

# WATERMARK KIDS SUMMER ACTIVITIES



**Summer is officially upon us**, along with the seemingly endless possibilities of what summer could be like for your family. We often start with high hopes and expectations only to end the summer wondering what happened to all the time we thought we had. In order to help you make the most out of your time this summer, we put together a resource with simple ideas of how to be intentional and create fun memories with your family, community group, and neighbors.

For eight weeks, we are reclaiming one “national holiday” each week to encourage you to either **GROW, PLAY, SERVE, or REST**. There is a weekly activity based on the holiday, Scripture for you to read, and questions or conversation starters to use with your family. In addition to these specific activities, we have provided additional ideas for each of the four categories which you can use in any way that works best for your family.

We are praying that you will deepen your theology of God and His Church as you GROW, make a large church feel smaller by PLAYING together, love our city while you SERVE, and strengthen your family when you take time to REST.

- Watermark Kids Team



# GROW

## **GROW**

Becoming More Like Jesus

"Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong."

Ephesians 3:17



# PLAY

## **PLAY**

Enjoying God Everywhere

"You will show me the way of life, granting me the joy of your presence and the pleasures of living with you forever."

Psalms 16:11



# SERVE

## **SERVE**

Showing Others God's Love

"For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Mark 10:45



# REST

## **REST**

Remembering Who Reigns

"Then Jesus said, 'Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls.'"

Matthew 11:28-29



## NATIONAL SELFIE DAY

(JUNE 21)

**ACTIVITY:** Gather your family together, grab a picnic blanket and/or hammock, and head outside to a park, a lake, or even your backyard. Let each person choose a different pose or face for everyone to make in a family selfie. As you are laughing at how funny each of the pictures are, take some time to read James 1:19-25 as a family. Just as a selfie is a picture showing a reflection of what you are doing, God has called us to reflect His Word to the world around us.

**READ:** James 1:19-25

### TALK:

- Remind your kids that being a follower of Jesus is more than just reading and listening to His Word. What does it mean to be a doer of God's Word and reflect Jesus to others?
- Ask each family member to think about one simple way they would like to grow to reflect God's Word better this summer. (Examples: Be kind to siblings, serve neighbors, pray for others more, learn a memory verse, etc.)
- Come up with one or two goals you want to set as a family that will help you grow in your relationship with God this summer. (Examples: Read the Bible together daily, pray for different neighbors or friends each day, memorize a passage of Scripture together, etc.)
- Write your goal(s) down in a place you can refer to often and encourage each other as you see yourselves grow to be a clearer reflection of God and His Word over the summer. Pray and ask God to help you grow in these ways over the summer.



## NATIONAL HANDSHAKE DAY

(JUNE 30)

**ACTIVITY:** Visit five different neighbors and wish them a happy Handshake Day. Come up with a fun and unique handshake to do together. Ask them if there is any way you can give them a "hand" and help them out. (Examples: Take out the trash, wash windows, clean up their yard, walk their dog, wash their car, etc.)

**READ:** Matthew 20:25-28

### TALK:

- Talk about how you felt when you were able to serve your neighbors. Did you have fun getting to lend a hand? Pray and thank God for the opportunities He gave you to serve others.
- When we serve others, how are we following Jesus' example? How was He the greatest servant? (Hint: Read Mark 10:45 and John 3:16.)
- Brainstorm a list of ways your family can follow Jesus and serve others by offering a helping hand at home, with friends, or wherever you might go this week.
- Help each person choose one or two specific ways they can serve others around them over the next few weeks. Make a list and encourage each other as you see them serving in these ways.



## NATIONAL MACARONI DAY

(JULY 7)

**ACTIVITY:** Make macaroni art to celebrate National Macaroni Day! Get some dry macaroni, paper, glue, and any other craft supplies you might have on hand. You can choose to have a theme for everyone to follow or let them come up with their own ideas. Allow everyone to be as creative as they want and encourage them as they work on their masterpieces.

**READ:** Psalm 139:1-14

### TALK:

- After everyone has created their artwork, take some time to talk about what it means to be God's masterpieces. Everything about the way you look, your talents, and your abilities are gifts from God. He created each person uniquely, and He loves everyone more than we could understand.
- Give everyone a chance to share their favorite thing about everyone else. It could be something physical, something about their personality, or a special talent they have.
- Next, have each person share one of their favorite things about him or herself.
- Close out your time together by praying and thanking God for how He created all of you as His masterpieces.



