



Summer

FAMILY ACTIVITY MAGAZINE

A resource full of ideas, inspiration and intentional moments connecting your family to each other and God through the summer.

GETHOPE.NET - FAMILY@GETHOPE.NET - #FAMILYATHOPE



HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Families,

It's summertime! It brings sunny days; travel, time off of school and more time together as a family. As you look forward to summer we want to provide resources filled with ideas to make this summer an intentional and profitable time for your family.

In **Deuteronomy 6:5-9** we are commanded to teach our children diligently about God and the Bible- no matter where they are, no matter what they're doing:

*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Love Him with all your strength. The commandments I give you today must be in your hearts. Make sure your children learn them. Talk about them when you are **at home**. Talk about them when you walk **along the road**. Speak about them when you **go to bed**. And speak about them when you **get up**. **Write them down** and tie them on your hands as a reminder. Also tie them on your foreheads. Write them on the door-frames of your houses. Also write them on your gates.*

The Summer Family Activity Magazine has been put together with this in mind. When you're hanging out at home, traveling across the country or running errands around town, there is no shortage of opportunities to help you teach your children about God. Our hope is to partner with you as you spiritually lead your family and build those loving relationships.

We have divided The Summer Family Activity Magazine into four different areas:

At Home - These activities can be easily done as you spend time at home. Many of them include a thought from God's Word that will help your kids make a connection between what they have done and their relationship with God.

Along the Road - These activities can be done on outings you take as a family or as you drive from place to place. Some will help you think about ways to intentionally connect with people in your community.

Taking a Trip - These activities can be done as your family travels - no matter what mode of transportation. God created an amazing world for us to discover.

Morning and Evening - These are ideas that you can do together as a family or alone each morning or evening. We are hoping that you and your kids will get into the habit of reading God's Word and praying each day.

We also put together several resources to make this magazine even more useful as you connect with Hope Community Church and God. Enjoy the summer. We love you and are praying for a summer that draws your family closer together and closer to Jesus.

Lastly, we would love to hear about your summer by emailing family@gethope.net or using #familyathope on social media.

God Bless,

Hope Community Church Family Ministry Staff



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Getting Started

This magazine is designed to be a help and resource for your family as you think about and plan what your summer will look like. The activities and devotionals have been written with elementary-age children in mind. Many of them can be modified for younger or older children or for families with children across a broad age range.

Here are a few tips on how to get the most out of your Summer Family Activity Magazine:

SET REALISTIC EXPECTATIONS. There are more activities provided in this magazine than your family will be able to do this summer. Our hope is not that you would do all of them but that you would pick those that best fit your family. As you read through the magazine, mark the activities that seem interesting and doable and come up with a plan to make those happen. The best way to make it happen is to schedule them on your calendar.

PLAN AHEAD. No one stumbles into intentionality. Take time to think and pray about what you want this summer to be like for your family. At the end of it, what do you want your kids to remember? How do you want them to be different? What do you hope they learn about Jesus? What will you put in place to help make that happen?

HAVE FUN. No matter what your family's plans are for the summer – whether you're taking exotic trips or sticking close to home – have fun! Enjoy being with your kids. Laugh a lot. Make memories out of even the most mundane moments.

KEEP IT HANDY. You never know when the dreaded words of summer – “I'm bored” – will come out of your children's mouths. Make sure you have your Summer Family Activity Magazine handy so that you can neutralize boredom and make the most of your time together.

At Home

HAVE A THROWBACK THURSDAY MOVIE NIGHT

Watch a movie from the past together and follow-up with a conversation about the good and bad ideas portrayed in the story. Some great recommendations are: Soul Surfer, Father of the Bride, Cheaper by the Dozen, The Mighty Ducks, Wall-e, Toy Story 3, The Sound of Music, The Princess Diaries, Annie (1982 Version), Honey I Shrunk the Kids, National Velvet (1944 Version), Flipper, The Bridge on the River Kwai, Abbot and Costello Meet Frankenstein. After the movie, ask the following questions:

- What was the big idea behind the story? (Good vs. evil, true love, revenge, etc.)
- What qualities do you admire in the main characters?
- Did the movie affirm our beliefs or undermine them?

SUMMER BOOKS

Rather than allow kids and students to waste away the summer by watching TV or playing video games, awaken their imaginations with great stories rooted in Christian values. Read separately and talk about them as family or read together before bedtime.

- Chronicles of Narnia by C.S. Lewis

- Heroes of the Faith series by Barbour Paperback
- Sarah, Plain and Tall Series by Patricia MacLachlan
- Left Behind: The Kids Collection 1: Volumes 1-6 by Jerry B. Jenkins/Tim LaHaye
- The Cooper Kids Adventure Series by Frank E. Peretti
- Stand Up: Get in the Story 8-Week Devotional published by Orange

HIDE IT IN YOUR HEARTS

As a family, pick several Bible verses to memorize this summer. Get creative with the ways you commit each verse to memory. Below are a few examples of activities:

- *SIDEWALK ART* // Write the verse on your sidewalk or driveway with chalk. You'll see it each time you leave and return home.
- *MAKE PLACEMATS* // Using construction paper or poster board, have each person create a placemat with the verse on it. You'll want to laminate the placemat or use clear contact paper. Review the verse together at mealtime.
- *DRAW IT ON A MIRROR* // Use dry erase markers or bath crayons to write the verse on your bathroom mirror. Read the verse out loud after you brush your teeth.
- *MAKE UP A SONG* // Use the words of the verse to create a song. Make up a brand new melody or simply change the words of a song you already know.
- *CREATE MOTIONS* // Take the major words in the verse and make up motions for them. Do the motions as you say the verse out loud.
- *FUNNY ACCENTS* // Repeat the verse using different accents. Examples include British, French, robot, Western, Valley girl, etc.

