

## Summertime: Ordinary Time

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The longest time in the liturgical calendar is called ordinary time, and it happens over the summer and goes into the fall. Make ordinary time something extraordinary for your family.

### For

Teen Family

### Season

Summer

### Needed

Making It Better worksheet – just one copy (see last page), pen for each family member



### Activity Plan

1. Say this prayer aloud to begin.

*God, show us how to make our everyday lives better. Amen.*

2. Explain how ordinary time is the part of the church year when no particular moment or aspect of the Christian mystery is celebrated. By contrast, Advent and Christmas lead up to and celebrate Jesus' birth, and Lent and Easter lead up to and celebrate Jesus' death and resurrection. In many ways, this is like family time during the summer. From September to June, families immerse themselves in school activities. When the school year ends for the summer, the pace and structure often changes rather dramatically. Ordinary time in the church happens over the summer and goes into the fall. Just because this part of the church year is called ordinary time doesn't mean it's boring time. Churches often decorate their sanctuaries with the color green during ordinary time. Green symbolizes new life and growth.
3. As a family, talk about these questions:
  - What do you like best about summer? Why?
  - How is summer ordinary to you? Extraordinary for you?
  - What do you do when you get bored over the summer?
  - How can we make our family times more meaningful?
  - How can we make our time at church more meaningful?
4. Present the Making It Better worksheet. Use one copy for your entire family. Give each family member a pen. As a family, choose five of the activities on the handout that you usually do. Have a family member circle those five activities.
5. Brainstorm ideas of how to make each of those five activities better. For example, maybe your family chose the activity: swim. One way to make swimming better is to go in the morning or late afternoon so you're less likely to get sunburned. Or maybe you want to buy some splash balls or other pool toys to make swimming more of a family activity. Have one family member write the idea next to one activity. Then have another family member write another idea next to another activity that you circled. Do this until you have completed the five you circled.
6. Choose one of the five activities you circled to focus on for this week. See what happens. Continue to encourage family members to be creative in making ordinary activities more extraordinary.

## Making It Better

Circle five of the activities below that you usually do. Then write one way to make each one better and more interesting.

Activity	How to Make It Better	Activity	How to Make It Better
Swim		Visit the library	
Practice a musical instrument		Play soccer	
Work at a summer job		Play video games	
Do something artistic		Do household chores	
Invite a friend over		Eat a meal together	
Surf the Internet		Have family time	
Visit someone in need		Go to church	
Go shopping		Text each other	
Talk together		Watch TV	
Clean your room		Go for a walk	
Garden		Take a family trip	

