

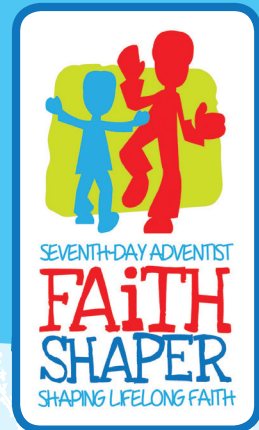
# The faith shaper guide to

## NOTEWORTHY MEMORY EVENTS

Shaping Lifelong Faith Through: **Noteworthy Memory Events**  
[children.adventist.org.au/faith-shaper](http://children.adventist.org.au/faith-shaper)



# 7 Essential Faith Experiences

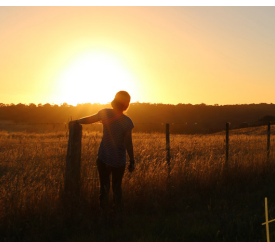


For Home,  
Church and School

- S** Service and Mission
- H** Homes Empowered
- A** Authentic Relationships
- P** Participation
- I** Intergenerational Connections
- N** Noteworthy Memory Events
- G** God Encounters

[children.adventist.org.au/faith-shaper](http://children.adventist.org.au/faith-shaper)

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord  
and Saviour Jesus Christ. (2 Peter 3:18, NIV)



# NOTEWORTHY MEMORY EVENTS

## INTRODUCTION

**Welcome** to these notes on Noteworthy Memory Events. Memory events have the power to shape our children both spiritually and psychologically.

Memories are like markers in our children's lives and give them important landmarks in their life upon which they can build their faith. The church and home play a crucial part in making sure that these memory markers are put in place.

May you find some ideas in this booklet that will equip you to ensure that your child has noteworthy memory events to look back on. I pray that your children will have the opportunity to participate and look back on many noteworthy memory events as they continue to grow in their lives and faith.

Blessings

*The Discipleship Ministries Team - Children*

**South Pacific Division Seventh-day Adventist Church**

***“Our personal memories define who we are. They bond us together,”*** Reggie Dr

Robyn Fivish, 2011



# WHY MEMORY EVENTS ARE IMPORTANT

## Daron Prat

**Memory events have the power to shape our children both spiritually and psychologically.**

While the lives of our children are heavily documented in photos and video on social media and stored in families' digital archives, studies suggest photos and videos have little impact. Parents play a bigger role in helping determine not just how many early memories children can recall, but how children interpret and learn from these events.

***“Our personal memories define who we are. They bond us together,” says Dr Robyn Fivush. Children whose parents encourage reminiscing and storytelling about daily events show better coping and problem-solving skills by their preteens, and fewer symptoms of depression*** (Robyn Fivish, 2011).

Memories are like “GPS” markers in our children’s lives and give them important landmarks in their life upon which they can build their faith. The church and home play a crucial part in making sure that these memory markers are put in place.

Dr Wayne French (2005) discovered in his research that church memory events have lifelong impact, they enhance spirituality, they help develop a sense of belonging, create a sense of value, and bond our children and youth to the church.

Memory events played a significant role in biblical times as well. For example, when the people of Israel crossed the Jordan (Joshua 3), they were

commanded to take 12 stones “to serve as a sign among you. In the future, when your children ask you, ‘What do these stones mean?’ tell them that the flow of the Jordan was cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord. When it crossed the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. These stones are to be a memorial to the people of Israel forever.”

In order to grow our children spiritually, it is important that churches and homes create intentional memory events in the lives of our children. The biggest impediment to creating memory events is the busyness of life and the individualisation that media and technology creates

### **What can churches do?**

Be intentional about creating memory events for families in your congregation.

#### **1. Create special memory events that families can attend**

These type of intergenerational events are key. These could be special worship days, service activities, social events/trips, church camps and high days. These days leave indelible marks on the children long after all the planning, stress, expense and worry about these events have been forgotten. This is why the family ministries/social coordinator in your church is a key position.

#### **2. Celebrate Milestone in the lives of the children in your church**

Events such as baby dedications, child commitment ceremonies, baptism, graduations etc are key opportunities to place families at the centre of the church and affirm them and their children in a special way. Milestones are an ideal way to celebrate with the family but also to instruct and equip them in their parenting role. Certificates and gifts given by the church family at these event are keepsakes that stay with the children long after the ink has yellowed and faded.