BELOW ARE SOME FAVORITE VERSES FROM THE STAFF.

Psalm 1:1-2

Proverbs 3:5-6

Psalm 63:1

Isaiah 41:10

Psalm 51:2

Micah 6:8

Psalm 23:1-3

John 15:5

John 3:16

Philippians 4:6

1 John 1:9

Psalm 19:1

GATHERINGS AND GOD'S LOVE

Think about intentional ways to open your home to others this summer. As a family, plan times that you will invite friends and neighbors over for dinner, dessert or game nights. Be intentional about having those inside and outside the church over at the same time, looking for ways to display the love of God and speak about Jesus. Be prayerful before and after having people in your home. Read the following scripture and talk together about God's purpose for you in your neighborhood: John 13:34-35 says, "I give you a new command. Love one another. You must love one another, just as I have loved you. If you love one another, everyone will know you are My disciples."

ICE CREAM OPPORTUNITIES

If the ice cream truck consistently visits your neighborhood, use that as an opportunity to meet and talk with your neighbors. Show God's generosity by paying for ice cream for someone. Another option would be to visit the same frozen yogurt or ice cream shop throughout the summer. Invite your friends and neighbors to go with you and be intentional about getting to know the people who work there.

SEEKING REFUGE

After dinner one night, build a fort for your family to sleep in using blankets, pillows, furniture and other things in your home. As you build, talk about the purpose of a fort. Then, while you're in the fort before bed, talk about the refuge we can find in God.

Together, read Psalm 144:1-2, then ask these questions.

- Are there any words in these verses that you do not recognize or understand?
- Whom is David, the writer of this psalm, talking about?
- What things does David compare God to?
- What do these things – a rock, fortress, stronghold, deliverer, refuge and shield – have in common? How would you describe them?
- How is God like the things mentioned in these verses?
- What are hard or scary things in your life that you need to be protected from?
- How can God be a place of safety for us and protect us from these hard or scary things?

Praise God for being a refuge for His children. Ask Him for faith to trust His protection in hard and scary times.

PUT IT ON

Raid each other's closets and put together a silly outfit to wear. Turn on music and have a fashion show with each person modeling an outfit. After the show, have everyone share which outfit was their favorite and why. Then talk about the kind of clothes God tells His children to put on.

Together, read Colossians 3:12-14, then ask these questions.

- Are there any words in these verses that you do not recognize or understand?
- What does Paul, the writer of this letter, tell God's children to put on?
- What would it look like for someone to "wear" each of these virtues?
- Which of these things is the hardest for you to put on? Why?
- Who are the people in your life who are the hardest for you to love the way the Bible teaches?
- What can you do when you fail to treat others the way this passage tells you to?

Spend time praying over each other and the relationships God has put in your life. Ask for God's forgiveness in places you've failed to treat others the way He commands and ask for His help to love the way He loves you.

LATE NIGHT WITH JESUS

Pick one night to stay up late. Watch a movie, make a huge ice cream sundae or play a game. As it gets late, make note of the time and go outside with a flashlight and your Bible to talk about God's care for us.

Together, read Psalm 139:1-18, and ask these questions.

- Listen and look around. What is the late night like?
- What are most people doing right now?
- Does God sleep? Why or why not?
- Does God know what is going on all of the time?
- What other things does this psalm say about God, our creator?
- Does God know everything about you? If so, then we should be able to talk to Him about everything going on during the day and night.

Spend time praying together, praising God for keeping watch over you.

FIGHT WELL

Fill water balloons or water guns and organize either a family or neighborhood battle. Later, read the scripture and talk about the spiritual battle you are called to fight.

Together, read Ephesians 6:10-18, and ask these questions.

- Are there any words in these verses that you do not recognize or understand?
- Who does Paul, the writer of this letter, say you are really fighting against?
- What is the difference between fighting things spiritually instead of physically?
- What pieces of armor are listed in these verses?
- What does Paul tell believers to do with these pieces of armor?
- Who is stronger than sin and Satan?
- In whose strength are God's children to trust? What happens if you try to fight a spiritual fight based on your strength instead of God's?
- What truth can you memorize to help you stand against spiritual attack? Think about the verses you're memorizing as a family this summer.

Spend time praying as a family, praising God for defeating sin and Satan through Jesus' death and resurrection. Ask for God's help and protection as you put on the armor.

