

date
NIGHT™
CHALLENGE
EVENT

'13

Child Care Resource Kit

Helping you make moments matter!



Child Care Resources

Thank you for helping the parents in your church to bring date night back! The Date Night Challenge™ will strengthen marriages—and strengthen families—by helping couples to ignite romance and fun in their relationships and model godly marriage to their kids.

By providing trusted child care through your church for the Date Night Challenge event, you'll be helping couples to get out and get closer than ever before. We've provided you with a resource kit packed with ideas for giving the kids in your care an evening of fun crafts and tasty snacks to keep them entertained while their parents enjoy a fun evening together.

In the Kit

1. Opening Activity (15 minutes)

Help parents get their kids settled in with this fun, easy-to-supervise coloring activity.

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2. Story Time (15 minutes)

Teach the children about God's plan and His purpose for them through intriguing stories that will make them think. Be sure to include a time for questions and answers at the end.

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3. Craft Time (20 minutes)

Create fun keepsakes that the children can take home at the end of the evening with these fun craft ideas.

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4. Game Time (20 minutes)

Entertain the children with fun games that are perfect for all ages and teach important lessons about God's love.

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5. Snack Time (15 minutes)

Prepare a tasty snack to close the evening before their parents come to pick them up. These recipes are easy and fun—and love themed, of course!

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Opening Activity

A Fun Family Portrait

Give each child a piece of cardstock and crayons or markers and have them draw a picture of their whole family. When they are done, have the child write "God Created Family" across the top of the picture. You can have the older kids help the younger ones with writing!



Story Time

Hope-Filled Relationship

by Kim Washburn

Talking to God

Thank God for the hope He gives you every day. Ask Him to help you see that as your relationship with Him grows, so does your hope.

Diving In

Gather in a room that has little natural light. Although it is not necessary that the room be completely dark, prepare the room for this activity by turning off all lamps and main light sources.

Have one family member stand in the middle of the room with his eyes closed — no peeking! Gently spin him around and then have another family member turn on the brightest lamp in the room. The “blind” person’s challenge is to find his way to the light without opening his eyes.

Going Deeper

In the Bible, Jesus calls himself “the light of the world” (John 8:12). Although we cannot see Jesus with our eyes, we can better recognize His light by learning His Word and knowing His character.

Disappointments at school or struggles at home can be hard to endure. Even if we don’t understand why God is allowing us to struggle with something, Jesus proves through His faithfulness that He is deserving of our hope. If we focus on Jesus during our “dark times,” we can have hope.

Talking to Each Other

When has God turned a hopeless situation in your life into a hope-filled one?

How can we share the hope of God with others?

Finishing Well

“And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.” (Romans 5:5)

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Craft Time

Don't Frog-et to Pray

This fun and unique craft will get kids excited about praying daily and give them a special place to keep their most important prayers. While they work, ask them about what kinds of things they want to pray for. This is a chance to guide them to praying for things such as strength, peace for others and more. Ask them questions such as, "Do we pray that God will give us a new bike or video game? Why? Why not?"

Supplies:

- Green paper
- Scissors
- Glue
- Blank neon price stickers
(available at office supply stores)
- Red or pink ribbon
- Black marker
- Paper

Directions

1. Cut green paper in half lengthwise and fold one half into thirds.
2. Carefully cut off one of the thirds and cut a rounded shape for a smile. (You may trace the side of a mug to create a rounded shape.)
3. Cut two 1 3/4-inch circles and two hearts from the paper you cut off.
4. Fold remaining paper in half, making a crease along the bottom edge of the frog's body. Unfold and place a thin line of glue on left and right edges.
5. Place the two circles on the glue, near the crease about halfway in. Fold frog's body up over the circle halves and press edges together.
6. Glue hearts upside down on the front of your frog's body to make webbed feet.
7. Use neon price stickers to make warts. Place two yellow stickers halfway off the top of your frog for eyes. Then stick green stickers to the back of eyes. Use a black marker to create pupils.
8. Cut red or pink ribbon and glue it on for a tongue.
9. Write prayer requests on slips of paper and put them inside your frog. Take your requests out each day and pray for them. When God answers your request, remove it from the folder. Keep it in a special place to remember God's goodness.
10. Don't frog-et to pray every day!

