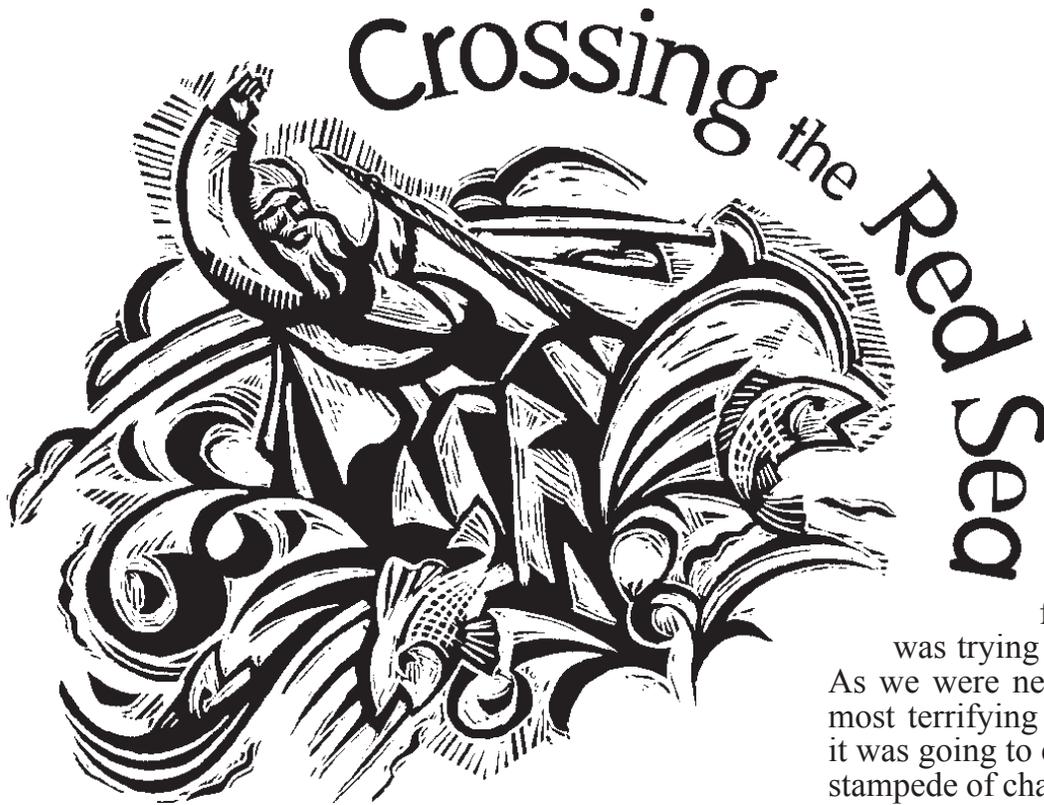




SABBATH KEEPING YOUTH

A Newsletter by The Church of God International

July/ August 2005



The Parents' Corner

Has the summer put your child's brain activity on hold? Get those juices flowing with these creative writing exercises. Make sure you don't tell them this is an educational activity.

- Have your child plan a mock vacation and write down all the details such as transportation, itinerary, length of time, and financial needs.
- Help your child create a brochure advertising their vacation spot. Include things to do and see, cost, and opening and closing dates.
- Encourage your kids to write about family trips, how they feel, and things they learned.

My name is Little Josh and I just witnessed the most incredible thing. My family and I had been following Moses out of Egypt; he was trying to save us from Pharaoh's army. As we were nearing the Red Sea we heard the most terrifying noise. The ground rumbled like it was going to explode. I looked back and saw a stampede of chariots. Pharaoh and his army were coming to destroy us. Fear struck everyone and we wondered how Moses could save us. Then the most amazing thing happened. Moses stood on the bank of the Red Sea and raised his staff toward heaven. Immediately the wind began to blow and the waves began to roll back until a dry path ran right through the sea! It spooked us at first, but my family and I began to walk down the path. The walls of water towered over my head! I pushed my finger into the wall of water. Amazing! It was water, but it stood straight up! After crossing the sea I turned and saw the army racing their chariots right toward us. When the last of my family stepped on the shore, we immediately heard a loud roar. We all looked up to see the walls of water caving in on the army. God rescued me and my people from the wicked Pharaoh. We had the biggest celebration you can imagine!!! One thing's for sure, with the one true God on your side, you don't have to be afraid.

God can do anything!!!



Learning About God in the Summer

Summer begins and you are thinking about how to keep your kids busy and how you will enjoy spending time with them. Before you know it, summer is over, you haven't finished all the projects you had wanted to get done, and you are looking forward to sending your kids back to school.

