

# “The Serious Business of Having Fun”



## Ideas for Family Fun

### Fun at Home

- Read-aloud time with the kids on the roof (or around fire-pit / toddlers and teens too!)
- Board Games
- Hide & Go Seek in the dark at home
- Family art project (ex. draw each other and put on the wall as a collage)
- Make homemade gifts a regular part of your birthdays or Christmas
- Family Worship nights
- Family Workouts
- Wrestle!!!
- Ride your bikes as a family to get a treat or go to the movies
- Have power tool mornings where younger kids can try out all the gear (no project, just drilling and cutting)
- Have a morning where everyone gets to pick something for the family to do in 30 minute rotations
- Movie Nights!
- Think about the future - we talk about how our relationship/friendship with each other will change in the coming years, what we look forward to with them, in the next stage, as adults, etc.
- Living Room camping (whole family sleeps together in the living room)
- Have the kids put on a play in the living room. Invite neighborhood kids to join in
- Write letters together to friends, relatives, Compassion kids
- Have a boys weekend (when the girls are out of town) making man burgers, taking shirts off, playing video games, talking about what it means to be a man, etc.
- Play Minute to Win it Games
- On Fathers Day make it a point to do something for them to let them know how blessed you are to be their dad. Give them cards, gifts, etc.
- Help them learn how to code
- Help them start a summer business.
- Competitions – pick any board game(s). (Disney Scene It on party play boys vs girls is one of our favs), hide an egg timer around the house and see if they can find it before it goes off.

### Fun Outside

- Shooting baskets, playing catch, kicking a soccer ball around, jump on the trampoline
- Family camping (glamping if you have littles)
- S'mores by the fire pit
- Back yard camping (set up the tents and air mattresses in the back yard)
- Go camping with one kid at a time
- Build an Epic Sprinkler.

## **Fun with Food**

- Bake for your neighbors as a family
- Iron Chef/Chopped Family Challenges (weird ingredients made into meals)
- Make homemade pizzas together and let kids choose toppings
- Go to Central Market/Costco and try all the samples (bonus: pick out a new recipe/meal to try as a family)
- Barbarian night – eat your dinner with no utensils
- Go into a doughnut shop and order and talk in a British accent
- At dinner play “Would you Rather”, tell jokes, ask what was something funny that happened that day.
- Pick a country you are praying for and visit an ethnic market to cook something in that country’s fare.

## **Fun on Adventures**

- Check out Ninja Warrior gyms for kids!
- Ride the DART train together to lunch, dinner, the zoo, etc
- Home Depot kid project days (1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month)
- Lowe’s kid project days (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays of the month)
- Nasher Free admission, craft and scavenger hunt (1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month)
- One-on-one dates are a great way to spend time with your kids
- Take a walk to a convenience store for some candy or a coffee shop or restaurant and just play cards and catch up.
- Magnolia Hotel has free milk and cookies from 8-10 PM
- Have lunch with them at school. Look at your calendar for the school year and pick a few times to make it happen. Show up with something they like to eat but don’t get often.
- Grab your iPhone or gps and go geocaching
- Buy and Hide. Go to the mall and give your kids a small amount of money to buy a gift and hide it. Divide up in teams (we do dad & boys and mom & girls) and call each other with clues about where you’ve hidden the gift.
- Think of creative car ride activities - Name that tune, road sign bingo, describe each person in the family in one word, ask riddles.
- Go to the Plano Balloon Festival (Mid-September)
- Ft. Worth Take the Trinity Expressway and have your kids navigate the bus system. Children’s museum has great hands on exhibits and hands on rooms you can spend hours in. We have built block towers that went to the ceiling, daisy chained so many battery packs to motors they began to smoke, etc. This has been one of our favorite places through the years to just have fun with the kids.
- Never go anywhere alone - Take a kid with you when you go to the store, long car ride, even out of town if you can.