



Parents' Corner

It's Time to Rise: Equipping and Empowering the Next Generation

By Edwina Neely

My experience as a teacher and parent for over 40 years has taught me that when children learn early in life the teachings of God, they are equipped and empowered to grow up strong in the Lord. Therefore another generation can grow up knowing God and what He has done for them. It is our responsibility to teach our children about God in everything we do. Every moment is a teaching moment! Here are ways to empower your children this summer.

Ways to keep your child happy this summer, without using an electronics screen! Hint: Keep a package of stickers with you.

In the car:

- Pray before you begin your trip. Have “gratitude moments,” periodically thanking God for safety. Let your children think of some part of the car they are thankful for and why. Example: Thankful for the gas meter to tell us when we need gas.
- Count the cars by color. In five minutes, how many red cars can you find? The one with the highest number gets a sticker. Chose other color cars and begin again. The child who earns 10 stickers first wins.
- Check the license plates and find a Z, X, Q, V, W. The person with the most Qs wins.

On the family reunion:

- Alphabet Match: Write the alphabet on a sheet of paper. Find people who have a name that begins with each letter. This help children get acquainted with family members, and you'll end up with a list of family names. Thank God for family!

At the beach:

- Thank God for all of the experiences you encounter at the beach.
- Collect shells, count them, and sort them by shape or color.
- Make sand castles.
- Make footprints in the sand and watch the waves wash them away.

On a walk in the park:

- Thank God for His creations.
- Check out a tree: Hug a tree. Find a tree you can put your arms around. Find a tree shaped like the letter “Y.” Find the tallest. Find a heart-shaped leaf on a tree. Remember that only God can make a tree!
- Listen to birds sing. Which song do you like?

In the grocery store:

- Think of all of the many fruits and vegetables God has made for us to enjoy.
- Observation game: How many red (or yellow) fruit can you find? Name a fruit that is round. Do you see any round vegetables? Say: I thank God for red fruit, round fruit, etc. Thank God for the farmers who grew the fruit and vegetables, and picked and packaged them, and for the drivers who brought them to us. We must teach our children to be thankful.
- Read store aisle labels and talk about what might be on that aisle. For example, what might you find on the baking goods aisle? What might you find on the canned goods aisle?

The key is to keep your children engaged every moment. When they are involved in learning, screen time is far from their minds. Enjoy your summer!