## NATIONAL SIMPLICITY DAY

(JULY 12)

**ACTIVITY:** Whether you have an hour, an evening, or a full day, put aside your "to do" lists and get ready to rest and connect with your family. Here are some ways to keep your time SIMPLE for National Simplicity Day:

**S**tay in your pajamas longer than normal

**I**nvide each person to choose a "simple" activity to do as a group (Examples: Read a book aloud, play a game, tell silly stories or jokes, color a picture, etc.)

**M**ake a blanket or pillow fort and take a nap

**P**ut away your electronics and unplug from social media

**L**eave the time unscheduled with no places to be

**E**at simple meals that do not require much preparation

**READ:** Matthew 11:28-30

### TALK:

- Ask your kids if they know what it means to be weary. Talk about ways you can feel weary at times.
- Talk about how this simple time gives us physical rest and relaxation, but we will get tired again. Jesus gives us the ultimate rest and true peace as we trust Him and give Him our burdens, worries, and hard situations.
- Ask your kids if there is anything that worries, discourages, or scares them. Pray together about what they shared. Ask Jesus to help you trust Him and rest in the truth that He is all-powerful and in control of everything.



## NATIONAL HOT DOG DAY

(JULY 20)

**ACTIVITY:** Enjoy time grilling and playing with friends and family this week. Invite over your community group or neighbors for a hot dog cookout with all the fixings. Play yard games such as kickball, washers, horseshoes, or pickleball and cool off with some popsicles afterwards.

**READ:** Ecclesiastes 4:9-12, 1 John 4:7-11

### TALK:

- After your cookout, ask your kids what their favorite part of the time was. Ask them if they think it would have been as fun if they were doing all of those things by themselves.
- God does not want us to try and do everything on our own. He gives us other people in our lives so we can encourage and support each other. When we live in community with others, we can help each other when life is hard, and we can celebrate with each other when good things happen.
- Talk about ways your friends and community have helped and encouraged you. How have you helped and encouraged them?
- Pray and thank God for the people who are there for you and your family through the good and the hard times.



## NATIONAL HOT FUDGE SUNDAE DAY

(JULY 25)

**ACTIVITY:** Learn how to share the gospel while making hot fudge sundaes! You will need your favorite flavor of ice cream, hot fudge, strawberry jam, whipped cream, sprinkles, bowls, and spoons.

**READ & TALK:** Talk through the ingredients, what they represent in the gospel, and the verses that go with each one. You can either talk about everything ahead of time or explain each part while you are building your sundaes.

- **Hot Fudge:** This represents sin. All of us are sinners because we think, say, and do things that do not please or honor God.
  - *"For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard." (Romans 3:23)*
  - *"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 6:23)*
- **Strawberry Jam:** This is for the blood of Jesus. He died on the cross to pay for our sin and came back to life three days later, defeating sin and death.
  - *"But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners." (Romans 5:8)*
- **Whipped Cream:** This stands for forgiveness. When we believe Jesus is who He says He is and accept His free gift of forgiveness for our sins, He makes us clean like white snow... or whipped cream!
  - *"Now repent of your sins and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped away." (Acts 3:19)*
  - *"Though your sins are like scarlet, I will make them as white as snow." (Isaiah 1:18b)*
- **Sprinkles:** These remind us to celebrate our new lives! When we are forgiven, God gives us eternal life with Him. We will get to celebrate and worship Him forever!
  - *"This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!" (2 Corinthians 5:17)*





## NATIONAL COLORING BOOK DAY (AUGUST 2)

**ACTIVITY:** Break out your coloring books, crayons, markers, and colored pencils. Think about some people you know who need to be encouraged and serve them by using your creative skills. Make cards, color pictures, and write notes for them. Everyone loves to receive personalized letters in the mail! Be sure to pray for each person as you are putting everything into envelopes and getting the cards ready to send.

**READ:** 1 Thessalonians 5:9-18

### TALK:

- Ask your kids how other people have encouraged or served them. How did it make them feel knowing someone cared about them?
- There are a lot of different ways you can serve others, whether they are near or far from you. Based on Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians, what are some ways he encourages believers to serve and interact with each other?
- Celebrate both big and small ways you have seen the people in your family love and serve others this summer.
- Pray together and ask God to help you see ways you can encourage and serve other people this week.



