

Family Matters

Oh! Go Fly A Kite!

The days have grown warmer and the sun seems to go down a little slower. What a perfect opportunity to spend more time outside with your children. It seems we have lost the art of 'outside play' in our society with video games, TV, movies, arcades, internet, etc. The LORD has provided the springtime with beauty and cool breezes to entice us to get out and enjoy His handiwork.

Maybe we have forgotten what fun can be enjoyed outside. Dress your children in play clothes and go out and start making some memories. When was the last time you flew a kite? Better still; take a little time to help your children make their own kites. Heavy paper, a little glue, kite string, a few markers and stickers for decorations, a few rags for a tale and 'boom'-there's a kite. If you haven't made one before, just look for instructions on the web. Google 'how to build your own kite'. We kept the kites my husband and children made together for many years. There were so many happy memories in them.

What about mud pies, have you made any lately? Children love to play in the 'goo'. Or maybe if you have little girls you could plan an outside 'tea party.' They could invite their friends with their dolls or maybe just a private tea party for the two of you. Of course, boys and girls love baseball. We use to play a game called 'rollie bat' when our children were small (even teens enjoy this game). No bases to run. It requires a ball (a soft one for young children such as a tennis ball), a bat (or something with which to hit the ball) and people who enjoy lots of fun. You will need a pitcher, a batter, a catcher and those who play the field. The batter hits the ball, anyone except the batter can catch the ball. If it is caught in the air that person gets to bat next. If it is not caught in the air the ball is thrown, (or rolled), from where it was stopped at the bat, which is laid on the ground in front of the batter. If the ball hits the bat that person gets to bat, if not the batter continues to bat. We also played 'first bounce' when our children were 6 to 10 years old. That means if it is caught in the air or on first bounce they get to bat.

There are any number of outside games that can be enjoyed by your family: hopscotch, water balloon games, etc. You probably remember some you played as a child. Be patient-new things can take time to catch on, but the benefits are innumerable! Good memories are so important for the right kind of growth in families. Happy childhoods bring about happy, productive adults. Add the LORD in each and every day and it brings about happy, productive, Christian adults! Who ever thought playing could be so important! Just maybe we can redeem the time and bring our nation back to the LORD through our children, but we must start now!

While playing with your family, take the opportunity to include teaching about the creation and all the blessings we receive from the LORD. Just think of all the things required to fly a kite: eyes to see it, winds to keep it up, hands to hold on to the string, legs to run and get it started, laughter to express our enjoyment and memories to relive it again and again. Which of these things did not require a little help from the LORD? What an opportunity to show our little ones GOD in their everyday lives!

Let's follow the example GOD gave to Israel in teaching their children of Him:

"Hear, O Israel, the LORD thy GOD is one LORD: And thou shall love the LORD thy GOD with all thine heart and with all thy soul and with all thy might. And these things which I command thee this day shall be in thine heart: And thou shall teach them diligently unto thy children and shall talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down and when thou risest up." Deuteronomy 6:4