

The background is a vibrant blue with a wavy, water-like pattern. At the top center is a large, orange, semi-circular sun with several orange rays emanating from it. Below the sun, the word "SUMMER" is written in large, bold, yellow letters with a thick black outline. Underneath "SUMMER", the word "VACATION" is written in orange letters with a white outline, set within a white, cloud-like shape. Below "VACATION", the word "DEVOTIONAL" is written in large, bold, yellow letters with a thick black outline. The entire title is surrounded by tropical elements: large green monstera leaves on the left and right sides, white flowers with yellow centers in the corners, and a sandy beach area at the bottom. On the beach, there are three orange starfish with white polka dots, a yellow and white striped beach umbrella in the bottom left corner, and more green foliage and white flowers in the bottom right corner.

SUMMER VACATION DEVOTIONAL

✨ WELCOME TO YOUR FAMILY VACATION DEVOTION GUIDE! ✨

VACATIONS ARE MEANT TO BE REFRESHING AND FUN—BUT THEY'RE ALSO A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY TO GROW CLOSER AS A FAMILY AND DEEPEN YOUR FAITH TOGETHER. THIS GUIDE IS DESIGNED TO HELP YOU DO JUST THAT.

EACH DEVOTION IS SHORT, MEANINGFUL, AND EASY TO DO TOGETHER—WHETHER YOU'RE IN THE CAR, AT THE BEACH, OR WINDING DOWN AFTER A LONG DAY OF ADVENTURE. IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU'RE EXPLORING A NEW PLACE OR JUST SPENDING TIME AWAY FROM YOUR NORMAL ROUTINES—GOD IS WITH YOU, AND HE HAS SOMETHING TO SAY DURING YOUR TIME AWAY.

👏 HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE:

- START WITH THE FIRST DEVOTION WHILE YOU'RE TRAVELING. IT SETS THE TONE FOR YOUR TIME TOGETHER AND INVITES GOD INTO YOUR VACATION FROM THE VERY BEGINNING.
- AFTER THAT, FEEL FREE TO CHOOSE THE REST IN ANY ORDER—WHENEVER IT WORKS BEST FOR YOUR FAMILY.
- ENCOURAGE OLDER KIDS AND TEENS TO TAKE TURNS LEADING A DEVOTION. LET THEM PICK THE ONE THEY WANT TO LEAD, READ THE SCRIPTURE, ASK THE QUESTIONS, AND LEAD THE PRAYER. THIS GIVES THEM OWNERSHIP AND HELPS THEM GROW AS LEADERS IN THEIR FAITH.

💡 A WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT:

VACATIONS ARE MORE THAN JUST TIME OFF—THEY'RE A CHANCE TO MAKE MEANINGFUL MEMORIES AND INTENTIONALLY INVEST IN ONE ANOTHER. DON'T WORRY ABOUT DOING EVERYTHING PERFECTLY. WHAT MATTERS MOST IS THAT YOU'RE CHOOSING TO GROW CLOSER TO GOD AND TO EACH OTHER.

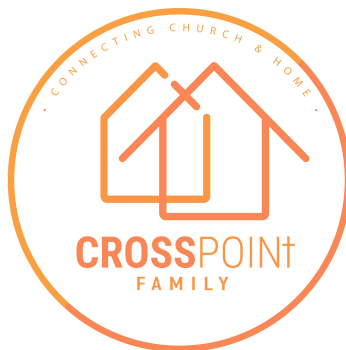
SO LAUGH TOGETHER. PRAY TOGETHER. TALK ABOUT GOD TOGETHER. MAKE THIS VACATION COUNT—FOR FUN AND FOR FAITH!

WE'RE SO EXCITED FOR WHAT GOD WILL DO AS YOU SEEK HIM TOGETHER.

ENJOY THE JOURNEY!

JEN BURKS

FAMILY MINISTER



HOW MUCH LONGER?

A DEVOTION TO READ ON THE WAY TO VACATION


ON ALMOST EVERY TRIP, SOMEONE ASKS, “HOW MUCH LONGER?” OR “ARE WE THERE YET?” HAS ANYONE SAID THAT WHILE YOU’VE BEEN TRAVELING? WE WANT TO GET TO OUR DESTINATION, BUT WE DON’T WANT IT TO TAKE TOO LONG. WE’RE EXCITED TO SEE AND DO ALL THE THINGS WE’VE BEEN WAITING FOR! SOMETIMES IT’S JUST HARD TO BE PATIENT. WAITING ISN’T EASY.


