

Living Faith @

Dear Faith Shapers,

As summer approaches, I start to think about summer plans. Just as I have a “toolbox” of fun ideas, I also have a “toolbox” of faith formation ideas. Here’s some faith shaping summer fun tools:

- ◇ Service projects (my kids love the humane society)
- ◇ Listening to the audio Bible or a faith based book
- ◇ Summer campfires
- ◇ Lemonade stand to support a cause that the kids choose
- ◇ Retelling my own faith shaping experiences
- ◇ Visiting Godparents
- ◇ Hands on Bible experiments (google/Pinterest)
- ◇ Faith filled art or science projects
- ◇ Vacation Bible School
- ◇ Family book club
- ◇ Mailing notes of encouragement or gratitude
- ◇ Field trips to places where ministry happens
- ◇ Acts of Kindness (the crazier, the better)

May your summer be filled with Holy Joy & family fun,

Lisa Kammerer, Deacon



20 Fun Summer Ideas for Kids and Faith Shapers

Experiences are what people remember. Create some fun summer experiences while sharing your faith!

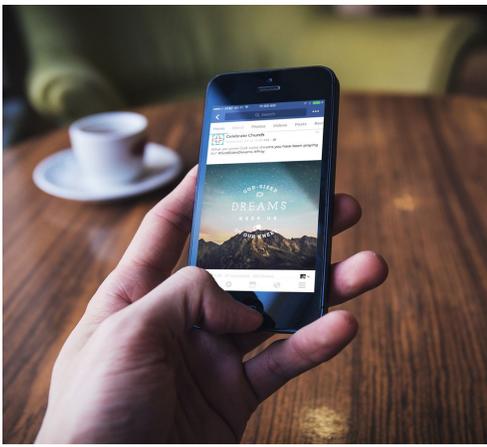
* **Do Random Acts of Kindness**

- * Take a class together * GO ROLLER SKATING
- * **Start a book club** * *Take a hike*
- * *Eat dessert first* * Volunteer together
- * Try new flavors of S'mores
- * **Visit a new museum** * Ride bicycles on a trail
- * **Start a Gratitude Journal* * *Repurpose something*
- * Go out to breakfast with friends (wake them up and surprise them) * **Play Frisbee golf**
- * Send a funny package in the mail
- * *Create a new flavor of ice cream*
- * Have a scavenger hunt * **TRY GEOCACHING**
- * GO TO A SPORTS GAME & CHEER LOUD
- * Draw pictures & positive messages around town with sidewalk chalk

This information is prepared for you by the Northeastern Iowa Synod-Home Life Network for use by families and local congregations.

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Being a Faith Shaper in a Digital World

With today's technology, you can reach in minutes the physical ground that Paul and other faith shapers covered in months and years. Like Paul, you can share your life and how God is working in your life.

Here are some ways to be a faith shaper in a digital world:

- ⇒ **Share what God is up to in your life. Pray for others and invite others to pray with you. Share stories of places you've seen God at work, share pictures that reveal the holy spirit working, share inspiring quotes or stories. Make your faith a part of what you share each day.**
- ⇒ **Provide friends and followers with relevant resources, articles, or links. Share books that are meaningful to you, videos that inspire, blogs that teach, or pictures that share a message about God and life.**
- ⇒ **Respect, love, and listen to the people in your online communities. Recognize that they, too, have words of life to share with you. The best teachers are the teachable ones.**
- ⇒ **Be honest and transparent. We do not need more drama in our lives.**
- ⇒ **Use open ended questions to spark deeper conversation. Invite others to share or post with you. You will learn what is on peoples' hearts & minds.**
- ⇒ **Bring your faith based perspective to conversations during local & global tragedies. Share relief efforts & spur others to action. It's mind-blowing how instantly you can communicate a need, connect others to the need, and rally a tidal wave of genuine support from people all over the world.**
- ⇒ **Be kind and compassionate in your tone so you can lovingly respond to others. Engaging in a fight does not help the situation and it hurts your own integrity.**
- ⇒ **Always use a private message to address sensitive situations and remember, it is impossible to love people if you are busy judging them.**

Adapted from @Sticky Jesus by Tami Heim and Toni Birdsong

