

15 FUN SUMMER IDEAS TO DO WITH YOUR KIDS THAT LEAD TO FAITH CONVERSATIONS

Master Shopping List

Grocery Store:

Sugar
Blue dawn soap
Cornstarch
Marshmallows
Hersheys chocolate bars
Graham crackers
Fire starter log
Capri suns
Peanut butter or sun butter
Scavenger hunt snacks

Hardware Store:

Water hose sprinkler for the yard
Paint chip samples (FREE!)
Bird seed

Craft Store:

String
Safety pins
Kids scissors
Different color spools of ribbon
Paint & brushes for rocks
Crayola model magic

Dollar Store:

Car wash & sponges
Bubble wands
Flashlights
popsicle shapes for the freezer
Toothbrushes
Plastic tub

- **Make homemade bubbles!**

- a. Plan ahead for this one, because the bubbles work best if they sit overnight and you will need wands from the dollar store.
- b. While you are doing the bubbles, talk to your kids about how God made the wind that blows the bubbles...and just like the wind, you can't see God, but you know he is there because you can feel His presence, like it says in **John 3:8**.
- c. You can also talk about heaven, as you watch them float up to the sky, or talk about how God made the sun and the clouds and how he made them too...Use your judgement with this one for your child's age.

- **Go on a rock hunt!**

- a. Go on a hike on a walking trail or just look around in your yard or on your street.
- b. You can even paint the rocks after you find them....and have a conversation with your kids to explain how Jesus is our rock.
- c. How is Jesus is our rock? We must build our life on Jesus, so even when hard things happen in our lives or our faith is questioned, we can stand strong! Your kids can understand this and they need to know it. Verse to use: **Psalm 18:1-2**.

- **Set up a washing station!**

- a. Wash the rocks from the rock hunt above or wash hot wheel cars, monster trucks, animal figures, barbies, etc...just whatever your kids like to play with!
- b. Add Dawn soap or baby bath soap to a tub of warm water, and give them toothbrushes and measuring cups to wash their favorite toys and leave them on a towel to dry. This should keep them occupied for a while!
- c. Talk to them about Jesus died on the cross to wash us clean from our sins, if we believe and ask for forgiveness, from the verse **1 John 1:9**.

- **Wash your family car together!**

- a. This one is great for older kids, whereas the washing station is better for younger.
- b. Let them help you make the clean sudsy water with the car wash soap, then as you wash the car, point out how clean the car is getting and how dirty the water becomes.
- c. Read verse **John 13:8**, when Peter tells Jesus he can't wash his feet at the passover meal before the cross, and Jesus tells him, if I do not wash you clean, then you can't have any part of me. What Jesus was referring to, is the cross, even though Peter didn't understand this yet. That Jesus came to die for us....he was perfect and without sin, but he died to wash us clean from our sins.
- d. He was like the clean sudsy water and we are the old dirty car, and he cleaned us and takes on our sin to the cross. This is a great conversation starter to kids accepting Jesus!
- e. Then spray them down with the hose!

- **Play flashlight freeze tag!**

- a. Gather flashlights from your storm closet or buy some cheap ones from the dollar store for your kids and the neighbors.
- b. As the sun is going down, teach the kids how to play flashlight freeze tag—basically one or a few people (depending on how many are playing) are “it” and get to hold the flashlights. You run and try not to get spotlighted with the flashlight or you are frozen. You can decide whether or not to let people not yet frozen, tag to “unfreeze” people or not, since it does make the game last longer. But once everyone is frozen, start over with new people that are “it” holding the flashlights.
- c. A fun game to get out energy before bed!
- d. Once it’s over and things are winding down for bedtime, explain to your kids, that like that flashlight, we are called as Christians to shine the light of Jesus in a dark world of sin.
- e. Share verse **Matthew 5:14-16**.

- **Make CapriSun popsicles!**

- a. All you need are a few CapriSuns or juice boxes of your choice and some of those plastic popsicle shapes you can get at the dollar store to put in the freezer.
- b. Kids can squeeze them with the straws into the popsicle shape holder and it’s simple and easy fun, even though they do have to wait a while to eat them.
- c. While you are making them talk to your kids about how God provided manna from heaven for his people when they were hungry, and it was yummy just like these popsicles but if they did not take advantage of it and gather it up early in the morning, it would melt away, like these popsicles.
- d. Share with your kids, how important it is to start the day in God’s Word, because as the summer day grows hotter, we get busier and forget or temptation to sin comes, and if we start our focus each morning in God’s Word, we will be ready!
- e. This story can be found in **Exodus 16**. Consider doing a little devotional with your kids each morning or letting them do part of your quiet time with you.

- **Make homemade bird feeders!**

- a. Take string or twine and tie to a pinecone. Cover the pinecone in peanut butter or sun or nut butter of any kind if your child is allergic and then roll it in bird seed.
- b. Hang them up in your garden for the birds to enjoy and talk to your kids about how the Bible talks about how birds don’t worry about where they will sleep or eat, because they know that God takes care of them.
- c. And tell them that they don’t have to worry either, because God made them and knows what they need, because He cares about them too.
- d. Refer to **Matthew 6:25-34**.

