



# The Intentional Summer

3 Simple Ideas to Help Moms Pursue  
Truth & Beauty This Summer

BY STACIE HILBY

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I'M STACIE,

# HI THERE!

I'm a Christian mom and Bible teacher turned writer. I write about theology, books, and how our knowledge of God can help us in our everyday lives. As a mom of two, I know summer can feel long. And tiring. We all want a summer that is full of God-honoring days and beautiful memories. But how do we get there?

Well, I've learned that we can't get there without a plan. We have to purposefully pursue the right things and fill our head, heart, and days with God's truth. So, the purpose of this simple guide is to help you intentionally plan for a summer where you:

- Seek truth & strength from the right sources
- Read well so you're filled with hope & purpose
- Consume content wisely so you feel peaceful & fulfilled

More than a list of "to-dos," this guide is meant to inspire you to live by God's truth and help you recognize the beauty of everyday life with Him. There is grace upon grace for this summer. So, let's get ready for an amazing time!

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# 01

## SEEK WELL

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What will you pursue this summer?

As moms, we know that in between swim lessons and play dates our summer days will also be full of chores, messes, and meals. In the middle of it all, will you choose to seek an escape or a refuge? It's natural to want to seek a quiet retreat or mindless distraction throughout the day. But if we are only ever seeking to be diverted or numbed to our reality, we are

missing out on God's provisions and blessings.

Above anything else, we need to seek God this summer. This means time in His Word. He offers to be our refuge and strength (Ps 46:1). We need time with Him in His Word to make it through. And through His Word He will equip us for everything He's called us to do.

## INTENTIONAL SUMMER

# HOW TO SEEK WELL

There is no substitute for God's Word. It will equip you for everything you're going to face this summer and give you the truth to combat every fear and worry.

So, here are a few creative ways to pursue the Word this summer:

- Listen to the Bible when you go for a walk, during quiet time, or when you cook dinner.
- Read one Psalm a day with your morning coffee or right before bed.
- Read a short book of the Bible (one chapter a week):
  - Philippians--4 chapters
  - Colossians --4 chapters
  - James--5 chapters
  - Jude--1 chapter!
- Use one of these two books that walk you through prayers and Scripture over a 30 day period (just open and read--no planning necessary!).
  - [Letters of Paul in 30 Days](#) by Trevin Wax
  - [Handbook for Praying Scripture](#) by William Varner

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### HOW I WANT TO PURSUE THE BIBLE THIS SUMMER:

“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”

(2 Tim 3:16-17)



# 02

## READ WELL

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What will you fill your mind with this summer?

I love easy reads for the beach and pool in the summer. But instead of reaching for chick-lit every time, add a few books to your list that will help you purposefully *know* and *grow* this summer. I like choosing titles that help me *know* God better or *grow* in a specific area of my faith.

I have found that reading this type of material in the summer fills me with encouragement and hope for the long and sometimes lonely days. Reading well in the summer is another way I keep my mind on the Lord and intentionally fill it with Godly thoughts, so I avoid complaining, comparison, and discouragement in the summer.

## INTENTIONAL SUMMER

# HOW TO READ WELL

To help you decide what to read this summer, ask yourself:

1. What do I want to know about God?
2. What area of my faith is weak and needs strengthening?
3. What topic do I want to understand better to be able to speak to my kids about with more confidence?

Now consider choosing something like:

1. Missionary or Christian biographies. [Here's a great list!](#)
  2. Prayers of Early Christians
    - [Pilgrim Prayers: Devotional Poems That Awaken Your Heart to the Goodness, Greatness, and Glory of God,](#)
    - [Fount of Heaven: Prayers of the Early Church](#)
  3. Books about Trusting God
    - [The Shepherd Trilogy](#)
    - [Trusting God](#)
  4. Theology Books
    - [Concise Theology](#)
    - [Knowing God](#)
    - [The Gospel Way Catechism: 50 Truths That Take on the World](#)
  5. Christian classics. [Here's another great list!](#) I would also add anything by A.W. Tozer!
  6. Topics for parents: [Mama Bear Apologetics](#), [Five Lies of our Anti Christian Age](#), [Talking with Your Kids About Jesus](#)
  7. I have more book lists on [my website here!](#)
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## MY SUMMER BOOK LIST:



“Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.”

(Phil 4:8)



# 03

## CONSUME WELL

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What will satisfy you this summer?

For me, summertime always requires a heart check. Who am I listening to and what are they telling me to find satisfaction in? Who or what am I depending on to be happy? Having a steady diet of worldly ideas will always create a craving for more things and a dissatisfaction with our present circumstances. It will drive us to look to the world for fulfillment and

create a cycle of desires that can never truly be satisfied.

Instead, we can look to Christ and find complete satisfaction in Him and in living according to His Word. We can be happy because our days are ordained and purposeful. We can be delighted by the beauty of His work in our life. We can find fulfillment in doing His will. And we can rest secure in His finished work.

## INTENTIONAL SUMMER

# HOW TO CONSUME WELL

Watch the worldly content you consume, so you don't begin to believe that temporal or material things will satisfy you more than Christ. Consume God's Word and learn to enjoy His works and ways being displayed in your life.

### Find fulfillment in doing God's Will:

1. Training little hearts to know Him
2. Helping little hands learn patience and gentleness
3. Modeling Christ-like faith for little eyes that are always watching
4. Studying God's Word so we show our family how to be ready for what God calls us to do
5. Working with joy around the house God has blessed us with
6. Serving each other with love because He first loved us
7. Praying continually because the needs are continual
8. Desiring to be more like Christ, not a better version of ourselves

### Enjoy the beauty that God has put in your life:

1. Every answered prayer--even the smallest ones
2. All the blessings, especially the simplest ones--dinner together, laughing kids, an air conditioned house...
3. The ability to create things together--meals, gardens, memories, crafts, art...
4. The joy of living by His truth--time in God's Word together, God-honoring conversations, times of serving and loving others, memorizing and applying Scripture, teaching kids to wait or work well, modeling simple prayers before meals or bed...

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WHAT DO YOU NEED TO CONSUME LESS OF (TV, SOCIAL MEDIA, PHONE, ETC.) SO YOU CAN MAKE ROOM FOR WHAT MATTERS?

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
for they shall be satisfied.”

(Matt 5:6)

## INTENTIONAL SUMMER GOALS

# SEEK, READ, & CONSUME WELL

What areas do I want to grow in the most in this summer? How will I pursue those?



What do I feel led to specifically teach my kids about God/Christianity this summer? What's the best way to teach them these things?



What do I want our family routines to look like this summer? Did I leave room for Scripture reading & praying together?





# THANK YOU FOR DOWNLOADING!

**I'M SO GLAD YOU FOUND THIS RESOURCE.**

I'm Stacie Hilby, a wife and mom of two based in Phoenix, AZ. I believe the truth of God's Word can transform our lives and have spent the past decade teaching it in various church settings and leading several women's ministries. I have my MA in Biblical Studies and Theological Studies from The Master's University and am passionate about growing biblical literacy in the Church, supporting women's ministries in their Word-centered work, and remaining a perpetual student of God's Word.

**IF YOU ENJOYED THIS AND WANT TO SEE MORE:**

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