

# PARTNERING WITH PARENTS TO NURTURE HEARTS FOR GOD



## Some Principles to Consider ...

### **Parents are the main disciplers of their children —**

As church leaders we need to be committed to reminding parents and caregivers of this role and providing them with relevant and easy to use resources.

### **Be consistent**

Choose a regular time to connect (weekly, bi-weekly, monthly) — be realistic and be sure to stick with your commitment to connect.

### **Brand your connection**

Create an easy and recognizable logo or some consistent verbiage so that your resources can stand out for what they are and attractive and readable enough for parents to look forward to reading them. For example: Parent Connection, Calling All Parents, Ministering to YOUR KIDS

### **Be Helpful with Tips** for them as Parents and as Christ Followers

Share articles, reading plans, interesting activities that might interest them and help them with their overall spiritual health

### **Be thoughtful in choosing a variety of options**

Include crafts, service activities and even personal projects as each person learns in different ways and a variety helps to encourage everesponds to different activities and using all times

### **Be an encouragement** to your families and create community

Consider a closed Facebook page, casual conversations and meetings/events are all ways to celebrate the amazing ways families are living out Deuteronomy 6

### **Seek Feedback**

Be sure to make an intentional and consistent way to connect personally with each family/caregiver and ask for feedback and find ways to pray for them and minister to them personally. Get others on your team to help!

**Together may we give children the roots they need to grow  
and the wings to fly!**

# Family Ministry Calendar IDEAS

<p><b>January : Winter</b></p> <p><b>Fruits of the Spirit</b> — stories and activities focused on the fruits. One story and one activity per week. At the end host an in person or virtual wrap up — include games, a craft, snack and prizes.</p> <p><b>Snowflakes</b> — “we are all unique” — stories and activities that talk about each child’s uniqueness and how special we are to God.</p> <p><b>Cooking on Zoom</b> — choose a favorite winter food and demonstrate cooking or making it</p> <p><b>Black History</b> — January is Black History month ... help kids to know about this culture group and focus some activities and teaching on this during January. Invite someone from the Black community to be your guest and get their help in developing and designing activities for your kids.</p>	<p><b>February: Sharing God's Love</b></p> <p><b>Valentine's Day Crafts / Valentine's Cards</b> — for nursing homes or give to older folks in the congregation</p> <p><b>Lunar New Year Dumpling Project</b> — Share a dumpling recipe / this could be done in person or online</p> <p><b>#LoveOthers</b> Take picture and post it on social media about some way you or your family are sharing God's love to others.</p> <p><b>Sledding Party</b> — plan for an outdoor gathering around snow or other winter theme!</p> <p><b>Share the Love</b> — activities and stories that focus on things I love about you — this would be a great family project</p>
<p><b>March: New Life (Lent, approaching Easter)</b> *Note: this month will mark 1 year since the pandemic hit</p> <p><b>Participate in one weekly Lenten Practice.</b> Consider: Daily Family Devotions, Prayer, Find Something to Give Away, Encourage Someone, Be Hospitable, Reach Out to Someone, etc. Participation in weekly Lent practices - reading guide (children’s version), memory verses</p> <p><b>Family Craft for Palm Sunday</b> — send out a guide and materials for creating Palm Sunday worship instruments (ie: Paper palms &amp; tambourines</p> <p><b>Palm Sunday Worship</b> — Invite children &amp; families to participate in “Palm Sunday processional”</p> <p><b>Spring Family Activity</b> -make/fly a kite, blowing bubbles, scavenger hunt to spot new life in grass, wildlife, melting snow ... how God’s creation is coming to life, nature walk, making origami tulips, bible trivia contest / *Verses/worship related to “new life”/spring ... noticing God’s creation</p> <p><b>Service Project</b> —Visit nursing home (or other venue) to share spring crafts, etc</p>	<p><b>April: Celebration of Easter / Welcoming Spring</b></p> <p><b>Celebration of Easter</b> In person: Easter Egg Hunts, Decorate Eggs, Puppet show of the resurrection story for kids, Crafts Online: Resurrection Eggs devotionals, craft and/or cooking demonstrations — provide families with supplies so that they can participate in real time</p> <p><b>Welcoming Spring</b> Seed Planting Activity for Families — send or mail seed packets to families with instructions to start a family garden. Give them ideas to make their garden beautiful and encourage them to make a video or picture diary of their project and post it on your closed Facebook page.</p> <p>Thank You Service Project — as a church do a “Thank You” service project focused on first responders or another important group in your community and make something to share with them (craft / cookies or some other baked good). Send them cards with coffee gift cards.</p> <p>Beautify an area in your community. Organize a church wide work day that involves the whole family. Focus on an area in your town that needs sprucing up and get everyone involved to help ... even invite others in town to help!</p>

## **General Ideas that could work any month.**

Just customize to what your theme is and make it work for your families and community!

- ◆ Cookie Baking (in person or virtual)
- ◆ Game Night (in person or virtual)
- ◆ Photo Scavenger Hunt (in person or virtual) — Kids and families take pictures of each scavenger item and upload onto social media. To encourage participation, have prizes!
- ◆ Where’s “Waldo”? — Similar idea with the scavenger hunt but instead using a character or a well-known person from the church and have the character/person take a picture with an item or a location and families need to do the same activity, use the same item or be at the same location and take pictures of it. Whoever finds the last location of the character/person wins a prize.
- ◆ Contact area nursing homes, day cares, hospitals and ask about ways that your church could help. Work those ideas into your monthly calendars.
- ◆ Remember that holidays make great themes. Plan to work them into your calendars. **ABOVE ALL! Make them fun and engaging!**