

A vibrant summer-themed collage featuring a bright yellow sun, a glass of iced tea with a red umbrella, watermelon slices, a green and white beach ball, a red and yellow striped beach umbrella, a red and white life preserver, a starfish, a seashell, and a pair of blue sunglasses.

SCRIPTURE in THE summer

simple ways to have fun and
learn about the Bible
as a family.

Scripture in the Summer

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Family Edition

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INTRODUCTION

Way to go! You've taken the first step to helping your family learn more about Scripture (the Bible). It's sometimes a daunting task, isn't it? It is not always easy to know where to start or even what to teach the kids. It is my hope that this book takes a little bit of the pressure off.

Who This Book Is For:

- If you're a parent who is just starting off in their faith journey, this book is for you! Perhaps you are excited about your relationship with God and want to share that with your children, but aren't sure what to do next. Don't worry! This book is full of activities to get you headed in the right direction.
- If you're a grandparent who gets the kids for the summer and want to make some truly meaningful activities – this book is for you! The low-prep options are likely things you are planning to do anyway and the discussion questions will help you nurture your grandchildren's faith in a natural and engaging way.
- If you're a parent who is pretty confident in their faith, but want to do something fresh and new for during the summer months – this book is for you! Each activity is designed to create a memory as a family -- so as you work through the activities, you'll be making the most of summer while strengthening your child's faith at the same time.

How to Use This Book:

Scripture in the Summer contains 20 family friendly activities for you to browse through. Do not feel like you have to do them all! Different activities will resonate with different types of family and that is completely okay. Here are some options you might want to try:

- Choose one activity to do each week. Designate a Family Fun night (every Monday for example) and put some ideas on the calendar. Most of the activities take less than an hour, so you can even squeeze them in after work if you need to.
- Choose your favorite summer activities (things you're planning on doing anyway) and read through the coordinating plan for each. This is a great way to naturally infuse more faith-filled moments into your family's rhythm.

Each activity has a coordinating Scripture (Bible verse) and discussion questions to help guide your conversations in a natural and authentic way. Don't let another summer drift by without creating memories that are both meaningful and exciting. Start reading through Scripture in the Summer and start having fun as a family today!

I'd Love to Hear from You!

I'd love to hear and see all the fun you're having as a family with this book! Please feel free to send me a snapshot of your special moments (please use the hashtag #ScriptureinSummer if you post on social media) via [facebook](#), [twitter](#), or [Instagram](#). You can also find me at GrowingKidsMinistry.com

Praying for you!

Lindsey Whitney

Picking Berries

Verse to Learn: Galatians 6:7

Simple Version: A man reaps what he sows.

Challenge Version: Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.

What to Do:

Find a local farm where you can pick your own berries. You can ask local friends or families or start your search at www.pickyourown.com. Be sure to wear sun hats and take along some water. As you are driving to the farm, talk to the kids about how berries begin to grow. A farmer must plant the seeds and then wait several weeks (or months) for his harvest to grow. Whatever type of seed he puts in the ground is exactly what will grow later. Read Galatians 6:7 to the kids. Just as the farmer gets exactly what he planted, we will experience in our life what we "plant". If we strive to follow God's commands found in the Bible, we will reap a life of righteousness. If we show kindness to others, we will reap the benefits of good relationships. We cannot fool God by pretending to do the right thing. God knows what is in our hearts and sees all our actions. When we choose to chase after sin or do the wrong thing, we will reap the consequences of our actions.

Questions to Ask:

- What does it mean to sow seeds? (Planting seeds in the garden)
- What kinds of things can we "sow" in our lives? (Kindness, Integrity, Laziness, Lying, etc)
- Have you ever experienced a time when you reaped what you sowed? Tell us about it.
- Have you ever seen this verse in action with those around you?

Practice the Verse Together:

Say the verse several times together as a family. As you are working in the fields, take along the verse card (found at the back of the book) and practice a few times as you are picking berries. When you arrive home, place the verse where everyone will see it. This will help family members learn the verse and remind everyone of your delicious adventure!