#### **3. Provide mentors for families and children**

These are older people who can play a key role in the lives of your families and children. An older mentor is helpful as a model of faith, marriage and resilience in the midst of the various crises that life throws at families. Children will remember the people of significance in their faith communities far more than what they learned. These mentors provide a living witness of faith in action to children. When children see how faith works for these mentors they are more likely to take their place in God’s faith story as well.

#### **4. Provide Adventurer and Pathfinder clubs**

Clubs such as these provide adventure and opportunities for service and growth that are key spiritual growth catalysts in the lives of our children. Camporees, camps, hikes and rally days also provide ideal high point markers for the children that impact them in spiritually significant ways. Attend Big Camp and other special events as provided by the Conference.

#### **5. Attend Big Camp and other special events as provided by your conference and church**

Big camps, summer camps and other Conference-wide events shows our children a bigger picture of the family of God and challenge our children and families to make spiritual decisions that impact these children for life. These larger celebrations will be long remembered as special events in the spiritual landscape of each child's and family's life.

### **What can Families do?**

Create special memories and traditions together as a family.

#### **1. Plan a special holiday together**

Family holidays give the children quality time to see their parents in a more relaxed, informal setting away from the stress of work and life's hassles. Families that play together stay together and it also allows time for great mentoring and spiritual discussions.

#### **2. Declare one night a week "family night in"**

Weekly 'family nights' spent playing together in a variety of fun ways guarantees a multitude of benefits not just for family cohesion but for individual family members as well! Stronger bonds between family members are created, lifetime learning of values and skills occurs and children feel more secure. Playing together also increases the sense of wellbeing for children and adults. The pleasant memories created during these family nights will stick with your children long after they leave home.

#### **3. Create special traditions around holidays and yearly events on the calendar**

Ritual and traditions are the glue that binds the family together physically and spiritually. Creating traditions and rituals around Christmas, Easter and other special days are great



memory events as these events are often shared with extended family and close friends.

#### **4. Celebrate milestones and rites of passage**

Birthdays, school years completed, dedications, coming of age, getting your drivers licence are all events to be celebrated. Our children grow up fast and celebrating these events at home and at church help to make these milestones memorable and creates spiritual glue for the child and family.

#### **5. Declare family meals as a “not to be missed” event**

The benefits of a regular family meal is extraordinary. Children are more likely to do better at school and are less likely to get involved in at-risk activities. They are also more likely to adopt the faith and values of those who share their table. The taste and smell of special meals are also great memory-makers for children that stays with them for life. The magic is not in the food however but in the conversations and discussions that happen around the family table.

*Extracted from 7 Gifts for church and home - summary gift two: The Power of Memory Events Information and Discussion Guide By Daron Prat*



# 5 TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL DADDY

## DAUGHTER DATE

John Murchison

As a father of two girls, I couldn't recommend taking your girls out for dates more highly. In addition to being a lot of fun, these dates give me a chance to pursue two goals that I have for my girls:

- **To model how much God loves them.** God calls himself a Father, so the way a dad loves his daughter is a big influence on how that young woman will feel about God for her whole life.
- **To model how a man of integrity treats a lady on a date.** I want my girls to make good choices when it comes to dating one day, so it's up to me to show them what a quality man looks like.

With those two goals in mind, I'd like to offer Five Tips for a Successful Daddy Daughter Date:

1. **Pray.** Ask God to make this a special night of blessing for you both. You would want a young man who was taking your daughter out on a date to pray before the date, so modeling starts with this important step.
2. **Invite her.** Don't just assume that she'll join you – ask her! Tell her you would be honored if she would join you for dinner and dancing. Buy her a card or write her a note. Make sure she knows how much you want her to come with you.
3. **Make her feel special.** Dress up for your date. Go outside and knock on the door to pick her up. Buy her flowers. Open doors for her. Act like the man that you want her to one day marry will treat her. Make her feel how much you cherish her.



4. **Make it about her.** Choose an activity that she will enjoy, even if it's not your favorite. Go to a restaurant she likes. Talk about things she's interested in. Listen to the music she likes in the car.
5. **Put away your phone.** No email or tweet is as important as the young lady you are taking on a date. Keep your phone in your pocket, and don't watch the clock. There's no need to rush through the date. Show her that she's worth your full attention.

If you follow those five tips, you'll be well on your way to making your daughters know how much you love them, and you'll be giving them a great picture of how much God their heavenly Father loves them.