Credit: Kristen White, May 2009 Clubhouse Jr.

Craft Time

Popsicle-Stick Picture Frame

Create a beautiful and sturdy frame for the Fun Family Portrait craft with this fun Popsicle-stick project.

Supplies:

- Jumbo craft sticks with the tops trimmed off
- Scissors
- Glue
- White paint
- Paint brushes
- Family portrait from the Fun Family Portrait craft or a picture of the child
- Flowers
- 4-inch piece of ribbon
- 15-inch piece of twine
- Permanent marker

Directions

1. Lay two craft sticks 4 inches apart. Bridge the two with five craft sticks; glue in place.
2. Glue two more craft sticks on top of the five sticks, aligned with the first two, to complete the frame shape.
3. Using white paint and brush, paint your sticks. Let dry.
4. Tie twine onto the sides of the top craft stick.
5. Trim photo to fit between top and bottom craft sticks.
6. Slip edges of photo behind the craft sticks at each end.
7. Glue flowers onto bottom left-hand corner.
8. Tie ribbon into a bow and glue over the bottom of flowers.
9. Tie twine to the top craft stick to create a hanger.

Game Time

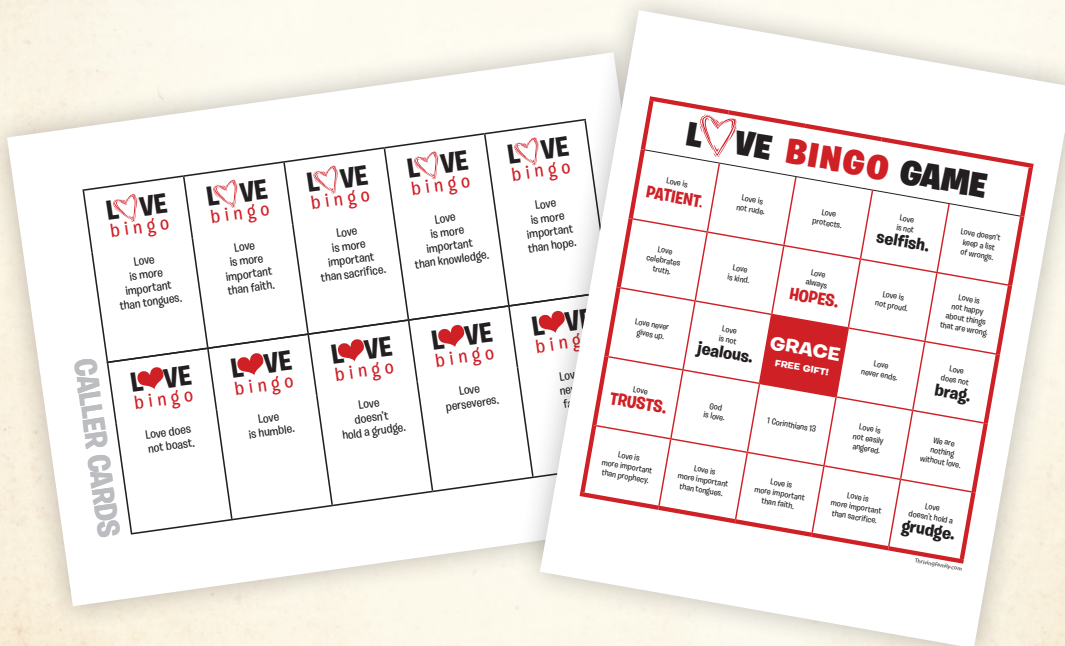
Love Bingo

Print out the bingo cards and "call numbers" found here:



Scan the code or [click here](#).

