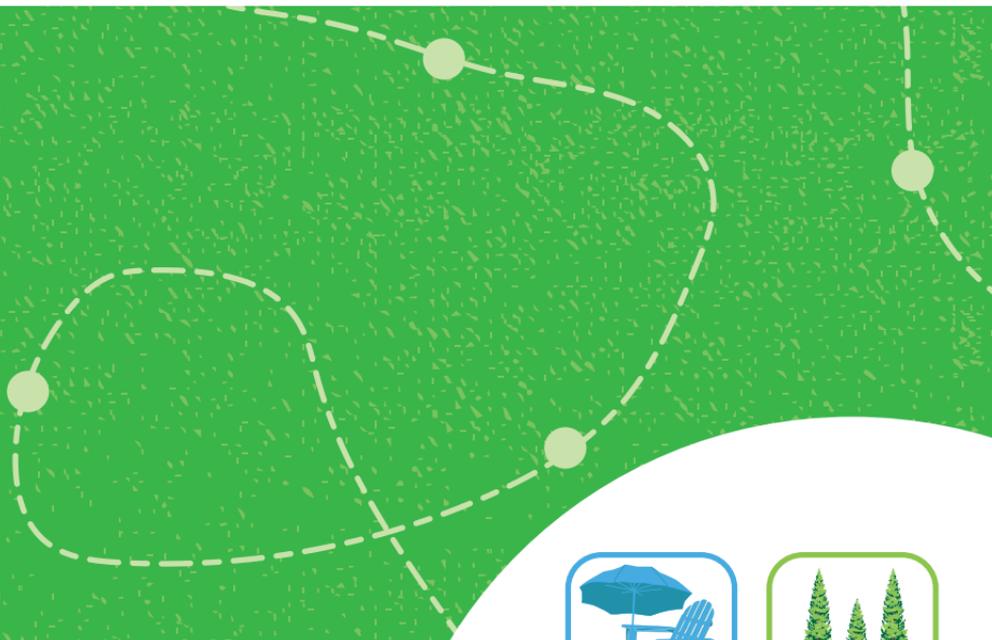




REMARKABLE RACE

TRAVEL
GUIDE



SiGNiFiCANT
summer

REST

SERVE

GROW

PLAY

DEAR FAMILIES,

Summer is officially upon us along with all the potential of what could be for your family. For many, vacation plans are made, camps are on the calendar, and/or goals are set for summer projects . . . the possibilities for these months are endless.

While all of these things can be good, far too many of us come to the end of the summer months and wonder silently, “Did we accomplish anything significant?” Our hope is that this resource you hold in your hands will equip you to avoid that question altogether. As you get ready to race through the summer, we want to help you make it remarkable!

THE CHALLENGE

Watermark Kids wants to challenge you AND empower you to have a “Significant Summer” this year. We believe that there are 4 basic components to making your summer significant: Rest, Serve, Grow, Play (RSGP). As the old saying goes, if you aim for nothing, you’ll hit it every time. Don’t aim for nothing this summer. These 4 components along with their simple definitions and memory verses, will provide you a target to aim for. We have also included some basic suggestions on how to hit that target.

Our challenge to your family is that you intentionally do at least one thing in each of these four categories (if not many more) over the course of this summer and celebrate it together.

HOW TO USE THIS RESOURCE

What we have tried to do is give you a basic framework and a few simple suggestions to get you started. This is not intended to be a step-by-step comprehensive guide to your “Significant Summer.” Every family is unique and there are endless possibilities for achieving your goal. Feel free to use these suggestions or come up with your own creative ideas.

This year's theme is "The Remarkable Race," so each of your kids should pick up a passport and bring it with them on Sundays to get stamps from our staff. They can do that by sharing stories with us about significant or remarkable moments your family has experienced that week.

SHARE THE FUN

To make it even more fun this year, we're going to be keeping track of points between 5 areas of DFW and encouraging your community to work together to accumulate points to win the race. Be sure to join the Facebook group for your area to see what others are up to and how you can get involved. You can find links to those groups as well as a host of other resources at watermark.org/blog/ss2015. You can also use #SigSummer on Instagram & Twitter to share your moments with us!

In 2 Peter 1:3, Peter reminds us that we have been given everything we need for "life and godliness." Then he challenges us to make every effort to build onto our faith with qualities that "will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ." (2 Peter 1:8 NIV) We hope you'll accept a similar challenge from us this summer, to do battle with ineffectiveness and unproductiveness and make your summer SIGNIFICANT for the glory of God and the fame of Jesus our Savior!