During the summer, many families will take a break from the normal routine. This is not always good. I am sure your children's teachers reminded your children to continue to read everyday to keep their minds working and not fall behind. It is a good idea to have your children do academic studies over the summer. Many children, especially younger children, can regress. This is also true for studying God's Word. God cannot be forgotten about in June and picked back up again in September.

Summer is a great time to spend more time together as a family and study God's Word. Here are some ideas to help make your summer a time for God and family.

- Turn off the TV and play a game together.

- Go for a walk together after dinner. Point out all the beautiful things around you that God created.

- On family vacations make a point to go somewhere to see what God has created. Go camping, go to a lake or visit a national park.

- Make a point to read from the Bible each day together after breakfast or dinner or before bed.

- Choose a topic to study in the Bible that will take the whole summer to complete. For example: Fruit of the Spirit, women in the Bible, etc.

- As a family, choose a charity that you could do volunteer work for. Help out in your community. Make blankets for sick children, feed the homeless, visit a convalescent home, put together a care package for someone in the military, etc.

- Have your children say the blessing before a meal.

- Find a book to read together as a family. Each family member can take turns reading it out loud to the family everyday.

- Have your children help fix dinner and bake cookies.

- Have your children help you clean the house and prepare things for the Sabbath.

- Make a picnic lunch, go to a park or the beach. Enjoy your lunch in

God's creation. Don't forget to bring your Bible to read scriptures from.

- Give each of your children a different question on a 3 x 5 card in the morning. They must find the answer in the Bible. Give them all day to find their answer and then at dinner have each child share what he or she found

- Make up games to help your children memorize scriptures and Bible facts. As an example, write out scriptures on 3 x 5 cards and the verse on another. Place all the cards face down and play the game memory. Each player turns over two cards at a time. If the cards go together, the player keeps them. If the cards do not go together, turn them back over and it is the next player's turn.

- Have your children memorize the books of the Bible in order.

- Have your children memorize the Ten Commandments.

Enjoy the time you have with your children over the summer. Remember to always make learning about God fun and enjoyable. Don't make it boring and a burden for them. Enjoy spending the summer together as a family learning about God and growing spiritually. Try to start some good new habits that can be kept up during the school year. Keep your children thinking and learning about God. Have a fun summer!

Important Bodies of Water In The Bible

Water plays a very important role in your life. Without it you would croak. Your body must have water to keep you alive. There were bodies of water in the Bible that played important roles in people's lives. Let's take a look at different bodies of water in the Bible that were involved in people's lives.

Red Sea

The Israelites were leaving Egypt. They were running from Pharaoh. The Red Sea was in their path of exit. God parted the Red Sea so the Israelites could get away from Pharaoh.

"Then Moses held his hand over the sea. All that night the Lord drove back the sea with a strong east wind, making the sea become dry ground. The waster was split, and the Israelites went through the sea on dry land, with a wall of water on their right and on their left." Exodus 14:21-22

Jordan River

It was in the Jordan River that John baptized Jesus.

"At that time Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan River and wanted John to baptize him." Matthew 3:13

Dead Sea

Once the Israelites left Egypt they did not follow God. A whole generation died in the desert. Joshua was left to be the leader of the children of Israelites. They had to cross the Jordan River and conquer the land of Canaan. God was going to show the Israelites that He was there with them and they need to follow Him. Twelve men were to be chosen, one from each of the twelve tribes of Israel. They would carry the Ark of the Agreement that contained the ten commandments in it across the Jordan River.

"During harvest the Jordan overflows its banks. When the priests carrying the Ark came to the edge of the river and stepped into the water, the water upstream stopped flowing. It stood up in a heap a great distance away at Adam, a town near Zarethan. The water flowing down

to the Sea of Arabah (the Dead Sea) was completely cut off. So the people crossed the river near Jericho." Joshua 3:15-16

Sea of Galilee

Simon and Andrew were fishing here and were called by Jesus to follow Him.

"As Jesus was walking by Lake Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (called Peter) and his brother Andrew. They were throwing a net into the lake because they were fishermen. Jesus said, 'Come follow me, and I will make you fish for people.'" Matthew 4:18-19

Nile River

When Moses was a baby his mom hid him for the first three months of his life. She realized she could no longer hide Moses. Moses' mom decided to float him down the Nile River. The king of Egypt's daughter came to the river to take a bath and found Moses.