A MEAL WITH YOUR CHILD'S SMALL GROUP LEADER

Giving your child the opportunity to interact with their leader outside church services helps establish that relationship and increases the credibility that leader has with your child. Invite your child's small group leader over for a meal. Spend time getting to know them – where they're from, what they like to do, how they came to know Jesus, what they were like as a child, etc. Let your child play an active part in serving the person who serves them each weekend. Give your child opportunities to help set the table, prepare and serve the food and clean up at the end.

What if your child isn't assigned to a small group?

Go to: gethope.net/kidcity-small-group-registration

WALKING AND WASHING

Go on an evening walk – barefoot – and talk about the life of Jesus. What things did He do? What was He like? Who did He spend time with? After your walk, take notice of each other’s dirty feet. Wash your children’s feet and talk about how Jesus washed and served the disciples.

Together, read John 13:1-17, then ask these questions.

- How would you feel about washing the dirty feet of 11 grown men?
- What do you think of when you hear the words “serve” and “servant?”
- Are there any words in these verses that you do not recognize or understand?
- Who deserved to be served – Jesus or the disciples? Why?
- What was Jesus trying to teach His disciples by doing this?
- What is the greatest way Jesus served God’s children?
- How can you follow the example of Jesus and serve the others in your family?
- How can your family follow the example of Jesus and serve those around you or in your community?

Pray together for God to give you a servant’s heart like Jesus.

TURN OFF THE TV

For one week this summer have your family fast from all TV, movies, video games, social media and time spent on mobile devices. See how the absence of these things affects each person’s mood and the amount of time you spend together. Be strategic and plan a few special activities to leverage the increased time and focus you have as a family. Here are a few ideas:

- Spend time praying and making cards for people you know who could use encouragement.
- Go on a walk or bike ride as a family.
- Turn dinner into a picnic either in your front yard or a park.
- Bake and decorate cookies together and take them to a neighbor.
- Play board games.

STARGAZING, FAMILY STYLE

As the sky darkens head outside to see how many stars you can count and identify the groupings. Don’t forget a few essentials – star charts, insect repellent, snacks and a blanket – when you head out.

Read Isaiah 40:26 – “Look up toward the sky. Who created everything you see? The Lord causes the stars to come out at night one by one. He gives each one of them a name. His power and strength are great. So none of the stars is missing.”

GIVE AWAY SOMETHING YOU LOVE

As you get ready to head back to school, clean out your closets, drawers, etc. and donate clothes and toys that you no longer use. In addition to giving away what’s old and no longer needed, have each person pick one thing they love to give away as well. The Raleigh Rescue Mission (<http://www.raleighrescue.org/node/150>) and Dorcas Ministries (<http://dorcac-cary.org/donate-volunteer/donate/>) will take your donations. Use this as an opportunity to talk about what it means to sacrifice something. How does your experience in giving away something you love affect the way you think about the Father’s sacrifice of Jesus for you?

HELP KIDS GIVE

Have your kids go through toys and clothes that they can sell at a garage sale. Teach them that it is better to give than receive. Acts 20:35 says, "He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

SUMMER MEMORY JAR

Keep track of all the fun and significant things that happen this summer by making a Summer Memory Jar. Put an empty jar or container in a central location in your house. Put small strips of paper and pens next to it. Throughout the course of the summer, write down memories you make as a family - funny things you say, hard lessons you learn, trips you take, people you meet, fears you overcome, etc. At the end of the summer, do the Dump Your Summer Memory Jar activity listed next.

DUMP YOUR SUMMER MEMORY JAR

This is a follow up to the Summer Memory Jar activity. As the summer draws to a close, spend time remembering and celebrating the things you learned and did. As a family, dump out your Summer Memory Jar and read through your memories together. As you remember, praise God for His goodness to your family through both the sweet and bitter happenings of the past few months.

Around the Town

LOVING OTHERS AT THE LIBRARY

The library is a great place to spend time during the summer. Plan to take your trips to the library on the same day and at the same time each week. Be intentional about getting to know the library staff. Before each trip, think of a way you could bless or encourage them. Before heading out, read the following scriptures and talk together about God's purpose for you in your community: 1 Thessalonians 5:11 says, "So, encourage one another with the hope you have. Build each other up. In fact, that's what you are doing."

FOLLOWING THE MAP

Create a map with "turn left" and "turn right" directions to a favorite destination such as an ice cream shop or park. Load the kids in the car and tell them you are heading off for a really fun surprise. Give them your map and ask them to guide you step by step as you drive. When they tell you to "turn left," go the opposite way. Try to end up at some dead end road and admit that you got lost. Start over and when you arrive at the right destination after following their directions, read Psalm 119:104-105 together and ask the following questions:

- What went wrong the first time we drove? (I didn't follow the map.)
- What is the map that God gave us to follow in life? (The Bible is our map.)
- What happens if we don't follow God's map? (We are lost.)

SEEK AND SWIM

Go swimming as a family and bring diving sticks with you. Drop the diving sticks into the pool and have the kids seek and find them. Feel free to make some more difficult than others. When you get out of the pool, talk about how Jesus came to seek and save the lost by reading the scripture and asking these questions.

Together, read Luke 19:1-10, and ask these questions.

