



FLAT JESUS

#SUMCWHERESJESUS

A SUMMER WITH FLAT JESUS: TAKE ALONG DEVOTIONS FOR WHEREVER YOU GO

GOING SOMEWHERE FUN THIS SUMMER, OR JUST WANT TO USE MORE FREE TIME TO DEEPEN YOUR FAITH AS A FAMILY? SUMC IS SPONSORING "FLAT JESUS" THIS SUMMER!

DECORATE YOUR FLAT JESUS, CUT HIM OUT, AND BRING HIM ALONG WHEREVER YOU GO!

TAKE PICTURES OF FLAT JESUS ON YOUR ADVENTURES, AND THEN DO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

- CHECK IN AT "SALADO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH" ON FACEBOOK OR INSTAGRAM, AND TAG IT WITH THE HASHTAG.
- EMAIL KRISTEN YOUR PHOTOS (KRISTENVG@SALADOUNC.ORG)
- PRINT AND BRING YOUR PHOTOS TO WORSHIP EACH WEEK TO GIVE TO KRISTEN.

ALONG WITH THE FUN PICTURES, TAKE TIME DURING YOUR TRAVELS AROUND TOWN OR OUT OF TOWN TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DEVOTIONALS THAT GO ALONG WITH FLAT JESUS. WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE ALL THE PLACES OUR CHURCH TAKES OUR FAITH THIS SUMMER!

A Summer with Flat Jesus

Take along devotions for wherever you go

#sumcwheresjesus

Decorate your Flat Jesus, and bring him along wherever you go! Take pictures of Flat Jesus, check in at “Salado United Methodist Church” on Facebook or Instagram, and tag it with the hashtag. **Or** email Kristen your photos (kristenvg@saladoumc.org). **Or** print and bring your photos to worship each week to give to Kristen.

Faith Practice: at home with friends

SHARE high/low. What are your favorite things to do with friends?

READ Luke 10:38-42 “Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. Her sister, Mary, sat at the Lord’s feet and listened to what he said. But Martha was so distracted by her many tasks. She came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, don’t you care that my sister has left me to work by myself? Tell her to help me!” But Jesus said, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is only one thing you need. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken from her.”

TALK How often do you get to have visitors at your house? Often, when guests come over, we try to make everything perfect. Maybe your mom or dad won’t let you have a friend visit until you’ve cleaned your room. We clean up and we make our favorite foods—anything to help our friends feel they are welcome and belong in our homes. But, have you ever been so concerned with the tasks of cleaning, cooking, or finding the perfect activity that you forget to actually spent time with your friend? Jesus reminds us to focus our attention on God and on the people in our lives. What is it about your friends that you like? Why do you like spending time with them? How can you be less distracted when guests are over?

PRAY What’s on your mind? What prayer requests do you have? Share them with one another, and pray together. Praying with friends can be a new experience—maybe all you need to pray is “Dear God, help me be a good friend today, in everything I do and in everything I say.”

BLESS Make the sign of the cross on one another’s foreheads, saying “Remember you, are a loved child of God!” or simply “Remember, Jesus loves you.” (use water and remember your baptism!)

GO! DO! Relax! Invite a friend over and simply have fun! Don’t clean, don’t cook; just enjoy the company of your friend(s). Take a photo with Flat Jesus making the strangest faces you can. Share your strange faces by checking in at Salado United Methodist Church on FB or Instagram, use #sumcwheresjesus or email Kristen @ kristenvg@saladouc.org.

Faith Practice: the outdoors

SHARE high/low. What is your favorite family memory? Favorite camping memory?

READ Psalm 8:1, 3-4 “O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?

TALK Camping is a great time to be aware of just how amazing God’s creation is. God has done so much for us, the very children of God. Camping is also a great time to be aware of change— there are new neighbors changing constantly, people are settled for a few days before moving on to the next place or back home. Times of change can be really hard to deal with. Still—Jesus has promised to be present with us in the midst of every single transition, change, loss, and new beginning. How do you most experience God in your life? Is it laying in a field looking at the stars? Maybe it’s sitting around a campfire sharing stories and jokes with friends or family. However you are coping with changes in your life, trust and look for signs that Jesus is with you.

PRAY What’s on your mind? What prayer requests do you have? Share them with one another, and pray together.

BLESS Make the sign of the cross on one another’s foreheads, saying “Remember you, are a loved child of God!” or simply “Remember, Jesus loves you.” (use water and remember your baptism!)

GO! DO! Sometimes we need things we can touch in order to remember an experience. So look around your outdoor area for a stone (stay away from poison ivy!) Make this your Outdoor Memory Stone. Paint it when you get home and remember this camping time. Also, remember that like a stone, God is super strong—strong enough to be with you even during the most difficult days. Don’t forget to take a picture with Flat Jesus and share by checking in at Salado United Methodist Church on FB or Instagram, using #sumcwheresjesus or emailing Kristen @ kristenvg@saladouc.org.

Faith Practice: on the road

SHARE high/low. What is your favorite thing to do while in the car?

READ Numbers 6:24-26 “The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.”

TALK Does this reading sound familiar? Often at the end of worship on Sunday, Dr. Mosser gives the benediction with these very words, or something similar to it. “Benediction” is a big word that means “blessing”. It’s one way of saying and remembering “wherever you go, may God be with you!” And not only that, but that on your trip, it is a way of asking God to be gracious, to stay near, and to give peace. Before you get into the car, especially for long road trips, gather as a family and bless each other for the trip. You can use the same words from Numbers, add your own, or make up your own blessing. Maybe you want to ask God to bless you (to help you) have patience for a long drive, or through lots of construction zones! Maybe you want to ask God to keep you and all the other drivers and passengers safe while on the road. What sorts of things can YOU bless while you’re on the road? Do you see someone in need? Do you see someone in another looking sad? Worried? Angry? Say a prayer and bless them.

