



## **FAMILY KIT**

Drive faith home this Summer...make it the Best Summer Ever!

## BUCKET LIST

Create a bucket list for intentional times this summer. Consider writing your ideas on a poster board, popsicle sticks or paper to go in a jar. Come up with your own list, or borrow from these suggestions:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Read a book                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Camp in your back yard  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Take a walk together               | <input type="checkbox"/> Go to the zoo   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Visit the library                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Do a service project  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sing a favorite song               | <input type="checkbox"/> Bake something together                                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Play a game                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Go bowling  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dance                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Go to a museum  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Have a picnic                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Do a puzzle   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Watch a favorite movie             | <input type="checkbox"/> Play on a playground  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Write a letter                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Work in the yard/garden                                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Build a fort                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Go through old pictures                                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Run through the sprinkler          | <input type="checkbox"/> Put together your family tree                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Play in kiddie pool/slip and slide | <input type="checkbox"/> Try a new restaurant  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Go on a family bike ride           | <input type="checkbox"/> Write out your home's prayer requests and pray for each other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Play frisbee                       |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Have a water balloon fight         |  |

## SUMMER FAMILY TIME

Take advantage of the warm evenings to plan a few outdoor Family Time activities. Try this one to get started then discover more Family Time ideas at [heritagebuilders.com](http://heritagebuilders.com)

**Following The Directions:** Create a map or use a GPS to guide you to a favorite place such as park. Load up the family and let them know you are going for a fun surprise. Have children give directions from the map/GPS device-guiding you step by step. As you get directions, insist you know best and turn the wrong way. Try to end up at some dead end and admit you got lost. Ask the kids what you should do. (Answer: Start over and follow directions!) After you finally arrive at the destination after properly following directions, read **Psalm 119:104-105** and discuss the following:

- What went wrong the first time we drove? (Answer: I ignored the map)
- What is the map for us to make right choices in life? (Answer: The Bible)
- How much fun would we be having now if I kept insisting I knew best? (Answer: None!)

## SUMMER SERVING

Summer is a great opportunity to teach your children about serving and helping others. See if there is a neighbor or friend that has a need. Your project can be as simple as providing a meal to going on a mission trip with your family.

## SUMMER RESOURCES

- **Making Summer Count**, by Joyce Heinrich and Annette Heinrich LaPlaca, includes scriptural devotions, stories, reinforcing activities for the whole family, suggestions for vacations with a difference, and more.
- **Sanity in the Summer**, by Linda Dillow and Claudia Arp. This fun-filled book features easy-to-do, creative activities, games, recipes, and more to help you and your children enjoy the summer months together.
- **The 4:8 Principle**, by Tommy Newberry, is a great Date Night resource for couples to go through together and/or with older children during the summer months to help create a joy-filled culture at home.
- **Adventures in Odyssey: The Ultimate Road Trip Family Vacation Collection** audio (age 8 and older)

# BEST SUMMER EVER

## INTENTIONAL TIME YOUR FAMILY WILL NEVER FORGET

## SUMMER SCRIPTURE

**Choosing a summer scripture for your home helps focus on the importance and power of God's Word and allows you to have fun together along the way. The following ideas can help you get started:**

- **Pick:** Work together as a family to pick a summer scripture. Consider choosing a topic in an area in which your family might need to grow. (eg: kindness, gratitude, compassion)
- **Write:** Spend some time writing out the verse in different ways. Use little cards that can be put on bathroom mirrors, computers, in the car, etc. Have kids draw if they are too young to write out the verse.
- **Move:** Create hand motions for each word in the verse. This is helpful for memorization and is great fun creating together.
- **Sing:** Put your verse to a popular tune to sing together.
- **Play:** Use the words in the verse to play a game. For example, sit in a circle and toss a bean bag to each other. The first person starts with the first word of the verse and tosses the bag. Whoever catches the bean bag next says the second word to the verse, and so on.
- **Repeat:** Throughout the summer, choose specific times like bedtime, dinner or in the car that you go through your verse together.

