

## Summer Is Here!

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by Wayne Goff

Summer is here unofficially with the exit of children from the public schools. Parents are now in charge of their children all day and this should be seen as a great opportunity. Yes, we all have plans for summer fun: vacations full of traveling, camping, hiking, swimming, fishing, golfing, etc. But in the midst of all this, let me encourage parents to spend time with their children in various fun and enjoyable Bible study. If you or your children are not accustomed to such, then the first reaction from the children may be “Yuck! Who wants to study during the summer?” But there are many ways to make Bible study fun and enjoyable. Naturally, we will want to continue our emphasis on Bible classes for Sunday and Wednesday. Secondly, we encourage everyone to plan now for the Vacation Bible School that runs from July 26-30. (We have already received one phone call at the building asking about this. So if non-members are looking for opportunities for such, shouldn't you be?) The studies look encouraging and are based on Bible characters: the ten lepers (Lk. 17:11-19), Dorcas (Acts 9:36-41), Ananias & Sapphira (Acts 5:1-11), Abram & Lot (Gen.13:7-12), and Jesus (Lk. 4:1-13). The topics are of benefit to everyone: thankfulness, caring, honesty, peace making, and overcoming temptation. These lessons are geared toward our children's age, so that week is something we all enjoy ending the summer by attending.

But what about family time at home or as we travel in the car? There are a couple of Bible games that I would recommend:

**Bible Trivia** -- where trivia is not trivial.

**Bibleopoly** -- like monopoly but with Bible locations.

Sometimes Christians refuse to play these games with others because it shows their own ignorance of the Bible. But that is the very reason we should all challenge ourselves because you can learn the Bible while having fun. You can start with the “Children's” version of Bible trivia and move up to the more difficult “Adult” version later. Just go ahead and swallow your pride and find out how quickly you can learn Bible facts while having fun!

When our children were small, Emily also found several different versions of “flip cards” which were fun. At a very early age, she used cards called “Bible ABCs” which had a Bible verse for each letter of the alphabet. The verses were abbreviated to simplify things for small children, and we were amazed how quickly our children learned these verse, especially if we had a little competition. To this day, I'm sure that Rebecca, Kevin or Randy could remember some of those simple verses. For example, “C” stood for “Children obey your parents” (Eph. 6:1). Emily and I enjoyed that one because we were always quoting it anyway. The children enjoyed learning others better, but they remembered it.

Also, we still have “Bible Drill Flash Cards” that we used with them and in small classes before Sunday evening worship in years past. “Set A” contained “General Bible Knowledge.” “Set B” contained “Bible characters.” “Set C” contained questions on “The Church” These cards were published by Parchment Press in Montgomery, Alabama by members of the church and the information is very reliable.

If you don't want to spend any money, then make up your own “flash cards” containing Bible verses from Proverbs or the Gospel of Luke, or both. You can easily make 25 to 50 cards, put the book, chapter, verse on the front, then put the verse itself on the back, and teach them to your children. You can play the game either way and learn a lot.

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