

FAMILY WORKSHOP
58TH BIENNIAL NATIONAL CONVENTION
DALLAS, TEXAS
FAMILIES TRAVELING THROUGH OZ TOGETHER
Creating Family Memories

Guest of Honor Night: Plan a special night or afternoon for one person of the family. Only focus on that one person. Make sure they are treated special. Create a list of question to ask this person at lunch or dinner. Questions should highlight things about their personality.

Individual Dinner Night: Having multiple children or grand children can often make it hard to spend that one on one time with each one. Have a night where you and your spouse or friend can take them out individually. Let them be the center of attention for the night.

Family Website /Blog Night: Create a family newsletter or blog. The newsletter can be created on the computer or done manually. Gather all family members and decide the layout, colors and design. If the family decide to do a blog, gather around the computer on a specific night of the week and have everyone to share what they think should be included.

Concert Night: Plan to attend an outdoor concert. Try a concert that will expose the family to music/culture that they might not otherwise hear. Outdoor concerts in the summer are great because they are more relaxed.

Backyard Campout Night: Forget the forest. Popping up a tent in the backyard will do just fine. Just include all the things that you normally would at a campsite; such as a flash light, sleeping bags, hotdogs, insect repellent and games.

Do Chores as a Family: Include the entire family or group. When it comes to cleaning the home or the parish Life Center; prepare a sign up list of everything that needs to be done. Then set up a time during the week day or weekend, when everyone can tackle their chore at the same time. Be flexible for those needing a little more time. Give them a deadline to have their chores completed. Doing chores together will foster a sense of teamwork, especially if someone gets done early and is willing to help another. Make it rewarding. Plan an ice party or play board games together.

Picture Night: Invite family and friends over for a photography party. Dress in matching and/or classic outfits. Just encourage everyone to be goofy. Afterwards, share and let everyone select their favorite print. Seek out a friend who is a photographer.

Create a Family Mission Statement: A family statement will remind members of the family core values or what each of you loved about each other. It is simple and fun to develop as a family. In other words, it will be great for family night. Once completed, place the mission statement in a predominant place in the home. Talk about it often.

Family Meetings: If family members live in different states, zoom is the perfect technology to use in order to keep in contact. Family meetings are a great way for everyone to check in with each other, air grievances, and to discuss future plans. It will also be a good time to discuss a family reunion, family vacations or to set family goals. Start your meeting by reading the family mission statement. If your family is large, begin the meeting by asking if anyone has an issue for the agenda. Write down what everyone wants to talk about and go through them one by one. Establish guidelines for the meeting. Set a time limit for each agenda item. Express the no talking rule, when someone else has the floor.

Chili Cook-off: Invite the neighbors to join you in a chili cook off. Select judges from outside the neighborhood to judge. Once the judging is over, everyone can have a bowl of chili with the fixing. Ask each neighbor to bring a side or a salad. Good way to get to know your neighbors better.

Hold a Food Drive: Get the community together to collect can goods for the food bank or the parish pantry. Select a planning committee, a sorting committee and a cleanup committee from the neighborhood. Designate a house in the neighborhood or the church as the drop off. Once collected, sort the items to make sure they are not outdated. This is an excellent way to spend time with your neighbors and help those in need.

Volunteer Together: What's more rewarding than giving of one's time and energy to make someone else's life better is always a powerful learning experience. When families participate in these learning experiences together, it will strengthen their relationships. Spending time at the local food bank or taking a weekend to build a home for charity is valuable experiences one can share throughout their life. Volunteering will expose the family to different people and increase their appreciation for those different than them.

Host a Car Wash and donate the funds: All hands on deck. Get together with others in the community and hold a car wash. Check with the local churches, parks, club houses, gas stations to see if they will grant permission to hold the car wash. As a family, choose a charity to donate the proceeds. This project will serve as a learning moment about the importance of helping others.

Building Relationships: Be a part of your community. Be sure to reach out to other families in order to build a relationship. It could be within your neighborhood, school system, church, your organizations or some other avenue. It's great to get to know and spend time with other families.

“It is easy to love the people far away. It is not always easy to love those close to us. It is easier to give a cup of rice to relieve hunger than to relieve the loneliness and pain of someone unloved in our own home. Bring love into your home for this is where our love for each other must start.”

– **Mother Teresa**

