

# HAM LANE FLN

FAMILY LIFE NEWSLETTER

## TAKE JESUS WITH YOU

School is nearly out! And that means family vacations are incoming! Some of my favorite family memories are times we've spent together out and about, exploring new places and trying new things. From the mountains to the beach and even a theme park or two, there's no shortage of places to explore this summer. According to the 2025 Family Travel Survey, eighty-five percent of parent respondents say that family travel brings their family closer together and its no wonder, as quality time together is at a premium these days. But don't just vacation for the sake of vacationing, turn it into an opportunity to instill faith into your children. Deuteronomy 6:7 reminds us to: "Impress [God's commandments] on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and **when you walk along the road**, when you lie down and when you get up." If you open yourself up to the possibility of God's omnipresence, you might be surprised at all the places Jesus shows up, no matter where the road leads!

### ROAD TRIP CHALLENGE!

Before you go on a trip this summer, grab a couple of the tiny Jesus figures from your Easter eggs and bring them with you. Find some iconic places to grab a selfie with Jesus, and maybe even conveniently leave one behind to unknowingly bless a stranger with the message of Jesus' love.



## SUMMER FAMILY POWERPAKS ARE COMING!

Need some easy, ready to go at-home discipleship resources? Look no further! These bags come complete with devos, prayer prompts, crafts, and more! Perfect for families on the go. I'll be putting these together and set them out to pick up at the church soon. When you see a balloon display in the family room, come and pick one up!

## THREE HABITS FOR SIBLING CONFLICT THIS SUMMER

Excerpt. Written By: Justin Whitmel Earley / <https://www.christianparenting.org/articles/strategies-for-sibling-conflict/>

If you're like me, then getting ready for summer means getting ready for the kids to be around each other constantly... and that means fighting. A lot!

But here's the good news: The grace of Jesus means God is at work even in the mess of family conflict. So instead of getting constantly frustrated with your kids' conflicts, here are three strategies for seeing them as opportunities for spiritual formation.

1) **Pause and Listen:** Our instinct is often to charge in at the slightest sound of conflict. This is totally understandable—we're trained by the youngest years of children, when they can't help themselves at all. But as our kids become older, one of the wisest things we can do is to start to give them the space to solve their own problems.

Now remember, this is a sliding scale. So when our kids are young, we're going to have to intervene a lot, and often right away. But once they start to get a bit older—let's say four and up—I have found it very useful to pause and simply listen. (continued on page 2)

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**2) Pause and Pray:** The problem with the constant fighting amongst siblings is that we develop instincts of reacting—and often these aren't the best. So while we don't want to snap at our kids the way we constantly do, we by habit fall into those responses. Pausing to pray is one of the best practices to find our way out of that.

So when I hear my kids fighting for the third time in ten minutes, what I often do (on the way up the stairs or crossing the room) is say a short prayer: "Lord, help me remember I'm more like them than not. May I be more like you in this moment."

**3) Pause to Reconcile:** After conflict, we help our kids go through the steps of apologizing out loud while making eye contact. Forgiving out loud while making eye contact.

And while those are important and we emphasize them a lot, we also have a "liturgy of reconciliation" for our little ones that helps a lot. It's called the "Brother's Hug." And that is: after they apologize and forgive, they have to hug and hold onto each other for as long as it takes for not one but both of them to start smiling.



## LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE!

We had a fantastic time out at Love Lodi, and we hope that you also had an opportunity to pitch in and help make the places around you a little nicer. The kids especially loved our tour of Pals Haven and it's a miracle we made it out of there without adopting one! We for sure made some new friendships and will be back there soon!

## FAITH CONVERSATION STARTERS

- What's your favorite way to travel?
- What's your favorite travel story from the Bible?
- What method of travel would you prefer from Jesus' time, donkey, camel, fishing boat, or walk?
- Would you rather meet with God and Moses on Mt. Sinai or Jesus and the disciples on the beach?
- Where would you like to take a selfie with a tiny Jesus this summer?
- What's a book of the Bible our family can read together this summer?

## COMING UP SOON!



It's time to sign your kids up for this summer's VBS! And while you're at it, bring the neighborhood kids along with you for an amazingly awesome good time!



Games, movies, video games, snacks, and awesome church family, what more could you ask for!! It all starts at 7pm at the church. See you there!

## MEMORY VERSE

"We love because he first loved us."  
—1 John 4:19