"But after three months she was not able to hide the baby any longer, so she got a basket made of reeds and covered it with tar so that it would float. She put the baby in the basket. Then she put the basket among the tall stalks of grass at the edge of the Nile

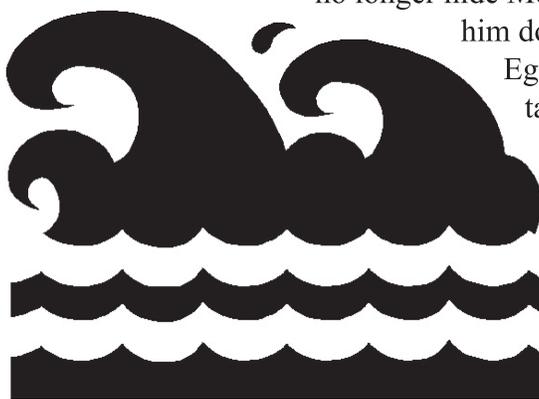
River." Exodus 2:3

Springs of Elim

Moses led the Israelites away from the Red Sea into the Desert of Shur. The only water there to drink was bitter. The Israelites started complaining to Moses. Moses asked God to help. God changed the water from bitter to good. The Israelites then went to Elim where there were springs of water.

"Then the people traveled to Elim, where there were twelve springs of water and seventy palm trees. So the people camped there near the water." Exodus 15:27

Find these bodies of water on a map to familiarize yourself with the land.



Wet and Wacky Games

Summer just isn't summer without water and lots of it! Ask your parents to help you break out the water hoses and the kiddy pool for some seriously wet and wacky fun!

Foamy Fun!

Use foam whip cream or foam soap to spray designs on friends. Go after each other with Super Soakers (or spray bottles filled with water) and see who can keep their foam on the longest. Keep the foam away from the face.

Ice Endurance!

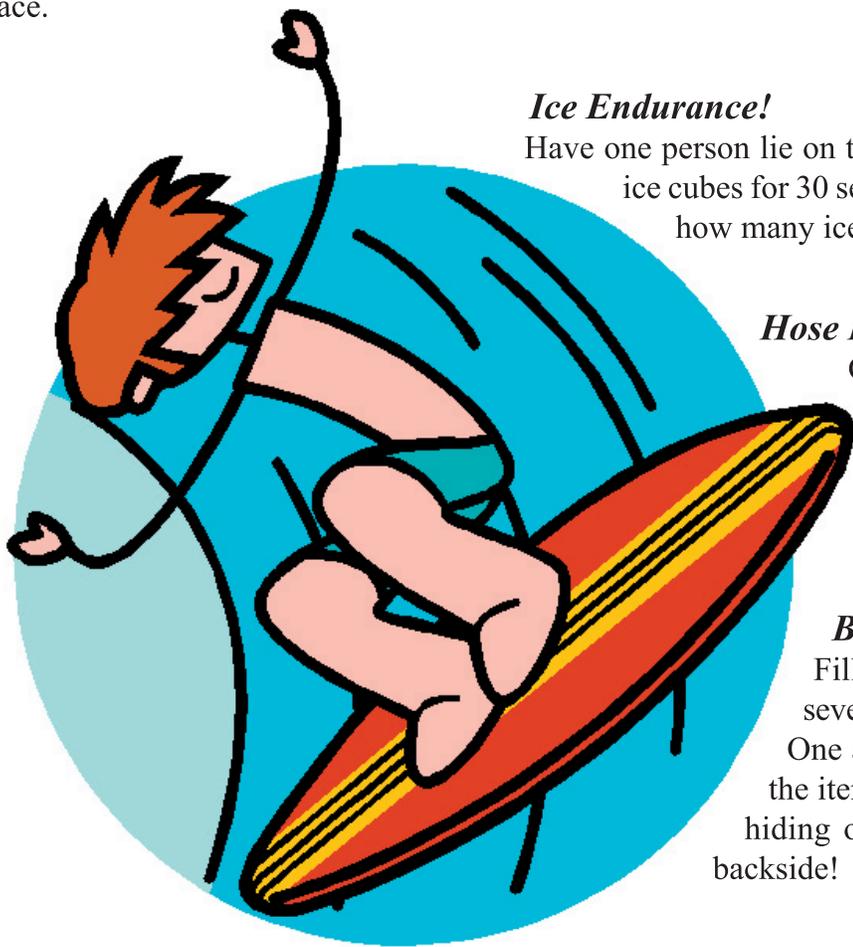
Have one person lie on their back while two other people stack on ice cubes for 30 seconds. Wait one minute then count and see how many ice cubes stayed on the body.

Hose Hopping!

One person controls the water hose. He moves the water hose in different designs. Everyone else runs, hops, or leaps through the water. The person with the driest clothes is the winner.

Blindfold Bubble Guess!

Fill a kiddy pool with bubbles and water. Hide several items in the water. Blindfold each player. One at a time each player sits in the pool, finds the items, and tries to guess what they are. Avoid hiding objects which might inflict pain on one's backside!



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