## SUMMER STORIES

**Awaken your family's moral imagination with great stories rooted in Christian values.**

As a place to start, we highly recommend all seven Chronicles of Narnia stories by C.S. Lewis. (age 8 and older) These can be found in both book and audio format. We also suggest the following titles to help you select age-appropriate literature for each of your children.

- **Honey for a Child's Heart**, by Gladys Hunt
- **Honey for a Teen's Heart**, by Gladys Hunt and Barbara Hampton

## SUMMER TRAVEL

**"Are we there yet?" Summer is often a time with hours in a car or plane. Make the most of travel time together with these great ideas.**

### PREPARATION

- To help children get the most from traveling, include them in the preparations for the trip. Get a road map for each school-age child, and find books or search online about the places you will see.
- Pack a special activity bag for each child. Ideas to include in the bag: games, notepad, favorite snacks, a fun craft or activity, or books.

### ACTIVITIES

**You can also get creative and work together to make up your own games.**

- **Alphabet Thankfulness:** You can play this game out loud or have older kids write out their lists. Starting with the letter A, each person names something that they can be thankful to God for. This can be a person, place or anything! Examples: A-Aunt Peggy, B-Brothers, C-Chocolate. At the end of the game, say a prayer thanking God for all the things He has blessed you with.
- **Car Bingo:** Search online for a free car bingo game printable or make your own. You can draw pictures or use stickers of items you might see.
- **Talk Time:** Travel time is a great opportunity to connect and communicate with each other. Have a list of questions to talk through. Take turns asking questions, letting your kids ask you questions as well. Questions can be as simple and silly as "If you were any animal what would you be and why?" to deeper questions like, "What is one thing you want us to pray for you this next year?"
- **Drive-time Audio:** Hours in the car fly by when enjoying these wonderful stories that reinforce Christian faith and values. Consider listening to Adventures in Odyssey and Chronicles of Narnia.

## SUMMER MOVIES

**Watching movies together as a family can be fun and intentional. Watch together and use the following questions to open up dialogue.**

- What was the "big idea" in the story?
- Who were the main characters and what were they hoping for or trying to achieve?
- What qualities did you admire in the main characters?
- What qualities did not honor God?
- What themes or scenes from this film touch issues of faith and/or morality?
- Did the story affirm our beliefs or undermine them?

## SUMMER JOURNAL

**Kick off an "All About Me" project that can continue throughout the entire summer!**

- **Make A Journal:** Get items to make a small journal for your child. Let them use stickers, cut out items they love in magazines, etc. to decorate their "All About Me" journal.
- **Pose Questions:** Create some questions for them to answer in their journal about themselves, their age, their favorite things, etc.
- **Keepsakes:** Encourage them to collect keepsakes from particular activities that you do during the summer months.
- **Pictures:** Buy a disposable camera for them to take special photos of their summer fun to add to the journal.
- **Celebrate:** At the end of the summer, go through the "All About Me" book and talk about all the wonderful memories that you have made. Celebrate God's goodness for all His many blessings!
- **Share:** This is also a great project for kids to take back to school to share when their teacher asks them what they did this summer.



**FAMILY  
BUCKET  
LIST**

**FUN GOALS  
FOR THE SUMMER:**

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# **SPIRITUAL GOALS FOR THE SUMMER:**

