence.
4. **Family Service**—This isn't an obligation but a loving, grateful response to God's love for us. We live our faith.

OpenTheBook

"I remember your genuine faith, for you share the faith that first filled your grandmother Lois and your mother, Eunice. And I know that same faith continues strong in you."
2 Timothy 1:5

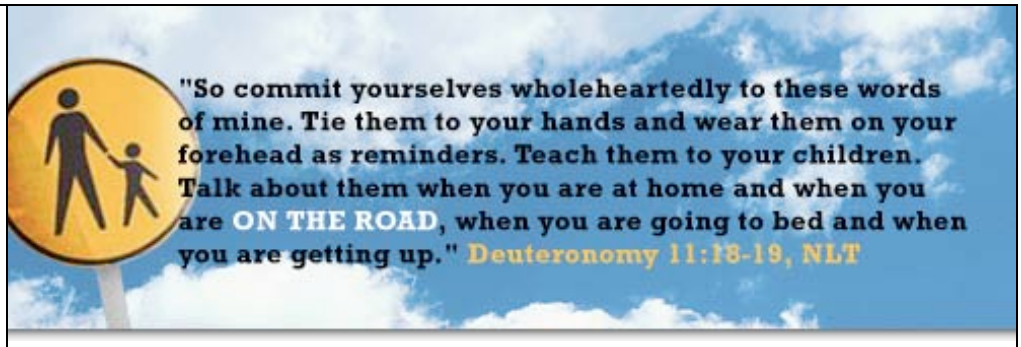
Paul was aware of Timothy's strong faith but also where it came from: Timothy's family. When we spend time with family members and close friends who love the Lord, faith gets passed on.

Teachable Moments

1. **Let It Shine—**Place some floating candles in a kiddie pool, and have children use squirt guns to try to extinguish the candles. Talk about how God wants us to let our light shine for him no matter what tries to extinguish it.

2. **Express Yourself—**Use sidewalk chalk to declare your love for one another and God. Fill your driveway or sidewalks with special messages, family portraits, and short Bible passages.

3. **Go for "Some More"—**Set out ingredients for S'mores and make them together, assembly-line fashion. As you eat, ask: "When has God done 'some more' for you? Why do you think God wants us to do 'some more' for others?"



Encourage your children to share their thoughts about how you spend your family time. Use these questions as a springboard for insightful conversations.

1. What times that our family spends together are most special to you, and why? How does that "together time" make you feel?

2. What do you wish we did more of together, and why?

3. What do our favorite things to do as a family say about us? How can we demonstrate our faith during these together times?

4. Why does Jesus like us to spend time with him?

Family Experience: Destination Heaven

Eternal life in heaven will be the ultimate "together time." With your family members, explore how we arrive at that wonderful destination. This experience will definitely build excitement about spending forever with God.

Have family members use their bodies to form a statue representing something at a favorite vacation destination. Ask: "What's the best thing about that place? How long would you want to stay there, and why?"

Say: "There are many great places to visit, but none compares to our ultimate destination. Heaven is a wonderful place, and Jesus is the way to heaven."

Have family members line up along a wall. Say: "Your goal is to get to the other side of the room without touching the floor in any way. Go!" Afterward, ask: "What did you need to make it across the room?" Say: "You couldn't cross the room by yourself. You needed someone else's help. Getting to heaven is the same way."

Read Romans 10:9. Say: "The only way you get to heaven is by believing that Jesus died on the cross and rose again. He helps us get to heaven. I'm looking forward to spending forever there with you all!"

Close by taking turns sharing things that you're most looking forward to about heaven. Then share things you'll be glad to leave behind when you go to heaven!

This page is designed to help educate parents and isn't meant to endorse any movie, music, or product.
Our prayer is that you'll make informed decisions about what your children watch, listen to, and wear.

