

Preschool Summer God Time Guide

SUMMER 2020



FAMILY
MINISTRIES
FIRST PRES

THIS GUIDE BELONGS TO:



Every week, participate in worship with your child, and it's OK if they are distracted, playing or not paying attention at all. They are watching you set aside time to worship God and pursue Him, and that's all that matters right now.



If appropriate to your child's developmental level, watch the preschool Bible Story video found on firstprescos.org/family. The themes and ideas found in this guide will give you tools to supplement what you hear in those lessons.



You and your preschooler of any age are invited to a weekly web call, every Wednesday at 9 a.m., to connect with leaders and other kids their age. We will sing songs, hear a story and learn a verse in about 20 minutes.

MAKE TIME FOR GOD TIME!

Hey Parents!

Do you know that you are the most important person in your child's life right now? And you have the most influence over their spiritual development?

Yes, you do! We hope this guide will be useful in giving you tools to begin your journey of discipleship throughout your child's life. Here are some ideas to help:

We are with you and for you as you lead your child into deeper faith and friendship with God! Be sure to keep in touch and tell us how you're doing. Enjoy your summer!

Sincerely,

Allen Hunter, Bethany Hanson



JUNE 2020

BABIES

SAY THIS:

Who can believe in Jesus?

You can believe in Jesus!

BASIC TRUTH:

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

MORNING TIME

When you go into your baby's room, say, "Good morning! There's my brave [boy/girl]! I hope you grow up with a strong faith and believe Jesus is alive."

FEEDING TIME

While feeding your baby this month, look your baby in the eyes and say, "You can believe Mommy loves you. You can believe Daddy loves you. You can believe . . . (continue naming family members). And you can believe Jesus loves you, too."

CUDDLE TIME

Cuddle with your baby this month and pray, "Dear God, I pray [child's name] will believe in Your Son, Jesus. I pray [his/her] faith will be so strong that [he/she] will want to tell everyone, everywhere about Jesus. I love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."

BATH TIME

Sing the following words to the tune of "Three Blind Mice" while bathing your baby:
 "I can believe. (x 4) I can believe in Jesus! (x 3)
 I can believe." (x 2)

JUNE 2020

TODDLERS

THE GOSPELS

**Jesus, God's Son, is born.
He grows up to do amazing
things that only He can do.**

SAY THIS:

Who can believe in Jesus?

You can believe in Jesus!

BASIC TRUTH:

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

MORNING TIME

When you go into your child's room, say, "Good morning! I see someone Jesus loves! It's [child's name]! I know Jesus loves you, because Jesus loves everyone!"

DRIVE TIME

As you drive, brainstorm different names with your child to put in the sentence: [Name] can believe in Jesus. Say the sentence together. See how many people you can think of!

CUDDLE TIME

Cuddle with your child this month and pray, "Dear God, there will be a lot of things [child's name] can choose to believe in as [he/she] grows up. I pray [he/she] will choose to believe in Jesus and follow Him. Help me model the way and teach [him/her] the truth about Jesus. I love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."

BATH TIME

As you bathe your child, ask them about things they can do. "Who can wash their tummy? Who can wiggle their toes? Who can clap their hands?" Continue asking questions as long as your child is having fun. End with, "Who can believe in Jesus?"

HOW TO MEASURE SUCCESS AS A PARENT

by Reggie Joiner

Be careful how you measure success as a parent.

It's not what you learn about your kids.

Our culture is saturated with parenting resources that educate us about family issues. Every parent struggles with how to assimilate what they know into daily practice. Just knowing more doesn't make you a better parent.

It's not what you give to your kids. Most parents will pay any price to provide what they think their kids need physically. It is easy to become so preoccupied striving for a better lifestyle, education or neighborhood that you miss what really matters.

What is real success?

It's what you do with your kids.

It has more to do with how you spend your time than how you spend your money. Children need a relationship more than they need things. The fact is, there is no substitute for time.

It's what you leave in your kids.