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**BEST  
SUMMER  
EVER**



# BUCKET LIST GAME!

**BEST  
SUMMER  
EVER**

**A CREATIVE GAME FOR EVERY HOME!  
FOR FAMILIES! FOR COUPLES!  
FOR GRANDPARENTS! FOR FUN!**

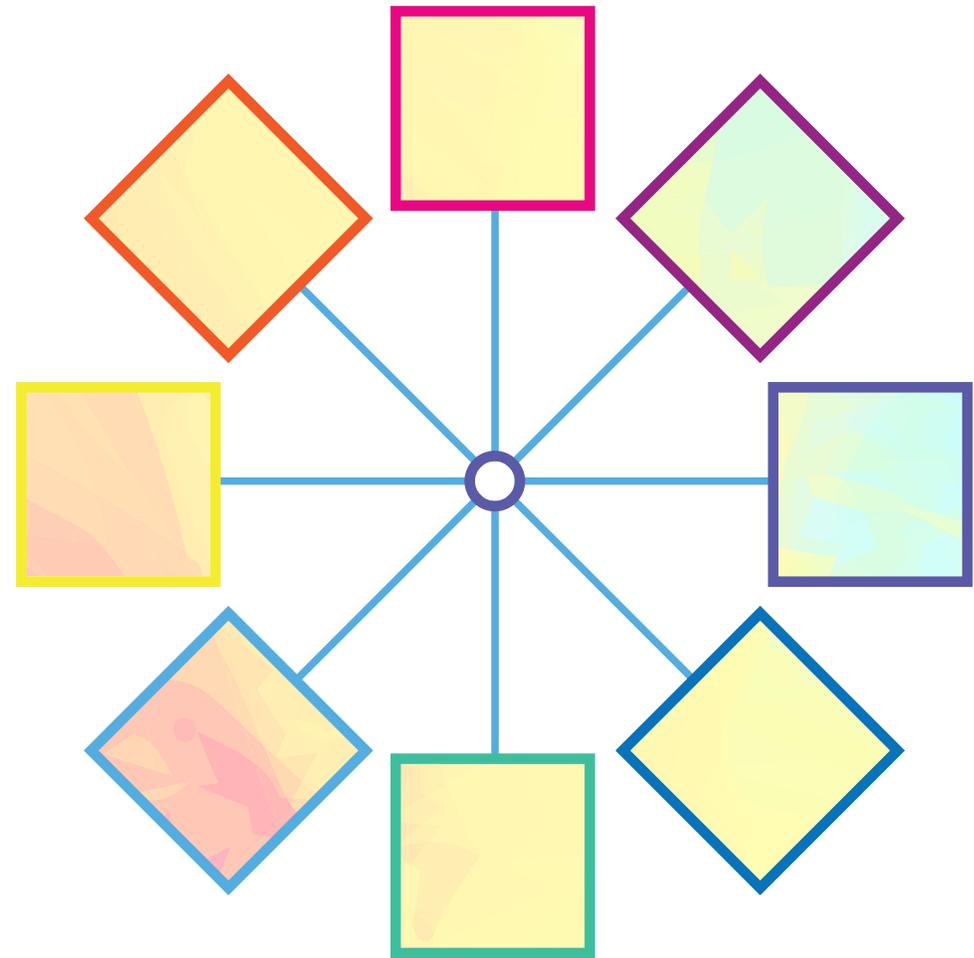
When you want to have some fun together and you don't know what to do or someone says "I'm bored"~ take a spin and see what it lands on!