## NATIONAL SON & DAUGHTER DAY (AUGUST 11)

**ACTIVITY:** As summer nears its end, be sure to take advantage of the time remaining and get some extra rest before school starts. Plan an indoor picnic to celebrate National Son & Daughter Day. Clear a space inside, set up blankets and pillows on the floor, and use a picnic basket if you have one. Let your kids choose some of their favorite foods and drinks to have at your picnic. After you have eaten, read the Scripture and talk through some of the points below.

**READ:** Philippians 4:4-9

### TALK:

- Give everyone a chance to share their favorite memory from the summer. What do they hope you will do again next year?
- If you made any family goals at the start of summer, celebrate the ones that you were able to accomplish. Encourage each person with how you have seen them grow, play, serve, and rest this summer.
- If your kids are going to school, ask them what they are looking forward to the most. Is there anything they are nervous or anxious about?
- Take time to thank God for the summer He gave your family. Pray about anything challenging your family is facing and the things your kids shared about the upcoming school year. Thank God for being all-powerful, faithful, loving, and good in every situation.

# ADDITIONAL GROW ACTIVITIES:

## #1 – BIBLE READING PLAN

Commit to reading the Join The Journey passages for the summer together as a family. Whether you've been tracking along all year or just starting, this year's Journey reading plan is perfect for adults and kids and very accessible. Use the discussion questions on the Journey entry for that day to guide conversation with your kids about each chapter. Check out [jointhejourney.com](http://jointhejourney.com) for more.

## #2 – MEMORIZE SCRIPTURE

Challenge your family to memorize verses together this summer. Depending on the age of your kids, you can all memorize the same verse or have different challenges for each person. For preschool kids, choose verses such as John 3:16, Romans 5:8, or Isaiah 41:10. You could challenge older kids to learn longer passages such as Psalm 1, Ephesians 2:1-10, or sections of Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7). Review your verses regularly and celebrate when new ones are memorized.

## #3 – FAMILY READING TIME

Set aside time to read together as a family, whether it is the first thing in the morning or right before bed. Books and stories can engage kids' hearts and minds and can open up conversations you might not otherwise have. If you are in need of some recommendations, check out our "Best Books" lists for preschoolers ([watermark.org/blog/best-christian-books-for-toddlers](http://watermark.org/blog/best-christian-books-for-toddlers)) and for elementary kids ([watermark.org/blog/best-christian-books-for-kids](http://watermark.org/blog/best-christian-books-for-kids)).

## #4 – BACKYARD BIBLE CLUB

Invite the neighborhood kids over for some fun and take the opportunity share the gospel by hosting a Backyard Bible Club. This is a great way to share God's love with others through stories, games, and fun. Check out Watermark's blog at [watermark.org/blog/how-to-lead-a-backyard-bible-club](http://watermark.org/blog/how-to-lead-a-backyard-bible-club) for a week's worth of lessons, activities, and crafts you can use to put on your own Backyard Bible Club this summer.

# ADDITIONAL PLAY ACTIVITIES:

## #1 – FAMILY GAME NIGHT

Set aside time to have a game night with your family. Order in your favorite food and break out your kids' favorite games. You could play board games, charades, Pictionary, hide-and-seek, or make up a unique game just for your family.

## #2 – DATE YOUR KIDS

Parents, spend some individual time with each one of your children. At the beginning of the summer, have each child tell you their favorite places to eat, favorite things to do outside, and their favorite places to go for a sweet treat. Throughout the summer, surprise your kids with fun one-on-one adventures and do some of their favorite things together.

## #3 – COMMUNITY PARTY

Gather your community group together or invite your neighbors over for a time of fun and games. You could organize a Fourth of July parade or block party for those who live around you. You could also invite over your community group or friends for a water balloon fight, a day of field games, or a pool party. Get creative and make memories with each other!

## #4 – FAMILY DAY TRIP

Take a day and enjoy a family outing. Here are just a few of the many great things to do in the DFW Metroplex:

- **Arbor Hills Nature Preserve** – Enjoy this 200-acre outdoor park where you can hike, bike, and enjoy nature. ([plano.gov/1397/arbor-hills-nature-preserve](http://plano.gov/1397/arbor-hills-nature-preserve))
- **Drive in movies** – Instead of watching a movie at home, take to the road and enjoy a movie at one of the local outdoor theaters in Fort Worth or Ennis. For more info, visit [coyotedrive-in.com](http://coyotedrive-in.com) or [galaxydriveintheatre.com](http://galaxydriveintheatre.com).
- **Trinity Railway Express to Fort Worth** – Take a trip to Fort Worth and make the travel time part of the fun by using the TRE. ([trinityrailwayexpress.org](http://trinityrailwayexpress.org))
- **Burger's Lake** – Go back in time to this 1950s style spring-fed lake. ([burgerslake.com](http://burgerslake.com))

# ADDITIONAL SERVE ACTIVITIES:

## #1 – SERVE YOUR FAMILY

Using Romans 12:10 as a basis, challenge your family to “outdo” each other in service to one another. You can use one of the ideas below or come up with a unique service challenge of your own.