Let The Remarkable Race begin!
WATERMARK KIDS STAFF TEAM

SiGNiFiCANT
summer



REST



REMEMBERING WHO REIGNS

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” Matthew 11:28-30

REST

#1 - UNSTRUCTURED TIME

*Make sure you have at least one week this summer with **no scheduled activities** for your kids – no VBS, no camps, etc. Enjoy a slower pace at home – sleep a little later, let the kids play, get down on the floor and play with them, take naps, be spontaneous with friends. Take the time to enjoy the lack of schedule and routine.*

REST

#2 - RESTORING OUR SOULS

*The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters.
He restores my soul.
Psalm 23:1-3a*

As busy parents it is easy for our souls to get frazzled. In that state, we are usually not a source of rest and peace for our families. This summer **make time with your Shepherd** a high priority. Get alone with Him. Allow Him to lead you to a quiet place and restore your soul. What are the elements that refresh you spiritually – quiet, nature, music, extended time in prayer or the Word? Be sure to incorporate those things that the Lord most uses to speak rest to your soul. Whether this is something you already do regularly or have never done at all, figure out what the next step is for you and make it happen. The rest that results for both you and your family will be worth the effort.

REST

#3 - REIGNITE YOUR MARRIAGE

*An important element of rest in a family is the health of Mom and Dad's relationship. Make this a significant summer by taking a step to **make your marriage stronger**.*

One option is to attend re|engage which can provide help whether your marriage needs to be reignited or resurrected.

For more information go to www.MarriageHelp.org. Another option to reignite your relationship is to add some creativity to your date nights. Check out this blog post by Scott Kedersha for some creative date ideas (scottkedersha.com/date-night-challenge).

REST

#4 - TECHNOLOGY FAST

*Plan a **family media fast** where technology is off limits for everyone in the family (including parents) for a specified time. This could be for an evening once a week, a weekend, or during vacation. Be intentional to build face-to-face relationships during the time you gain.*

REST

#5 - FAMILY MEAL TIME

*Getting the entire family around the dinner table together can be a challenge, but it will create rest in your home by building security and developing relationships. **Have dinner with everyone present** at least once a week this summer.*

Make the meal as fun or simple as you want - maybe let the kids take turns choosing the menu or making dessert, picnic in the living room, or use the good china. Be intentional with your time together-ask questions or play a game.

SERVE

SHOWING OTHERS GOD'S LOVE

“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve others and give His life as a ransom for many.” Mark 10:45

SERVE

#1 – SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY

*June is a great chance to step outside and start **servicing with your family!** As always, our External Focus team has put together several great chances for families to serve together this month. You can get involved in a variety of ways: collecting or delivering canned goods, volunteering at the food bank, jumping in to serve with one of our great ministry partners, and more.*

June is a great “kick-off” to serving together this summer, but don’t stop there. You can find these and other opportunities all summer long at www.watermark.org/familyserve.

SERVE

#2 - SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY

*Your family can serve our education partners in West Dallas by **raising money to purchase books** this summer. Have your kids collect pledges toward the number of books/pages they read over the summer months or host a garage sale or lemonade/cookie stand and then use the money to shop for books. Go to www.watermark.org/familyserve for information about specific needs and drop-off locations.*

SERVE

#3 – SERVE YOUR NEIGHBORS

From a block party to a grill-out to a simple dinner, an intentional gathering can help you serve and get to know your neighbors. Watermark's External Focus team has come up with a great resource to help you do this. Go to www.watermark.org/familyserve for more information.

SERVE

#4 – SERVE YOUR FAMILY

*Love one another with brotherly affection.
Outdo one another in showing honor.
Romans 12:10*

*Using Romans 12:10 as a basis, challenge your family to “outdo” each other in **service to one another**.*

- Have each person write down a few ways someone else can serve them. Put them all in a jar and have family members draw out a “service project” to do each week.*
- Designate a “Secret Service” week where family members try to serve each other without being found out.*
- Pick a day to celebrate each person in your family. On that day everybody else does everything they can to encourage and serve that person.*

SERVE

#5 – SERVE YOUR WORLD

*A great way to cultivate your kids' hearts to serve others is to **teach them to pray** for people around the world. There are several simple tools you can use to do this.*

- (1) Purchase an inflatable globe. Roll it or toss it from one family member to another. As each person catches it, have them pray for the people in a country they are touching.*
- (2) Pay attention to international ingredients on food labels or the "Made in..." labels on toys.*

Stop and pray for the people in those countries.

- (3) Make prayer sticks for the dinner table. Write the names of countries or people groups or missionaries on craft sticks and have each person pick one and pray during dinner.*

A wonderful print resource to have for elementary kids is [Window on the World](#). This book has two pages of kid-appropriate information about the least-evangelized countries in the world plus suggestions on how to pray.

