

A Summer Walk

Form your group into bears and walk around the block answering a list of questions.

[Tami Rudkin](#) | posted 5/12/2002

Have your group number off by twos. Ask them to line up facing each other so that they are matched up with someone from the opposite group. Hand all the number ones a piece of paper with questions (see below) printed on them. Explain that they are going to take a walk around the block. As they do that they will continually change partners and answer the following questions as directed by the group leader. Form a line of pairs and begin by each partner answering the first question. After giving them about three minutes to answer question one, have the number twos move ahead one person. The number ones will keep their place. The number two member at the head of the line will go to the end of the line to meet up with his or her partner. Have them answer question two. Proceed until all the questions have been answered.

1. What is your favorite summertime activity?
2. Where did you live in the summer of 1980?
3. What was one of your summer jobs when you were a high school student?
4. What is one of your summertime memories?
5. If you could go anywhere this summer where would you go?
6. What do you love to do in the summer that you don't get to do any other time of the year?

Sounds Of Summer

Offer to cut someone's lawn as an act of service.

[Sue Skalicky](#) | posted 7/09/2003

I love the sounds of summer. I find it easier to get out of bed in the morning when the sun is beaming through my open window, allowing me to hear sparrows chirping wildly and the warm breeze rustling new leaves. Soon after I rise, I can often hear kids giggling in the distance, sprinklers pumping cold water onto thirsty soil, dogs barking, and the neighbor's phone ringing through open windows. But the sound that announces summer's arrival the loudest is the productive hum of the lawnmower. It seems that this fresh background melody plays most mornings, afternoons, and evenings on clear summer days - sometimes loudly, other times just a faint whisper in the distance.

This month, give meaning to this symphony by organizing your small group to mow lawns on a bright summer Saturday. Obtain a flatbed trailer or a couple of trucks and load up several lawnmowers, plenty of gasoline, and your small group members. (Remember: Many hands make light work.) Begin by pulling up to the homes of people you know from church or another small group. As one person rings the doorbell have others start up the lawnmowers. It's hard to refuse the offer of a free lawn mowing when the engines are running! Remember to bring your own large garbage bags for the grass and have an extra truck to collect them. Next, visit the homes of those for whom your small group has been praying. If their lawn is in need of mowing, ring the doorbell and start the engines. As your group gets into the routine, look for homes where the grass is tall and in desperate need of a cut. Again, ring the doorbell, start the engines, and explain that your small group is performing a community lawn mowing outreach. Finish the day with a BBQ at a member's home or in the park. Pray for the people whose lives were touched by your work. Ask that God would add His words of love to the music of a lawnmower whenever they hear one this summer.

Reasonable Service

What one small group is doing on its summer vacation.

[Michael C. Mack](#) | posted 7/12/1996

This summer, our small group isn't studying the Bible. We won't be praying much together either. And worship is definitely out this summer in our group. *You've given up our Christian ideals*, I hear you saying. *You've thrown in the towel, sold out, abandoned the call*. Not really. We're just doing things a little differently than

usual. We're having picnics, playing Pictionary in the back yard, going to Cincinnati Reds games together, washing cars, baby-sitting, throwing a party and attending a few others. ...

We've been planning these summer activities since we began our group last fall. The idea is to invite my neighbors to join us in our fun and get to know them better. We'll also be doing what you might call "service projects" around the neighborhood—nonthreatening kinds of things like holding a big free carwash on the cul-de-sac near our house, providing free baby-sitting for the young couples in our neighborhood so they can have a night out on the town, and looking for other opportunities in the neighborhood.

This fall we'll get back to our usual small group schedule. We'll be using the *Building Your Marriage* study by Dennis Rainey in the Family Life HomeBuilders Couples Series. And we'll invite all our newfound friends—a bunch of young couples in the neighborhood—to join us. Later that autumn, after they have had a chance to see that the Bible is relevant to real life, we'll do a Bible study—the book of John probably.

By then we hope our group will have grown. And we pray the Kingdom will grow too, as these neighbors meet Jesus—first through our lives, and then through our actions, and then through a study of a relevant topic like their marriages, and then through the Word.

Oh, by the way, our group will be praying this summer. We've all committed to praying individually for each other and for the people in the neighborhood who don't know Jesus. And, actually, we'll be worshipping too, offering ourselves as living sacrifices to people so that they may see God through us. This is our "spiritual act of worship" (Romans 12:1). Or, as the *King James* says, this is our "reasonable service."

Other Christians will be going on short-term missionary trips to places all over the world this summer. Our group is taking the gospel to people in our own back yard—literally.

In Our Own Backyards

During the summer, we took the gospel to people in our own backyards—literally.

[Michael C. Mack](#) | posted 5/12/1998

Last summer, our small group didn't study the Bible. We didn't pray much together either. And worship was definitely out in our group. Instead, we had picnics, played Pictionary in the back yard, washed cars, baby-sat, threw a party, and attended a few others.

We began planning these summer activities when we began our group last fall. The idea was to invite neighbors to join us in our fun and get to know them better. We also did service projects around the neighborhood—nonthreatening kinds of things like holding a free car wash on the cul-de-sac near our house and providing free baby-sitting for the young couples in our neighborhood so they could have a night out on the town.

In the fall we got back to our usual small group schedule. We used the "Building Your Marriage" study by Dennis Rainey in the Family Life HomeBuilders Couples Series. And we invited all our newfound friends—a bunch of young couples in the neighborhood—to join us. Later that autumn, after they had a chance to see that the Bible is relevant to real life, we planned a Bible study—the book of John.

By then our group had grown. And we prayed the Kingdom would grow too, as these neighbors met Jesus—first through our lives, and then through our actions, and then through a study of a relevant topic like their marriages, and then through the Word.

Oh, by the way, our group did pray last summer. We all committed to praying individually for each other and for the people in the neighborhood who don't know Jesus. We worshipped too, offering ourselves as living sacrifices to people so that they could see God through us (Romans 12:1).

Other Christians went on short-term missionary trips to places all over the world last summer. Our group took the gospel to people in our own back yard—literally.