

PASSING ON THE SOCIAL LEGACY

“Becoming the Fun Family Your Child Wants to Have”

Strengthen the Social Connection with Your Children

101 Creative Ideas for Family Fun

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Working on building the social bonding and fun factor in your family isn't difficult. It just takes some intentional focus and the choice to make special fun time as a family and with your children a priority in your schedule. Obviously family fun can be as elaborate (and costly) or simple (and inexpensive) as you desire to make them. Here are 101 creative ideas to get your brainstorming started.

Outdoor/Active

↓ denotes an inexpensive activity



1. Ride bikes.
- ↓ 2. Go to the beach or a lake.
- ↓ 3. Go on a breakfast picnic.
4. Ice skate
5. Go canoeing or kayaking
- ↓ 6. Go to a park and hike or climb trees.
7. Play miniature golf or croquet
8. Go bowling
- ↓ 9. Dig out a flower bed and give each family member his own “plot”. Plant seeds, bedding plants, vegetables, herbs or bulbs and watch God’s creation grow!
- ↓ 10. Go jogging or take a walk together
- ↓ 11. Enjoy the snow together by building a snowman, snow bears, a huge turtle or other animals, making a snow fort or throwing snowballs. How about making snow ice cream?
- ↓ 12. On a starry night take a blanket and a sky map and together lay on blanket and look at the sky to see who can find different constellations.
- ↓ 13. Go camping in the backyard. Cook breakfast on the grill.
- ↓ 14. Pillow fight
15. Go swimming or water skiing
- ↓ 16. On a hot summer day have a water balloon toss.

Outdoor/Active Continued

17. Go horseback riding
18. Go rock climbing
19. Fly kites
20. Go fishing
- ↓21. Catch fireflies together at dusk, put them in a jar and watch them light up. Then, let them go.
22. Go tubing on a nearby river
- ↓23. Plan a scavenger hunt for outside or inside the house using every letter of the alphabet.
- ↓24. Wash your cars, include water fights.
- ↓25. Have a bonfire outdoors or in your fireplace and roast hot dogs and marshmallows.
- ↓26. Feed the ducks at a duck pond.
27. Go fruit or berry picking

Spectator Activities

28. Go to a ballgame.
29. Watch 'em ride at the rodeo.
30. Take your family to a symphony concert.
- ↓31. Go bird-watching.
- ↓32. Watch the fireworks.
- ↓33. Watch surfing, windsurfing.

Food-Focused Activities

34. Go out to dinner
35. Make homemade ice cream or visit an ice cream parlor.
36. Bake a double batch of cookies and deliver one to a needy family.
37. Make your own homemade pizza. Add mushrooms, peppers, onions, black olives and crushed the pizza sauce and cheese.
- ↓38. Plan and cook a meal together, where you invite the grandparents or other family or friends.
- ↓39. Make banana splits together.



Food-Focused Activities Continued

- ↓40. Make a birthday cake for Jesus.
- ↓41. Make bread or rolls together.
- 42. Barbecue and invite friends over. (Try grilling your veggie meats.)

Indoors Activities



- ↓43. Look through photo albums or view family slides, movies or videos.
- ↓44. Make a video recording of the most recent news in your family and send it to a close friend or relative whom you seldom see.
- ↓45. Make a “birthday flag” for the next upcoming birthday.
- ↓46. Play a board game that all can enjoy.
- 47. Go shopping together
- ↓48. Work on a puzzle together.
- ↓49. Make family silhouettes. Use a slide projector or a bright lamp to project the head profile on a blank wall. Hold paper against the wall and trace the silhouette. Cut out and glue it on a contrasting sheet of paper or poster board.
- ↓50. Have a candy treasure hunt.
- ↓51. Play “Start a Story”. One person starts the story and talks for three minutes (use timer). The next person must continue the story and so on. After going around the family circle two or three times the youngest child gets to end the tale.
- ↓52. Provide old magazines, scissors and glue. Pick a theme for your collage (families, God’s creations, things to be thankful for, etc.)
- ↓53. Invite another family over for a game of charades or gestures.
- ↓54. String popcorn and place on a tree for the birds.
- ↓55. Make puppets out of lunch bags, old socks, felt, wooden clothespins. Put on a puppet show.
- ↓56. Ask your children about their greatest fear and talk about them.
- ↓57. Make a list of all the things in your house that use electricity. You might do this when you lose power sometime.
- ↓58. Build a village using blocks, Lincoln logs or Legos. Get out the matchbox cars!
- 59. Build a birdhouse and read about how to attract birds to your yard.
- ↓60. Have a fire drill. Discuss what to do in case of a fire.

