



Summer has a way of changing the rhythm of family life. School is out, Wednesday nights pause, vacations pop up, and the normal routines shift. But while the schedule may look different, our desire stays the same: we want to keep growing in faith together. That is what this resource is all about. A **Summer of Stories** is a simple summer guide designed to help your family spend meaningful time with God, enjoy one another, and stay connected to your church family all summer long.

Each week of this packet is built around one passage from our church's **In the Word** reading plan, so your family can be part of the same journey the whole church is taking together. Every week includes three simple parts: a **Devotion** to help your family read Scripture, talk about it together and pray for each other, a **Do** activity to help you make a memory as a family, and a **Connect** challenge to help you build relationships with other families in our church. The goal is not to add pressure to your summer, but to give you a practical way to slow down and make space for what matters most.

We're calling this Summer of Stories because we believe summer is more than a break in the calendar — it is an opportunity to make memories, build faith, and create moments that point our families back to God again and again. As you open God's Word, share meals, take walks, serve others, and connect with your church community, you are stepping into God's story in a fresh way. And over time, your family will have stories to tell — stories of laughter, prayer, growth, courage, kindness, and the faithfulness of God in everyday life. These moments may seem small, but small moments often become the stories we remember most.

So don't worry about doing this perfectly. Read together. Talk honestly. Keep it simple. Have fun. Invite people in. Our prayer is that this resource helps your family grow closer to Jesus, closer to one another, and closer to your church family this summer. We can't wait to see the stories God writes in and through your home.

## **Week 1 — Acts 2:42–47**

### **Read: Acts 2:42-47 Together as a family**

How awesome is God! The first week of our summer family devotions and we are starting the book of Acts and reading from this passage of scripture. This passage is what this summer is all about!

At the outset of the church, God blessed them with explosive growth, 3,000 people in one day! Can you imagine?! But the apostles knew that with this growth there would also need to be focus, an intentionality directed at the things that made them the church. It would have been real easy, with that many people to allow small things to become big things and big things to be forgotten. So the Apostles committed themselves to putting in front of them four things, all of which still ought to remain our focus as the church and as families. Jesus, his teaching, community and prayer.

Are these the things that we hold up as must-haves in our lives? In the busyness and randomness of the summer schedule, how can we make sure that each day we are focusing our hearts on Jesus, growing in his teaching, looking to serve our church community and depending on him through prayer? It is easy to allow these to take a back seat when our schedules are in such flux. What can we do as a family to keep these things at the center of our lives?

### **Talk: Ask these questions as you think about the passage**

1. What stands out to you most about the way the early believers lived together?
2. Why do you think shared meals, prayer, and generosity mattered so much in the early church?
3. What is one way our family could grow stronger in faith and community this summer?

### **Do: Family Picnic**

Pack a simple meal or snacks and have a family picnic at a park, in the backyard, or on the living room floor. During the meal, ask each person:

**What is one thing you hope our family does more of this summer?**

**What is one way we can grow closer to God together?**

### **Connect: Deliver a Treat**

Make or buy a simple treat and drop it off at another church family's home with a short note of encouragement. Keep it simple and joyful!

## **Week 2 — Acts 9:1–19**

### **Read: Acts 9:1-19 Together as a family**

How amazing is God! Just when you think you know how a story is going to go, God steps in and changes everything. In this week's passage, we meet Saul, a man who was determined to stop the message of Jesus. He was angry, driven, and convinced he was doing the right thing. But on the road to Damascus, Jesus met him in a way he never expected. In one moment, Saul went from trying to destroy the church to becoming one of the boldest voices for the gospel. Only God can do something like that!

What stands out in this story is that Jesus did not give up on Saul. He saw more than who Saul was in that moment — He saw who Saul could become. And that is good news for all of us. God is still in the business of changing hearts, redirecting lives, and writing new stories. Sometimes that change happens in a dramatic moment, and sometimes it happens slowly over time, but either way, God is always at work in the lives of His people.