- **Build a tent on a rainy day!**

- a. Build a first tent without a lot of support for the blankets and quilts. Then add some chairs, or we even use our little tikes basketball goal, a bookshelf or whatever you have and make it more sturdy.
- b. Share with them like **Luke 6:48** says, that when we build our life on having the foundation of knowing Jesus, it is like this tent or a house that is well built, with plenty of support.
- c. Talk to them about knowing Jesus, while you lay in the eat together. We like to add pillows and flashlights to ours too!

- **Narrow Path vs. Wide Path Scavenger Hunt!**

- a. Gather up some yummy snacks from your pantry your kids would want, like cookies or something like that. Empty the package and fill it with tissue or rocks...Place it in an easy place to spot, like the driveway. Then put the REAL cookies or snack in a ziplock bag and hide it well in the backyard.
- b. Tell the kids, with the driveway "fake snack" in their view, that when you say go, you can choose to go down the driveway or to the yard to find the surprise!
- c. Many kids will choose the cookies easily in sight on the driveway and be deceived, but a few will be curious and choose prize in the yard that they can't see, but will find the REAL cookies!
- d. After it's over, share the cookies with everyone, and explain how the wide path of the world looks easy and good to the eyes, but it leads to nothing. Whereas the narrow path is harder, but it leads to Jesus! From **Matthew 7:13-14**.

- **Have a water sprinkler day!**

- a. This is easy...Just hook the sprinkler up to the hose and instant fun!
- b. After they are finished and drying in the sun or in the bathtub, talk to them about just like the sprinkler waters the grass and flowers that are thirsty in the hot summer, Jesus is our living water.
- c. This is just a fancy way of saying...everyone is searching for something in the world to fill their heart but only Jesus can satisfy us like the water does to the grass in the hot summer. Without Jesus, we can search and search the world over, but nothing will make us complete without him.
- d. Read them the story in **John 4** of the sinning Samaritan woman that Jesus shares with about living water. **John 7: 37-39** is a supporting verse.

- **See how your handprint is unique!**

- a. Use Crayola model magic from any craft store, its safer than plaster of Paris and doesn't have to be baked like clay.
- b. Have your child or you make a thick flat circle shape, big enough for their hand. Press their hand and hold a few seconds. Then take a pencil and poke a hole through the top in case want to hang it with string or make in an ornament later.
- c. Let it dry over night. Then once dry, have your child paint their handprint with their color of choice, so they can see the lines in their hand.
- d. Explain how no two peoples lines are the same and that's because God made them unique and He loves them! He know the how many hairs are on their head and every tear they cry...He cares for them from **Luke 12:7**.
- e. And just a tip: Be sure and write the name and date on the back before you forget!

- **Make Paint chip rainbows!**

- a. Go to any hardware store and gather up some free paint chip samples in fun colors. Set them out with kid scissors and glue sticks.
- b. Let kids cut them up however they want and glue them to make a rainbow or a colorful rainbow mosaic.
- c. While you are creating, share with them about the first rainbow in the Bible that God gave to Noah and his family as a promise that He would never flood the earth again from **Genesis 9:12-16**.
- d. Talk about how God keeps his promises and that is what they should remember when they see a rainbow...because in a world full of alternate meanings for the rainbow, this is so important to tell out kids!

- **Make easy friendship bracelets!**

- a. Buy embroidery string—its not expensive—it's the kind with the little black sticker tabs around it in the fabric department. Have your kids pick the colors they like. Bracelets will take 3 colors each.
- b. I usually pick up a pack of safety pins too while I'm at the store. You just measure out how long your child would need the bracelet including enough to tie and then DOUBLE that. Cut all your strings that length and tie is a knot on one end. Then place the safety pin through the knot and pin to a pillow that you approve.
- c. The child will twist the things together as tight as they can, then fold the twisted string in half. Unpin and place on their wrist tying a new knot.
- d. Have them make one for a friend and talk about how **Proverbs 12:26** talks about being wise with the friends that we choose, because we will be like the people that we choose to spend out time with. And talk about your child's friends.

- **Camp Fire and S'mores!**

- a. This does require a fire pit or a safe place to have a camp fire. We do this with our boys several times throughout the year...we have them pick up all this sticks in the yard...just a side bonus, this will help dad or whoever moves at your house be able to mow the yard easier.
- b. Have them pile up all the sticks in one place. Pick up a starter loaf from the grocery store when you get your supplies for s'mores.
- c. While you sit by the fire is a great to to share stories and catch up with your kids over yummy s'mores. A great campfire story to share is the one about Elijah calling on God to send fire to his offering that he had poured water over in proving to the 450 prophets of Baal—a false idol—that God was the ONE and ONLY God. Brush up on this story from **1 Kings 18:18-40**.

- **Make ribbon twirling sticks!**

- a. Save a few of the skinny long sticks from the campfire above to make these.
- b. Purchase a few spools of ribbon in different colors and textures. This will be something girls will enjoy, if you have girls. Cut the ribbon is all different lengths, ranging from 12-36 inches, and tie to the sticks.
- c. Then turn on some fun worship music and have a dance party!