BUT THIS DOESN’T ONLY HAPPEN ON VACATIONS. IT’S HARD TO WAIT UNTIL IT’S TIME TO OPEN PRESENTS ON OUR BIRTHDAY. WE WANT TO KNOW HOW LONG UNTIL SCHOOL GETS OUT. BEING PATIENT WHEN WE’RE HUNGRY AND DINNER ISN’T READY IS TOUGH, AND WHEN WE REALLY NEED TO GO TO THE BATHROOM, WE MIGHT EVEN SHOUT, “HOW MUCH LONGER?” WE’RE SO USED TO GETTING THINGS QUICKLY, AND HONESTLY, WE DON’T LIKE WAITING.

BUT GOD IS VERY PATIENT WITH US.


DID YOU KNOW THAT GOD PROMISED HE WOULD COME BACK FOR THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN HIM? HE MADE THAT PROMISE AROUND 2,000 YEARS AGO! TALK ABOUT PATIENCE—THAT’S A LONG TIME!


SO WHY HASN’T HE RETURNED YET? THE BIBLE ACTUALLY TELLS US.

 **READ 2 PETER 3:9.** THIS VERSE REMINDS US THAT EVERY DAY JESUS HASN’T RETURNED IS AN ACT OF MERCY. GOD IS GIVING MORE PEOPLE TIME TO HEAR ABOUT HIM, REPENT, AND BE SAVED. THAT’S HOW LOVING AND PATIENT HE IS.

 **DISCUSS:** WHAT IS OUR JOB AS BELIEVERS WHILE WE WAIT FOR CHRIST TO RETURN?
(ANSWER: TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS!)

AS WE ENJOY THIS VACATION, LET’S MAKE IT A PRIORITY TO SHARE JESUS WITH SOMEONE. GOD HAS GIVEN US A CLEAR COMMAND: TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS AND MAKE DISCIPLES. THAT MISSION STILL MATTERS—AND WE EACH HAVE A PART TO PLAY.

 **PRAYER:** THANK YOU, GOD, FOR BEING PATIENT WITH ME, FOR LOVING ME, AND FOR ALWAYS BEING NEAR. I DON’T KNOW HOW LONG UNTIL I CAN THANK YOU IN HEAVEN, BUT I’LL BE PATIENT WHILE I WAIT FOR THAT PERFECT DAY. AMEN.

 **ACTIVITY:** PLAY THE “HOLD YOUR BREATH OVER A BRIDGE” GAME—SEE WHO CAN HOLD THEIR BREATH THE LONGEST! IT’S A FUN WAY TO PASS THE TIME AND THINK ABOUT PATIENCE.



MAKING MEMORIES

DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT YOU DID ONE MONTH AGO TODAY—WITHOUT LOOKING AT A CALENDAR? HOW ABOUT WHAT YOU ATE FOR DINNER A WEEK AGO? PROBABLY NOT. BUT YOU MOST LIKELY REMEMBER WHERE YOU WENT ON YOUR LAST VACATION OR TRIP, WHAT YOU DID, AND MAYBE EVEN SOME OF THE RESTAURANTS YOU VISITED. VACATIONS CREATE MEMORIES THAT CAN LAST A LONG TIME—SOMETIMES EVEN A LIFETIME.

💬 DISCUSS:

WHAT MEMORIES DO YOU THINK YOU'LL MAKE ON THIS VACATION?

REMEMBRANCE IS ONE OF THE STRONGEST THEMES IN THE BIBLE, ESPECIALLY IN THE OLD TESTAMENT. GOD WANTED HIS PEOPLE TO REMEMBER WHAT HE HAD DONE FOR THEM IN THE PAST. HE REMINDED THEM THAT HE HAD RESCUED THEM FROM DIFFICULT SITUATIONS, STAYED FAITHFUL TO THEM SINCE THE BEGINNING, AND BLESSED THEM—EVEN AS THEY TRAVELED FROM PLACE TO PLACE. WHEN THEY REMEMBERED HIS GOODNESS, THEY COULD FACE EACH NEW DAY WITH CONFIDENCE, KNOWING GOD WAS ALWAYS WITH THEM.

📖 READ 1 CORINTHIANS 11:23–25

JUST BEFORE JESUS WAS TAKEN AWAY TO BE CRUCIFIED, HE SHARED A SPECIAL MEAL WITH HIS DISCIPLES. AS HE BROKE THE BREAD AND GAVE THEM THE CUP, HE SAID, “DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME.”