As a family, this is a great reminder that no one is beyond the reach of God's grace. We all have areas where we need Jesus to shape us, soften us, and lead us in a better direction. How have you seen God help you grow or change? Is there an area of your life where God may be inviting you to trust Him and follow Him more closely? This week, take some time to thank God that He is still changing lives — and that includes ours.

### **Talk: Ask these questions as you think about the passage**

1. What do you think Saul was feeling when Jesus stopped him on the road?
2. What does this story teach us about how Jesus sees people and changes lives?
3. How have you seen God help someone grow or change over time?

### **Do: Changed Story Walk**

Take a family walk and have each person share one way they have changed in the last year. Talk about how Jesus changes hearts, lives, and directions.

### **Connect: Ice Cream Meet-Up**

Invite another family from church to meet for ice cream sometime that week. While you're together, ask:

**What is one way you've seen God at work in your life recently?**

## **Week 3 — Acts 16:25–34**

### **Read: Acts 16:25-34 Together as a family**

How good is God! This week's story reminds us that God is not only with us in the best moments of life, but also in the hardest ones. Paul and Silas had been beaten, thrown into prison, and locked in chains. If anyone had a reason to complain, it was them. But instead of giving in to fear or bitterness, they prayed and sang hymns to God. What an incredible picture of faith! Even in the middle of pain and uncertainty, they trusted that God was still worthy of their praise.

And then God moved. The prison shook, the doors flew open, and lives were changed forever. But one of the most powerful parts of this story is that God did not just rescue Paul and Silas — He used their faithfulness to draw the jailer and his whole family to salvation. Their worship in a hard place became a witness. That is a reminder that the way we trust God in difficult seasons can say a lot about who He is.

As a family, this passage gives us a chance to ask some honest questions. What do we do when life feels unfair or hard? Do we turn toward God, or away from Him? This week, let's remember that worship is not just for easy days. God is with us in the middle of the struggle, and He can use even hard moments to tell a bigger story of hope.

### **Talk: Ask these questions as you think about the passage**

1. Why do you think Paul and Silas chose to pray and sing even while they were in prison?
2. What does this story teach us about trusting God when life feels hard or unfair?
3. What is one way we can turn to God this week when we feel stressed, afraid, or discouraged?

### **Do: At-Home Worship Night**

Set aside 15–20 minutes for a family worship night. Sing a few songs, read the passage, and let each person share one hard thing they want to trust God with.

### **Connect: Prayer Text Challenge**

Choose one church family and send them a message asking:

**How can our family pray for your family this week?**

Then pray for them together that same day.

## **Week 4 — Acts 18:24–28**

### **Read: Acts 18:24-28 Together as a family**

How kind is God! In this week's passage, we meet Apollos, a man who loved God and spoke boldly, but who still had more to learn. That is where Priscilla and Aquila step in. Instead of criticizing him or embarrassing him, they took him aside and helped him understand God's truth more clearly. What a beautiful picture of grace, wisdom, and discipleship. God used their care and courage to help Apollos grow.

This story reminds us that following Jesus is not something we do alone. God places people in our lives to teach us, encourage us, and help us take the next step. Sometimes we are the ones being helped, and sometimes we are the ones helping others. Either way, spiritual growth often happens in relationships. That is one of the ways God builds His church and strengthens His people.

As a family, this is a great week to think about who helps us grow in our faith. Who has taught us about God? Who has prayed for us, encouraged us, or helped us understand Scripture better? And how can we be that kind of help to someone else? God loves to use ordinary people in powerful ways, and this story reminds us that even simple encouragement can have a lasting impact.

### **Talk: Ask these questions as you think about the passage**

1. What do you notice about the way Priscilla and Aquila helped Apollos?
2. Why is it important to be both teachable and willing to help others grow?
3. Who has helped you learn more about God, and how can you help someone else grow?