- Are there any words in these verses that you do not recognize or understand?
- Whose house did Jesus invite himself to?
- Who was Zacchaeus? What did he do? What did other people think of him?
- What happened to Zacchaeus' heart when Jesus showed him kindness?
- What did Zacchaeus do as a result of having a new heart that trusted Jesus?
- When you were in the pool, what were you seeking?
- What did Jesus say He had come to do? What does that mean for you?
- How do God's children follow Jesus' example of loving those who do not yet know Him?

Spend time praying for people in your life who don't know Jesus. Ask God for opportunities to talk with them and for courage to speak with them about Jesus. Pray that He would show kindness to them and give them hearts that love and trust Jesus.

BRING THE CHURCH TO A FIRE STATION

Pick up some frozen ice pops or ice cream bars and deliver them to your local fire station. The firefighters will appreciate the surprise. Your child will meet some heroes, see those awesome trucks up close, and learn a lesson about encouraging others and being the "church" away from the building.

TRASH AND TREASURE

As a family, go to a local park and pick up trash. When you're finished, find a shaded place to talk about the difference between trash and treasure. Read the scripture and then dig deeper with the questions below.

Together, read Philippians 3:7-8.

- Are there any words in these verses that you do not recognize or understand?
- What is a "gain?" What did Paul mean when he used that word?
- What does it mean to consider something as loss or rubbish? When you were picking up trash, what kinds of things did you throw away?
- What things did Paul consider to be like trash compared to the treasure of knowing Jesus?
- What was Paul's greatest treasure? Who did he show, honor and enjoy as most valuable?
- What is your greatest treasure?
- Is there anything that can feel more valuable than knowing God?
- How did Jesus make it possible for sinners to know and be known by God, the most valuable treasure?

Pray for one another that you would show honor to God as most valuable and love Him as the greatest treasure.

CREATION SCAVENGER HUNT

Make a trip to the zoo or aquarium. As you do, read or listen to Genesis one, and talk about creation. While on your outing, look for each of the things on the following list:

- Day One (Day and Night): Find an animal that is nocturnal. Talk about how God made light and separated the light and darkness. The light was called "day," and the darkness was called "night."

- Day Two (Sky): Find an animal that can fly. Talk about how God made the sky.
- Day Three (Oceans, Dry Land and Plants): Find three different plants. Talk about how God made the sea and the land. Talk about how God made plants grow from the ground.
- Day Four (Sun, Moon, Planets and Stars): Find a plant that needs lots of sunlight. Find a plant that doesn't need lots of sunlight. Talk about how God made the sun, moon and stars.
- Day Five (Birds and Sea Creatures): Find an animal that lives underwater and a bird that flies in the sky. Talk about how God made the fish of the sea and the birds of the sky.
- Day Six (Land Animals and People): Find an animal that lives on the ground or under it. Talk about how God made the animals.
- Day Seven (Rest): Find a place to rest and talk over the questions below.

After finding everything on the list, talk about what you saw and ask the following questions:

- What was your favorite animal or plant?
- Who made that animal or plant?
- What was the strangest thing you saw?
- Who is the Creator of that thing?
- Think about the creativity and power that God displayed in making everything. What is the right response to God as you enjoy His creation?

Thank God together for His beautiful creation.

CONSIDER THE BIRDS

Go to a lake and feed the ducks. As you do, take notice of the plants, animals and other birds around you. Talk together about how God always takes care of and provides for His children.

Together, read Matthew 6:25-34 and ask these questions.

- Are there any words in these verses that you do not recognize or understand?
- What are some things you worry about?
- What does Jesus tell you not to do? What does He say to do instead?
- How does God take care of birds? How does He take care of the grass, flowers and trees you see around you?
- If God takes care of these parts of creation, how does He take care of His children?
- How does trusting that truth help you to not worry? What do you know about God that gives you confidence that He will always provide?

Spend time praying together. Confess places of fear or worry and ask God to help you trust Him.

MARRIAGE AS A PICTURE

Be intentional in talking with your kids about the significance and meaning of marriage. Sit down together and look through photos from your wedding. Tell the story of how you met, laugh at how different you looked then and talk about marriage as a picture of Jesus' love for the church family. Together, read Ephesians 5:22-33, then ask these questions.

- Are there any words in these verses that you do not recognize or understand?
- What do you think of when you think about marriage? What do you think of when you hear the words "husband" and "wife?"
- What do these verses say wives are to do? What about husbands?
- God created marriage to be a picture of a great relationship. What relationship

- does marriage represent?
- How are wives supposed to be like the church family?
- How are husbands supposed to be like Jesus?
- Even if marriages aren't perfect, what do we know about Jesus' love for and faithfulness to the Church?

Spend time praying for people in your life who are married. Pray they would be a picture of the relationship between Jesus and the church family. Parents, spend time praying for the future spouse of your children.

MIGHTY WAVES

Look for opportunities to be around waves, either by traveling to the beach or going to a wave pool. If those aren't options for your family, look online for videos of large waves. Do some research to learn how powerful waves can be and how big they can get. Then talk about how waves can teach you about the power of God.

Together, read Psalm 93, then ask these questions.

