



# Home Rituals — Ideas for your family

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St. Ignatius Loyola Parish

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## Introducing Rituals into your Home.

- \* Summer and Home Rituals
- \* Travel and bible stories — seems Jesus was often traveling. Any lessons from Jesus on traveling?
- \* Restful summer? What did Jesus say about the need for rest? For time for prayer and reflection?

### Inside this issue:

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### The Bible and Seasons

What seasons do you find mentioned in biblical stories?

## Summer and Home Rituals

### *We've made it to Summer. Now what?*

Many of us have been looking forward to summer. The end of home schooling. The beginning of good weather. So many outdoor activities.

Have you ever thought of summer in Biblical times? Have you ever thought of indications that maybe Jesus lived through the seasons? What lessons might we find from both the Hebrew scriptures and from the gospels that will help to find God in all things?



I am mindful of the Jewish Feast of Booths or Tabernacles. While chronologically it comes after the harvest, it is a feast of thanksgiving for the bounty of the land and a time of celebration for God's protection during the sojourn in the desert.

"You shall dwell in booths for seven days ... that your generations may know that I made the people of Israel dwell in booths when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God" (Leviticus 23: 42-43).

There are three great pilgrimage festivals for the Jewish people. We know two of them—Passover and Pentecost but many have not heard of this last festival, Sukkoth, or booths. A booth is a simple walled structure with a palm thatched roof. Something one would find in the wilderness (aka

Gilligan's Island.) <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sukkot>



While it isn't quite harvest yet, there are elements of this feast that make it perfect for our summer time. The idea of camping outdoors in a makeshift shelter takes us away from our usual order. During the Feast of Booths ordinary work was forbidden. Instead the focus was on God, God's protection (Exodus), God's providence (Harvest), God's presence (dedication of the Temple) during a feast on the final day. The feast includes decoration of one's booth, procession with branches and fruits of the harvest, recitation from the Torah and the singing of Psalms. Maybe a festival that you might want to consider—outside or in—even if it involves only blankets and sheets as the roof for your shelter.

One of the interesting questions one finds in the research is the question, "**Did Jesus participate in this festival? What would it have been like for him?**" [See John 7:1-14.](#)



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### Finding God in All Things

## What Bible Stories do you think are Summertime Stories?

- Jesus feeding the 5 thousand  
— a grand summer picnic, folks sitting on the grass
- Jesus calming the storm at sea  
— typical summer storms, whether on sea or land
- Wedding Feast at Cana  
— maybe a summer event, often depicted as an outdoor event
- Creation  
— God planting a garden

Did you miss Mary's May Crowning? Maybe you want to have one of your own. Read Elizabeth Kelly's reflection at [LoyolaPress.Com](http://LoyolaPress.Com). Here's a [home prayer service](#) that you can use.

## Laudato Si' and Summer Rituals

What better time to see and understand the beauty of creation than summer time? What better time to see and accept our responsibility for the care of the earth?



Well, last year, the Vatican wished to announce a plan of action to implement Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'*. But we all know how things got changed due to the pandemic. So we start once again, this year, renewing our relationship with the earth. Now, the beginning of summer, would be a great time to listen once again to Pope Francis, to his appeal for the earth. Take a couple of minutes to simply listen Pope Francis and recall the great gift of creation. <https://youtu.be/akK7diU4Kgc>

Follow up the next day with Pope Francis' prayer for the earth.

<https://www.laudatosi.org/pope-francis/a-prayer-for-the-earth/>

Listen once again to the Canticle of Creation from St. Francis. <https://www.laudatosi.org/pope-francis/the-canticle-of-creatures/>

Continue to become aware of the gift of creation that God gives as we pray for creation. <https://www.laudatosi.org/pope-francis/in-union-with-creation/>

Listen to Pope Francis' call to become aware and involved in the care of the earth which is also a call to become aware of and involved in the care of others. <https://youtu.be/VPpXQu-Ok-g>

Then consider ways in which you might want to make Care for Our Common Home a part of your summer. Might that be planting a garden? Might that be recycling and conservation? Might that be seeking to be more conscious of the way we live by shopping at farmer's

markets? Might that be more outings to the parks and outdoors to show our children the wonders of creation? Might that be taking the time together as a family to thank God for the gift of creation?

What rituals can you come up with to celebrate Our Common Home and to guide us towards actively caring for it?

A quick glance through the document will give you an idea of the great heritage of our faith for caring for the earth. Everything from the Canticle of Creation to the Story of Creation. A quick review of the website will help you to get a sense of our world-wide faith and what others are doing to preserve the land in order to care for others. As Pope Francis would say, we are all in this together.