- Have each person write down a few ways someone else can serve them. Put them all in a jar and have family members draw out a “service project” to do each week.
- Designate a “Secret Service” week where family members try to serve each other without being found out.
- Pick a day to celebrate each person in your family. On that day, everybody else does everything they can to encourage and serve that person.

## #2 – SERVE YOUR NEIGHBORS

Come up with a fun way to serve your neighbors. Choose from the ideas listed below or have a family brainstorming session to come up with ideas.

- Pick up trash around the neighborhood or at a nearby park or school.
- Welcome a new neighbor with a simple gift and handmade card.
- Host a free lemonade and cookie stand or bake and take cookies to neighbors just for fun.
- Invite a neighborhood family over for dinner.

## #3 – SERVE YOUR CITY

Every summer, Watermark’s External Focus ministry creates some amazing resources that families can use to serve together alongside our ministry partners here in the Metroplex. Head to [watermark.org/loveourcity](http://watermark.org/loveourcity) and find one or more service opportunities that your family can participate in this summer.

## #4 – SERVE YOUR WORLD

A great way to cultivate your kids’ hearts to serve others is to teach them to pray for people around the world. Check out Voice of the Martyrs at [persecution.com](http://persecution.com) or Operation World at [operationworld.org](http://operationworld.org) for ways to pray for the church in different countries. You could also choose to sponsor a child through Compassion International ([compassion.com/watermark](http://compassion.com/watermark)) and directly impact the life of a family in a different part of the world.

# ADDITIONAL REST ACTIVITIES:

## #1 – UNSTRUCTURED TIME

Make sure you have at least one week this summer with no scheduled activities for your kids. Enjoy a slower pace at home; sleep a little later, let the kids play, get down on the floor and play with them, take naps, and be spontaneous with friends. Take the time to enjoy the lack of schedule and routine. You could also plan a media fast where technology is off limits for everyone in the family (including parents) for a specified time. This could be for an evening once a week, a weekend, or during vacation. Be intentional with your relationships during the time you gain.

## #2 – FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

Have everyone get into their pjs early and get comfy in the living room for a family movie night. For your movie snacks pop some popcorn, bake fresh cookies, or create your own mini pizzas. Let your kids choose the movie or introduce them to some classics like The Sound of Music, E.T., The Parent Trap, Charlotte’s Web, or The Lion King.

## #3 – RESTORE YOUR SOUL

As busy people, it is easy for our souls to get frazzled. This summer, make time for yourself to be alone with the Lord. Allow Him to lead you to a quiet place and restore your soul. Be sure to incorporate those things that the Lord most uses to speak rest to your soul. Whether this is something you already do regularly or have never done at all, figure out what the next step is for you and make it happen. The rest that results for both you and your family will be worth the effort. Lead by example and encourage your older kids to find ways they can do this as well.



## #4 – COUPLES DATE NIGHT

Mom and Dad, one of the best things you can do to be rested and make this a great summer is to invest in your marriage. Ecclesiastes 9:9 says, “Enjoy life with the wife whom you love...” Plan at least one date night a month over the summer to grow in your relationship with one another. Strong marriages lead to strong families.





# JUNE

## WATERMARK KIDS SUMMER ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21 NATIONAL SELFIE DAY 	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30 NATIONAL HANDSHAKE DAY 	1	2



# JULY

## WATERMARK KIDS SUMMER ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
3	4	5	6	7 NATIONAL MACARONI DAY 	8	9
10	11	12 NATIONAL SIMPLICITY DAY 	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 NATIONAL HOT DOG DAY 	21	22	23
24	25 NATIONAL HOT FUDGE SUNDAE DAY 	26	27	28	29	30

# AUGUST

## WATERMARK KIDS SUMMER ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31	1	2 NATIONAL COLORING BOOK DAY 	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11 NATIONAL SON & DAUGHTER DAY 	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3