Fall

Family Faith Kit

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Fall Family Faith Kit

A Note for Parents

Fall Family Faith Kit is designed for families to incorporate faith into their fall family fun. This kit focuses on Ecclesiastes 3 and talks about the different seasons of life. It includes the following:

- 4 Family Devotions (1 per week)
- 4 Games (1 per week)
- 4 Crafts (1 per week)
- 4 Snack Ideas (1 per week)
- Fall Family Bucket List

When is a good time to do these activities each week?

- Use it on Saturday or Sunday and do all activities for that week in one day.
- Spread out the activities over the whole week. For example, you could read the devotion before school one morning. Then another day do the craft, next day game, next day create the snack.
- Pick out one or two items off the Fall Family Bucket List to do each week.

Fall is a great time to start the habit of spending time together in God's Word as a family. Once you create this habit, your children will want to do it every day and will remind you if you miss a day! These habits will hopefully form in your children a love of God's Word that will stay with them throughout their lives. You are building a foundation of God and His love into your children by spending time together in His Word.

Fall Family Devotion

Week 1 - Ecclesiastes 3:1

"*There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven.*"

It's time for a new season! Fall is probably my favorite season of the year. I love the cool weather, the color of the leaves changing, and just the overall feel of the season.

But did you know you can go through different seasons in your life? I'm not talking about weather seasons. I'm talking about times of change. Instead of the weather changing, our lives change. Different things can happen to us that bring about change in our lives.

In the book of Ecclesiastes, there is a portion of chapter 3 when King Solomon (the author) talks about there being a time for everything. He talks about the seasons of life that we go through. We will walk through different seasons of our life at different times. One day may be the greatest day ever and the next day may not be so good. We may have really easy days at school where we understand everything, then we have days where we just can't seem to understand anything. There may be days when we find ourselves laughing a lot, and then other days we are sad. Seasons change and there is a time for everything.

Whenever I have those not-so-good days, I am reminded of this verse. It brings me hope because of several reasons. One, I know I am not alone when I walk through the hard times. God is walking with me through it and I don't have to be afraid. Two, it reminds me this season will pass and things won't stay bad forever. Good days are coming. And three, it reminds me God works all things for good. He uses everything for good. And we know this because He says it in the Bible (check out Romans 8:28).

If you are finding you are in a tougher season right now, I invite you to pray. Ask God to give you the strength to get through whatever you are going through. Thank God for whatever season you are in...good or bad. And then keep your eyes open to all the ways you will see God work in whatever season you are walking through.

Loving God, thank You for the seasons of life. Give me hope and remind me of Your presence during all seasons of my life. I love You, Lord, Amen.

Fall Family Game

Week 1 - Gummy Search

Supplies Needed: *gummy snacks (you can use fruit snacks, gummy bears or gummy worms), whipped cream, paper plate, towel*

When we walk through difficult seasons sometimes we have to open our eyes to see the good that is hidden. In this game, you will be searching for the good (the gummy snacks) among the pile of whipped cream that keeps them hidden!

On a paper plate, lay out several gummy snacks. Then pile whipped cream on top and fill the plate.

With your hands behind your back, you will use your mouth and search through the whipped cream to find the gummy snacks. Once you find a gummy snack, you can set it aside. After you finish finding all the gummy snacks, recite the Bible memory verse for the week. Then eat all the gummy snacks!

Fall Family Craft

Week 1 - Fall Tree Craft

Supplies Needed: *light blue cardstock, brown construction paper or cardstock, red, orange, yellow and green construction paper or cardstock, paper cutter, gluestick or glue dots, scissors*

I found this craft on the I Heart Crafty Things website. For detailed instructions on how to do this craft, visit their website:
https://iheartcraftythings.com/fall-tree-paper-craft.html

After your child has finished this craft, have them write the Bible memory verse for the week on it: Ecclesiastes 3:1.



Fall Family Snack

Week 1 - Banana Boats

Supplies Needed: *bananas, mini marshmallows, chocolate chips, aluminum foil*

Banana Boats are an easy dessert that can be made over the campfire, on the grill, or in the oven!

Tear off a piece of aluminum foil long enough to cover your banana. Leaving the banana in the peel, slice it lengthwise. Fill the inside of the banana with mini marshmallows and chocolate chips (or any type of chocolate you love). Wrap the banana completely with foil.

Place banana boat on the campfire, grill, or in the oven for about 5 minutes or until chocolate and marshmallows are melted. Peel back and enjoy this yummy treat!