PRAY What’s on your mind? What prayer requests do you have? Share them with one another, and pray together. Shout out your prayers like popcorn—you don’t have to go in a circle. Feeling stuck for words? Pray your highs and lows.

BLESS Make the sign of the cross on one another’s foreheads, saying “Remember you, are a loved child of God!” or simply “Remember, Jesus loves you.” (use water and remember your baptism!)

GO! DO! Being in a car for a long time can get tiring. Pack a Frisbee, and at stretch breaks take turns throwing the Frisbee to each other, sharing one thing you like about the person you throw to. Take a photo. Check in at Salado United Methodist Church on FB or Instagram, use #sumcwheresjesus or email Kristen @ kristenvg@saladoumc.org,

Faith Practice: wherever you are!

SHARE high/low. What is your favorite memory of a past summer?

READ Matthew 28:18-20 “And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

TALK This story is called “The Great Commission.” After Easter, after Jesus was resurrected, he talked to the disciples, telling them not to stay in one place. Not to keep their faith to themselves. Not to keep the stories of Jesus only among them. Instead, Jesus told the disciples to tell others—all others! Aren’t you glad they did? Because those first disciples told the stories and moved around, we have stories of Jesus to hear and share, too! What are some of your favorite stories about Jesus? What are some of your favorite memories from church this year? Jesus not only sends his disciples to go and do, Jesus promises to be with them, too. This summer: what will you go and do? What adventures will you and Jesus take together? Who can you tell about Jesus’ love?

PRAY What’s on your mind? What prayer requests do you have? Share them with one another, and pray together. Hold hands and say one prayer each. When you are done, squeeze the hand of the person next to you (you can even reverse directions if you want! Have fun with it). Not sure what to say? Pray your highs and lows.

BLESS Make the sign of the cross on one another’s foreheads, saying “Remember you, are a loved child of God!” or simply “Remember, Jesus loves you.” (use water and remember your baptism!)

GO! DO! Color your very own Flat Jesus and carry him with you all summer long as a reminder that Jesus is “with you always, to the end of the age”. Take a photo with Flat Jesus at the soccer field, the beach, or the ice cream store. Check in at Salado United Methodist Church on FB or Instagram, use #sumcwheresjesus or email Kristen @ kristenvg@saladoumc.org.

Faith Practice: eating

SHARE high/low. What is your favorite meal?

READ Mark 14:22-25 “While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, “Take; this is my body.” Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. He said to them, “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.”

TALK Lots of stories in the bible happen with food or around a table. The most important dinner-story for the church is when Jesus shares this special meal with his disciples. With bread and wine, we receive Jesus’ love and grace. You don’t have to wait for worship to remember that Jesus loves you. Every time you eat bread, you can remember these words of Jesus! Every time you get to drink a special drink, you can remember these words of Jesus! Jesus used bread and wine (a normal part of a meal in his day) to show us, remind us, and tell us one more time how much he loves us. How do you show or remind people that you love them?

PRAY What’s on your mind? What prayer requests do you have? Share them with one another, and pray together. Hold hands and say one prayer each. Start a “Prayer Jar”, and keep it in the center of your kitchen table. During the day as you think of a prayer, write it down and put it in the jar. Then, at dinner, take turns sharing those prayers and praying for one another.

BLESS Make the sign of the cross on one another’s foreheads, saying “Remember you, are a loved child of God!” or simply “Remember, Jesus loves you.” (use water and remember your baptism!)

GO! DO! When you have friends over for lunch or dinner, invite them to be part of your conversation. Ask them their highs and lows for the week. Offer to pray for them during the week. If this is new for you (or for them!), simply sit and listen to what your friend wants to talk about. Jesus spent a lot of time listening—that’s one reason people felt transformed by his love!

Faith Practice: on a walk

SHARE high/low. What has been the most interesting part of your day?

READ 2 Corinthians 5:17-18 “So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away. See, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled himself to us through Christ.

TALK Summer is a season to be renewed. Maybe your schedule is a bit lighter than during the school year. Maybe you have some vacations coming that will show you new places and make new friends. All of the things you will see, all new types of life come from God. What are some of your favorite things that God has made? If you were going to create something new, what would it be? As you walk around your neighborhood or campground or along the beach, look around and notice all of the beautiful and unique things with which God has filled our world!

PRAY What’s on your mind? What prayer requests do you have? Share them with one another, and pray together. While you’re out and about in nature, stop for a few minutes and sit in the grass or on a bench. Listen for the prayers of creation—birds singing, trees blowing in the wind, all that good stuff. Let this prayer be one of silence and listening.

BLESS Make the sign of the cross on one another’s foreheads, saying “Remember you, are a loved child of God!” or simply “Remember, Jesus loves you.” (use water and remember your baptism!)

GO! DO! Make a scavenger hunt for your walk. Collect things as you go that remind you of the new life in Christ, such as leaves, flowers, green grass, maybe a caterpillar. Take a picture with Flat Jesus when you see something interesting on your walk. When you post it, check in at Salado United Methodist Church on FB or Instagram, use #sumcwheresjesus or email Kristen @ kristenvg@saladoumc.org.