



Church Leader Quick Sheet

Fast and fabulous ministry ideas for churches.

AROUND
THE TABLE
SHARING OUR STORIES
AT CHURCH

Family Faith on the Go!

Scripture

"The Lord will protect you on your journeys whether going or coming from now until forever from now."
Psalm 121:8 CEB

FOCUS

Families are on the go and often not at church on Sundays but you can equip them with simple resources and then encourage them to look for short faith-filled moments.

BACKGROUND

Research and our experience show that engaging in faith practices, sharing our stories, and talking about God equips disciples of all ages and helps our faith grow. How can we as faith leaders help equip parents and caregivers with the tools and confidence to engage their children and youth in faith conversations? One way is to provide simple guides and resources so they can recognize the moments. Then encourage them to use these moments together to share a prayer, a story, give thanks, or notice where they see God. All the ideas included on the next page could be provided for summer and put together in some kind of "Family Faith on the Go" Kit or could be easily adapted and shared individually for use anytime as well.

Example Links for Resources



Note: Links to all resources named on the next page are included at the QR code.

PULL UP A SEAT

Take a few minutes to think about how you might resource families on the go?

- Who are your families?
- What resources do they already have in hand?
- What resources have they been asking for?
- What funds do you have available?
- What things do you have in hand?
- Would you create a "kit" for families to pick up for the summer?
- Would it be better to provide ideas each week electronically instead?
- How can you stay connected with families on the go when they are not present?
- What about grandparents or others?
- What ideas included on the next page interest you?
- What additional ideas do you have?
- Could you work with another church and create kits together?

Here are some suggestions of activities and resources:

- **Flat Jesus** - Provide Jesus cutouts to color and take when traveling. Then ask people to share pictures of Jesus on their adventures. Consider putting a US or World map in common space and asking people to post pictures with captions of where Jesus has been and how they have been disciples sharing love. (Make this an all church intergenerational opportunity. Template at QR code.)
- **Card Ring Prayers** - These are free downloadable card sets to make with a question and blessing, which are easy for families to keep handy in a bag or the car.
- **Catch and Connect Conversation Quicksheet** - Provide a small beach ball and the conversation instructions from this Quicksheet.
- **Family Faith on the Go Quicksheet** - Include a copy of this Quicksheet with prayer ideas.
- **Skittle/M&M Prayers** - Provide a package of candy with a card or sticker listing these prayer suggestions ---- Red - I am sorry, Brown/Purple - For the Sick, Green - For the world, Yellow - For the church, Orange - Thank You, and Blue - Your Choice.
- **Scripture Card** - Design a card with some key scripture verses which families can learn. Perhaps a Psalm, the Great Commission, Fruits of the Spirit, or Micah 6:8.
- **Prayer Rocks** - Provide a few flat rocks and instructions to paint or write an encouraging word or prayer word to keep in the car as a reminder of God's presence, to give away, to put next to their sink, or at their place at the table.
- **Stickers** - For bags, backpacks, electronics, and books that remind families God is with them.
- **Coloring Pages** - Find some creative pages that all ages can color.
- **Bag Tags** - Create or purchase a luggage/bag tag with a blessing to have while they travel with words like You are Loved, or Be Curious, Ask Questions.
- **Bible Devotion App** - Suggest an app like d365.org for families to have at their fingertips.
- **Books** - Provide a couple of Children's Books from Flyaway/Presbyterian Publishing and the accompanying free Sharing Stories with Children Guides. Books could include Psalms of Wonder, Who is My Neighbor, Who Counts, or the Story Bible.
- **Finger Labryinth** - Provide a sticker or simple printed copy with a prayer sentence.
- **Sticky Note Prayers** - Provide sticky notes (maybe speech bubbles) for noting prayer requests or to leave "God loves you" notes for others.
- **Prayer Cube** - Search prayer cube to either purchase one with simple family prayers or download a template to have families make a paper one from QR code.
- **Mealtime Prayer Cards** - Provide a set of these from Traci Smith for Families at the QR code.
- **Nature Scavenger Hunt** - Make a list of items for families to observe or photograph when out in nature, and a blessing to say.
- **Pocket Hugs** - These are hearts (or other shapes) made from paper, yarn, or rocks to give away to others with a note reminding people they are loved and hugged. Consider providing several so people can give them away or include directions to make them. Look at Pinterest and other sites for ideas.
- **Take Out Church** - Create a take out kit idea of activities for families in the summer on the go. Use a pizza box or other food take out box or large cup for your variety of activities. Be creative.

About the Author: Miatta Wilson, Office of Christian Formation, PC(USA).

Around the Table pcusa.org/aroundthetable

