

# Creative Fun for Families!



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**Homeschool Faith and Family Life Website!**

<http://www.thebestofhomeschoolfaithandfamilylife.com>

Raising a family in a modern world with a troubled economy certainly has its share of struggles; especially when considering forms of entertainment, celebration, gift-giving, and vacations.

Scroll down for some great ideas that are inexpensive/free which your family is sure to love!

**Customs, traditions, and activities for socializing, celebrating, and fellowshiping in order to build memories that will come to be cherished in future years is a significant part of the family life journey.**

The purpose for entertainment, celebrations, and special gifts and events is to:

- \* Build family bonds and create joyful memories
- \* Show appreciation and thanksgiving
- \* Give to others
- \* Celebrate the milestone moments
- \* Educate the family
- \* Grow in faith
- \* Socialize
- \* FUN!

The goal of this handout is to provide you with creative means that will help you:

- \* Save money
- \* Celebrate your family
- \* Give gifts that are creative and appreciated
- \* Restore family time
- \* Return to a more simple way of life
- \* Have fun!

Being a family is a reason to CELEBRATE!



In addition to the "usual" days that you celebrate as a family, such as birthdays and graduations, why not create a special occasion around some of the following:

**Baptism Days!**

Becoming a Child of God is a wonderful thing, wouldn't you say? All too often, once it occurs, we give thanks and move on without "returning" to the wonder of it all very often.

REMIND YOUR CHILD HOW SPECIAL IT IS!

\* Make a list of each family member's date of Baptism (unless your whole family was baptized at the same time and then you don't need a list, LOL!)

\* When someone's Baptism Day rolls around, place their Baptism candle (if you have one) in the center of your table...or ANY candle, with some lovely flowers, too, if you like.



\* Enjoy a festive meal or dessert together!

### **THANK GOD FOR HOMESCHOOLING DAY!**

Outside schools have entire weeks devoted to things like this.  
(Catholic Schools Week, for instance!)

Why not take one special day, each year, to wear buttons,  
make t-shirts, and decorate the house to celebrate the blessing  
of homeschooling in your lives!

\* Invite some other families to join you, perhaps

\* Research the countries where homeschooling is not legal; and  
pray for that to change

\* Play games, write poems, and give speeches about what  
homeschooling means to you

### **NAME DAY**

For children who are named for a Saint:

\* When that Saint's Feast Day rolls around...celebrate your  
child's NAME DAY!

\* Do crafts and activities centered on that particular Saint

\* Read about his/her life

\* Have a no-school day!

### **ONCE -A- MONTH'S**

Create a once-a-month celebration!

\* Choose the "theme"

A few examples:

Culture Night

Music Night

Foreign Food Night

Old Tyme TV Show or Movies Night

Old Tyme Radio/Audio

Special Era Night (like "Colonial Times" or "The Future")

Coffee House Night

(Everyone shares poetry, musical talent, recitation, etc...)

Once you decide your theme, mark a date on the calendar.

It might be fun to change themes each month!

Decide how you will celebrate your theme:

\*Costumes?

\* Foods that pertain to the evening's topic?

\* By yourselves or with invited guests?

\* Inviting speakers or performers?

\* Decorations?

## **Family Geography Fair**

This is a wonderful means to fellowship, learn along-side your family, and create a festive, social occasion with your friends!

\* Send invitations with instructions that include:

Choosing a country, and outline for the event.

\* Each family will research their chosen country over a period of a couple of weeks. They will make a flag, create a poster or

display board, and bring a food that is native to the land they are teaching about. They may also add things like: dressing in costume, sharing music or teaching a song, telling interesting trivia or facts about culture, faith traditions, industry, etc...

\* On the day of the event, each family takes a turn presenting their chosen country (preferably with each family member taking some part in the presentation).

\* All enjoy tasting the foods that have been brought to share

## **GIVING GIFTS THAT DON'T BREAK THE BANK!**



Simple gifts, gifts that show thought, care, love, and effort, are precious. A little creative thinking, some time put in, and a few gathered (or purchased for minimal cost) supplies can help you to give gifts that will be remembered, enjoyed, and cherished for years to come!

### **GIVE A TREE!**

Choose any nice tree or great climbing tree in your yard.

Make a plaque with some simply wood and some outdoor paint.

Add a bench built from scrap wood and tree stumps.

Host a family procession to "the tree" and present it to your delighted recipient!

Hang up the plaque and gather 'round the tree, holding hands, and praying that the child you are giving the tree to will be blessed with many happy hours there!

### LETTER/TREASURE BOX

Purchase an inexpensive, unfinished box @ craft store.

Paint child's name on it, such as: "Mary's Letter Box" or "Joseph's Treasure Box".