An inheritance is what you leave TO your children. A legacy is what you leave IN your children. One is temporary while the other is forever. Most parents plan, work and strategize to leave an inheritance, but few have any systematic plan to leave a legacy. Transferring faith and values from one heart to the next takes a special kind of relationship.

It's more than quantity time.

Spending a large amount of time with your children doesn't automatically establish the right kind of relationship to leave something significant IN your children. It usually takes something more deliberate or more intentional.

It's more than quality time.

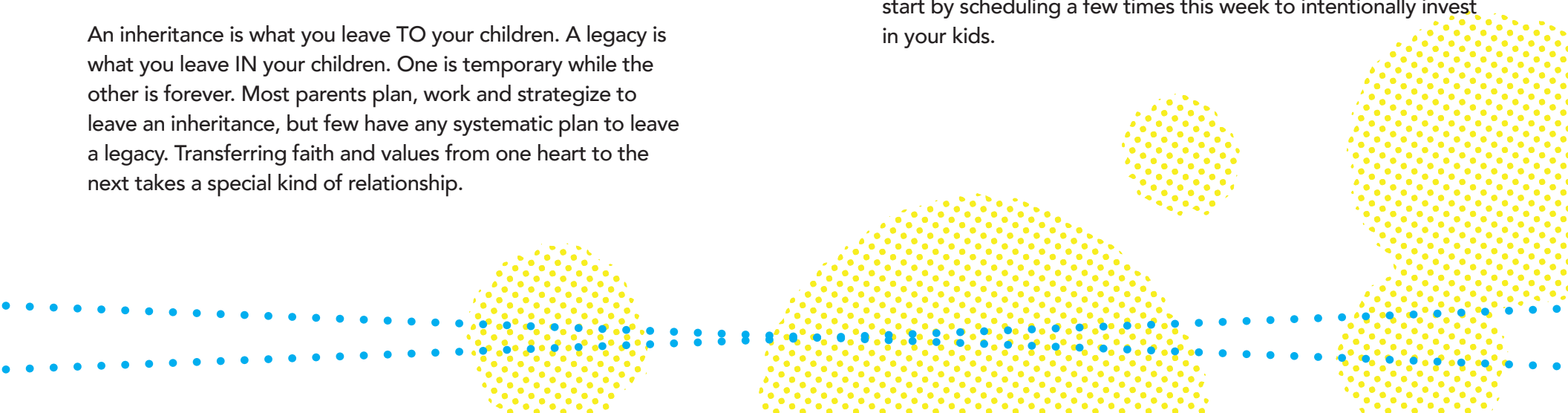
Sometimes there is a tendency to think you can make up for missed time, but you can't cram for relationships any more than you can get physically fit in a weekend or a week.

It's the quantity of quality times.

Having a successful relationship with children requires consistent effort. In Deuteronomy 6:7, Moses gave specific instructions for parents to know how to pass their values along to their children. He said, "Impress them 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."

It's as simple as a routine.

Significant relationships need a practical routine. By rethinking and reprioritizing the routine, a parent can establish healthier relationships with their children and instill deeper values. So, start by scheduling a few times this week to intentionally invest in your kids.



JULY 2020

BABIES

SAY THIS:

Who can believe in Jesus?

You can believe in Jesus!

BASIC TRUTH:

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

MORNING TIME

When you go into your baby's room, say, "Good morning! I see someone Jesus loves, no matter what, and it's YOU!"

FEEDING TIME

While feeding your baby this month, look your baby in the eyes and say, "Mommy can believe in Jesus. Daddy can believe in Jesus. (Brother/sister) can believe in Jesus. (Continue naming family members.) And you can believe in Jesus!"

CUDDLE TIME

Cuddle with your baby this month and pray, "Dear God, I ask that [child's name] will believe Jesus is Your Son, that He loves [him/her], that Jesus will always be with [him/her], and that Your way is always best. I love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."