- Are there any words in these verses that you do not recognize or understand?
- The first two verses describe God as a king. How is God like a king?
- Are the waves of the ocean stronger than you? How much stronger?
- Are the waves of the ocean stronger than God? How do you know?
- What does it mean for God to be mighty?
- What are some things that are too hard for you?
- What are some things that are too hard for God?
- How can you rely on God's strength instead of your own during hard times? Spend time praying together. Ask God to help you trust His perfect strength.

FISHING AND FOLLOWING JESUS

Go fishing and, as you do, spend time talking about Jesus and His disciples.

Together, read Luke 5:1-11, then ask these questions.

- Are there any words in these verses that you do not recognize or understand?
- What were the men doing while Jesus was standing by the lake?
- What amazing thing did Jesus do in front of them?
- How did Peter respond to Jesus?
- What did these fishermen leave behind to follow Jesus? Why was that important?
- A disciple is a follower of Jesus. How does your life show that you are a disciple of Jesus?

Pray together that you would be like the disciples, willing to leave everything behind in order to follow Jesus.

VISIT AN ART MUSEUM

Cultivate your family's creativity by going to see an art exhibit. Many museums have days during the month with discounted or free admission. After you walk through each exhibit, talk about what stood out to you and why. When you return home you can express that creativity with a paint party. Canvases can be purchased from your local craft store. Ask everyone to paint something that amazes them about God's Creation.

Taking a Trip

POSTCARD PRAYERS

As you travel, collect postcards from the places you visit. On each postcard, write a prayer to God thanking Him for where you are and the great things you've experienced and seen. Praise Him for being the Creator who made all the things you delight in. When you return home, put these postcards in your Summer Memory Jar (Page 9).

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

If you're traveling by air and have extra time at the airport, look at the list of arrivals and departures. See if you can name which state or country each city is in. Talk about any interesting facts you know about those places. As you do, consider how great and mighty God is that He has authority over every state, country and person in the whole world.

LISTEN AND IMAGINE

During a family road trip, listen to an audio book together. Along the way, push pause and talk about what each person thinks of the story so far. Listen for ways that the story reminds you of the gospel. You can download great classics for free at <http://www.loyalbooks.com> or scour your local library.

ENCOURAGE OTHERS

While families are vacationing this summer, a lot of the staff and volunteers are still at Hope. Redeem time in the car or on the plane by writing a note of encouragement to someone that serves you. (Small Group Leader, Large Group Leader, pastor, staff, etc.)

THE GOOD NEWS

Spend time talking as a family about the gospel. (See The Gospel on page 18) Give each person an opportunity to talk about those that shared about Jesus with them. Make a list of people who don't know Jesus and pray for an opportunity to share the gospel with others.

CRUISING AND CALMING THE STORM

If you are on a cruise or spending time on a boat, try to imagine what it would have been like for the disciples who saw Jesus calm the storm. Pay attention to the water you're on - how you feel when it's calm or choppy.

Together, read Mark 4:35-41, then ask these questions.

- Are there any words in this verse that you do not recognize or understand?
- What do you think the disciples saw, heard and felt as the storm came upon them?
- Was there anything they could do to stop the storm?
- What did Jesus do when the disciples cried out to Him for help?
- Why did the wind and waves obey Jesus?
- What other things is Jesus in charge of?
- What other things does Jesus save people from?
- How does He save people from sin and death?

Pray together, praising God for being in charge of everything and providing salvation through Jesus.

Morning & Evening

This summer, make spending time with God and being in His Word a priority for your family. Set a time and place for each person to consistently read the Bible, individually if possible. This will look different for children of different ages and reading levels.

For example, a first grader's place and time might be: "read with mom or dad for 15 minutes on the couch after breakfast," while a fifth grader's might be: "read for 30 minutes in my room before bed." Even if your children don't understand everything they read, practicing the discipline of consistent time in the Scriptures will benefit them as they get older and grow in their relationship with the Lord.

Also, give them an opportunity to see their parents consistently spending time in the Scriptures. We have put together a suggested family reading plan on the next page to help you.

Additionally, make a plan for the time you will spend together praying as a family. Your family can pray together in fun and unique ways with the following ideas:

Consider keeping a prayer journal throughout the course of the summer. Set aside one night after dinner each week when your family will spend time praying. Record your requests in a notebook or journal. Look back at the requests that have been made and make sure you note when He answers your prayer and thank Him together.

Teach your children about the four types of prayer:

- o *Adoration (praise)*
- o *Confession (sorry)*
- o *Thanksgiving (thank you)*
- o *Supplication (please - praying for needs of others and self)*

Complete the **Sentence Prayer** that has all four types listed above. For example:

- "Lord, you are...(praise and worship);
- "Lord, forgive me for...(confession of sin);
- "Lord, thank you for...(thanking God);
- "Lord please help...(praying for other's needs);
- "Lord, I need...(pray for your needs).

Plan a **bonfire prayer** night. Have each person write a prayer request on a slip of paper and pray for his or her request out loud. Then toss all the prayers into the fire as you give it to God. 1 Peter 5:7 says, "Turn all your worries over to Him. He cares about you."