GROW



BECOMING MORE LIKE JESUS

“Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.” Psalm 1:1-3

GROW

#1 – MEMORIZE SCRIPTURE

Continue to **hide scripture in your heart** and your child's by memorizing God's Word. Here are some options:

- Memorize the Significant Summer verse for each area.
- Choose a longer passage such as Psalm 1 and memorize it together as a family throughout the summer. As a helpful tip to help remember the passage, assign a verse to several rooms or items in the house. Make verse one be the door you usually enter from the outside, then walk through the house assigning the other verses to rooms or items along the way to your bedroom. So each time you enter the house and head to your room, recite Psalm 1 along the way.
- Review the previously introduced verses from Watermark Kids. Go to www.watermark.org/blog/ss2015 for links to PDF copies of 2014-2015 verses.

GROW

#2 - WHAT'S IN THE BIBLE?

*As you are reading along with the Journey, have your children follow along too by watching the **What's in the Bible** series. Check out the family ministry blog for ideas and discussion questions.*

(www.watermark.org/blog/family/)

GROW

#3 – BACKYARD BIBLE CLUB

*Invite the neighborhood kids over for some fun and share the Gospel too by **hosting a backyard Bible club.***

This is a great way to share God's love with others through stories, games and fun.

Check out www.watermark.org/blog/ss2015 for a week's worth of lessons, activities and crafts you can use to put on your own backyard Bible club this summer.

GROW

#4 - BIBLE CHARACTER STUDY

Grab your magnifying glass and use your sleuthing skills to help **solve these Bible mysteries**. Thriving Family magazine put together this fun and interactive way to learn about the different characters in the Bible.

Check out their website for all the details.

(www.thrivingfamily.com/free/summer-calendar.aspx)

GROW

#5 - PROVERBS READING PLAN

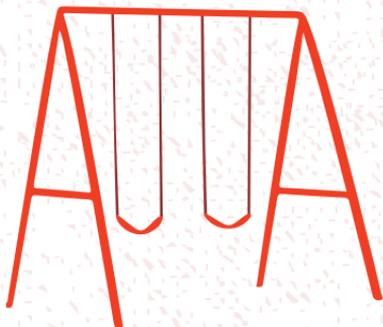
The book of **Proverbs** has many topics. With your child, look up the following verses and discuss with them the topic the verses have in common. In a journal, have your child write down the verses from Proverbs and draw a picture to represent the topic the verses have in common.

- Guarding your speech: Proverbs 12:19, 15:1 & 15:4
- Wisdom: Proverbs 15:14, 15:33 & 16:22
- Trust: Proverbs 3:5-6, 22:19 & 30:5

For older kids, challenge them to read a chapter of Proverbs (31 chapters) each day during the month of July (31 days).

Dads, take the lead in this, issuing the challenge to your older kids, discussing one topic from the reading each day, and coming up with a creative reward at the end of the month. A great way to start the discussion each day is by sharing something you learned from the chapter.

PLAY



ENJOYING GOD EVERYWHERE

*“You make known to me the path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy;
at your right hand are pleasures
forevermore.” Psalm 16:11*

PLAY

#1 – COMMUNITY GROUP PLAY

Spend some time with your **community group**.

Plan something fun with grown-ups and kiddos, such as hosting a CAMP-IN or at least an almost-spend-the-night where the kids stay up way too late. Act as if you are camping out by setting up tents in the backyard or in the middle of the playroom if space allows. Have a cookout, grab a flashlight, and make shadow puppets, sing songs, and tell stories around the campfire.

PLAY

#2 - KID DATES

Carve out some **individual time** with each one of your children either playing at home or doing something fun outside. At the beginning of the summer, have each child answer these questions:

- Name something fun to do at home inside
- Name something fun to do outside
- Name someplace fun to visit in the city

Write the answers on slips of paper and throw them into a bowl. Choose a time, pick something from the bowl, and do the activity.

PLAY

#3 - FAMILY DAY TRIP

Pretend to be a tourist in our own area and check out these little bits of Texas culture.