Cut out the love-themed call slips and place them in a giant coffee can. Give each child a marker or crayon and have them cross off the corresponding squares as you pull the slips. The first child to get BINGO! wins a small prize (a piece of candy or gum).



Game Time

Love Dove

This love-themed game will get the kids moving in a fun race to get the most people on their team before the story ends.

Divide the kids into two groups. In the middle, have a line. One team should be called "Love" and one "Dove." If you say "love" in the sentence, then those on the "love" team try to tag the other team. If you say "dove" in the sentence, then those on the "dove" team try to tag members of the other team. If you are tagged, you become a part of the opposite team. The team with the most members after the story wins!

The story:

There once was a girl named Sabrina. She was beautiful and often had dreams of falling in **love**. In one dream, Sabrina married a prince and **doves** flew in the air! When Sabrina explained her dream to her mother, her mother smiled and said, "Sweet child, **love** like that would be magical! **Love** like that would be divine. But, daughter, you don't need **doves**. What you need is the creator of families, the creator of **doves**, the creator of **love**." Sabrina was quite puzzled. She asked who it was. Her mom turned and smiled, "God in heaven who created **doves**, **loves** you so much that He sent a great prince for you, because He **loves** you. His name is Jesus."

Snack Time

Have-a-Heart Cookie Pops

Supplies:

- Wooden craft sticks
- 1 stick butter, softened
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 egg
- 2 cups flour
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- Heart-shaped cookie cutter
- Small plastic bags
- Ribbons
- 2 cups powdered sugar
- 2-3 tablespoons water
- Sprinkles and small candies (optional)
- Food coloring

Directions

1. Heat oven to 350°F. Soak the sticks in a bowl of water.
2. Beat butter, sugar and vanilla in a large bowl until smooth. Blend in egg.
3. In another bowl, combine flour and baking powder. Add the mixture to the dry ingredients. Mix until dough is firm.
4. Divide the dough in half. On a floured surface, roll out dough until it is less than 1/4 inch thick. Cut out heart shapes with the cookie cutter.
5. Place hearts on a greased baking sheet 2 inches apart. Lay a wooden stick in the center of each cookie. Top with another heart. Press the edges together.
6. Bake for 12 minutes or until golden.
7. To make icing, mix 2 cups powdered sugar with 2 to 3 tablespoons water and stir until smooth. Divide icing; use one bowl for each color. Stir a drop of food coloring into each bowl.
8. Allow cookies to cool, then ice and decorate. When the icing is dry, wrap each cookie in a small plastic bag and tie with a ribbon.

Makes 12 Cookie Pops.



Scan the code or [click here](#) for the original recipe.

Credit: February 2004 Clubhouse Magazine, by Helen Wolf

Snack Time

Butterfly Bites

Warning: Ensure no peanut allergies!
(This snack can be prepared by the kids!)

Supplies

- 2 celery stalks
- 6 tablespoons peanut butter or cream cheese
- 12 large twist pretzels
- 18 raisins or currants
- 12 slivered almonds

Directions

1. Wash the celery and cut each stalk into thirds. Fill each celery piece with 1 tablespoon of peanut butter or cream cheese.
2. For the wings, gently push two pretzels into the filling so they connect in the middle.
3. Arrange the raisins or currants as eyes, nose and mouth.
4. For antennae, push the slivered almonds into the filling.



Scan the code or [click here](#) for the original recipe.

Credit: August 2004 Clubhouse Magazine

Snack Time

Rockin' Root Beer Float

Supplies:

- Cups
- Straws
- Spoon
- Chilled root beer
- Vanilla ice cream

Directions

1. Fill a glass three-quarters full with root beer.
2. Scoop ice cream into the glass.
3. Add a straw and enjoy!



Scan the code or [click here](#) for the original recipe.

Credit: September 2004 Clubhouse Magazine