

Happy Independence Day!

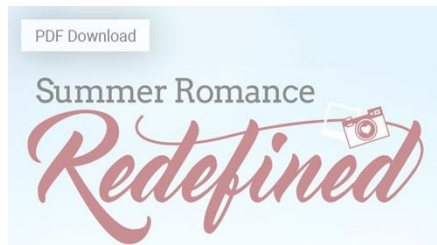
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Everyone Speaks Family

July 2021

Can you believe summer has already arrived? Are you wondering what to do with the kids this year? Have you already run out of ideas?

This summer might still look a little different, but that's alright. There are still plenty of opportunities to have fun, relax a little, and make memories that will far outlast the summer heat. And we've pulled together a few ideas to help you out.



The **Summer Game Plan** packet includes:

- Ideas for low-cost family fun.
- Ways to inspire spiritual growth in your kids.
- Scripture cards to memorize.
- Ways to get the whole family moving.
- A few play ideas to do on their own.

The **Summer Romance Redefined** packet includes:

- 20 Days to Inspire your spouse – one for him, one for her
- 52 ways to flirt with each other.
- Romantic Mad Libs for the side of you that's still young and carefree.
- A card deck of summer romance ideas (take your pick!).
- 50 Things To Say to Your Husband to Make Him Feel Great.
- 25 Things Husbands Should Start Doing.

To download these great summer fun activities, just go to our personal website at: www.cooperfamilylife.com and click on the download link.



...And That's a Wrap!

The spring conference season is now at an end. It was certainly quite different with only seven events. But each of those seven events had couples attending that truly needed to reconnect, refocus, and re-energize as a couple.

The COVID virus has effected us in so many ways. At FamilyLife, we have seen the effects this virus has had on families. Our top most search on our website has been "Is it biblical to get a divorce?" Close behind that topic are articles on depression, suicide, alcoholism, and abuse.

Our marriage getaways are so desperately needed to bring hope and help to couples. **You've got to read** this testimony from a couple that just attended the *Weekend to Remember* in Houston/Sugarland.

"In 2017 we almost divorced; I became faith-based and he is atheist, so there are an abundance of issues. In 2017 we went to a counselor and chose to hold on for the two kids (Pre-K at the time).

I have basically been going to church alone, and treading water for the last 1-2 years in isolation and abandonment, and unintentionally started having an emotional affair with a childhood friend. He found out about it.

This conference has done more for our relationship, than anything I have seen in our 11 years of marriage.

About 2 weeks ago, he and I had a huge fight, and declared that there was no recovery at that point. I had already been

researching divorce lawyers, so after that fight, I called their office and hit go. The divorce paperwork was in preparation.

The next morning, he said "I don't know what you want, that we are not already doing." Among many examples, I said *Weekend to Remember* and Cruise was a bucket list item that I knew he would never do with me, because of the spiritual foundation differences. He said "book Weekend to Remember, I want to show you that I want to save the marriage."

Other cities would have been MUCH more convenient, but they were not available until Sept or Oct.

Due ONLY to divine intervention, he said "This is more important. We cannot wait that long.... What's in June." We coordinated child care, drove 13 hours/900 miles one way, and through 4 states to attend the Sugarland TX Conference. We both knew we would have been divorced by September.

This conference has done more for our relationship, than anything I have seen in our 11 years of marriage.

Please pray for us. That my husband and I will continue to remember the tools, the safe conversation platforms, and empowerment that was offered here.

Our 9yr old and 6yr old may never realize how significantly the trajectory of their lives changed this weekend, but we will never forget it. Both of us experienced a change of heart, which was only possible due to God alone.

(Permission to share the story anonymously, as it might be helpful to someone else)."

- Wife, married 11 years.

If you ever wonder why we do what we do, it is summed up in this testimony...bringing help and hope to couples. And we know that is why you are partnering with us....it's your passion also!

Unfortunately, many couples do not know where to turn when they are desperate and feel stuck. Thank you for your help in getting couples off the path that our culture points them to... divorce. It is only through the power of Christ and His unending love and grace that will carry us through. Would you take a moment and pray for this couple? They will need your prayers over the following months as they heal.

TRANSITION / PRAYER UPDATE

Yes! The Lord has

provided a home for us in **Lincoln, CA**! Thank you for your prayers to find the right home virtually! With homes going as quickly as they have been with bidding wars, it was a difficult time to understand God's direction.

But we had two major prayers—prevent us from buying a home that is not what you specifically picked out for us, and it seemed like He was answering that one...over and over again!

Our second prayer was that He would block all other offers on the one house He had specifically picked out for us. What seemed like an impossible feat was possible for Him! With the house being on the market for five days, we were the only offer for this home! Unbelievable...except for God!

So, the move begins. We will be driving across the country beginning July 9th. Pray for our safety and sanity as we will have our cat with us. That in itself will be an adventure! We look forward to moving out of "suspended animation" over the last few months and getting settled in. The Lord knew the timing so we continue to trust Him each step of the way, knowing that **He does all things well**.

*Living the Adventure,
- John + Bev*

