



Dear families,

SUMMER IS OFFICIALLY UPON US along with all the potential and dreams of what could be for your family. For many, vacation plans are made, camps are on the calendar, and/or goals are set for summer projects . . . the possibilities for these months are endless.

While all of these things can be good, far too many come to the end of the summer months and wonder silently, “Did we accomplish anything significant?” Our hope is that this resource you hold in your hands will equip you to avoid that question altogether. We dare . . . no, we **DOUBLE DARE** you to make this summer matter for the faith of your family!

THE CHALLENGE

Watermark Kids wants to challenge you AND equip you to have a “Significant Summer” this year. We believe that there are 4 basic components to make your summer significant: Rest, Serve, Grow, Play. As the old saying goes, if you aim for nothing, you’ll miss it every time. Don’t aim for nothing this summer. These 4 components, along with their simple definitions and memory verses, will provide you a target to aim for. We have also included some basic suggestions on how to hit that target.

HOW TO USE THIS RESOURCE

This summer, we have provided you with 8 “Double Dare Challenges” for June and July. Each week offers a unique opportunity to Rest, Serve, Grow or Play together as a family and a guide for talking about the activity as well. In addition to these specifically scheduled challenges, we’ve provided a number of other ideas in each of the four categories that your family could implement this summer.

SHARE THE FUN

To add to the fun, this year we are playing a massive game of “Double Dare” through the summer, tracking points between 4 areas of DFW and encouraging your team to work together to win the game. We’ll crown a winner for each of the 8 challenges and see which team can win the most challenges for the summer. To play, be sure to join the Facebook group for your area where you can earn points by posting pictures of your family completing the “Double Dare Challenges” for each week. You can find links to those groups as well as a host of other resources at watermark.org/blog/ss2016.

In 2 Peter 1:3, Peter reminds us that we have been given everything we need for “life and godliness”. Then he challenges us to make every effort to build onto our faith with qualities that “will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (2 Peter 1:8 NIV). We hope you’ll accept a similar challenge from us this summer, to battle ineffectiveness and unproductiveness and make your summer **SIGNIFICANT** for the glory of God and the fame of Jesus our Savior!

Let’s have a Significant Summer!

Watermark Kids Team



REST - Remembering Who Reigns

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." **Matthew 11:28-30**



SERVE - Showing Others God's Love

"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve others and give His life as a ransom for many."
Mark 10:45



PLAY - Enjoying God Everywhere

"You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore." **Psalms 16:11**



GROW - Becoming More Like Jesus

"Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers." **Psalms 1:1-3**

June Double Dare Challenges

contentment

CONTENTMENT DEFINITION: Being satisfied with yourself, your stuff and your circumstances

MEMORY VERSE: "I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through Him who gives me strength." **Philippians 4:12-13 (NIV)**



WEEK OF JUNE 5TH

MAKE IT STICK

FINISH LINE: Jesus was content because God was His provider

READ: Luke 4:1-13

TALK:

- How was Jesus in need?
- What allowed Him to be content? (He trusted that God was His provider and believed God's Word)
- What are some ways that you are or have been in need? (emotional and physical)
- In Philippians 4:12 Paul says he has learned to be content in all circumstances, how did he do that? (hint: see verse 13)
- How can you apply Philippians 4:12-13 to your own life and needs?

CHALLENGE: Memorize Philippians 4:12-13 – make it stick! Grab a package of sticky notes. Write one word from the verse on each sticky note. Practice memorizing the verse together by mixing the words up and putting them back in order. Then put the verse somewhere in the house where everyone can see it and keep working on it throughout the week. Be sure to check back in and see how everyone is doing at the end of the week. Don't forget to post a picture of your family working on the verse on your group Facebook page to get points for your team.

WEEK OF JUNE 12TH

STICKY MASTERPIECES

Finish Line: Knowing God made you perfectly is the secret to being satisfied with yourself

Challenge: Create your own sticky masterpiece... parents load up on ice cream sundae toppings. Allow each person to make their own creative ice cream sundae. (Don't forget the sticky toppings!) When complete, look at the different masterpieces and how no two are the same! Don't forget to take a picture and post it! While enjoying your masterpieces...

Read: Ephesians 2:8-10 (NLT) (Don't be afraid to get those pages sticky!) and the finish line above.

Talk:

- What differences did you see in each ice cream sundae?
Why were they different? (because each person creating is unique)
- What does Ephesians 2:8-10 tell us about how God made us?
(We are God's masterpiece and because of Jesus we are made new.)
- Why can that help us to be content in who we are?



