

Parent / Grandparent Fair Ideas

Steve Alley

We all love to get “free samples”! It is so fun to walk around Costco or Sam’s Club when the sample carts are out! The “Parent / Grandparent Fair” would be just like that! There would be “stations” (tables, carts, or obvious displays) set around the children’s ministry area that deal with specific parenting or grandparenting ideas. There would be “free samples” of brochures of other items that present ideas for parents or grandparents to try in building a strong family and strong children. All the ideas given are based on the four “sensitive times” described in Deuteronomy 6: 4-9.



*“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them **when you sit at home** and **when you walk along the road**, **when you lie down** and **when you get up**. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.”*

The Four “Sensitive Times”

- “...when you sit at home” = Mealtimes, or times together at home.
- “...when you walk along the road” = No special reason times, walking, driving, shopping, errands.
- “...when you lie down” = Bedtime at night.
- “...when you get up” = Getting up in the morning.

Fair Stations

1. **Good food / good conversations** – (“...when you sit at home”) Ideas for combining a delicious meal at home with “delicious” conversation. Simple meal ideas that have related topics of conversation are given.
2. **Family mealtime memories** – (“...when you sit at home”) Ideas for making any mealtime at home memorable. These ideas include discussion starters, games that stimulate discussions, simple Bible studies, etc. These ideas can be done during breakfast, lunch, or dinner.
3. **Car conversation ideas** – (“...when you walk along the road.”) Ideas to stimulate conversations while driving in the car that utilize what is seen out of the windows, a song that is played, the events of the day, etc.
4. **Car games that stimulate interaction and conversation** – (“...when you walk along the road.”) Fun car games for the whole family that stimulate laughter, challenges, and conversations.
5. **Fast food / deep talks** – (“...when you walk along the road.”) Ideas to make eating fast food in the car a meaningful family mealtime.
6. **Around the block adventures** – (“...when you walk along the road.”) Ideas for using a walk around the block to develop relationships with your family. Ideas include discussion starters, the discussion of scriptures, etc.
7. **Mall experiences** – (“...when you walk along the road.”) Ideas to make a leisurely walk in the mall a family-building experience.
8. **Family field trips** – (“...when you walk along the road.”) Ideas to use trips to local settings as fun family “field trips.” These ideas will include both free adventures (tours of local businesses, drive-by visits, etc.) and trips to amusement parks that cost money.



9. **Family camping at home** – (“...when you lie down”) Ideas for making camping memories at home! Sleeping in a different room, or outside, can add “adventure” to the experience.



10. **Taking the boredom out of bedtime** – (“...when you lie down”) Ideas for making bedtime enjoyable and memorable using songs, stories, books, pretending, prayer, etc.

11. **Rise and shine** – (“...when you get up”) Ideas for making the morning a time that they’ll never forget!

12. **Early morning adventures** – (“...when you get up”) Ideas for some “getting up early” adventures that will never be forgotten.

