

AUGUST

Barefeet, BBQ's, and Back to School

Be still, and know that I am God! - Psalm 46:10

Family Adventure: Visit the Library!

We often forget how exciting the library can be for children. A library card invites you into journeys through space, science, mystery, and fiction. Roaming through books and selecting favorites can give children decision making power, and they are more likely to read the books they have chosen themselves. As adults we, too, can model lifetime learning by making our own book choices. An added bonus - libraries are cool and quiet all summer long!



Teaching:

As we prepare for the new school year ahead, remind your children that they are disciples. This word in Greek means "student." We are all students of the greatest teacher, Jesus. We study His words and actions in the Bible. We are encouraged to practice His "school work" by living life like He did: being kind, forgiving, hardworking, courageous, and bold. We are forever students of a divine teacher.



Faith + Family Tips:

+ As we begin to think about a new school year, have a family "huddle" to set goals, talk about habits that you would like to start or stop, and propose ways to begin transitioning into a post-summer schedule. Let everyone have a voice in the conversation. Write down the top 10 takeaways and keep them somewhere visible. The sooner we have these conversations and set guidelines together, the easier a new school year begins!

+ Play water balloon volleyball! Create some sort of net, give each team a large towel or sheet, and fill up lots of water balloons. Same rules as volleyball apply, but team members launch and catch the balloons by all holding onto the sheet. If you catch the balloons, you score a point. If you drop them, you lose points - but you do cool off! This game is the perfect recipe for laughter on a hot summer day.

+ If you are able to, buy an extra backpack and fill it with school supplies for someone in need. Let your children help select pencils, notebook paper, markers, etc. Donate the backpack to your school, church, or local shelter.

Recipe: Homemade Ice Cream

(no machine needed!)

- 1 cup half-and-half
- 3 cups of ice
- 2 Tbsp. granulated sugar
- 1/2 tsp. pure vanilla extract
- 1/3 cup of salt (the chunkier the better)
- Toppings of your choice
- Small & large resealable bag

In the small resealable plastic bag, combine half-and-half, sugar, and vanilla. Push out any excess air and seal. In the large resealable plastic bag, combine ice and salt. Place the smaller bag inside the bigger bag and have your children vigorously shake for 7-10 minutes or until the ice cream has hardened. Remove from the bag and enjoy with your favorite ice cream toppings!

Prayer:

God, bless us as we transition! It is tough for summer to end, but we get to hold onto all of the great memories. As we prepare for a new school year, surround us with your love and hope for what's ahead. Amen.

FAITH + FAMILY
collective

