

FAMILY BUCKET LIST CHALLENGE

We are living in uncharted waters right now. Things change every day and sometimes every hour. The one thing that never changes is God. He is the same yesterday, today and forever. He told us that the most important things are to Love God and Love others. "Others" starts with our families. As we are being told to stay in and socially distance ourselves, our homes can begin to feel smaller and smaller as we get more and more irritated with each other. Parents, our kids are not the enemy. We aren't their enemy. We must fight the real enemy who wants to steal, kill and destroy families. So how do we make the most of this "extra time" together without fighting and yelling and isolating even in our homes? Get creative and share ideas with each other. Let's spread love, not germs! You are loved!

1. **WRITE THE LOVE:** For a week, write a note each day to remind them of how Jesus sees them. Add a verse at the end that backs this up. You Version app is a great resource to be able to send scripture. Some examples to get you started:
 - You belong to Christ (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)
 - You are fearless (2 Timothy 1:7)
 - God loves you more than you can even know (Ephesians 3:18-20)
2. **DINNER OF LOVE:** One night make one your kids' favorite dinners. Let that kid be the "star" of dinner that night. Have everyone go around and share the awesome things about that person. Repeat for each family member on a different night of the week.
3. **FAMILY VERSE:** Do you have a family verse? If you don't pick out a verse together to be your family verse and spend some time memorizing it together. You can choose somewhere to display this verse in your home, a letter board, a chalkboard, white board, or you can print it out and put it in a picture frame.
4. **CALENDAR O' THANKS:** Make a poster-sized 30-day calendar, and put it up in a common area. Have each family member write one thing they are thankful for each day.

5. **TOGETHER CHORES:** What is a chore around the house that your kid might not know how to do very well? The list may be long. Pick one that you can do together and teach them how to do it well and why it's important to you. How do you make a grocery list? What's on it every time and why do other things get skipped? How do you sort clothes and do the laundry? Get creative and have fun without being critical.
6. **LEGO CHALLENGE:** Read the passage of Noah's ark, you can use a children's Bible and then challenge all the family to make the best Lego or block ark.
7. **POPCORN AND A MOVIE:** Pop some popcorn and give everyone their own bowl and then pick a movie the whole family will enjoy.
8. **THROWBACK:** Pull out a few pictures of your kid when they were a baby or just a toddler. Older kids have forgotten what it means to be "little" because they are focused on "growing up". Laugh at the pics and spend some time telling them your favorite memories and things about them during that time of their life.
9. **PROVERBS CHALLENGE:** Each day of the week read a proverb with your family and then write it on chalk on your driveway or side walk for neighbors to see while they go on walks.
10. **MAKE A DESSERT TOGETHER:** Go on a "date" with your kid and make a dessert together. If they have never done much in the kitchen, help them know what to do. The goal is fun not frustration so enjoy the mistakes along the way and laugh with each other.
11. **THE "I LOVE YOU" CHALLENGE:** Once a week stop, look your child in the eyes and tell them that you love them. Then tell them something you love about them that is NOT a physical attribute. For example, "I love the way that you are so encouraging to your friends, it makes a difference in their life."
12. **GAME NIGHT:** Have an evening committed to playing board games/card games together. These are not screen games, but games to connect and laugh and have fun with each other. Each person gets to pick a game and everyone plays. A great idea is to "game swap" with other families. Contact a friend and see what games they have that you don't and then one family puts them on their porch and the other drops theirs there and picks up the ones there.
13. **PIZZA PARLOUR:** Make it an "all hands-on deck" for dinner prep. Announce that it's pizza night, but everyone will make their own pizza. Have different toppings out and be creative. Use the ingredients to make designs, then cook and eat together. Take pics and post online and have people vote on their favorite.

14. **DANCE PARTY NIGHT:** Have a dance party together. The kids can use dress up clothes and help choose the songs. Add in freeze dance to really get the party started!
15. **OLDSCHOOL:** Find some pictures of mom and dad when they were your kids age. Tell stories, talk about the fashion of your time. How “cool” were you? What things influenced your choices back then? Ask the kids what things influence them today.
16. **SERVE TOGETHER:** Help the kids make cards for the elderly in our church. This is a great time to teach them how to address an envelope and where the stamp goes. You can find a list of older church members here: [Central’s Widow/Widower Members](#)
17. **PRETEND VACATION:** Pretend you are on vacation make a blanket fort and go camping in your living room or even your backyard for the night if you have a real tent.
18. **THE POWER OF PRAYER:** Take time to pray together as a family. Make a list of things to pray for and practice praying out loud for others.
- The Sick
 - Medical Professionals
 - First Responders
 - Each Other
 - Leaders (pastors, leaders in our city, state, nation)
 - God’s protection & to wipe out this virus
- Pick one person from the list you just prayed for and FaceTime them, call or send a letter and ask if you can pray for them or let them know that you just prayed. It will mean so much to that person to know that they are being prayed for and even more to hear it.
19. **CLOSET CLEANOUT:** Go through your closets and clean out the things that don’t fit or that you don’t wear anymore. Have a fashion show and mix and match all the clothes you are getting rid of. Bag those clothes up and have them ready to give to the youth mission teams when they “Fill the Truck” later this year.