

Living Faith @

Dear Faith Shapers,

Summer has finally arrived! I don't know what happened to spring ... it seems like it was winter one day and the next it was summer. In fact, it got really warm quickly.

Plans for warm days outside, plans for trips as a family, & plans for parties and holidays in the summer. There are activities to wrap up until fall at church. So much to do and how to get it all done? Who plans at your house? How does everyone stay informed of the daily schedule? Have you considered a message board or a family calendar?

It can work well to write each person's activities in a specific color marker.

Spending time as a family or with other members of your family you may not see

as often except in the summer. This can mean added stress for some people. We need to be aware of this and try to find time to relax – read a book, watch a movie, work a puzzle, find your own way to relax. Get everyone involved in a chore to make it go more quickly.

Student Pastor Sue Cira

Zion, Alta Vista

Immanuel, rural Lawler

School's Out For Summer!!

Many people may be out of town for part of the summer. We encourage these vacationers to find a place of worship where you are. After returning home a map can be made of where people visited. Photos can be posted to allow those staying at home to visit through the eyes of others. Telling the members of your congregation about the church visited can create some discussion about new ideas to try.

Remember those who may visit your church during the summer as well. Make them feel welcome and include them in social time and learn about where they are visiting from.



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Travelling in a car or Airplane ideas



Travelling with children—no matter what age can be challenging. Boxes or bags full available for families with small children filled with ideas for travel are available at various places for sale on the internet... but you can make your own.

Battery Operated Candle – Turn your candle on when you go by a stop sign and count the times you've turned it on. This works best if traveling on country roads—not on large highways.

Clipboard – If you don't have a hard surface to work on, it helps to have a clipboard to use for your activities.

Reusable Envelopes or zip-lock bags – use envelopes or zip-lock bags to hold some of the smaller items that fall easily or roll off an area. Children in their car seats cannot reach the floor to pick up stray pieces of paper or booklets that might fall. Crayons are more easily kept in baggies than in the box they come in. Coloring books and puzzle books could be kept together in a large zip-lock bag.

Games that are easy in the car — some do not require any reading -

1. The alphabet game. Everyone looks for an object that begins with the letter "A", the first one to find it points it out; then move on to the letter "B" ... and so on to the end of the alphabet. Some of the letters are difficult to find something for so an adult in the car calls time to move on to the next letter.
2. The road sign game. Road signs are different colors but most are yellow or red. Frequently in the summer we see orange signs for construction. The speed limit signs are white, as well as some with other warnings. It is helpful if a list of the ones being looked for is available as a checklist.
3. Brain games for those who get sick if reading in the car. If there is someone who can read in the car, let those who cannot help with the game/puzzle. Call out the clue and see who can get the answer first. Competition games always help the time pass more quickly.
4. The License Plate game. Make up sentences or phrases using the letter on license plates seen. For example: GMM could be Give Me More.
5. The person in the car next to you. Make up a story about the person you see in the car next to you. Who are they? Where are they going today? When is their birthday? What name would you call them? Use your creative and imaginative ideas.

As the trip concludes, be sure all items are back in the appropriate places, ready for the next trip. Keeping the car organized for spontaneous outings alleviates the stress of finding things to do in the car on short notice ... plus, it keeps everything together in one place. All the games and items could be kept in a small backpack and ready to go along anywhere.