Fall Family Devotion

Week 2 - Ecclesiastes 3:4

"*A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance.*"

To start off, discuss with your family some things that make you laugh. Maybe it's a joke, something a friend said, something silly that one of your family members did, or maybe even your Mom doing some crazy dance moves!

Then, discuss with your family some things that make you cry. Maybe it's a hurtful word said by a friend, being bullied by someone at school, being left out of things with your friends, parents divorcing, or maybe even the loss of someone you love.

Now take a poll with your family....raise your hand if you would like to laugh more. Ok, now raise your hand if you would like to cry more. Which got the most votes? I think I can safely say that all of us would much rather be laughing than crying. Laughter is good for us. It lifts our spirits and makes us feel happy. We would much rather hear a funny story than a sad one for sure.

In Ecclesiastes 3:4, King Solomon is telling us there will be seasons of laughter and joy and seasons of mourning and weeping. We will go through times in our life when all is well and life is good...when we find ourselves smiling and laughing. And then we will go through times when things are tough and life is hard...when we find ourselves in tears.

I know you would rather be laughing, but our lives won't always be full of smiles. But when hard times come and we find ourselves sad, we can cry out to God and be reminded of His presence. We can spend time worshiping God through music. We can get down on our knees and pray for God to help us through the sad times. And then we can trust that God will bring us through it.

Take time today to laugh with your family. Take time to hug your family. Practice encouraging words to each other that can help you through the hard times. And remember that God loves you.

Loving God, thank You for laughter and for tears. Remind me that You are with me in both. And give me strength for each day. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Fall Family Game

Week 2 - Candy Rattle

Supplies Needed: *2 empty 2-liter bottles, duct tape, candy corn*

Want a good laugh today? This game will get you laughing as you shake and dance and move those candy corns!

Fill one empty 2-liter soda bottle with candy corn. Attach the other empty 2-liter soda bottle to the top of it (upside down) using duct tape.

Kids will have one minute to transfer all candy corn from one of the soda bottles to the one attached. If they can do that under a minute they win!

Fall Family Craft

Week 2 - Leaf Painting Prints

Supplies Needed: *leaves (collect different ones outside), paint, paintbrushes, paper*

The fall season brings a change in the leaves. They change colors and then they fall off the trees. Gone are the happy, bright spring colors. All that is left are the bare trees. This can remind us of the seasons of laughter and joy and the seasons of weeping and crying that are found in Ecclesiastes 3:4.

Start by collecting different types of leaves from outside your house. Give each child several leaves. Using the paint color of their choice, have them paint the leaves. Then press them onto a piece of paper to make leaf prints. They can also paint each leaf in a variety of colors to give it a fun look.

Another way to use the leaves is to tape several of them to a white piece of paper. Then let your child paint over and around them using the colors of their choice. After they are done, remove the leaves from the paper. This makes a beautiful outline of leaves!

Fall Family Snack

Week 2 - Mini Pumpkin Pie Rice Krispies

This recipe can be found on **The First Year Blog** website. She lists all the ingredients and how to make it. These little treats look so yummy!

To see this recipe, visit her blog: https://thefirstyearblog.com/mini-pumpkin-pie-rice-krispies/



Fall Family Devotion

Week 3 - Ecclesiastes 3:7

"A time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak."

Think about a time when someone said something to you that really got on your nerves. Maybe it was their constant complaining, or something negative they said about one of your friends, or how they kept doing an annoying habit over and over. Share with your family an example of this.

Now, think about what you did in that situation with that person. Did you speak up and say something to them that was mean or hurtful? Or did you say something kind? Or did you keep quiet and just let what they did or said slide?

In our verse today, King Solomon says there is a time to be silent and a time to speak. But how do we know when we should speak, what we should speak, or when to stay quiet?

I think our answer can be found in prayer and listening to God and His Word. When faced with a decision to make about whether we should speak or not, just pray. Ask God to give you wisdom to know what to do and what to say.

And we can also find our answer in God's Word. One of my favorite verses to pray when I need guidance from the Lord on what to say is Psalm 19:14, *"May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer."* I believe that when we can pray this verse, God will help us know what to say or even give us the wisdom to keep silent.

So the next time you are faced with a situation and you don't know if you should speak or be silent, pray and ask God to give you the wisdom in knowing what to say or not to say.