MediaMadness

What's Playing at the Movies

Movie: *Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs* (July 1)
Genre: 3-D Animated Action-Comedy
Rating: PG (for some mild rude humor and peril)
Cast: Ray Romano, Denis Leary, John Leguizamo, Queen Latifah, Seann William Scott
Synopsis: Big changes are in store for this series' lovable characters. Mammoths Manny and Ellie are expecting a baby, and Manny wants everything to be perfect for the little one's arrival. Sid, wanting a family of his own, steals some dinosaur eggs. He gets trapped in an underground world filled with dinosaurs who survived extinction.
Discussion Questions: What are the biggest changes you've faced in your life so far, and how have you handled them? Why does God put people in families? Why do you think he chose your particular family for you? Think of a time you've made a poor choice out of jealousy: What consequences did you face as a result?

What Music Is Releasing

Artist: Jonas Brothers
Album: *Lines, Vines and Trying Times*
Artist Info: This pop boy band, known for its wholesome image, gained popularity through the Disney Channel. Heartthrobs Joe, Kevin, and Nick are professed Christians who wear purity rings.
Summary: In their fourth album in four years, the brothers rebel a little to tackle teenage angst, despair, and heartache. The album contains an assortment of musical themes and lyrical metaphors. Two wholesome songs ("Fly With Me" and "Keep It Real") are targeted to younger fans. "Poison Ivy" tells of a toxic girl who's hard to resist. "Paranoid" addresses all the stress and noise young people face.
Discussion Questions: Does growing up excite or scare you, and why? What might help you cope with the emotions and pressure? Think of friends who have positively or negatively influenced you: What is each person's appeal, and how can you benefit from or resist that influence?

What Games Are Out

Title	Content	Rating & Platform
The Legendary Starfy	In this "marine platform" game based on a Japanese series, players have undersea adventures with a starfish in Pufftop.	E; Nintendo DS
Wii Sports Resort	This updated sports package comes bundled with a MotionPlus device. It includes Frisbee, jet skiing, and kendo (sword fighting).	E; Wii
Little King's Story	Serving as the king, players improve their community in this life-simulation game. They also try to conquer rival nations.	T; Wii

GAME RATINGS KEY: EC=Early Childhood, E=Everyone (ages 6+), E10+ (ages 10+), T=Teen (ages 13+)

Culture & Trends

What's happening right now that may affect your children and family:

- Experts say the recession is to blame for a current baby bust. New census figures show a steep decline in the number of U.S. children under age 1.

- Hot items at this year's American International Toy Fair included value-priced products, board games, and toys that promote "functional creativity" (such as cardboard dollhouses and fire stations that children can color).

Quick Stats

- In a poll of more than 800 parents, 30% say they let their children play with fireworks. Another 12% say their kids play with "just sparklers."
  (KeepKidsHealthy.com)
- Children ages 14 and under sustain about 45% of all fireworks-related injuries.
  (cdc.gov)

July2009

Trinity's Children's Birthdays

			1	2	3	4
			Lily Blish Paul Selden			
5	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**	**10**	**11**
Emma Harper Maggie Heath		Andrew Schablow	Ella Malek		Mallie Claire Alfano Anna Frierson	
12	**13**	**14**	**15**	**16**	**17**	**18**
		Rachel Reuse Wesley Williams				
19	**20**	**21**	**22**	**23**	**24**	**25**
Gigi Sharp	Lizzi Haywood Nick Niesen	Jackson Banish Jackson Glenn Jack Rodgers	Jack McMillan		Aiden King Jensen King Taylor King Bailey Levering	
26	**27**	**28**	**29**	**30**	**31**	
	Avery Stansell	Madelyn Alexander	Harrison Hensarling			

Imagine That!

July 8 Wed. 9 AM - 11:30AM Ages 4k, 5k and 1st grade

Puppet Palooza

July 30 Thurs. 9 AM - 11:30AM Ages 4k, 5k and 1st grade

Vacation Bible School
Camp E.D.G.E

July 20-23 Mon.-Thurs., 9 AM-12 PM Completed 3K-2nd Grade