*Article retrieved from <http://www.vergenetwork.org/2015/03/12/five-tips-for-a-successful-daddy-daughter-date/>  
written by John Murchison*



# FAMILY TRADITION IDEAS

## **To instil a love for God, a God honouring value system and serve to serve Him**

- Devotions before school
- family devotions (in the evening with both parents if possible)
- Friday meal - every Sabbath do something special a dinner i.e. a special table setting, candles, a special food etc.
- Sabbath - this is God's day - consider your own ways to make this special, we believe that it does need to be 'different' from the other days of the week
- Grace at meal times - sing, hold hands, give each member of the family the opportunity to lead grace for the family, use written prayers of thanks
- Easter - our most important celebration - because of Easter events we are Christians.
  - Before easter read the Easter events from the Bible
  - explain the meaning
  - discuss symbols - eggs, new life etc
  - easter egg hunt
  - serve someone in the community at this time
- Christmas - another important celebration. Create traditions around this celebration, reading the Christmas story from the Bible, serving in the community etc.

## **To encourage mutual support for each other**

- Write notes to each other - lunch box, under the pillow, when sick, just to say 'I love you', mail the children notes
- Family 'get well' box for days when the children are sick. this box has a few

special things they could do when not well, a bell to ring, a special tape, dvd, heat pack etc. Get out their own quilt, put flowers in their room etc.

- Instil an 'I'm happy for you' attitude, so that we all share in the success of one

### **Building Family Unity - so your children want to be a part of your family**

- Family story time - read aloud e.g. Little House on the Prairie, classics etc. - we have a list of books we want to get through
- Family night - one week night a week do something as a family e.g. walk, watch a DVD, play games etc.
- Have their own quilt - which they have to help make
- Candle light dinners
- Date nights and couch times for Mum and Dad
- Family hugs
- A 'best friends' culture - remind often that God brought us together as a family
- Family songs
- Family flag or crest- symbols that depict your family
- Family scrap booking after memory events
- Family mission statement
- Bed time ritual - story, song, prayer, blessing

### **Be spontaneous to keep the fun alive**

- Family picnics and outings
- Supervised adventures
- Treasure hunts
- Kidnap Dad/Mum day
- Drives to places never been before to buy ice cream
- Holidays - before holidays start writing a list of things that everyone may want to do. Try and get through the list by the end of the holidays. Some ideas:
  - do a big jigsaw
  - sleep in! take turns to let the children sleep in or make breakfast
  - keep some special toys for the holidays
  - allow the children some input into the planning of the holidays

### **Encourage serving and loving others**

- Activities focussing on those outside the family who may need help e.g. people who are elderly, sick, lonely, hurting etc. think about things such as making cards, baking, picking flowers, or practical ways to help these people.
- Child sponsorship or charity donations, New Hope, World Vision, Tear Fund, ADRA. Make regular donations where your child can contribute in some way.
- When guests are coming set up a guest room together - put out flowers, towels, welcome note etc.
- Honour Mum and Dad - celebrate fathers/mothers day with handmade cards, pictures, and adventures.
- Birthdays - make sure to start birthday traditions early on doing this has a two way effect it make it special for the person's who's birthday it is, and helps the others learn to serve.
  - breakfast in bed
  - choice of favourite meal
  - no chores for the day
  - decorate the birthday chair
  - special birthday cake
  - start a birthday table cloth that the birthday child gets to write on each year
  - photos
- Christmas - focus on giving -rejoicing in Jesus birth - making a difference to others - homemade gifts.

### **Creating links between generations**

- spend time with grandparents and find out what some of the traditions they had that you could use
- encourage special traditions between grandparents and grandchildren
  - Nan's cookies - she always has fresh cookies in a special tin
  - grandad's poems
  - breakfast with the grandparents
  - feeding the ducks
  - adventures
- Family day - every year all the members of the family get together for one day

### **Cultivating team spirit**

- I've been caught doing something good badge

- turns ringing the bell for meals
- team talk - remind us all that God has brought us together for a purpose -to bring glory to him

### **Your family traditions**

- Think of traditions with your own children. Discuss these as husband and wife.
- list family traditions from your childhood that you can remember (good and bad)
- Which traditions do you want to continue? why? what is the goal?



## CHILD'S COMMITMENT CEREMONY

Research indicates that between the ages of 5 and 12, lifelong habits, values, beliefs and attitudes are formed and that at this age the brain is the most receptive to spirituality. Children at this age are generally discouraged from being baptised into the church, as some consider them to be too young. However, when faith is not affirmed, children are left feeling unsupported or valued. We need to show them that we take their commitment seriously and that we will be beside them in their faith journey.