- *Geo-deck at Reunion Tower*

(<http://www.reuniontower.com/the-tower/geo-deck>)

- *Fire Station #1 Museum in Fort Worth*

(<http://www.fwmuseum.org/150-fort-worth-history>)

- *Western Currency Facility in Fort Worth*

(<http://www.moneyfactory.gov/tours/fortworthtxtours.html>)

- *Old Red Museum in Dallas*

(<http://www.oldred.org/>)

- *Heard Natural Science Museum in McKinney*

(<http://www.heardmuseum.org/>)

PLAY

#4 - NEIGHBORHOOD PLAY

Gather the neighborhood kids together by organizing a group event. Some ideas are:

- *Red Rover in the front yard with watermelon or popsicles as a treat afterwards*
- *Fourth of July parade*
- *Kickball or whiffle ball tournament*

PLAY

#5 - TIME CAPSULE

*Have fun creating a **time capsule** as a way to celebrate your family. Get a container that is large enough to hold several items. As a family decide which items to place inside the box that document everyday life, include some photos and maybe even a letter that talks about life in 2015.*

Select a time to open the capsule - next year, five or 10 years later. Make a note to remember where the capsule is located (somewhere above ground is best) and the date to open it.



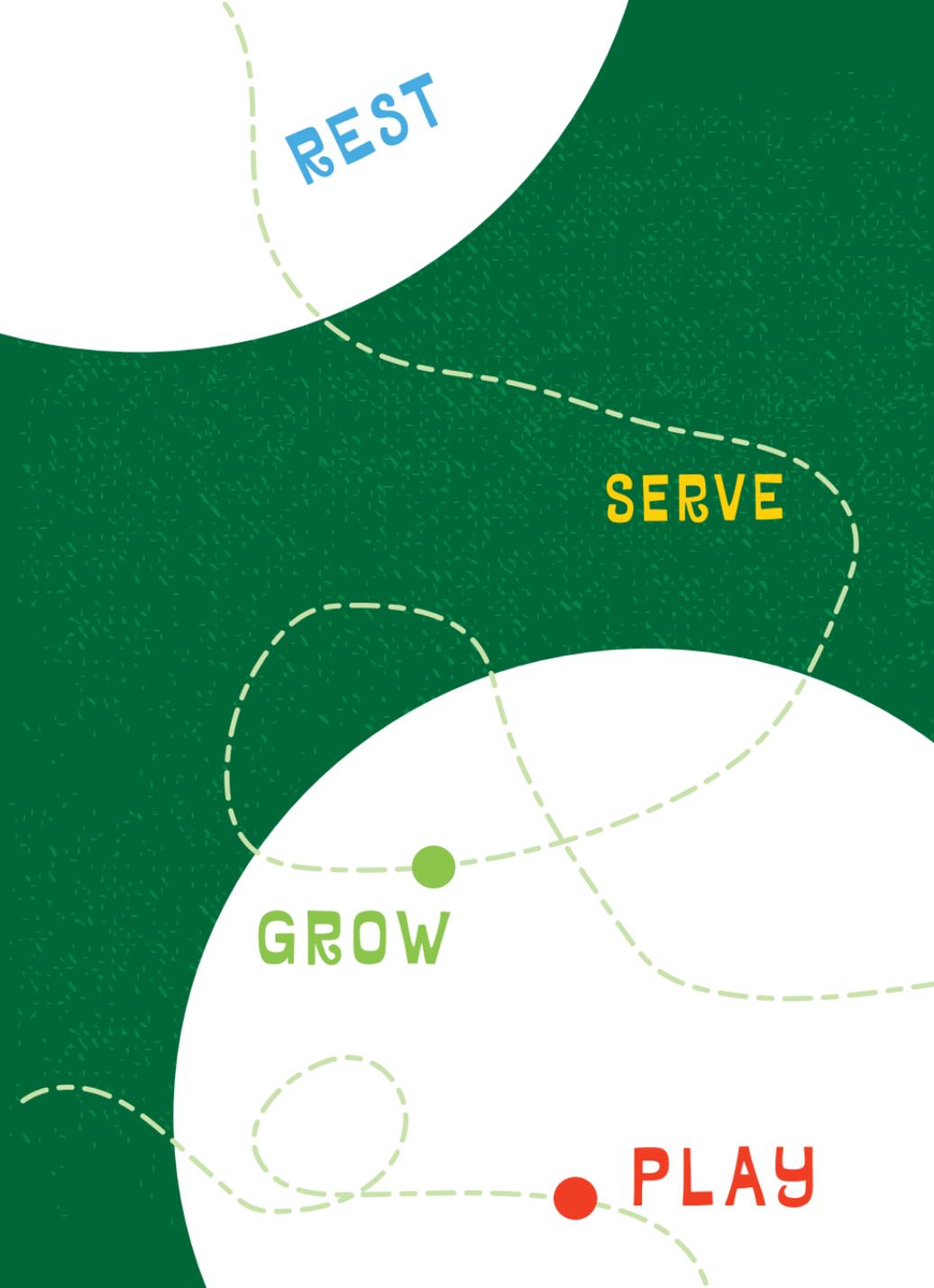
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