Father God, forgive me when I say things I should not. Help the words of my mouth be pleasing to You at all times. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Fall Family Game

Week 3 - Bobbing for Apples

Supplies Needed: *bag of apples, large bin or bowl, water, towel*

Before the game begins, mark one apple with a small dot on the bottom side. This is to be the apple of wisdom and the one apple they want to get.

When we are faced with situations of uncertainty about what to do or say in our lives, it can be hard to know what exactly we are supposed to do. But God gives us wisdom when we ask, and He will help us speak when it's time and will give us the words to say what's needed or even give us wisdom to be quiet.

In today's game, your goal is to see how quickly you can find the apple of wisdom. See how long it takes for you to find the specially marked apple.

Fill a large bowl or bin with water. Add in a bag of apples.

Without using your hands (and going one at a time), begin bobbing for apples by using only your mouth. Set a timer to see how long it takes you to find the apple of wisdom. Once you find it, you can stop the game. Repeat this activity for each member of your family. *(Feel free to change out water and apples each time a person bobs)*.

Close by reminding kids that sometimes we forget to ask God for wisdom and it takes us a little longer to remember to ask for it!

Fall Family Craft

Week 3 - Paper Plate Caramel Apple

Supplies Needed: *white paper plate, red or green paint, brown construction paper, jumbo craft stick, duct tape*

Paint a white paper plate red or green. Let dry.

Cut a wavy, rounded piece of brown construction paper to fit one end of the paper plate (make it to look like caramel dripping down). Glue it to the paper plate.

Attach a jumbo craft stick to the back of the paper plate using duct tape. Put it on the same end where you attached the brown construction paper.

On the apple, write a prayer asking God to give you wisdom to know when you should speak and what you should say.

Fall Family Snack

Week 3 - Caramel Apples

6 large apples (Granny Smith are best)
1 cup butter
1 ½ cup packed brown sugar
1 1/4 cup light corn syrup
1 14 oz can sweetened condensed milk
1 ½ teaspoons vanilla extract

To see the instructions for making these caramel apples, visit **The Cooking Classy** website:
https://www.cookingclassy.com/easy-caramel-apples/

Fall Family Devotion

Week 4 - Ecclesiastes 3:8

"A time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace."

Let's play a game! I'm going to ask you several questions that give you two options. You're going to discuss with your family which one you would rather do and why. Are you ready? Let's go!

- Would you rather give a friend a hug or stick your tongue out at them?
- Would you rather smile all the time or frown all the time?
- Would you rather someone speak an encouraging word to you or make fun of you?
- Would you rather forgive others and be at peace or never forgive them and stay mad at them forever?
- Would you rather share your toys with your siblings or never let them play with your toys at all?

These are tough questions and you may have had to think about which you would rather do. In the book of Ecclesiastes, it first says there is a time to love and a time to hate. Now, let me just say this does not mean it's ok to hate someone. That's not what King Solomon is saying here. He's telling us that there will be times when we love everyone and everything, but there will also be times when we don't like something someone does or says. I wish we showed love to everyone all the time, but sadly we don't. People are going to hurt our feelings. People are going to be mean. People are going to say things they don't mean to say and wished they could take back.

And there are also going to be times when it feels like a war going on in your house! Hurtful words are being said to each other, doors are being slammed because we get mad, toys are not being shared, and everyone is not being nice!

But there is also a time for love and a time for peace. God tells us to love others and to forgive others and show them peace. God loves us and forgives us, and we should do the same to others. Sometimes it will be hard to love someone when they are mean to you, but that's when we ask God to help us show them love, even though it's hard. Let's choose to show love and kindness to all people. And let's choose to forgive and show others peace. And we do that because that's what God does every day for us.

Loving God, help me to love others as You love. Help me to forgive others just as You forgive me. Thank You for all that You do for me. I love You, Lord. Amen.

Fall Family Game

Week 4 - Straw Race

Supplies Needed: *straws, candy corn (or other small pieces of candy), 2 paper plates*

You can play this in teams or play against the clock (see if you can do it under a minute).