It is for this reason that the concept of a commitment ceremony has been developed by the Children's Ministry Department of the Seventh-day Adventist church.

You can download for the child commitment ceremony guide and certificate from [children.adventist.org.au](http://children.adventist.org.au)

# JUST FOR KIDS - UNDERSTANDING OUR CHURCH

An essential part of helping kids to fully participate in our church community is explaining our church traditions. These can often appear to be abstract and irrelevant to kids until we take the time explain what is going on, why we do it and what it all means.

To help you generate discussion with your kids around some of our church traditions we have developed a series of A5 printouts that can be inserted in your church bulletin when there is a dedication, baptism or communion happening in your church. Please feel free to download and print by visiting [children.adventist.org.au](http://children.adventist.org.au).



# Just for Kids...

Understanding  
our Church

## Baptism

### Baptism is:

Baptism is a time for people to tell the church that they are followers of Jesus.

In Matthew:13-17, Jesus got baptized as a fulfillment of the prophecies made about His coming.

In **Matthew 28:19**, Jesus says, "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit."

### What do you think Jesus' baptism looked like?

See if you can find all of the words:

S X R E V I R E  
Z T I R D A N S  
J O R H A N O R  
D V B E V O D L  
W S I T C C  
M S I T P A B E  
P L A A K R W D  
O T F J E S U S

BAPTISM  
JORDAN  
DOVE

JESUS  
FAITH  
WATER

DECLARE  
RIVER  
SPIRIT



# Just for Kids...

My questions are  
important too.

Date: / /

## Questions

### Key Verses:

Write or draw something that you heard in the sermon:

What God wants me to do:

### Take away questions for families:

- What was the key point of the sermon?
- Why do you think they preached on this topic?
- What is one lesson you learned?
- What difference is this going to make in your life?
- Mystery family question? (Ask your parents)



# Just for Kids...

Understanding  
our Church

**CommUnion**

**CommUnion is:**

Communion is so much more than just a snack we have at church. Communion is something we do to remember Jesus, and the huge sacrifice he made for us by dying on the cross.

In Luke 22:7-20, Jesus ate His last meal with the disciples before He died. As a part of this special meal He told His disciples to remember Him every time they ate this meal. As Jesus followers we still eat this meal in remembrance of Jesus, His love and sacrifice for us.

**What do you think the first 'last supper' looked like?**

**Draw or describe what your church does for CommUnion:**



# Just for Kids...

Understanding  
our Church

**Dedication**

**Dedication is:**

Dedication is a time for parents to tell the church they'll do their best to raise their kids to know and love Jesus. Its also a time for the church to tell parents that they'll help raise their kids in the faith.

In 1 Samuel 1:27-28, God gave Hannah a son named Samuel. After Samuel was born, Hannah prayed: "For this boy I prayed, and the Lord has granted me what I asked of him. So now I give him to the Lord. For His whole life he will be given over to the Lord."

In Luke 2:22-40, after Jesus is born, His parents, Mary and Joseph, took Jesus to the temple and dedicated him.

**What do you think Jesus' dedication looked like?**

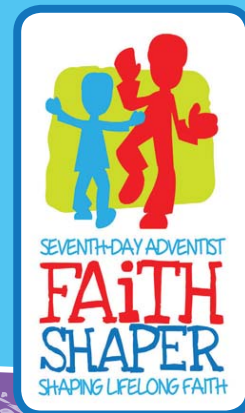
**Draw or describe the dedication you see today:**





## 7 Essential Faith Experiences

# N Noteworthy Memory Events



“A Memory event is activity big enough to dominate a adolescent’s horizon, so that he or she becomes so fully immersed in the event they will never forget it or its message.” (Creating Memories for Teens, Wayne French, 2005)

- Resource and equip homes to create special daily, weekly and yearly rituals and traditions.
- Be intentional about creating memory events for children and families at church such as Milestone celebrations, kids rallies, concerts and family camps.
- Support children as they participate in Conference wide memory events such as Camps.
- Provide events that allow children to respond to God’s call on their lives.
- Provide events that allow children to be inspired by people with a vibrant faith.



Joshua erected a monument at The Gilgal, using the twelve stones that they had taken from the Jordan. And then he told the People of Israel, “In the days to come, when your children ask their fathers, ‘What are these stones doing here?’ tell your children this: ‘Israel crossed over this Jordan on dry ground.’” (Joshua 4:19-22 The Message)

Produced by: **The South Pacific Division Children's Ministry Department**  
[children.adventist.org.au](http://children.adventist.org.au)