Use the **Five Finger Prayer** to remind children of people to pray for:

- Thumb - those closest to you (family and friends)
- Pointer - those who lead and guide you (teachers, pastors, police, coaches)
- Middle - those in authority (city, nation and world leaders)
- Ring - this weakest finger reminds us of those who are sick, lonely or sad
- Pinky - this smallest finger reminds us to pray for ourselves last

Take a **Prayer Walk** as a family and pray for each home in your neighborhood. As you walk, pray for the needs of those associated with the home (i.e., illness, salvation, etc.).

Reading Plans

Based on your child's reading level, choose the appropriate reading plan for your family to follow this summer. We suggest that you read through the book of John that is sectioned off below. Or you can download the Bible app and search for the Family reading plans and pick your own. Each day, read the suggested passage then talk through the provided questions as a family. Enjoy!

Read through the Gospel of John in 42 days!

John 1:1-25	John 2:1-12	John 3:1-18	John 4:1-27	John 5:1-23
John 6:36-71	John 7:28-53	John 8:31-59	John 9:21-41	John 10:22-42
John 11:29-57	John 12:26-50	John 13:19-38	John 14:16-31	John 15:15-27
John 17:1-13	John 18:1-20	John 19:1-21	John 20:1-15	John 21:1-12
John 1:26-51	John 2:13-25	John 3:19-36	John 4:28-54	John 6:1-35
John 7:1-27	John 8:1-30	John 9:1-20	John 10:1-21	John 11:1-28
John 12:1-25	John 13:1-18	John 14:1-15	John 15:1-14	John 16:17-33
John 17:14-26	John 18:21-40	John 19:22-42	John 20:16-31	John 21:13-25

Questions to help you think and talk about what you've read.

- Retell this passage in your own words.
- Who was involved? What happened?
- What did you learn about God in this passage?
- What did God teach you as you read through this passage?
- How can you apply what you learned from this passage to your life?

Throughout the Summer Family Activity Magazine, there are opportunities for you to read and talk about the Scriptures as a family. Here are a few things to keep in mind as you think about how to approach this time with your children:

PRAY FOR GOD'S HELP. Each time you open the Bible, ask God to help you understand and believe what you read in His Word. See Psalm 119:18 for an example.

FIND THE VERSES TOGETHER. Many elementary-age children are still learning how to navigate the Scriptures. Help them gain these skills and the confidence to use them by demonstrating how to look up a verse or passage and letting them practice.

- Make sure each person has a Bible so that everyone has the opportunity to open and navigate the Scriptures.
- Together, open to the table of contents. Find the name of the book and the page number it starts on. Make note of whether the book is found in the Old Testament or New Testament.
- Turn to the first page of the book. Find the chapter and verse. (Point out that the chapter is in large print, and the verse is in small print.)
- Read the verses together by:
 - o *Having each person read it individually.*
 - o *If there are multiple verses, assign each person a verse to read out loud.*
 - o *Read it out loud together.*

SET EVERYONE AT EASE BY ENCOURAGING THEM THAT IT'S OKAY TO ASK QUESTIONS.

No one needs to feel scared or embarrassed if there are things they don't understand. (Even parents!) Admitting that you aren't sure how to answer questions demonstrates humility and creates an opportunity for you to learn something together. You can always search the Internet to help explain words that are unfamiliar or confusing.

Helpful Definitions

Below are some words or phrases your children may hear or read in the Bible. They may be helpful as you read and explain to your children.

GOD: God is the Creator and Ruler of the universe. He has eternally existed in three persons: The Father, Son and the Holy Spirit. These three are equal and are one God. Genesis 1:1,26,27,3:22; Psalm 90:2; Matthew 28:19; 1 Peter 1:2; 2 Corinthians 13:14

JESUS CHRIST: Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He is co-equal with the Father. Jesus lived a sinless human life and offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all people by dying on a cross. He rose from the dead after three days to demonstrate His power over sin and death. He ascended to Heaven's glory and will return again someday to earth to reign as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Matthew 1:22,23; Isaiah 9:6; John 1:1-5; John 14:10-30; Hebrews 4:14,15; 1 Corinthians 15:3,4; Romans 1:3,4; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Timothy 6:14,15; Titus 2:13

HOLY SPIRIT: The Holy Spirit is co-equal with the Father and the Son of God. He is present in the world to make men aware of their need for Jesus Christ. He also lives in every Christian from the moment of salvation. He provides the Christian with power for living, understanding spiritual truth and guidance in doing what is right. He gives every believer a spiritual gift when they are saved. As Christians, we seek to live under His control daily. John 16:7-13, 14:16,17; Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 2:12, 3:16; Ephesians 1:13; Galatians 5:25; Ephesians 5:18

THE BIBLE: The Bible is God's Word to us and was written by human authors under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is the supreme source of truth for Christian beliefs and living. It is inspired by God, and it is the truth without any mixture of error. 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20,21; Psalm 119:105,160,12:6; Proverbs 30:5

GLORIFY: It means to show, honor and enjoy God as most valuable. 1 Corinthians 10:31; Matthew 5:16