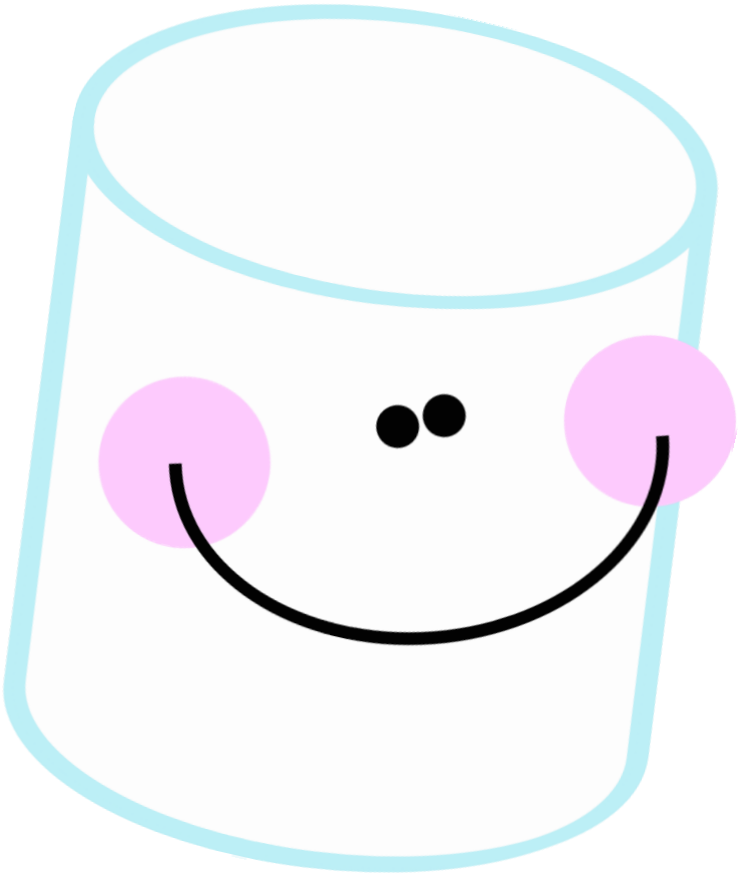
Set out 2 paper plates per person. Pour the same amount of candy corn onto one plate for each member. Using a straw, each person will suck up a piece of candy corn and transfer it to the other paper plate. The first team to successfully transfer all candy corn (without dropping them), wins!

Fall Family Craft

Week 4 - Jesus Loves You S'more Craft

Supplies Needed: *S'more template, brown construction paper, white copy paper, gluestick*

Using the template on the following page, copy the marshmallow onto white copy paper. Trace the rectangles onto brown construction paper and cut out. Glue the 2 brown rectangles on top of the marshmallow. On the brown paper write, "Jesus Loves You S'more".



Fall Family Snack

Week 4 - S'mores

***Supplies Needed**: graham crackers, large marshmallows, chocolate*

You can make a s'more inside or outside!

To make outside, you will need a campfire and a roasting stick. Roast your marshmallow. Then sandwich it between 2 graham crackers and a piece of chocolate.

To make inside, preheat your oven to 450°. Place half a graham cracker on a baking sheet and top it with a large marshmallow. Place in oven for 5 minutes. Take out of oven and place a piece of chocolate on top of marshmallow. Then add another graham cracker to top it off. Enjoy!

FALL Family Bucket List

- GO APPLE PICKING
- MAKE A BIRD FEEDER
- READ THE BIBLE TOGETHER
- TRY A NEW RECIPE
- GIVE A GIFT TO A TEACHER
- BAKE A PIE
- GO ON A FAMILY BIKE RIDE
- DO A RANDOM ACT OF KINDNESS
- HAVE A NERF GUN BATTLE
- CALL A FAMILY MEMBER
- DONATE TO A FOOD PANTRY
- WATCH "IT'S THE GREAT PUMPKIN, CHARLIE BROWN"
- CAMP IN YOUR BACKYARD
- VISIT A PUMPKIN PATCH
- HIKE TO A WATERFALL
- JUMP IN A PILE OF LEAVES
- HAVE A CAMPFIRE
- GO STAR GAZING
- HAVE AN OUTDOOR PICNIC
- TAKE A FALL FAMILY PHOTO
- MAKE CANDY APPLES
- VISIT A FAIR
- GO ON A HAYRIDE
- BAKE PUMPKIN BREAD AND DELIVER TO A NEIGHBOR
- MAKE BANANA BOATS
- DO A SCRIPTURE CHALLENGE
- VISIT A FARMER'S MARKET
- BOB FOR APPLES
- MEMORIZE GALATIANS 6:9
- WATCH A FOOTBALL GAME
- DRINK APPLE CIDER
- PAINT LEAVES YOU COLLECT
- VISIT A CORN MAZE
- CARVE A PUMPKIN
- PLAY HIDE & SEEK WITH GLOWSTICKS
- CLEAN OUT YOUR TOY BOX AND DONATE TOYS