

What's Up? July 2008

Summer! What an awesome season God created! There's no school and the sun keeps everything nice and toasty! Thank goodness God made the sun to shine a little hotter in the summer so you can have fun with outdoor activities like swimming, camping, bicycling, and skateboarding. The sun is not only a great source of heat, it also provides light. Jeremiah 31:35 says, "(God) gives the sun for light by day...the moon and the stars for light by night." God created the sun to give you light so you could run, play, and have fun. Without the sun you'd stumble and fall when playing. The sun also gives life to the beautiful flowers and trees. The Bible says Jesus is the light of the world. That makes him a lot like the sun. Jesus gives us life and shows us how to live. His commands light the path of life. Obey them and you won't stumble and fall. Disobey Jesus and you might find yourself in a lot of trouble with your parents. Summer is no fun when you're grounded, and being grounded is not what Jesus wants for you. He wants you to live in happiness and peace. This summer while goofing off in the pool, playing hoops with your friends, or taking a nature hike, be thankful that God gave you His Son to light up your life. He shows you how to live and gives you the promise of eternal life. Thank You God for giving us your SON!!!



Here are a few tips to keep the good times rolling on your highway adventures this summer.

- See who can find all the letters of the alphabet the quickest. Look on billboards, signs, license plates, etc. Each letter on the sign can only be used once and you must find them in order. Q is a tough one.
- Think of random acts of kindness your family can do for people while on the road. For example, wash someone's windows when you stop for gas. Buy someone's meal at a restaurant. Sing the store clerk a funny song or tell them a joke to make them smile.
- Use a small whiteboard to write funny and inspiring messages that will make people in the cars passing you (or the people you're passing) smile.

God made the beach!
Genesis 1:9

God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear."

TRAVEL TIPS
Just for Parents



THE PARENTS PAGE

Is the budget a little tight and the price of gas a little too high? Here are some great ideas for creating vacation size memories on a budget.

Midnight Milkshakes

Put the kids to bed. After they have fallen asleep, wake them, pile them in the car, & take them for milkshakes at midnight.

Hotel at Home

Swap houses with a friend and turn the night into a stay at the Hotel Williams, or Smith, or Jackson. You get the idea. Have each child "check in" and get their room key. Pamper them all evening. Leave a mint or piece of chocolate with a note on their pillow. Stay up late watching movies and have a continental breakfast prepared when the family wakes up the next morning.



S'mores and More

Take the kids to a local lake. Build a fire, roast hot dogs, and make s'mores. Tell silly or scary stories and then go on a hike in the woods.

Fast Food Scavenger Hunt

Hook up with another family for a little friendly (and competitive) scavenger hunt. Make a list of 20 items that cost nothing from fast food and local restaurants. The kids have to run in and gather the items then help navigate to the next location. When you hit your time limit, everyone meets up at a burger joint for an ice cream and to compare scores.

John Hopkins did research on what happens with kids during the summer months. Most kids math skills decline more than two months. Many kids reading levels lower. The average child gains as much weight in the summer as they do the whole school year. Here are ideas they have to give your kids the advantage this summer.

- Locate a summer program. Check with schools, recreations centers, universities, & community-based organizations.
- Take educational trips. Ideas are parks, museums, zoos & nature centers.
- Practice math daily. Add & subtract at the grocery store, learn fractions while cooking, and track daily temperatures.
- Play outside. Limit screen time.
- Do good deeds. Students learn better and "act out" less when they participate in activities that help them develop emotionally.
- Visit the library. Participate in free summer programs. Make time to read every day.
- Keep a schedule. Keep kids engaged.
- Prepare for fall. Find out what your child will be learning in the fall. Preview concepts and material.



Made for a tri-fold mailer

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
July		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	2008	

Made for a bi-fold mailer



The background is a light yellow color with a pattern of semi-transparent, overlapping circles of various sizes, resembling bubbles. Two thick, wavy yellow lines are overlaid on the background. One line starts at the top center and curves downwards towards the left. The second line is horizontal and wavy, positioned below the first line.

Empty page for those churches with lots and lots of info to communicate.