### **Do: Family Learning Night**

Have each person teach the family one small thing — a skill, a recipe step, a trick shot, a game, anything. End by talking about how God uses people to help us grow.

### **Connect: Encourage a Leader or Family**

Write a card, text, or email to another family or church leader telling them one way they have helped others grow.

## **Week 5 — Acts 26:12–23**

### **Read: Acts 26:12-23 Together as a family**

How faithful is God! This week we hear Paul tell the story of how Jesus met him and changed his life. Paul never seemed to get tired of telling that story, and for good reason. He knew that his life had been transformed by the grace of Jesus. What once defined him no longer had the final word. His past was real, but God's mercy was greater.

There is something powerful about telling the story of what God has done. Paul did not share because he wanted attention. He shared because the goodness of Jesus was too important to keep to himself. He wanted others to know that the same Savior who met him could meet them too. And that is still true for us. We all have a story of God's faithfulness, even if it feels simple or unfinished.

As a family, this is a great chance to think about the stories God is writing in our lives. What prayers has He answered? What lessons has He taught us? What hard things has He carried us through? We may not all have dramatic stories, but we all have moments where God has been present and kind. Let's not miss the opportunity to remember them and share them.

### **Talk: Ask these questions as you think about the passage**

1. Why do you think Paul kept telling the story of how Jesus changed his life?
2. What are some ways God has been faithful in your story so far?
3. If someone asked what Jesus means to you, what would you want to say?

### **Do: Storytelling Night**

Have a family storytelling night where each person shares one favorite memory and one way they've seen God help them or teach them something.

### **Connect: Porch or Dessert Visit**

Invite another family over for dessert or meet them somewhere easy and ask everyone to share one story of God's faithfulness.

## **Week 6 — Acts 27:13–25**

### **Read: Acts 27:13-25 Together as a family**

How steady is God! In this week's passage, Paul and everyone on the ship are caught in a violent storm. The wind is fierce, the waves are strong, and the situation looks hopeless. But in the middle of all that fear, Paul stands with confidence. Not because the storm was small, but because his God was bigger. He trusted that God was with him and that God would keep His word.

That is such an important reminder for us. Faith does not mean pretending storms are not real. It means remembering that God is with us in them. We all go through seasons of uncertainty, stress, disappointment, and fear. Sometimes we wish God would calm the storm immediately, but often He first reminds us that we do not face it alone. His presence is our peace.

As a family, this passage gives us a chance to be honest about what feels stormy right now. What worries are we carrying? What fears do we need to bring before God? This week, let's remember that even when life feels shaky, God is still faithful. He is near, He is good, and He can be trusted.

### **Talk: Ask these questions as you think about the passage**

1. What do you think made Paul calm in the middle of such a dangerous storm?
2. What does this passage teach us about God's presence when life feels uncertain?
3. What is one "storm" our family or one of us may be facing right now, and how can we trust God in it?

### **Do: Family Nature Walk**

Find a trail somewhere and take a walk and talk about "storms" people face — fear, uncertainty, pressure, disappointment. Let each person share one storm they are facing and pray together at the end.

### **Connect: Care Package Drop-Off**

As a family, put together a simple encouragement bag or note for another family who may need support.

## **Week 7 — Romans 8:31–39**

### **Read: Romans 8:31-39 Together as a family**

How deeply does God love us! Romans 8 is one of the most powerful reminders in all of Scripture that God's love is strong, steady, and secure. Paul asks question after question, and every answer points us back to this truth: if God is for us, nothing can stand against His love for us. Trouble cannot stop it. Fear cannot undo it. Hardship cannot erase it. God's love in Christ holds firm.

That is such good news, because life can make us feel uncertain. We may wonder if we are enough, if God is near, or if our failures have pushed us too far. But this passage reminds us that God's love is not fragile. It does not disappear when life gets hard. It does not depend on our feelings. It is rooted in who God is and in what Jesus has done for us.

