

CHURCH CAMP AT HOME

Even if you “camp in” rather than “out,” there are amazing ways you can grow closer to God and your family with this time. Try some of these experiences with your loved ones to make a difference while making memories.

Day One: Celebration and Commemoration (*Why not praise God now instead of when things are ‘better’?*) Depending on the room you have, you can set up a blanket tent or a symbolic “camp fire” on the floor like the [festival of booths that Biblical people made](#). Spend some time sharing stories you have of your family’s past. This is also a great time to share stories of faith as our larger family includes people we read about in the Bible.

How?

- Deal out family pictures like cards and have people take turns telling about the picture put down. Some twists include asking questions or adding details not in the picture.
- Build up [12 rocks like Joshua did](#) but paint them to commemorate blessings God has provided. (This is a good alternative to doing Easter eggs and something you can hide for kids and vice versa for Easter)
- Make a [simple bread to share](#) (you can substitute regular milk for powdered and use only ½” oil in a small fry pan to conserve ingredients).
- Rearrange a room to look like a different country or place for your staycation. Talk about the times you’ve had in the wilderness and how God has helped.

Day Two: Walk the Talk (*What if we chose to see this time as our greatest opportunity to be the church?*) We’ve been encouraged to exercise during our time to shelter in place and this is a great time to exercise our faith. Loving our neighbor means finding new ways to connect, even in what seems to be the times we can’t.

How?

- We can still reach out. [Greet people \(see minute 11 on video\)](#) on a walk even if you don’t get too close.
- Spend time on a [walk reflecting on what is not there or not visible](#). Find something you’ve never noticed before and then share it.
- Walk a whole time in silence (not listening to music or using a phone) or be present as a present to the person you are with, [practicing listening](#).
- If you want to include technology, have someone on the phone or video that works or walks in parallel to you so that you can “be together” so that even if you are physically isolating, you are not socially isolated.

Day Three: Pray and Act (*Why not see if you can have meaningful fun during your time with God?*)

There are great ways to pray that engage our families to pray beyond the ways that we have traditionally considered offering prayer.

How?

- Choose a psalm, read it, share who or what situation it reminds you of and [pray that psalm on behalf of that person or circumstance](#).
- Take a shot at prayer by taking turns shooting a basket ball while praying. (This isn’t about scoring or ‘practicing’ to get it right, it is about the joy of offering God a prayer no matter what the results)
- Do penny prayers--where any change is found, a prayer is given and then the coins are put in a bank to “store treasure in heaven.” After there is enough change, choose a way to bless another whether putting the [change out for others to find](#) or giving them in some way to help others. (God must treasure our prayers so this helps us ‘value’ our time with God too.)
- Many camps have talent shows and so you can ask your family to [share their gifts](#) as a way to tell God thank you for them.

If you’d like more ideas to use with families, why not check out: <https://virtualdaycamp.wixsite.com/umcrm>