## USE THE IDEAS BELOW OR COME UP WITH YOUR OWN TO CREATE YOUR BUCKET LIST FOR THE BEST SUMMER EVER.

With a dry erase marker, change out the activities with agreed upon choices that fit for your time together. Below are some suggestions.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Read a book                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Take a day trip                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Go outside and play          | <input type="checkbox"/> Have a picnic                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sing your favorite song      | <input type="checkbox"/> Write a letter                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Have a dance party           | <input type="checkbox"/> Run through the sprinkler          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I love you because...        | <input type="checkbox"/> Play in kiddie pool/slip and slide |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Watch your favorite movie    | <input type="checkbox"/> Play frisbee                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Build a fort                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Camp in your backyard              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Go to a community pool       | <input type="checkbox"/> Go to the zoo                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Take a family bike ride      | <input type="checkbox"/> Do a service project               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Have a water balloon fight   | <input type="checkbox"/> Go bowling                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Camp in your living room     | <input type="checkbox"/> Find new games to play             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bake something together      | <input type="checkbox"/> Go dancing/dance lessons           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Go to a museum               | <input type="checkbox"/> Find a new hobby together          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Take a cooking class         | <input type="checkbox"/> Have a progressive dinner          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Have a movie marathon        | <input type="checkbox"/> Go to a drive-in movie             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Go to a concert              | <input type="checkbox"/> Work in the yard/garden            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Put a puzzle together        | <input type="checkbox"/> Put together your family tree      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Play on a playground         | <input type="checkbox"/> Take goodies to a neighbor         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Go through old pictures      | <input type="checkbox"/> Play putt-putt golf                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Try a new restaurant         | <input type="checkbox"/> Make activity coupon books         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Go roller-skating            | <input type="checkbox"/> Give each other compliments        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Go horseback riding          | <input type="checkbox"/> Go fishing                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Plant a tree together        | <input type="checkbox"/> Go to the aquarium                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Go to a musical              | <input type="checkbox"/> Ride go-carts                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Go on a scavenger hunt       | <input type="checkbox"/> Go bird watching                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Build a fire to make s'mores | <input type="checkbox"/> Write out your prayer requests     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fly a kite together          | <input type="checkbox"/> Pray for each other                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Go to a sporting event       | <input type="checkbox"/> _____                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Go visit a nursing home      | <input type="checkbox"/> _____                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Go to a splash park          | <input type="checkbox"/> _____                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Take a walk together         | <input type="checkbox"/> _____                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Visit the library            | <input type="checkbox"/> _____                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Play a game                  | <input type="checkbox"/> _____                              |

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**USE FOR SUMMERTIME FUN,  
WHEN KIDS GET BORED, ON VACATION,  
VISITING GRANDPARENTS, AND MORE.**



# COUPLES BUCKET LIST: TOGETHER LET'S...

## **BEST USE**

As a date night discussion guide to nurture a pattern of fun dates and creative times for couples to connect with each other

## **ADVANCE PREPARATION**

- Schedule a dinner or coffee date
- Each spouse check at least three activities found on the reverse side that you would like to do together

## **DURING THE DATE**

1. Take turns sharing your top three bucket list ideas
2. Spend some time dreaming of other things to do together
3. Plan and schedule three additional dates—taking turns selecting from your top choices on the bucket list

## TOGETHER LET'S...

- Go bowling
- Go to a museum
- Find new games to play
- Take a cooking class
- Go dancing/take lessons
- Camp out or camp in
- Have a movie marathon
- Go on a mission trip
- Find a new hobby
- Go to a concert
- Have a progressive dinner
- Put a puzzle together
- Find a drive-in movie
- Serve others
- Go on walks
- Play on a playground (without kids)
- Work in the yard/garden
- Go through old pictures
- Research our family trees
- Go on a road trip
- Try a new restaurant
- Take goodies to a neighbor
- Go roller-skating
- Play putt-putt golf
- Go horseback riding
- "People watch" at the mall
- Eat on our good china
- Plant a tree
- Pick fruit to bake with
- Read a book
- Memorize a scripture
- Make coupon books for each other
- Go to a musical
- Have a massive food or water fight
- Make scavenger hunts for each other
- Spend a preset amount of money on each other
- Window shop with "pretend" money
- Take a photography class
- Go fishing
- Build a fire to make s'mores
- Rent a favorite movie
- Star gaze
- Go to the aquarium
- Fly a kite
- Ride go-carts
- Build something
- Go to a sporting event
- Run through the sprinkler
- Go on a day trip
- Ride bikes or take a hike
- Start a collection together
- Make a list of compliments to share with each other
- Find a new recipe, grocery shop and cook together
- Pray aloud for each other
- Go to an arboretum/park for a picnic and pictures
- Go to the zoo

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

**BEST  
SUMMER  
EVER**

## FOURTH OF JULY

We celebrate American Independence Day on the Fourth of July every year. The Continental Congress approved the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. This day represents the birth of the United States of America as an independent nation.