WORSHIP: It is the right response to the goodness of God. Psalm 95:6; Isaiah 12:5; Hebrews 13:15; Luke 4:8

SIN: It is more than just "bad things we do." It is a sickness of the heart that we are all born with. It is the reason we do, think, feel and say sinful things. James 4:17; Romans 6:23; 1 John 1:8-10; Psalm 51:5; Romans 3:23

PRAYER: It is having a conversation with God. God's children pray to the Father because of Jesus the Son with the help of the Holy Spirit. John 15:7; Philippians 4:6; Mark 11:24; 1 Thessalonians 5:17

DISCIPLES/FOLLOWERS OF JESUS: Disciples are followers of Jesus who love and trust Him as their Friend and Savior. Matthew 28:19-20

REPENTANCE: It is confessing your sin and turning away from it to follow Jesus. 1 John 1:9; Luke 13:3; 2 Peter 3:9; James 4:8-10

PLACES TO GO

PNC Arena

1400 Edwards Mill Rd., Raleigh, NC 27607
(919) 467-7825
thepncarena.com

North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences

11 W. Jones St., Raleigh, NC 27601-1029
(919) 733-7450
naturalsciences.org

North Hills Raleigh

4150 Main St., Raleigh, NC 27609
(919) 881-1146
visitnorthhills.com

Durham Bulls Athletic Park

409 Blackwell St., Durham, NC 27701
(919) 687-6500
milb.com

Theatre in the Park

107 Pullen Rd., Raleigh, NC 27607
(919) 831-6936
theatreinthepark.com

Page-Walker Arts and History Center

119 Ambassador Loop, Cary, NC 27513
(919) 460-4963
friendsofpagewalker.org

Marbles Kids Museum

201 E. Hargett St.
Raleigh, NC 27601
(919) 834-4040
marbleskidsmuseum.org

Duke University – Sarah P. Duke Gardens

Anderson St. and Erwin Rd., Durham,
NC 27710
(919) 684-3698
gardens.duke.edu

Morehead Planetarium

250 E. Franklin St., UNC-Chapel Hill,
Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514
moreheadplanetarium.org

RDU Airport Observation Deck

rdu.com/observation-park

Museum of Life and Science

433 W Murray Ave, Durham, NC 27704
lifeandscience.org

Durham Bulls Athletic Park

409 Blackwell St, Durham, NC 27701
milb.com

Holly Springs Salamanders Baseball

1151 North Main St., Holly Springs,
NC 27540
salamandersbaseball.com

Pullen Park

408 Ashe Ave, Raleigh, NC 27606
raleighnc.gov/parks/content/ParksRec

The North Carolina Zoo

4401 Zoo Pkwy., Asheboro, NC 27205
nczoo.org

Jordan Lake State Recreation Area

280 State Park Road, Apex, NC 27523
(919) 362-0586
ncparks.gov

KIDS SUMMER MOVIE SERIES

Northgate Mall - Durham

stadium10northgatemail.com/summerseries

Brier Creek - Durham and Beaver Creek - Apex

regmovies.com/Movies/Summer-Movie-Express

The Big Story

CONVERSATION GUIDE FOR PARENTS

"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

GOD LOVED (God's Part)

For God so loved the world...

God loved you before you were even born! In fact, He loves you right now and wants you to be His friend. But there is something that separates us from Him.

|| [Hit PAUSE and ask your child]

Do you know what separates us from God?

It's called sin. Because of sin, we were separated from God forever. But *because God loves us*, He made a way for all of us to live with Him forever.

GOD GAVE (God's Part)

For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only son...

God knew our sin would keep us from living with Him forever. He also knew that we could not overcome sin on our own; we needed a savior to rescue us. So God gave us the best gift ever.

|| [Hit PAUSE and ask your child]

Do you know what God gave us?

Why did God give us this gift?

Because God loves us so much, *He gave us Jesus*—His one and only son—to pay the price for our sin so we didn't have to. Jesus died for us so that our sins would all be forgiven, and then Jesus rose from the dead to give us the promise of life with God forever.

WE BELIEVE (Our Part)

Whoever believes in Him will not perish...

Believing means to trust. It's a lot like sitting in a chair: when you sit in a chair you put all your weight in it, and you trust that it will hold you up. When you believe in Jesus, you trust Him.

|| [Hit PAUSE and ask your child]

What do you believe about Jesus?

How can you show that you trust Jesus?

You believe that God loves you and created you to live with Him forever. To show you trust Him, you can accept Jesus as your Friend and Savior. (He is your Savior because he paid for your sin and it is forgiven by God.)

By choosing to follow His teaching and living for Him, others might also know Him.

WE RECEIVE (Our Part)

Whoever believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.

When you receive a gift, what do you do? You open it. When you accept Jesus as your Friend and Savior, it's like opening God's wonderful gift. We can never be good enough to earn it on our own, and we can never be so bad that God will stop loving us.

|| [Hit PAUSE and ask your child]

What happens when you accept Jesus as your Friend and Savior?

What has God promised for all people who believe and trust in Him?

John 3:16 tells us that the Holy Spirit of God lives in us now, and we will spend forever with God in a place that He made perfectly just for us!

PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank you for loving me always, even before I was born. Thank you for sending Jesus to rescue me. I know that I have sin in my life, and that my sin should separate me from You forever. But I believe that Jesus paid the penalty for my sin, and I accept Him as my Friend and Savior. I choose to live for you and I trust that I will live with you forever, starting now. In Jesus' name, amen.

Next Steps for Parents:

Let us know!

Has your child made a decision to choose Christ? Please tell us! Shoot a message to kidcity@gethoped.net, and give us the chance to celebrate with you! Want to know more? Attend our Growing Up Class just for parents, where you'll hear more about talking with your kids about salvation, baptism, and some basic next steps for kids. Sign up here: gethoped.net/classes



CONNECT WITH FAMILY MINISTRIES

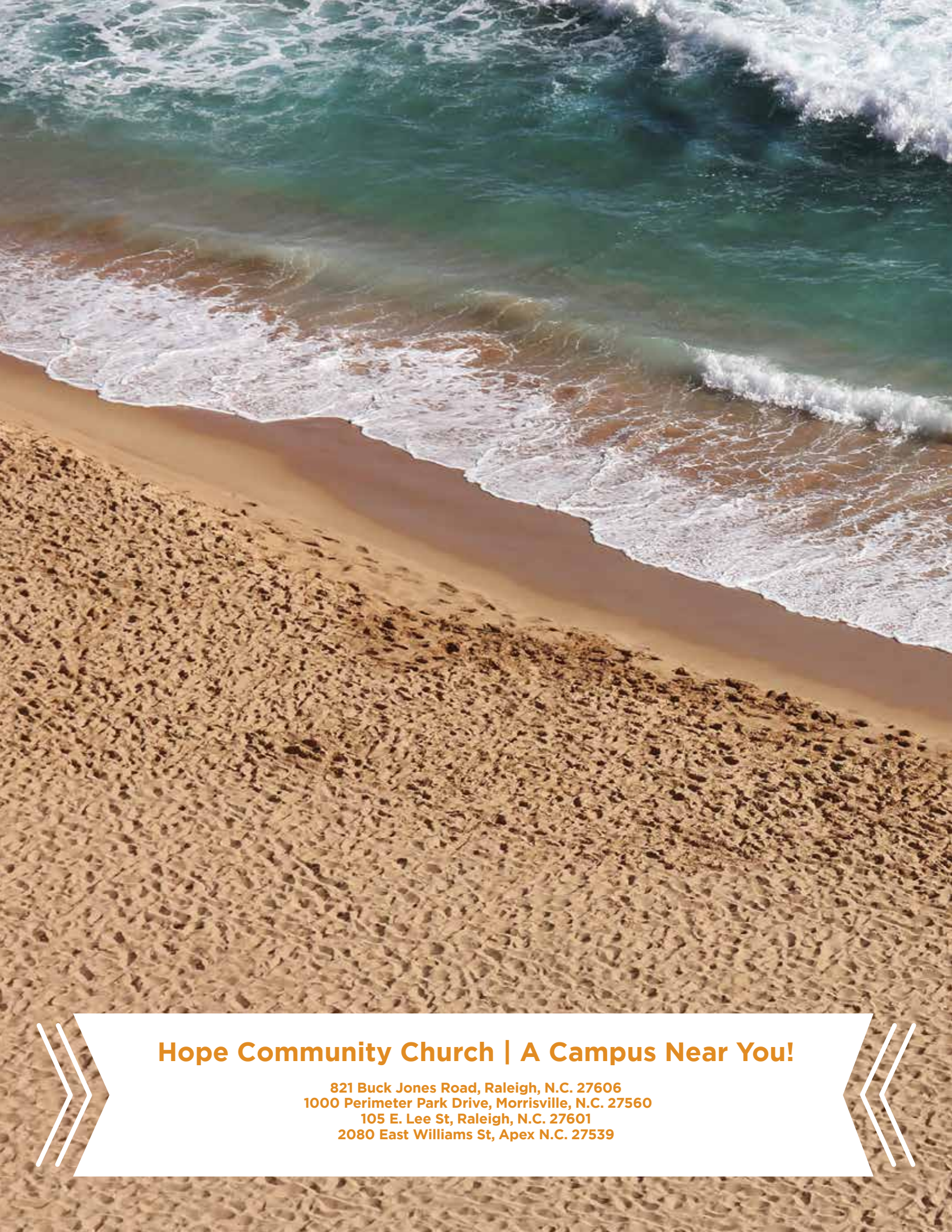
FAMILY MINISTRY |  FamilyatHope   @familyathope

KID'S MINISTRY |  KidCity Hope Community Church   @hopekidcity

MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTRY |  Hope.Middle.School   @hazardousmsm

HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY |  @HopeHSM   gethopehsm

GETHOPE.NET - FAMILY@GETHOPE.NET - #FAMILYATHOPE



Hope Community Church | A Campus Near You!

**821 Buck Jones Road, Raleigh, N.C. 27606
1000 Perimeter Park Drive, Morrisville, N.C. 27560
105 E. Lee St, Raleigh, N.C. 27601
2080 East Williams St, Apex N.C. 27539**