June Double Dare Challenges

contentment



Week 3 Serve

WEEK OF JUNE 19TH

UNSTICK YOUR STUFF

FINISH LINE: Knowing God has given everything you need is the secret to being satisfied with your stuff

READ: Matthew 6:19-34

TALK:

- Where should we store up treasures? What do you think that means? (God considers treasures to be how we love and serve others, not the stuff we collect.)
- Do you believe that God will supply you with all that you need? Is there a difference between need and want?
- How does knowing that God will give you all you need help you to be satisfied with what you already have?

CHALLENGE: Stuck with a bunch of stuff? Sometimes getting rid of things can help us be reminded that the “stuff” isn’t where life is found. Have each family member grab a bag and fill it up with stuff you are willing to give away that would bless someone else. Don’t get rid of broken/unusable things, give away things that would be helpful to someone else. Take a pic with those bags and post on your team page!

WEEK OF JUNE 26TH

STICK TOGETHER

FINISH LINE: Knowing God is always in control is the secret to being satisfied with your circumstances

CHALLENGE: A family who plays together, sticks together. As a family pick a game to play. Be sure and pick one that has winners and losers. Before the game starts remind everyone to pay attention to how they are feeling when they are either losing or winning. (Don’t forget the photo!) Afterwards...

READ: Psalm 18:1-3,30

TALK:

- Let each person share how they were feeling throughout the game, either while losing or winning.
- One of our goals is to remember that whether “winning or losing” God is in control and therefore we can be content... How does Philippians 4:12-13 show this? And when you read Psalm 18:1-3,30, how does this help us be content in all circumstances?



Week 4 Play

July Double Dare Challenges

stewardship

STEWARDSHIP DEFINITION: Honoring God with all He has given you

MEMORY VERSE: "Commit everything you do to the Lord. Trust Him and He will help you." **Psalms 37:5 (NLT)**

WEEK OF JULY 3RD

STICK TO THE SABBATH

FINISH LINE: To honor God we steward our time

READ: Matthew 11:28-30

TALK:

- Talk about what happens to us when we get really tired. Parents, be honest here about what happens to you when you're really tired (grumpy, irritable, impatient, make poor decisions, etc.)
- What does Jesus say in Matthew 11:28-30 that we can do when we realize that we are tired? What will He give us? (We can come to Him and He will give us rest)
- Say, "This week you learned about stewardship and how we 'steward our time'. One of the 10 Commandments tells us to steward our time by resting regularly." (you may want to prove it by reading Exodus 20:8-11)
- Why do you think God commanded us to steward part of our time this way? (because He loves us and doesn't want us to be grumpy, impatient, etc.)

CHALLENGE: Stick to Sabbath! Make a plan for a day that you can rest and do nothing, and then stick to that plan and follow through. Rest, relax, recharge and thank God for loving us so much to give us rest! (Post a picture of your family in their most relaxing pose!)



Week 5
Rest

WEEK OF JULY 10TH

STUCK WITH SKILLS

FINISH LINE: To honor God we steward our talents

CHALLENGE: What skills have you been stuck with? Hold a family talent show, letting each person in the family show off their skills (singing, dancing, super-human-tricks, etc.). Make it fun, laugh a ton, and be sure to post either pictures or a video to your team's Facebook group of some of your favorite moments.

READ: Romans 12:4-5

TALK:

- Other than the talents you displayed in the talent show, what other gifts and talents do you see in your family? Take the time to point out talents and skills you see in your spouse and/or each of your kids.
- Romans 12:4-5 says that gifts and talents were given to us for a special function to bless others. What are ways we have been or can be faithful stewards of the talents God has given us? (help your kids see the value in the unique ways God has made them)



Week 6
Play

July Double Dare Challenges

stewardship



WEEK OF JULY 17TH

STICKY SERVICE

FINISH LINE: To honor God we steward our treasures

CHALLENGE: Who loves breakfast for dinner? We bet your neighbors do! Invite some friends or neighbors over for a meal that includes some of your favorite sticky breakfast foods (pancakes with syrup, biscuits with honey, cinnamon rolls, etc.). Coach your kids ahead of time on how to be a good host to your guests and put on their servant hat! Don't forget to snap a pic! Afterwards . . .

READ: John 6:1-14 (or the story of Jesus feeding the 5,000 from your favorite kids Bible)

TALK:

- How did you feel about our time with our guests? What was really fun? What, if anything, was hard about it?
- Think about the boy who gave his 5 loaves and 2 fish. What do you think was hard about giving away his lunch? How do you think he felt after seeing what Jesus did with it?
- The "treasures" we have as a family don't belong to us. They belong to God who asks us to be a steward of them to honor Him. What are some other treasures we have and how can we use those things to honor God?

