

Do You Have Time To Pray This Summer?



Summer Prayers To Try At Home or Away

Where Does God Go In The Summer?

...He goes wherever you go!

*"Lord...you know when I sit and stand...
My travels and my rest you mark;
with all my ways you are familiar...
Behind and before you encircle me...
Where can I hide from Your Spirit?
From your presence, where can I flee?
If I ascend to the heavens, You are
there...If I fly with the wings of dawn and
alight beyond the sea, Even there
Your hand will guide me, Your
right hand will hold me fast." (Ps.139)*

Realize that there may be more obstacles than usual that get in the way of your time with God in summer months. Pray about these obstacles and ask God to allow you to keep time with Him despite what might get in the way.

Plan ahead. At the beginning of each week, consider what may come in the way of your time with God. How can you overcome these obstacles? Ask God to show you the way around, over, or through the obstacle so that you can spend time with Him in prayer.

Consider finding and trying new ways to pray. Pray outside. Pray while you are actively engaged in any activity. Discover new and creative ways of your own.

Recommit yourself to your relationship with God. Choose to spend more time with Him, pray and ask God to draw you nearer to Him this summer, and recognize that He is with you wherever you go and whatever you do.

Summer ... It's Hot Outside!

How about inside? Do you have a burning in your heart for God?

Summer brings joy and challenges. One challenge is the temptation to neglect our prayer time, choosing instead to spend time on summertime activities.

It's summer after all, and time for catching up with friends and spending time with family, a time for vacations to new or favorite places, just down the shore or far away.

The pace is slower, the days are longer, the weather is warmer, everything is more casual, it's time to relax at the beach, and bask in the sunshine.

It almost seems unimaginable to consider sitting still indoors to pray. You may even rationalize that God gives us the good weather to enjoy and thus we should be outdoors; even if we neglect our time to pray in the process.

The good news is that there are many ways to pray and you can pray anytime and anywhere outside or even while away. This summer, try praying in different places - while you are engaged in summertime activities. God is with you always. He hears you no matter where you are or what you are doing.

He is even right with you now as you read this, and He is listening to you. How do you want to spend the rest of the day with Him?

Prayer Is ... Anywhere You Are

Prayer doesn't take place only when you are sitting still and quiet with your hands folded, or when you are down on your knees. Prayer is any time you are talking with God, listening to God, or just being aware of God's presence around you. You can find new and different ways to pray this summer that will allow you to stay close to God but still enjoy all the wonderful things summer brings.

Walk with Jesus. Enjoy a nice walk on a cool summer evening at the beach, around the neighborhood, or on vacation. Imagine Jesus walking alongside you. Pour out what's in your heart to Him, tell Him how much you love Him, and ask Him for guidance and strength where you need it. Share your worries and problems with Him. Talk to Him as your best friend; for surely He is, and He loves you unconditionally. You have no friend whose ear is more attentively tuned to every whisper of your heart. *Read Matthew 11: 28-30 and Luke 24: 13-53.*

Under the Stars. On a clear evening, look up at the stars. God created them and He knows each star by name. Ponder how immense God's plan is and your part in it. And just as He knows the names of the stars, He also knows your name. But however vast the universe He made, God is never far, He is right beside you. As you stand in the night, in awe of His creation, pray to God under the stars He made for He has called each of them and each of us by name.

Read Genesis 1: 14-19, Psalm 8, and Psalm 147: 1-5.

Patio Prayers. Enjoy a refreshing glass of tea or lemonade out on the patio or deck while reading your Bible. Sit and relax with God. As you open your Bible, pray that God will reveal Himself to you and draw you closer to Him as you come to know Him, not just know about Him. Ask and pray that He reveal His will for your life to you. Journal what is revealed to you. As you sip your cool drink, consider how God refreshes you and strengthens you.

Read Genesis 18: 1-5, and John 4: 4-42.

Gardening With God. When you garden, your hands are right in God's amazing creation. The soil, crumbling between your fingers, supports the life of the flowers, plants and trees that God created to beautify our world and sustain us. Ponder how God formed Adam from soil and then breathed life into him. Thank Him for your own life. As you work the soil, work out your problems with God as your counselor. As you weed and remove old blooms, ask God to help you remove those things that need to be removed from your life so that you may grow stronger in your relationship with Him. As you plant seeds and flowers, ask God to help you plant seeds of His love in others.

Read Genesis 2: 4-15 and Mark 4: 26-29.

Vacation Prayers. Pray while on vacation. When you leave behind those things that have become routine in your life, you may find that you pray your best. Whether your vacation is quiet and relaxing, thrilling and adventurous, alone or with many others, nearby or far away, remember God is with you. You can pray in a car full of children or in the silence of nature's beauty, while scaling a mountain or sitting in your backyard. God watches over you and listens. *Read Psalm 139: 1-10 and Matthew 14: 13-33.*

A Summer Prayer

Father, Creator of all, thank You for summer! Thank You for the warmth of the sun and the increased daylight. Thank You for the beauty I see all around me and for the opportunity to be outside and enjoy Your creation. Thank You for the increased time I have to be with my friends and family, and for the more casual pace of the summer season.

Draw me closer to You this summer. Teach me how I can pray no matter where I am or what I am doing. Warm my soul with the awareness of Your presence and light my path with Your Word and Counsel. As I enjoy Your creation, create in me a pure heart and a hunger and a thirst for You. Draw me nearer to You, Father.

As I enjoy all the fun activities of summer, let me, above all, find my enjoyment and satisfaction in You. I pray this in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Take time to renew your relationship with God while developing your spirituality with women from the parish.

Women's Cornerstone

Corpus Christi Parish

For more information, call:

The Parish Center - 201-288-4844