

# Holidays with Purpose

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Holiday horror!

- Is that you?
- Why?  
Noise – fights – MONEY...

Guilt? Glad when returning to school? Seasons!!!

I love holidays!

- Less rush
- Time to teach, play, catch up on jobs, train
- Build family identity – who we are as a team. Families need a bank of shared experiences, memories and happy times to draw on in the future and build healthy relationships and identity.

Everything we do... parenting for the future...

Parenting with the future in mind

- Provides the motivation, momentum and passion to keep on going.
- Helps to prioritize our lives and activities and
- Encourages us of the worth of all the 'small' stuff.

Must be thinking ahead to reach the desired destination.

The holidays can be a really important time in our child rearing years as the time pressure is generally relieved somewhat. We are in the drivers seat – not the clock.

Not every holiday period the same. Depends on many different factors.

- New baby
- Fun focus
- Survival mode
- Boot camp
- Mixture

Certain things that we may want in every holiday.

List:

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E.g. Fun; time to chill; catch up on some jobs...

Have you thought about your parenting destination? Not really a goal setting topic but worth a moments consideration or this topic is just *nice* rather than *meaningful*.

Title from "Healthy Families" book by Covey. Page 9-10

*PR 22:6 Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.*

Some questions to think about

1. Do I have a 'parenting flight plan'?
2. What is 'the way they should go'? His way not my way.
3. What does God desire for my children?
4. What does God require of me as a parent?
5. Has God already shown me something of His heart for my child specifically?

Never considered these things before? That's OK!! Learner driver... few metres ahead... have to learn to look further down the road...

My parenting flight plan:

Healthy, happy, whole and holy; able to function well in the real world and who will choose our faith because they want to. Represents a WHOLE lot of things to me – not the forum to expand here today...

In thinking of your children's future – there will be things common to all and others tailored to the individual.

Take a child inventory. Sheets provided... think later....

Consider prayerfully, and list for each child as able (over 3??)

Interests <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can be natural or cultivated!!</li> <li>• Keep wide by not allowing media to shape</li> </ul>	Reading, People, Science, Everything! Dinosaurs, Horses
Talents	Singing, Talking, Hockey; Developing – all rounder; Organized,
Strengths (character and personality)	Responsible, Involved, Caring, Happy, Try's hard,
Weaknesses (character and personality)	Lethargic, Overbearing, negative, tactless, easily hurt, loud
Observations – the quirky stuff!	Likes words Always moving Remembers detail Feels silly Loves dinosaurs! Responds to music
Application	

*PS 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.*

The keys to a happier holiday are to anticipate, plan ahead and communicate clearly.

As Holy Spirit goes before us and prepares the way, you go before your children and prepare the way for them.

**Structure**

Don't like structure? Me either? Like planning – not maintaining...

Combination of:

- Overall across the 2 or 7 week period
- Daily – at home
- Roomtime – helps in overall contentment
- Consider Dad in your activities.

**Expectations**

- Expect mess
- Don't try to do too much. M,W, F or T, Th out. Rest at home.
- Sleep needs of littlies
- Boys energy factor.

**Hint for going out:**

Preactivity training

**Hint for staying in:**

TV – helper not ruler of the home

**Check out these publications:**

- \* Holidays book
- \* Every Child...
- \* Parents Paper
- \* Shire information
- \* Local paper events pages

I always want some time just to CHILL and stop running. Kids still need structure tho and this brings more peace into the home. Less effort to drive a simple structured day than to play catch up all day long.

Kids questions can seem irritating but they just want to know...if your husband... all the time??

Charts – make some to communicate event, expectations, times.

Helps consolidate your thoughts and cuts down on questions. Trains in patience, initiative and self control.

- Holiday home program
- Bedtimes
- Job lists and set times
- Jobs for pay
- Holiday and camping list

All these things set out mean I don't have to think about it every time it gets asked...

### **Specific Idea Area headings:**

- Special interest
- Skills
- At home fun
- Life Lessons
- Character
- Just for fun
- Final thoughts

#### Special interest

- Music
- Free concerts
- Shopping centres?
- Plays
- Art gallery
- Drama/plays
- Community theatre
- Dress rehearsals
- Studios, galleries, shopping centres, fairs – hands on activities
- Science – Dick Smith cheap experiments
- Library – special interest, reading days
- Astronomy night
- International food night. Cook together.
- Invite people of other cultures/missionaries and ask them to share experiences with your family.
- Dress up? Imitate customs – chopsticks, fingers.
- Satellite watch. Websites.

#### At home fun

- Cooking
- Restaurant fun
- Fast food night
- Movie and popcorn – friends?
- Indoor picnic
- Clay – mud skating
- Painting
- Batik
- Tye dying
- Salt dough
- Backwards day
- Dinner under table/on roof
- Family sport day.  
Games with other families?
- Lounge room sleepout. Best fun in winter. Fire? - Spuds, marshmallows.
- Midnight feast

## Skills

- Invite a friend (adult) to teach a skill
- Answering the phone
- Meal preparation
- Appliances
- Oven – red dot

## Life Lessons

- Ambulance
- Airport
- Cemetery
- Bakery
- Waiting patiently - Preactivity train. Communicate. Practice. Diversions (games, puzzles etc)

## Character

- Responsibility
- Respect for MUM!
  - Verbal freedoms
  - Obedience
  - Time out
- Honouring Dad
  - House tidy at his home time (kids planned activities or use movie here)
  - Take him lunch at work when out for the day
  - Plan and pamper his homecoming
  - Explain what his being gone at work all day provides the family
- Etiquette - Tea parties
  - You fool around – you leave

## Just for fun

- Impromptu picnic – cheese and fruit. Chips, sauce and bread.
- Indoor pool in winter
- Breakfast at the beach. Anywhere! (e.g. before school)
- Special to eat after bedtime (Mums cream puffs)
- Cheap theatres (Regent \$3 early older films)

## Final thoughts

- Sleep in? – Set up movie for early am
- Keep expectations real
- They key for it all is in learning to think ahead. (Royal Show...)

## Proverbs 31...

### Proverbs 31:18

She senses the worth of her work, is in no hurry to call it quits for the day.

### Proverbs 31:27

She keeps an eye on everyone in her household, and keeps them all busy and productive.