

A FREE HOLIDAY RESOURCE FOR FAMILIES

A Little More Together

More connection. Less pressure. More moments that matter.

A NOTE TO YOUR FAMILY

The holidays can be joyful, busy, complicated, and exhausting - sometimes all in one day. This guide is not another to-do list. It is a collection of small, affordable ways to enjoy the people in front of you.

Pick one idea. Skip the rest. Change anything that does not fit your household. Whether your family is big, small, blended, nearby, or spread across several homes, you belong in this conversation.

Inside: conversations • indoor games • stress resets • low-cost traditions • a simple planner • kindness challenges

With care from Timber Ridge Assembly of God

No sign-up. No purchase. No perfect holidays required.

Making Moments Matter

Remember the “12 Moments That Matter” checklist on your Hometown Halloween handout? Choose one of those moments to try together. Here are a few ways to make it count.

CONVERSATION SPARK

What is one small thing we did together that you hope we do again?

Make It a Tradition

Pick one activity everyone enjoyed and try it again next week or next month.

Let the Kids Lead

Let a child or teen choose the activity or show everyone how to do it.

Ask One More Question

Afterward, ask: “What was your favorite part?” or “What should we try next time?”

Capture the Memory

Write down a funny moment, save a drawing, or add a note to a family memory jar.

Keep It Simple

If a plan takes more energy than it gives, simplify it. Being together matters more than doing it perfectly.

Our Family’s Next Moment

Something we loved doing together: _____

Something we would like to try: _____

When we will make time for it: _____

Small moments. Stronger connections. Better memories.

Good Questions, Better Conversations

Use one question at dinner, in the car, or while cleaning up. Let everyone pass if they want to. Listen without correcting the answer.

Start silly

- What would our family mascot be?
- What food should be illegal at Thanksgiving?
- If our couch could talk, what would it say?
- What new holiday would you invent?
- Which family member would win a talent show - and doing what?

Make memories

- What is your funniest family memory?
- What smell or song reminds you of home?
- What family tradition would you keep forever?
- What is something you learned from an older relative?
- What would you like us to remember about this year?

Get connected

- When do you feel most listened to?
- What is one thing you wish we did more often?
- What has felt hard lately?
- What is something you are proud of?
- What is one way we can make this week easier for each other?

Look ahead

- What could we learn together this winter?
- What small kindness could we do for someone?
- If we had a free afternoon, how should we spend it?
- Who would you like to reconnect with?
- What is one realistic family goal for next month?
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A SIMPLE RULE

Be curious before offering advice. Sometimes the most helpful response is: "Tell me more."

Five No-Cost Indoor Family Games

Most of these need only paper, a few everyday objects, or your imagination. Adjust the rules for little kids, teens, or mixed ages.

1. Mystery Object Commercial

Pick a random household item. Each person gets 30 seconds to advertise it as if it were the greatest invention ever. Vote for the funniest selling point.

2. The One-Line Story

One person begins with a sentence. Everyone adds exactly one sentence. Keep going until the story reaches a ridiculous ending. Someone can write it down.

3. Reverse Roles

A child or teen teaches an adult something they know: a game, skill, song, or shortcut. Then switch. The goal is learning, not grading.

4. Paper Tower Challenge

Use five sheets of scrap paper. Teams have five minutes to build the tallest freestanding tower - no tape required. Try again with a new design.

5. Memory Tray

Place eight ordinary objects on a tray. Look for 30 seconds, cover them, and see how many each person remembers. For younger children, start with four objects.

KEEP IT FUN

No one needs to win. If the game turns frustrating, shorten it, change the rules, or stop. Time together is the goal.

When the Holidays Feel Like Too Much

A calmer season rarely comes from doing everything. It often comes from agreeing on what matters most - and giving each other room to be human.

The 15-Minute Family Reset

1. Put everything else down. Set devices aside and choose a time that works.
2. Give everyone a voice. Ask: What has been the best and hardest part of this week?
3. Choose one small next step. Pick something fun, helpful, or kind to do together.
4. End with appreciation. Each person names one thing they appreciate about someone else.

Before you say yes to one more holiday plan

- Do we genuinely want to do this, or do we only feel obligated?
- What will it cost us in money, energy, and time?
- What would we need to let go of to make room for it?

Useful words when plans change

“That sounds wonderful, but we can’t make it this time.”

“We need a quieter evening. Can we plan another day?”

“I know you’re disappointed. Let’s figure out what we can do instead.”

REMEMBER

Rest is not a reward you earn after everyone is exhausted. Leave room for downtime, especially for children and caregivers.

Meaningful Memories, Small Budget

A meaningful holiday is not measured by gifts, decorations, or a perfect photograph. Build traditions around what you already have.

The Memory Jar

Put a jar or bowl where everyone can reach it. Add short notes about funny or good moments. Read them together near the end of the year.

The \$0 Family Restaurant

Use dinner you were already making. Make a menu, give the restaurant a name, and let family members take turns as host, chef, or reviewer.

A Homemade Gift Exchange

Set a no-spending rule: share a drawing, written memory, photo collage, recipe, or offer of help.

The Favorite-Song Night

Each person chooses a song and tells why it matters to them. Dance, listen, or make a family playlist.

A Story From Another Generation

Ask an older family member or trusted adult about a childhood celebration. Record or write down one memory with permission.

CHOOSE YOUR TRADITION

This season, our family wants to try: _____

Our Simple Holiday Planner

Use this page to trade a little holiday pressure for a few intentional choices. Write only what is helpful.

One thing that matters most to our household this season:

A tradition we want to keep:

One thing we can simplify, skip, or do differently:

One no-cost activity we want to try:

One person we want to encourage or include:

A day or evening we will protect for rest:

Our three priorities

1.

2.

3.

PERMISSION SLIP

We are allowed to change the plan. What makes a holiday meaningful is not how much we fit in, but how we treat one another along the way.

Give a Little More

Holidays can be especially difficult for people who are grieving, lonely, working extra shifts, or far from family. Small kindnesses make room for connection.

Choose a kindness challenge

- ☐ Send a thank-you message to someone who helped your family.
- ☐ Invite someone to share a meal or a phone call, with no pressure.
- ☐ Draw or write an encouraging note for a neighbor.
- ☐ Take on a household task without being asked.
- ☐ Ask someone, "What would be helpful this week?" - then listen.
- ☐ Make a gratitude list together and tell one person why they matter.

A thought to carry with you

"Encourage one another and build one another up." — 1 Thessalonians 5:11 (ESV)

Paul wrote these words to a community of believers, calling them to strengthen each other. Whether your holiday is easy or complicated, encouragement is a gift we can choose to give.

THANK YOU FOR SHARING THIS SEASON WITH US

We hope at least one idea in this guide brings a good conversation, a shared laugh, or a little breathing room to your home. You are welcome at Timber Ridge Assembly of God - but this guide is yours to enjoy with no strings attached.

A Little More Together • A gift from Timber Ridge Assembly of God

Keep this guide, share it with a friend, and make the ideas your own.