BATH TIME

As you bathe your baby, sing the following words to the tune of "Wheels on the Bus":
 "You can believe in Je-e-sus
 Je-e-sus, Je-e-sus
 You can believe in Je-e-sus
 all through the day."

JULY 2020

TODDLERS

ACTS 17:16-34

Paul tells the people in Athens about the God who made everything, and how He gave us His Son, Jesus.

SAY THIS:

Who can believe in Jesus?

You can believe in Jesus!

BASIC TRUTH:

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

MORNING TIME

When you go into your child's room, say, "Good morning! (Pick your child up and hold them at the window.) I see a tree God made. I see a flower God made. I see a bird God made. I see the sun God made. (Look at your child.) And I see a person God made. You! God made you!" (Give your child a big hug.)

DRIVE TIME

As you drive, take turns saying, "God made (name something you see through the window)." End your drive by saying, "God made the whole world and everything in it!"

CUDDLE TIME

Cuddle with your child this month and pray, "Dear God, I ask that [child's name] grows up believing that You made the whole world and everything in it. I ask that [he/she] believes in You as their Creator. I ask that [he/she] believes that You love [him/her] so much that You gave us Your only Son, Jesus, to be our friend forever. In Jesus' name, amen."

BATH TIME

Add 5-10 star shapes and a plastic cup to bath time this month. (Cut stars out of new yellow kitchen sponges or use plastic toy stars.) Encourage your child to line the stars up along the edge of the tub, count the stars, and let the stars float as they "catch" them with a cup. As you play with the stars, say, "God made the stars and everything in the world. That means God made you!"

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE FUTURE THERAPIST OF MY CHILDREN

by Jon Acuff

Dear therapist, who may one day be counseling my children,

There are two things I need to say right out of the gate:

1. I tried my best.
2. I hope you have a sound machine.

The second point is more of a personal preference rather than a revelation. Having gone to counseling myself, I appreciate when a therapist has some sort of sound machine that makes you feel like you're at the beach. Gentle electronic waves lapping against the shore tend to help you forget you're actually in a strip mall off the highway. The second point is easy to address. The first point is a little more detailed.

I did try my best as a parent, but I know my kids are going to have many, many things to tell you about someday. They will sit on a couch and regale you with stories from their childhoods. Some will make you laugh. We put a high price on humor in our family, and laughter often filled the halls of our home.

Some stories will be gross. Ask them about the time we thought a squirrel had died within our walls. Turns out it was a year-old ostrich egg that had cracked undetected in a decorative bowl. The smell was like getting punched in the face by a vengeful bird from another continent.

Other stories will not be as funny, and you will quickly discover something I had to admit a few years into the adventure of parenting. I am not perfect. I tried to be for the first few years. I promise I did. But all too often . . .

I was impatient with my kids.

I lost my temper over things that didn't really matter.

I discouraged when I should have encouraged, or encouraged when I should have been more realistic.

I gave them bad advice.

I took some things too seriously and others too casually.

I chased after my work instead of after them. I was on the road traveling for business, trying to be somebody when I already was somebody . . . a dad. A father. And in this case, a launch pad for some therapist's new boat.

Tell my kids I love them. That I'm so proud I got to be their dad. Tell them parenting involves a lot of mistakes, and forgiveness, and messiness, and laughter. Tell them I'll pick up the bill for your work—which I assume might be high, depending on the quality of sound machine you've got.