Indoors Activities Continued

- ↓61. Read jokes to each other. (you can get a good joke book at a Christian book store).
- ↓62. Make hand shadows on the wall look like various animals. Make them walk to each other.
- 63. Carve an animal out of a bar of Ivory soap.

“Places to Go”

- 64. Mountains
- 65. Museums
- 66. The circus
- 67. County fairs
- 68. Aquarium
- 69. Shopping mall
- 70. Factory tours
- 71. Historical sites, tours, walking tours
- 72. The zoo
- 73. An observatory
- ↓74. City parks
- 75. Art gallery
- 76. Public gardens
- 77. The pier
- 78. Visit a wildlife sanctuary
- ↓79. Visit an airport and watch the planes take off and land or go to a lake and watch the boats while you have a picnic.
- 80. Go roller skating or ice skating.
- 81. Go bowling
- ↓82. Visit a farm. Milk a cow, help feed the animals, take pictures.
- ↓83. Take the kids on a tour of where Mom or Dad works.
- ↓84. Visit a friend.
- 85. Go sledding or skiing.



86. Go to an amusement park

87. Last but not least, go to Sabbath School and Church together each Sabbath.

“Sabbath Activities”

88. Go to the botanical garden. (get a yearly pass or pre-pay for entrance the day before)



↓89. Make play dough and sculpt objects or people from Bible stories.

↓90. Read a good book aloud (e.g., Paul McCusker “Danger Lies Ahead” or Eric B. Hare “Curse-Proof!” Appeals to children and adults alike).

↓91. Sing favorite choruses, hymns or nursery rhymes around the piano or guitar. You could even use a CD to follow along.

↓92. Visit a shut-in or an elderly friend or relative in a nursing home.

93. Listen to a Bible story on CD or from the radio. (our family really, really enjoys listening to the audio stories of “Adventures in Odyssey”). Good for car trips too.

↓94. Play “10 Questions” where one person chooses a Bible character to be guessed. The other members of the family take turns guessing who the secret person might be by asking no more than 10 questions. The questions need to be simple and be able to be answered with a simple yes or no. Whoever guesses first becomes “It” for the next round. Good for car trips too.

↓95. Write a letter to a missionary family. Your children could write to a missionary’s child his own age. Go to www.afmonline.org click on “Our Missionaries” and choose a missionary family to write to.

↓96. One family member acts out a silent skit from the Bible. The others need to guess what the story is. The first to guess becomes “It” for the next story.

97. Write and record an interview with a Bible character. Dress up to make it more real.

98. Go to a children’s hospital (call the hospital ahead of time to ask if you can take your children to brighten another’s child day). Bring small toys or coloring books with crayons to give to the children.

↓99. Play “Bible Verse Scramble”. One person chooses a favorite Bible verse and writes each word on a separate piece of paper. Scramble the order of the words and challenge each member of the family to see who can put it together the fastest. It could be a verse the family has memorized together.

↓100. Go for a walk through a park and collect flowers to press. After a few weeks you can glue the pressed flowers on color cardstock cut in rectangles (bookmark shape), write a short inspirational message and laminate. Then give away your homemade bookmarks to friends or to the elderly when you visit a nursing home.

↓101. Have grandma and grandpa tell how they met and how life was for them as children. Have them tell about their favorite toys and how they compare with today’s toys.

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Cut numbers and put in a special box to draw frequently for a surprise fun family activity

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