JESUS WANTED HIS FOLLOWERS TO REMEMBER WHAT HE HAD DONE—AND WHAT HE WOULD CONTINUE TO DO—FOR THEM. REMEMBERING JESUS’ DEATH AND RESURRECTION STRENGTHENS US AS WE STEP INTO A NEW DAY, SITUATION, OR ADVENTURE.

💬 DISCUSS:

WHAT MEMORIES HAS GOD CREATED IN YOUR LIFE OVER THE PAST 24 HOURS, THE PAST WEEK, OR EVEN ON YOUR LAST VACATION?

📖 BIBLE VERSE:

“I WILL REMEMBER THE DEEDS OF THE LORD.” — PSALM 77:11

🙏 PRAYER:

LORD, THANK YOU FOR THE AMAZING MEMORIES OF YOUR BLESSINGS. HELP ME NEVER TO FORGET OR TAKE THEM FOR GRANTED. AS WE BEGIN THIS VACATION, GIVE US NEW MOMENTS OF JOY AND REMINDERS OF YOUR GOODNESS. AMEN.

🎲 ACTIVITY:

HAVE EACH PERSON NAME ONE THING THEY’D REALLY LIKE TO DO ON THIS VACATION. WRITE THEM DOWN AND TRY TO MAKE THOSE IDEAS HAPPEN TOGETHER!



GOD'S BEAUTIFUL CREATION

THERE ARE SO MANY EXCITING THINGS TO SEE IN THIS AMAZING WORLD. WHETHER TRAVELING TO THE ZOO, THE BEACH, ANOTHER COUNTRY, OR JUST STAYING HOME, THERE ARE AMAZING THINGS TO SEE EVERY DAY. JUST THINK... GOD, THE CREATOR OF ALL, MADE EVERYTHING YOUR EYES CAN SEE! EVERYTHING YOU WILL SEE ON YOUR VACATION POINTS TO THE GLORY OF GOD!

DISCUSS: GOD MADE THIS BEAUTIFUL WORLD. WHAT ARE SOME OF THE THINGS YOU HAVE SEEN ON VACATION THAT GOD CREATED? WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE SO FAR? WHAT DOES IT MEAN THAT CREATION WAS CREATED FOR GOD?

READ NEHEMIAH 9:6, PSALM 19:1, AND COLOSSIANS 1:16

WHEN WE SAY “CREATION WAS CREATED FOR GOD,” WE MEAN THAT EVERYTHING IN THE UNIVERSE EXISTS TO BRING HIM GLORY, TO REFLECT HIS CHARACTER, AND TO FULFILL HIS PURPOSES. SCRIPTURE IS FULL OF PASSAGES THAT AFFIRM THAT ALL OF CREATION EXISTS BECAUSE OF GOD, THROUGH GOD, AND FOR GOD.

- CREATION REFLECTS GOD’S CHARACTER—HIS CREATIVITY, POWER, BEAUTY, AND ORDER.
- CREATION EXISTS TO GLORIFY GOD—IT WAS MADE TO DISPLAY HIS MAJESTY AND BRING HIM PRAISE.
- CREATION IS FOR HIS PURPOSE AND JOY—NOT JUST FOR HUMAN ENJOYMENT, BUT TO FULFILL HIS DIVINE PLAN.

PRAYER: DEAR GOD, THANK YOU FOR MAKING SUCH A BEAUTIFUL WORLD. THANK YOU FOR GIVING US A CHANCE TO SEE MORE OF YOUR CREATION AND ENJOY ALL THE WORK OF YOUR HANDS. HELP US TO REMEMBER TO GIVE GLORY TO YOU FOR ALL YOU HAVE MADE. YOU ARE AN AWESOME GOD! AMEN.

ACTIVITY: COLLECT ITEMS FROM NATURE ON YOUR TRIP (SEASHELLS, PINECONES, ROCKS, LEAVES, ETC.) TO MAKE A SCRAPBOOK OR OTHER PROJECT TO REMIND YOU OF OUR GLORIOUS CREATOR.



WE'RE GOING TO BE SPENDING A LOT OF TIME TOGETHER

ON VACATIONS, FAMILIES OFTEN SPEND MORE TIME TOGETHER THAN THEY DO DURING A TYPICAL DAY OR WEEK. DURING A REGULAR WEEK, EVERYONE IS RUNNING AROUND DOING THEIR OWN THING—GOING HERE, THERE, AND EVERYWHERE! BUT NOW YOU'RE ON VACATION. SO LOOK AT THOSE AROUND YOU AND SAY, "WE'RE GOING TO SPEND A LOT OF TIME TOGETHER!"

