

A Blessing for Travel

By Paige Evers

It's summer! It's vacation time! The day is finally here. The suitcases are packed. Your car has a full tank of gas or maybe you have boarding passes tucked away in your pocket. You've made your best guess for how many goldfish crackers you'll need during the trip. Most importantly, you have your child's favorite stuffed animal handy for nap time in the car, on the train, or in the airplane. Before you leave on vacation, take a moment to say a prayer for traveling mercies.

For

Young Family

Season

Summer

Prepare in Advance

Pack a pen, pencil, crayons, or markers and copies of Our Vacation worksheet (see last page) to continue the activity as you travel. Allow five minutes between getting ready to go and leaving the house for this activity.



Activity Plan

1. Gather your family after everything is packed and you're ready to leave the house. Remind the children where you're going and how you're getting there. Affirm how happy you are to be taking this trip together. Ask each family member to tell one thing he or she is looking forward to on the trip.
2. Explain that on each day of your trip, you will work together to write a quick note or a color a picture about the highlight of that day to help you remember the trip.
3. Read aloud Psalm 5:11-12: "But let all who take refuge in you rejoice; let them ever sing for joy, and spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may exult in you. For you bless the righteous, O Lord; you cover him with favor as with a shield."
4. Hold hands in a circle and pray aloud:

Dear God, thank you for summer vacation and family time! Please be with us while we travel. Keep us healthy and safe. While we are enjoying our adventures, help us to grow closer to one another and to you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

5. During your trip, take a few moments at bedtime each night to review the day and record a highlight or two on the Our Vacation worksheet (see last page). Children can draw a picture or adults can record a memory that children dictate to them. Tell the children that you'll look at what you've drawn and written when you pray before going back home. Later, you might add your drawings and memories to a scrapbook or photo album.
6. Before you leave to return home, gather everyone and review the highlights of the trip you recorded on the Our Vacation worksheet. Read aloud Psalm 5:11-12. See #4 above.
7. Hold hands in a circle and pray aloud:

Dear God, thank you for vacation! Thank you especially for (family members name highlights of the trip). Please guide us and keep us safe as we travel home. May our memories of this trip continue to bless us as we return to our daily lives. Amen.

Our Vacation

Highlights of things we did, saw, experienced, and enjoyed.

Date	Place	Memory