As a family, this is a beautiful week to rest in that truth together. What are the things that make us feel afraid or alone? How does it change us to know that none of those things can separate us from God's love? This week, let's slow down and let that promise sink deep into our hearts.

### **Talk: Ask these questions as you think about the passage**

1. Which part of this passage stands out to you the most, and why?
2. What do you think it means that nothing can separate us from the love of God?
3. How can remembering God's love help us when we feel afraid, ashamed, or alone?

### **Do: Cozy Scripture Night**

Make a cozy space at home with blankets and snacks, then read Romans 8:31–39 together. Talk about what it means to be held by God's love.

### **Connect: Encouragement Note**

Write or text another family this message in your own words:

**We're praying that your family remembers this week that nothing can separate you from God's love.**

## **Week 8 — Romans 12:9–21**

### **Read: Romans 12:9-21 Together as a family**

How practical is God's Word! This week's passage shows us that love is not just something we talk about — it is something we live. Real love is sincere. It honors others. It serves with joy. It chooses peace. It blesses instead of cursing. These verses are full of everyday ways that the gospel shows up in our relationships. God cares deeply about how we treat people.

Sometimes we think spiritual growth is mostly about knowing more, but passages like this remind us that growing in Christ also means loving more. Love is often seen in the ordinary moments of family life: using kind words, showing patience, helping without being asked, forgiving quickly, and choosing peace when conflict shows up. These things may seem small, but they tell a big story about the kind of people Jesus is shaping us to be.

As a family, this is a great week to ask what love looks like in our home right now. Are we quick to encourage? Are we learning to forgive? Are we looking for chances to serve? This week, let's ask God to help our family be known not just for what we believe, but for the love we show.

### **Talk: Ask these questions as you think about the passage**

1. Which instruction in this passage feels easiest for you? Which feels hardest?
2. What does real love look like in everyday family life?
3. What is one practical way we can show kindness, peace, or honor this week?

### **Do: Family Service Project**

Choose one simple act of service your family can do together — clean something, bake for a neighbor, pick up trash, or help someone practically.

### **Connect: Serve Another Family**

Choose one church family and do one intentional act of kindness for them — bring a meal, drop off a drink, help with a task, or leave a surprise gift.

## **Week 9 — Romans 15:1–7, 13**

### **Read: Romans 15:1-7, 13 Together as a family**

How welcoming is God! In this week's passage, Paul reminds believers to accept one another just as Christ has accepted us. That is a beautiful picture of the heart of Jesus. He welcomed us in grace, and now He calls us to do the same for others. God's people should be marked by encouragement, patience, unity, and hope.

Hospitality can sound like a big word, but at its heart it is simply making room. It is opening our table, our schedule, our attention, and our hearts to others. It is noticing people, valuing people, and helping people feel seen. When families practice that kind of welcome, they reflect the love of Christ in a powerful way. Some of the most meaningful ministry moments happen in very ordinary spaces.

As a family, this is a great week to think about how we can make room for others. Who needs encouragement? Who might feel overlooked? How can our home and our lives become places where people feel welcomed and loved? God has given us hope, and one of the ways we share that hope is by making space for others.

### **Talk: Ask these questions as you think about the passage**

1. What do you think it means to welcome others the way Christ has welcomed us?
2. Why do hope, patience, and encouragement matter so much in relationships?
3. How can our family make room for others and help people feel seen this week?

### **Do: Welcome Table Meal**

Share a family meal that everyone works together to make and talk about what makes people feel welcomed, safe, and included. Ask: **What kind of home do we want to be for others?**

### **Connect: Share a Meal With Another Family**

Invite another family from church to dinner, lunch, or a simple park meal sometime that week.