### FOLLOW THESE STEPS FOR A MEANINGFUL CELEBRATION:

- Select one or more of the activities described in this guide that best fits your family.
- Host a “flag raising ceremony” using a house flag or by placing a small flag in your yard.
- Say the Pledge of Allegiance together while facing the flag with your right hand over your heart.

“ I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all. ”

- Sing any of the patriotic songs listed in this guide.
- Celebrate with a cake and sing “Happy Birthday” to America.
- Take turns voicing short prayers of thanks for ways in which God has blessed America.

## GOING FURTHER RESOURCES

### RECOMMENDED BOOKS:

#### **God Bless Our Country**

by Hannah C. Hall

This book celebrates family and love for our country. It teaches children to stand with pride as we thank God. For children ages 2-6.

#### **The Declaration of Independence from A-Z**

by Catherine L. Osornio

An alphabet book that tells the story of how our nation's founding came to be. For children ages 4-9.

#### **America's Black Founders: Revolutionary Heroes and Early Leaders**

by Nancy I. Sanders

This book weaves the histories of dozens of men and women who have earned proper recognition among the founders of the United States of America. For children ages 9 and above.

#### **NKJV The American Patriot's Bible: The Word of God and the Shaping of America**

by Richard Lee

A unique Bible connecting the history of the United States and events of the Bible to our lives in a modern world.

### RECOMMENDED WEBSITES:

**Wallbuilders.com** is an organization dedicated to presenting America's forgotten history.

**Mantleministries.com** helps parents pass a mantle of America's Christian heritage from one generation to another.

**Operationwearehere.com** and **Amillionthanks.org** give ideas, resources and opportunities to thank and encourage those in service.

## 4TH OF JULY AT HOME

### A FAMILY GUIDE TO OUR NATION'S GODLY HERITAGE

America was founded on Godly principles. Use this guide to celebrate our heritage while teaching these truths about our country's history to the next generation.

**TRY ONE OR MORE OF THESE ACTIVITIES TO HELP YOUR FAMILY DISCOVER THE BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES ON WHICH OUR NATION WAS FOUNDED.**

## PRAY FOR GODLY LEADERSHIP

**Read:** 2 Chronicles 7:14

**Do:** Make a prayer flag together with your family to pray for national, state and local leaders. Cut several stars from white paper. On each star, write the name of a local, state or national leader. Glue the stars onto blue paper. Glue red and white ribbon in a row across the top. Hang the prayer flag on the refrigerator or any visible area for the family. Pray for a different leader each day.

**Pray:** Dear God, please give our leaders the courage to do what is right and guide them into making wise decisions. We specifically pray for INSERT NAME/POSITION that he/she will follow Your leading in his/her position.

## SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

**Read:** Psalm 91

**Do:** Make a card for a soldier or someone who has served our country. Write an encouraging note. Invite younger children to draw a picture. Include Scriptures for comfort and strength. When finished, mail to the following address: A Million Thanks, 17853 Santiago Blvd #107-355, Villa Park, CA 92861

**Pray:** Pray for those who are serving in the armed forces protecting our freedom. Take turns reading each of the verses of **Psalm 91** aloud as a prayer for our soldiers both at home and all around the world.

## OUR NATION'S GODLY HERITAGE

**Read:** Proverbs 29:2

**Do:** Read the Declaration of Independence and find four references to God. As believers, we celebrate that our country was founded on faith!

**Read: Ephesians 3:12** (NIV) together: "In Him (Christ) and through faith in Him we may approach God with freedom and confidence."

**Optional:** Make an American Flag (or use one that you already have) and use musical instruments to put on your own family parade or join in a community parade. Red represents bravery, blue signifies perseverance and white represents purity. These are three strong principles upon which our country is founded. Discuss bravery, perseverance and purity.