OKAY, LET'S BE HONEST—SPENDING THIS MUCH TIME WITH OTHERS CAN SOMETIMES BE STRESSFUL. PEOPLE MIGHT DO THINGS THAT GET ON OUR NERVES. WE WON'T ALWAYS WANT TO DO THE SAME ACTIVITIES. ARGUMENTS MIGHT START. WE MAY EVEN FIND OURSELVES WISHING FOR MORE ALONE TIME. BUT HERE'S THE GOOD NEWS!


 **READ PHILIPPIANS 2:1–11.**

 **DISCUSS:** HOW DOES CHRIST SHOW HIS LOVE?

- REMEMBER THAT YOU'RE NOT PERFECT, AND YOUR FAMILY ISN'T PERFECT EITHER.
- PRAY FOR PATIENCE. ASK OTHERS—AND GOD—FOR FORGIVENESS WHEN YOU'VE ACTED SELFISHLY.
- TRY TO TREAT OTHERS THE WAY YOU WANT THEM TO TREAT YOU.
- REMEMBER THAT OUR SAVIOR WANTS FAMILY MEMBERS TO BE A BLESSING TO ONE ANOTHER. EACH OF US IS UNIQUE—A SPECIAL CREATION.
- SPEND SOME TIME LAUGHING TOGETHER.
- RESPECT AND LOVE EACH OTHER AS JESUS LOVES YOU.
- THANK GOD FOR EACH PERSON AROUND YOU. TRY SEEING ONE ANOTHER AS A SPECIAL GIFT FROM GOD.

REMEMBER, WE'RE ALL SINNERS IN NEED OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS, AND WHILE WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER, GOD IS ULTIMATELY IN CONTROL AND IN CHARGE. ENJOY THE TRIP . . . AND ENJOY THE PEOPLE YOU'RE WITH!

 **BIBLE VERSE:** "BE COMPLETELY HUMBLE AND GENTLE; BE PATIENT, BEARING WITH ONE ANOTHER IN LOVE. MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO KEEP THE UNITY OF THE SPIRIT THROUGH THE BOND OF PEACE." — EPHESIANS 4:2–3

 **PRAYER:** LORD JESUS, THANK YOU FOR BEING PATIENT WITH ME. I WILL ALWAYS NEED YOUR LOVE AND FORGIVENESS. HELP ME TO BE PATIENT AND LOVING WITH EVERYONE AROUND ME. I LOVE YOU, JESUS. AMEN.

 **ACTIVITY:** WRITE EACH FAMILY MEMBER'S NAME ON A SEPARATE SLIP OF PAPER AND PLACE THEM IN A HAT. TAKE TURNS DRAWING A NAME. THEN, HAVE EVERYONE ELSE IN THE FAMILY SAY SOMETHING THEY LOVE ABOUT THAT PERSON.



THE DETOUR

HAVE YOU EVER HAD A REALLY GOOD VACATION PLANNED—BUT IT GOT RUINED?

MAYBE SOMEONE GOT SICK. OR IT RAINED. OR YOU GOT LOST TRYING TO GET WHERE YOU WERE GOING. WHATEVER CAUSED YOUR PLANS TO CHANGE, IT PROBABLY WASN'T VERY FUN.


DETOURS ARE WHEN YOU HAVE TO GO IN A DIFFERENT DIRECTION THAN WHAT YOU ORIGINALLY PLANNED. BUT DID YOU KNOW THAT DETOURS CAN ALSO HAVE A PURPOSE? SOME OF THE BEST THINGS IN LIFE AREN'T PLANNED AT ALL!


THAT DOESN'T MEAN WE WON'T STILL FEEL DISAPPOINTED. SOMETIMES, WHEN OUR PLANS FALL APART, IT REALLY STINKS.

BUT HERE'S THE GOOD NEWS—GOD IS NEVER SURPRISED. HE ALWAYS KNOWS WHAT WILL HAPPEN.

 **READ JAMES 4:13–15.** THIS PASSAGE REMINDS US THAT WE DON'T KNOW WHAT TOMORROW HOLDS—BUT GOD DOES. HE IS ALWAYS IN CONTROL. AND THERE'S EVEN MORE GOOD NEWS!

 **READ ROMANS 8:28.** THIS VERSE TELLS US THAT GOD IS WORKING EVERYTHING TOGETHER FOR OUR GOOD—EVEN THE HARD THINGS, THE SAD THINGS, AND THE DETOURS.