## **Week 10 — 1 Corinthians 3:10–15**

### **Read: 1 Corinthians 3:10-15 Together as a family**

How wise is God! In this week's passage, Paul uses the picture of building to help us think about our lives. Every day we are building something with our choices, habits, priorities, and values. Some things look impressive for a while but do not last. Other things are built on the solid foundation of Jesus and stand the test of time.

That picture is especially helpful for families. What are we building our home around? Are we building around hurry, success, comfort, and distraction? Or are we building around Christ, His truth, and the things that really matter? The little choices we make every day shape the kind of life we are building together.

As a family, this is a good week to slow down and ask what matters most. What kind of home do we want to build? What habits help us stay grounded in Jesus? God is not only interested in the big moments of life — He cares about the steady, daily work of building something that lasts.

### **Talk: Ask these questions as you think about the passage**

1. What do you think Paul means when he talks about building on a foundation?
2. Why is Jesus the only foundation strong enough to build our lives on?
3. What are some habits or choices that help a family build on what lasts?

### **Do: Build Something Together**

Use blocks, Legos, cups, cardboard, or household items to build something as a family. Then talk about foundations and what helps a family build life on Jesus.

### **Connect: Value Swap**

Connect with another church family and each family shares one value they want to build on this summer, like prayer, kindness, honesty, rest, or generosity.

## **Week 11 — 1 Corinthians 12:12–27**

### **Read: 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 Together as a family**

How creative is God! This week's passage reminds us that the church is like a body, and every part matters. Not everyone has the same job, the same gifts, or the same role, but every person belongs. God did not design His people to all look alike. He made each person with purpose, and He brings us together so that we can strengthen one another.

That is such an important truth for families too. Every person in the home matters. Every personality, every stage of life, every strength, and even every weakness plays a part in the story God is telling. It is easy to compare ourselves to others and think we are not as important, but God never sees His people that way. He delights in the unique ways He has made each one of us.

As a family, this is a great week to celebrate one another. What gifts do we see in each person? How do we help each other? How can we remind one another that everyone has value and purpose? God's family is stronger when each person knows they belong.

### **Talk: Ask these questions as you think about the passage**

1. What do you learn from the picture of the church being like a body?
2. Why is every person important, even if they are not the most visible?
3. What gifts, strengths, or qualities has God placed in each person in our family?

### **Do: Family Game or Park Night**

Plan a family game night or park outing where every person has a role. Point out how each person contributes something important.

### **Connect: Include Another Family**

Invite another family to join you for a game night, park hangout, or simple shared activity and be intentional about including every person.

## **Week 12 — 1 Corinthians 13:1–13**

### **Read: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 Together as a family**

How beautiful is God's design for love! In this week's passage, Paul reminds us that love is greater than talent, knowledge, or impressive gifts. Without love, even the best things lose their meaning. But with love, ordinary acts become powerful reflections of Jesus. Love is patient. Love is kind. Love keeps going. This is the kind of love God shows us, and it is the kind of love He wants to grow in us.

As we come to the end of this summer journey, this passage gives us the perfect reminder of what matters most. The goal of family discipleship is not just to check off Bible readings or complete activities. It is to become people who look more like Jesus. And one of the clearest ways that happens is through love — in the way we speak, serve, forgive, and care for one another.

As a family, this is a wonderful week to reflect on how love has grown in your home this summer. Where have you seen patience? Where have you seen kindness? Where do you still want God to grow you? This week, let's thank Him for every story He has written this summer and ask Him to keep shaping our family into people marked by His love.

### **Talk: Ask these questions as you think about the passage**

1. Which description of love in this passage stands out to you most?
2. Why do you think Paul says love matters more than gifts, knowledge, or ability?
3. What is one way our family can practice patient, kind, Christlike love this week?

### **Do: Family Blessing Meal**

Share a special meal together and have each person speak one encouragement over every other family member.

### **Connect: Bless Another Family**

Choose another church family and bless them in a tangible way — dessert, flowers, a handwritten note, a gift card, or a simple doorstep surprise.