**Pray:** Thank God for the freedom that we have living in the United States of America and the freedom we have in Him. Ask God to help your family be brave, to persevere and to have purity as you celebrate those freedoms.

**“ We recognize no sovereign but God, and no King but Jesus! ”**

**John Adams & John Hancock**

## DEPEND ON GOD

**Read:** Psalm 33:12

**Do:** Read portions of the Declaration of Independence aloud together. Use the example below or write a simple document declaring your own family's dependence on God. Invite your family to sign it and then read aloud your family's testimony of your dependence upon God.

**“ We declare our dependence on God as a family and acknowledge that family is central to the Creator's plan. We declare our marriage is a sacred covenant before the Lord and our children are a heritage from the Lord. Therefore, as a family, we depend on Him in all things, we declare His unfailing provision and we demonstrate a life of gratitude for the freedom He has given. ”**

**Pray:** Ask God to help your family trust His divine leadership for America and for your family.

## PATRIOTIC SONGS TO SING TOGETHER

*This Is My Country  
God Bless America  
America the Beautiful  
God of This City  
My Country 'Tis of Thee*





# OUR SUMMER TECH PLAN

## **BEST USE**

As a family time discussion guide to create a healthy plan for using devices and technology in a God-honoring way during the summer

## **ADVANCE PREPARATION**

- Schedule a family time and include some special treats such as ice cream sundaes or cookies
- Look through the ideas found on the reverse side and think through what will work best for your family

## **DURING THE FAMILY TIME**

1. Read through the ideas/tips together.
2. Discuss and create a summer tech plan using this guide to talk about the positive/negative aspects of technology. Your family will have the greatest success if you help establish the “why” behind the plan.

## READ:

Look up and discuss two scriptures as a foundation for setting internal values and talking about the “why” behind technology boundaries.

- Guard your mind (see **Philippians 4:8**)
- Setting time limits (see **1 Corinthians 6:12**)

## CHOOSE A STRATEGY:

- Tech Tickets:** Do a chore or make a good choice to earn a ticket/sticker, which you may turn in for a certain amount of tech time.
- Before Tech Time:** Have a list of items/chores that need to be completed before your tech time.
- Create Your Own Strategy:** Use your current system or create a new one, and add a summer technology plan to help manage time and priorities. Check out Choremonster and OurPact to set limits, block, schedule, and grant access to devices.

## TECH TIPS:

- **Be Together:** Engage in technology together vs everyone on their own devices.
- **Protection:** Invest in software services such as Covenant Eyes to help protect your family when using a device that can access the web. Use promo code CONNECTED for a free 30-day trial at **covenanteyes.com**
- **Charging Time:** Set a time frame when everyone will charge their devices in one place like the kitchen or parent’s bedroom. (ie. 8pm-7am)
- **Time Limits:** Set limits for how long each family member can be on devices, including yourself. (Exceptions may apply for time spent on trips and work.)
- **Tech-free Zones:** Create certain times or places (mealtime, car time, bedrooms, etc.) that are tech-free to help protect and promote family interaction.
- **Model Behavior:** Put your device down and connect with your child. Model now what you want your kids to do in the future.

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## OUR HOME SUMMER TECH PLAN:

Below, write out your summer tech plan. Include the strategy, exceptions, limits, and tech-free zones. Have everyone sign it and then go enjoy a dessert together.

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Signatures:

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**SINGLES  
BUCKET  
LIST**

**FUN GOALS  
FOR THE SUMMER:**

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# SPIRITUAL GOALS FOR THE SUMMER:

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**BEST  
SUMMER  
EVER**



**STUDENTS  
BUCKET  
LIST**

**FUN GOALS  
FOR THE SUMMER:**

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# **SPIRITUAL GOALS FOR THE SUMMER:**

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**BEST  
SUMMER  
EVER**

# BEST SUMMER EVER

**FILL MY BUCKET...  
\_\_\_\_\_ 'S BUCKET**

