

# G I F T

## Great Ideas for Family Time!

Ideas shared by our congregation.

Storytelling Time: Bible Stories; Stories from PUMC History (that are fun) (Laura Griggs)

Board Games: Chinese Checkers; Parcheesi

Game Night

Family Dinner at the table - no TV, just conversation!

Family Dinners (Keith Bahm)

Going for Sunday rides as a child, all over the county/city (Carolyn Bowman)

Spending time with grandchildren learning new skills (sewing) (Jane Elbert)

Every night at dinner, we go around the table and everyone says their "rose" (a good thing) and "thorn" (a not-so-good thing) that happened to them that day.

Weekly Family Meeting: to discuss the week, give compliments, air grievances, plan meals, discuss weekly schedule, discuss problems and brainstorm solutions. An agenda was posted on refrigerator door and anyone could post a concern to be discussed. Meetings were opened with scripture and closed in prayer. (Cathy Patterson)

Sometimes we drew names for a secret pal. During the week, you would try to do nice things for your SP without letting them know who you were. The SP would be revealed at the next Family Meeting. (Cathy Patterson)

Going to the beach for a week. When children were young, we popped corn and strung for our Christmas tree. (Evelyn Hastings)

Ice skating together.

Keep Christmas Cards. Pray over person who sent cards, one a day. "Sing" grace before meals. (Tery Sarver)

Camping

A trip to Krispy Kreme to watch the donuts come down the line and enjoying warm donuts and coffee and milk

Cookout, Bowling, Easter egg hunt, Birthdays, Costume Party, Picnic (Cherie Justice)

Going to the gym with my parents (Nikki Earley)

Cooking a meal together that is special to one person in the family

Taking family pictures wearing silly hats

Playing games way into the early morning

Serving on Thanksgiving and Christmas outreach to at-risk children (Salvation Army); Nightly devotion and prayer; Attend retreat as a family; Agape prep for spiritual weekends; Home builders group studies (Dave Long)

During Lent or Advent: We would add something instead of giving up something, like family devotion at dinner, scripture jar (draw a scripture out each day and read it together), jar for prayer concerns (family members could write a concern on a slip of paper and put it in the jar). Then, the concerns would be read weekly and prayed over. (Cathy Patterson)

Making bluebird houses

Play Christian music in the morning to wake up by  
Play Christian music in the afternoon (happy songs)

Play Christian music in the evening (lullabies)

Make Christmas placemats (use Christmas cards, mount them on poster board and cover with contact paper)

Great Book to encourage Acts of kindness: Have You Filled Your Bucket Today? by Carol McCloud. Read the book with your family (all ages) and discuss what a "bucket filler" is. Find a bucket and get some cotton balls or multi-colored pom-poms. Each time a family member reports an act of kindness (kind word or deed), a "warm fuzzy" is put in the bucket. When a pre-determined number is met, celebrate with a game night, movie night, stay up late night, family fun day. For teens-pick a privilege, no chore day, extra allowance. (Cathy Patterson)

Christian Bingo and Christian board games

Focus on the family magazines and books (age appropriate)

Discuss Sunday School lesson (the paper they got at SS)

"Bread of Life" scriptures (in plastic little loaf of bread). Read one at mealtime and discuss it. It sat on the kitchen table.

We have "intra-mail". Each individual gets their own envelope, permanently placed on the wall. Whenever we want to say "thanks" or "I love you" we write a note. This way even when we might be pressed for time, we don't forget that we are thinking/loving/praying for each other.

With my 2 sons, we (Hugh and I) chose a "secret destination". We didn't announce where we were going. It was always fun! (Sharon Harris)

Berenstain Bear Living Light books. Everyone knows the Berenstain Bears book series but not everyone knows that the Berenstains also wrote a series of books that are all about God and biblical values. They are great books to read as a family with young children. (Cathy Patterson)

- The Berenstain Bears: God Loves You
- The Berenstain Bears Say Their Prayers
- The Berenstain Bears Go To Sunday School
- The Berenstain Bears: Kindness Counts
- The Berenstain Bears: God Bless Our Home
- The Berenstain Bears and The Golden Rule
- The Berenstain Bears and The Forgiving Tree
- The Berenstain Bears Show Respect

Having a loving family and friends (Bobby Wood)

Our 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Our children arranged it and it was great. Relatives and friends came from all over. (Jim & Laura DeLap)

My son, Stan, and his wife, Tina, took John and me to Tappahannock Saturday to meet with their cousins and have a delicious meal at a seafood restaurant. Great day with family!! (Uldine Curtis)