Picture Moment:

Before you leave the fields, try to take a picture of the family in front of the bushes or vines with buckets full of berries.

Bonus Idea:

Put those berries to good use! Look up some recipes for jam or jelly so you can enjoy the berries all year round. You can also freeze berries or make them into pie.



Let's Go on a Picnic

Verse to Learn: Proverbs 13:20

Simple Version: Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise.

Challenge Version: Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.

What to Do:



Pack a simple picnic lunch or dinner (sandwiches, cheese and crackers, fruit, juice boxes, etc) and head out to a place where you can easily do some people watching as you eat. A local park is a great place to try. As you are driving or walking to your picnic location, talk to the kids about their friends. Who are some of their favorite friends? Why did they “pick” the friends they did? Did they make a choice about who to be friends with or did relationships just seem to grow on their own? Read Proverbs 13:20 to the kids (take along a card from the back of the book if it's easier). The people we choose to spend most of our time with will influence the choices we make – both the big decisions and the little ones. This verse tells us that if we spend time with wise people (those who are making good and safe choices), we will also become wise. On the other hand, if we choose to hang onto friendships with fools (those who make choices that lead to trouble), we will also suffer harm.

Allow your children to reflect on these questions:

- Were there any friends this year that clearly fell into the wise category? What about the fool category?
- Is it easy to tell if a person is wise or foolish when you first meet them?
- What should you do if you begin to suspect that a friend of yours is always acting foolishly?

It's not always easy to tell if a person is wise or foolish, at the beginning of a friendship, but the longer we are with them, the clearer it usually becomes. Sometimes, when it's clear that a friend is consistently acting foolishly, we might want to keep our distance so that we don't end up a fool ourselves.

While you are eating your picnic, look around at the people you see. Try to guess what kind of relationships are displayed (family, dating, friends, parents with kids, etc).

Questions to Ask:

- Do you see any clear examples of wise or foolish behavior?
- Why do you think our relationships affect our own actions so much?
- Is there anyone in your life that might be steering you in the wrong direction?

Practice the Verse Together: Say the verse several times together as a family as you are munching on your picnic food. When you arrive home, place the verse somewhere where everyone will see it.

Picture Moment: Before you leave the picnic, try to take a picture of the family sitting at a picnic table or on a blanket.

This Place is a Zoo!

Verse to Learn: Genesis 1:25

Simple Version: And God made the beasts of the earth... And God saw that it was good.

Challenge Version: And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the livestock according to their kinds, and everything that creeps on the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.



What to Do:

Make a plan to head to your local zoo. If the kids have been to your local zoo a quite a bit recently, you might want to take a road trip to something a little further away. Many zoos offer a discount with your local zoo membership, so be sure to call and ask. On your drive to the zoo, talk with the kids about their favorite animals. What are they hoping to see?

As a family, reflect on the following questions:

- Why do you think God made so many different kinds of animals?
- How long do you think it would have taken Adam to name all the animals (Genesis 2:20)

As you walk around the zoo, take the time to really linger and observe the animals. Read the displays and plaques and notice the unique features of each creature. What has God equipped them with to survive in their natural habitat? What do you (or the kids) find especially delightful about the animals?

Questions to Ask:

- What do you think it was like for Adam and Eve to live peacefully among all the animals in Eden?
- What makes humans different than the animals around us?
- Do you think it was hard for God to think of all the different animals during Creation?
- If you were going to create an animal, what would it be like?

Practice the Verse Together: As you walk between animals at the zoo, practice the verse as a family. Try to match the words of the verse with the cadence of your walking pattern to help it really stick. You may wish to cut out the verse card from the back of the book ahead of time so you have something to look at as you practice.

Picture Moment: Before you leave the zoo, take a picture of the family in front of an especially fascinating animal. If you don't have a camera handy, encourage kids to draw pictures of their favorite animals when you arrive home.