WEEK OF JULY 24TH

STICKY SITUATION

FINISH LINE: To honor God we steward our troubles

READ: Acts 16:22-40, John 16:33

TALK:

- What kind of trouble did Paul and Silas have? How did they respond to their sticky situation/trouble? How did God use their response to their trouble in the life of the jailer? How did this bring honor to God?
- Have each family member share different times in their life when they had trouble. What were the circumstances, what made it hard, how did you respond?
- Reread John 16:33. What does Jesus promise us we will have? What does He also tell us is true?
- What do you think it means to steward your troubles? (trust the Lord in the midst of them, allow Him to work through you, when the opportunity arises encourage others in their troubles with God's truth)

CHALLENGE: Think back on your "sticky situations" (ie: troubles) that you shared. What verses encouraged you or might have encouraged you during that time? Use biblegateway.com or google "verses for troubled times" to find verses that encourage in certain situations. Then as a family think about someone who is going through trouble. Find a verse to encourage them, write an encouraging (creative) note and mail it. (Don't forget to take a pic and post it on the page.)



Additional challenges

Additional Rest Activities

#1 | Unstructured Time

Make sure you have at least one week this summer with no scheduled activities for your kids – no VBS, no camps, etc. Enjoy a slower pace at home – sleep a little later, let the kids play, get down on the floor and play with them, take naps, be spontaneous with friends. Take the time to enjoy the lack of schedule and routine.

#2 | Restoring Our Souls

*The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters.
He restores my soul. Psalm 23:1-3a*

As busy parents it is easy for our souls to get frazzled. In that state, we are usually not a source of rest and peace for our families. This summer, make time with your Shepherd a high priority. Get alone with Him. Allow Him to lead you to a quiet place and restore your soul. What are the elements that refresh you spiritually – quiet, nature, music, extended time in prayer or the Word? Be sure to incorporate those things that the Lord most uses to speak rest to your soul. Whether this is something you already do regularly or have never done at all, figure out what the next step is for you and make it happen. The rest that results for both you and your family will be worth the effort.

#3 | Couples Date Night

Mom and Dad – One of the best things you can do to be rested and make this a Significant Summer is to invest in your marriage. Ecclesiastes 9:9 says, “Enjoy life with the wife whom you love...” Plan at least one date night a month over the summer. Check out this blog post (<http://www.scottkickersha.com/date-night-challenge/>) for some simple, but creative date night ideas.

#4 | Technology Fast

Plan a family media fast where technology is off limits for everyone in the family (including parents) for a specified time. This could be for an evening once a week, a weekend, or during vacation. Be intentional to build face-to-face relationships during the time you gain.

#5 | Family Reading Time

Rest as you read a chapter book aloud as a family. There are tons of options available at your local library. The books “Honey for a Child’s Heart” by Gladys Hunt and “The Read-Aloud Handbook” by Jim Trelease both have extensive lists of age appropriate read aloud materials and can be found at any library. Read together at night before bedtime or even in the afternoon when it is too hot to play outside.

Additional Serve Activities

#1 | Family Serve

Every summer, our External Focus ministries at Watermark create some amazing resources for us on ways that families can serve together alongside of our ministry partners here in the Metroplex. Head to watermark.org/familyserve and find one or more service opportunities that your family can participate in this summer!

#2 | Hands and Feet Service Projects

Hands and Feet Service Projects organize volunteer projects for children and their families throughout the summer, hoping that through these projects we will help cultivate a heart of Christ-centered service in our children. Join their group on Facebook (Search: “Hands and Feet Service Projects”) for access to a list of service opportunities ideal for your family.

#3 | Serve Your Neighbors

Come up with a fun way to serve your neighbors. Choose from the ideas listed below or have a family brainstorming session to generate ideas.

- Pick up trash around the neighborhood or a nearby park or school.
- Welcome a new neighbor with a simple gift and handmade card.
- Host a free lemonade and cookie stand or bake and take cookies to neighbors just for fun.
- Invite a neighborhood family over for dinner.
- Help a neighbor with mowing, raking or gardening tasks.

#4 | Serve Your Family

Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Romans 12:10

Using Romans 12:10 as a basis, challenge your family to “outdo” each other in service to one another.

- Have each person write down a few ways someone else can serve them. Put them all in a jar and have family members draw out a “service project” to do each week.
- Designate a “Secret Service” week where family members try to serve each other without being found out.
- Pick a day to celebrate each person in your family. On that day everybody else does everything they can to encourage and serve that person.