 **DISCUSS:** CAN YOU REMEMBER A TIME WHEN YOUR PLANS CHANGED? TALK TOGETHER ABOUT HOW WE CAN TRUST GOD, EVEN WHEN THINGS DON'T GO OUR WAY.

 **PRAYER:** GOD, THANK YOU THAT YOU'RE IN CONTROL—EVEN WHEN OUR PLANS DON'T GO THE WAY WE WANT. HELP US TO TRUST YOU WITH ALL OUR HEARTS. GIVE US PEACE WHEN WE DON'T UNDERSTAND, AND HELP US FOLLOW WHEREVER YOU LEAD. AMEN.

 **ACTIVITY:** PLAY SARDINES!

IF YOU'RE UNFAMILIAR WITH THE GAME, LOOK IT UP AND GIVE IT A TRY. AFTER PLAYING, TALK ABOUT HOW WE'RE NOT ALWAYS SURE WHICH DIRECTION TO GO—JUST LIKE WHEN WE PLAY SARDINES. BUT THE GOOD NEWS IS: WE CAN FOLLOW JESUS, AND HE WILL ALWAYS LEAD US THE RIGHT WAY!



WHERE ARE WE GOING TO SLEEP TONIGHT?

DO YOU HAVE TROUBLE SLEEPING WHEN YOU'RE ON VACATION?

MATTRESSES (OR SLEEPING BAGS), NIGHTTIME SOUNDS, AND NEW SURROUNDINGS CAN ALL FEEL DIFFERENT FROM WHAT YOU'RE USED TO. SO EVEN THOUGH VACATIONS ARE MEANT TO BE RELAXING, IT CAN SOMETIMES BE HARD TO GET COMFORTABLE. STILL, IT'S A BLESSING TO HAVE A PLACE TO SLEEP—AND IT'S EASY TO TAKE THAT FOR GRANTED. NIGHT AFTER NIGHT, WE LIE DOWN, OFTEN FORGETTING TO THANK GOD FOR OUR SOFT BEDS, WARM BLANKETS, PILLOWS, NIGHTLIGHTS, AND EVEN STUFFED ANIMALS!

💬 **DISCUSS:** HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT WHERE JESUS SLEPT AS HE TRAVELED FROM TOWN TO TOWN?

📖 **READ MATTHEW 8:19–20.** JESUS ONCE SAID THAT DURING HIS MINISTRY, HE OFTEN DIDN'T HAVE A PLACE TO LAY HIS HEAD—NO COMFY PILLOW OR MATTRESS TO SLEEP ON. HE DIDN'T SAY THIS SO PEOPLE WOULD FEEL SORRY FOR HIM. HE SAID IT AFTER A MAN TOLD HIM, “TEACHER, I WILL FOLLOW YOU WHEREVER YOU GO.” JESUS REPLIED, “FOXES HAVE HOLES, AND BIRDS OF THE AIR HAVE NESTS, BUT THE SON OF MAN HAS NO PLACE TO LAY HIS HEAD.”

JESUS WANTED THE MAN TO UNDERSTAND THAT FOLLOWING HIM WOULDN'T ALWAYS BE EASY. EVEN ANIMALS HAVE REGULAR PLACES TO SLEEP, BUT JESUS DIDN'T HAVE A PERMANENT HOME—HE TRAVELED AROUND, TEACHING AND HELPING OTHERS. AS YOU GO TO BED TONIGHT, THINK ABOUT WHAT JESUS' LIFE ON EARTH MUST HAVE BEEN LIKE. EVEN HIS FIRST BED WAS A PILE OF ITCHY HAY IN A MANGER. THEN, TAKE A MOMENT TO THANK HIM FOR YOUR BLESSINGS—EVERY DAY AND EVERY NIGHT.

📖 **BIBLE VERSE:** “HE WHO WATCHES OVER YOU WILL NOT SLUMBER.” — PSALM 121:3

🙏 **PRAYER:** DEAR JESUS, WHILE YOU LIVED ON EARTH, YOU DIDN'T ALWAYS HAVE A COMFY BED. BUT I CAN SLEEP PEACEFULLY TONIGHT BECAUSE I KNOW THAT YOU NEVER SLEEP. AS GOD IN HEAVEN, YOU ALWAYS KEEP WATCH OVER ME, WHEREVER I AM—DAY OR NIGHT. I PRAY IN YOUR NAME. AMEN.

🎲 **ACTIVITY:** STAY UP LATE TONIGHT DOING SOMETHING FUN ON VACATION! GET ICE CREAM, GO CRAB HUNTING, TAKE A WALK, ETC. MAKE A NEW MEMORY!