Present it to your son or daughter to keep all of their pen pal letters in. Add a letter of your own to the box as an extra surprise! Or, if it's a treasure box, fill it with a couple of trinkets...perhaps a few odds and ends of yours from your drawers that you child always likes to admire or play with...perhaps a few baked goodies or candies, etc...

### COUPON BOOKS OR BOXES

The possibilities for this idea are almost endless!

Here are a few:

- \* Create-n- print coupons from your computer and staple them into a "tear off" booklet
- \* Use a small, decorative box to fill w/coupons
- \* Create these on a one-at-time basis and tuck them under

pillows or into lunch boxes and backpacks!

**IDEAS FOR COUPONS:**

For Kids:

- \*NO SCHOOL DAY
- \*Come to School in Pajamas Day
- \*Sleep In One Hour Day
- \*Choose the Dinner Meal
- \*Get Out of Chores FREE Card
- \*Movie and Popcorn Night with Mum and Dad (at home)
- \*Invite a Friend for a Special Play Day
- \*Breakfast in Bed (kids LOVE this too)
- \*Stay Up Late Tonight Card

**HUSBANDS LOVE COUPONS TOO!**

**\* Box of 12: One per month, keeps giving all year long!**

Choose breakfasts in bed or special desserts, etc...

Create coupons with some wonderful menus/ideas on each one, according to your theme...

Tell your hubby that he can redeem one coupon per month and he will enjoy this gift all year long!

**NOTE:** Advise him to redeem his coupon each month BEFORE grocery shopping day so that you may make sure you are prepared with supplies/ingredients.

Other ideas for "husband" coupons:

- \* A collection of random coupons, such as:
  - \* Good for one back rub
  - \* Good for a Dad's Night In ( You and the kids skeedaddle

while he has a couple pals over for some cards or sports-watching!)

\* Good for one extra project (He gets to tell you and the kids what job he wants done!)

\* Good for a steak on the grill (Can't afford steak for the whole family...just cook one up for your beloved...with all the fixings and a baked potato...perhaps a nice frosty beer, if he'd like that...you and the kiddos cook and serve and watch him ENJOY!)

**NOTE:** You can eat a little earlier so that he enjoys his steak alone...or...have a simpler fare prepared ahead of time for you and the kids to eat while he enjoys his king's feast!

### POEMS AND STORY BOOKS:

Write a poem for your child; decorate and frame it!  
Just write what you feel and what you love about him/her!  
Needn't be an Emerson or Poe to do this!

Write a story about your child!

\* Blank cardboard books usually available at Oriental Trading

\* Simple illustrations (or...if you'd rather...digital or photographic)

\* Rhyme or not...it's up to you! Simple sentences, telling special things, virtues, favorite activities and memories about your child.

### HOMEMADE STATIONERY SET:

\*Markers, stamps, hole punches, etc...

- \* Borders, headings, designs that match paper to envelopes
- \* Pretty ribbon to tie the bundle together
- \* If you can afford the cost, throw in some postage stamps, stickers, and/or address labels to go with your gift...and perhaps a pretty pen or pencil.
- \* Boys' or Girls' Themes

**OTHER GIFT ITEMS THAT ARE FUN, UNIQUE, and EASY TO MAKE FOR LITTLE COST:**

Visit the following page on our website, Homeschool Faith and Family Life:

<http://www.thebestofhomeschoolfaithandfamilylife.com/Christmas-gift-ideas.html>

to get the FULL details and ideas for these gifts!

- \* Homemade Playdough Kit
- \* Aprons
- \* Custom-made Crayons
- \* Paperweights
- \* Photo Ornaments



**MAKE -N-BAKE GIFT IDEAS:**

\* Homemade Reese's Cups

\* Homemade Peanut Brittle

\* Pretzel Bites

**OTHER CREATIVE THOUGHTS:**

**Herb Garden:**

\* Child love to garden or cook? Plant herb garden for them (in secret)...add plaque or labels with their name on it. Present the garden to them as a gift with a few garden tools

**Chocolate Milk:**

\* A gallon, alllll their very own!

**Snowflake Surprise:**

Make tons of beautiful snowflakes and while the kids are sleeping hang them from their bedroom ceiling...add some twinkly lights around the room if you like and surprise them as they awaken to a winter wonderland for a gift!

(You can do this with other types of decorations during different seasons!)

**Hands of Love:**

\* Handprints of paint

\* Caption to say : We love you ...&...We appreciate your hard work!

\* Names by each hand

\* Frame



- \* Campfire/S'mores
- \* Movies
- \* Old fashioned Games

Note: Sleeping out under the stars is fun, too!  
Check online for the meteor shower dates this summer!

**GIRL'S NIGHT/BOYS' NIGHT:**

- \* Crafts/snacks
- \* Every month, perhaps
- \* More expensive: going to a camp site or inn.

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**ENJOY YOUR FAMILY, CELEBRATE, SOCIALIZE,  
GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD! Check out our website  
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