#5 | Serve Your World

A great way to cultivate your kids’ hearts to serve others is to teach them to pray for people around the world. Focus on the Family has published a wonderful resource for this called, “Around the World in 60 Days” which can be downloaded from their thrivingfamily.com website. For each day, they have included a Bible lesson and activity that gives your family a glimpse into another culture. Do them all and your family will have prayed around the world!

Another great resource is kidsofcourage.com. Check it out for information and ideas on how to involve your kids in praying for the persecuted church around the world.

additional challenges, cont.

Additional Grow Activities:

#1 – Memorize Scripture

Hide scripture in your heart and your child's by memorizing some verses. Here are some options:

- Memorize the four Significant Summer verses
- Choose a longer passage and memorize it together as a family throughout the summer (some suggestions might include Ephesians 2:1-10; 1 Corinthians 13 or a section of the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5-7).
- Review them during dinner time with a treat or small prize as an incentive.

#2 – Watermark Kids Blog

Don't forget the Watermark Kids blog ... Our blog for parents of elementary kids is www.watermark.org/blog/elementary/ and for parents of preschoolers, it's www.watermark.org/blog/preschool

Each week we list great activities and questions to use as a follow up to what your child learned in class on Sunday. Challenge your family to complete one activity each week this summer.

#3 – Backyard Bible Club

Invite the neighborhood kids over for some fun and share the Gospel too by hosting a backyard bible club. This is great way to share God's love with others through stories, games and fun. Check out www.watermark.org/blog/ss2016 for a week's worth of lessons, activities and crafts you can use to put on your own backyard bible club this summer.

#4 – Family Night

Plan a family night this week. During this time be intentional to teach your child(ren) about God and faith while having fun together as a family. A great resource of fun and meaningful activities can be found at <http://www.itstartsathome.org/familynight/>.

#5 – Bible Reading Plan

Commit to reading together as a family the "Join The Journey" passages for June and July. Whether you've been tracking along all year or just starting up now, this year's Journey reading plan is perfect for adults and kids. Use the discussion questions below after each day's reading to discuss what you learned.

Suggested Discussion Questions:

- As you were reading this passage, what picture did you create in your mind, use that picture to retell the passage in your own words. Who was involved? What happened?
- What did God teach you as you read through this passage?
- How can you apply the truths you learned from this passage to your life?

Additional Play Activities:

#1 – Community Group Play

Take a few hours and spend some time just playing with your community group-kids and all. Invade someone's backyard with a water balloon fight or some good old fashion field day games like the three-legged race or a sack race. Head to the park and play a game of volleyball or Ultimate Frisbee. Add some competition to it and challenge another community group. Get as creative as you want to be.

#2 – Kid Dates

Parents, spend some individual time with each one of your children. At the beginning of the summer, have each child provide answers to the following:

1. Three favorite places to go out to eat
2. Three favorite things to do outside
3. Three places to get a sweet treat

Write the answers on slips of paper and throw them into a bowl. Choose a time, pick something from the bowl and do the activity.

#3 – Family Day Trip

Take a day and enjoy a family outing. Here are just a few of the many great things to do just staying in the Metroplex:

- Burger's Lake – go back in time to this 1950s style spring-fed lake – www.burgerslake.com
- Arbor Hills Nature Preserve – enjoy this 200-acre outdoor park where you can hike, bike and just enjoy nature - <http://www.plano.gov/facilities/facility/details/Arbor-Hills-Nature-Preserve-20>
- Drive-in movies – instead of watching a movie at home, take to the road and enjoy a movie at one of the local outdoor theaters in Fort Worth or Ennis – www.coyotedrive-in.com or www.galaxydriveintheatre.com
- Trinity Railway Express to Fort Worth – instead of driving to Fort Worth, make the trip there part of the fun by using the TRE – www.trinityrailwayexpress.org

#4 – Neighborhood Play

Gather the neighborhood kids together by organizing a group event. Some ideas are:

- Red Rover in the front yard with watermelon or popsicles as a treat afterwards
- Fourth of July parade
- Block party
- Kickball or whiffleball tournament

#5 – Family Movie Night

Plan a family movie night. Parents choose a favorite movie from your childhood. Be creative with the snack. Make it match the movie, for example watch E.T and eat Reese's Pieces. Next time let the kids choose the movie and create a matching snack. For great family movie night ideas with discussion questions and activities go to pluggedin.com and click on "Movie Nights."