Sincerely,

A Not-So-Perfect Parent

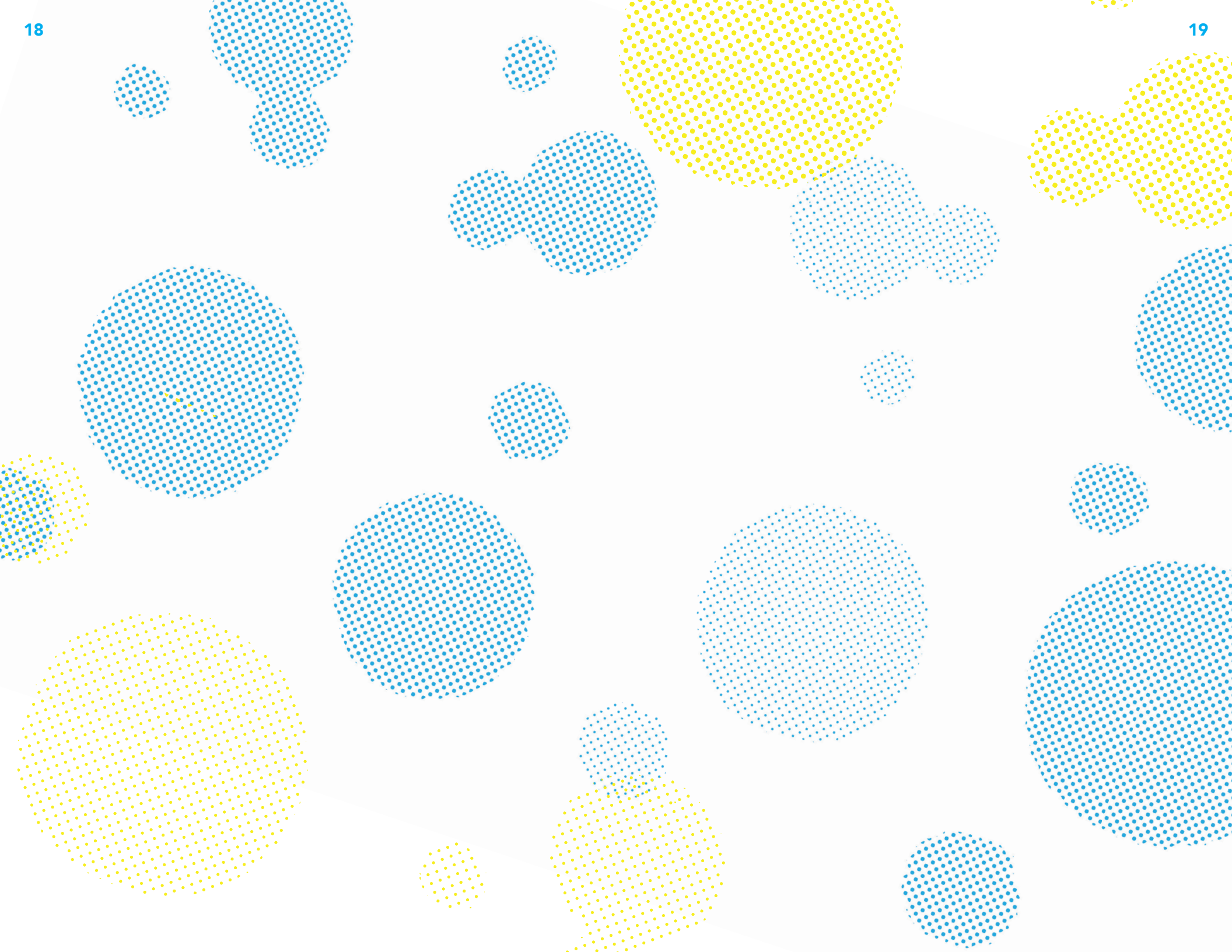
AUGUST SERIES: SAY CHEESE

God makes every person in His image. We are so important to God that He sent His Son, Jesus, to make a way for us to be with Him forever. This remarkable truth changes the way we see ourselves and others and gives us an incredible purpose.

"I am fearfully and wonderfully made."

Psalm 139:14

Have your child draw themselves. Tell them that God made them in a special, unique way.





NEIGHBORHOOD VBS JULY 13-17

Get ready for a five-day adventure in your own neighborhood as we focus on finding God in the unexpected! Each morning kicks off with a live video opening where you'll sing loud, dance silly and hear Bible stories. Then choose your own adventure for the rest of the morning as you journey through crafts, games and snacks.

We provide everything you need from craft supplies, game ideas and video teaching. Sign up to receive your VBS kit at firstprescos.org/vbs



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