

As the situation with corona virus advances around the world, we are aware that some of our readers will currently be in lockdown with their families. We would like to share some ideas to help with using this situation constructively.

First we believe it is really crucial to convey trust in God at this time. Romans 8:28 says this:

*And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who<sup>[i]</sup> have been called according to his purpose.*

The situation calls to mind for me the crisis we faced in Senegal in 1997, where we had to evacuate Bourofaye Christian School at short notice. We were able to continue running the school, but in very difficult circumstances. The commitment, positive attitude and adaptability of the staff were a testimony to God's grace and provision at that time. If we model faith and trust to our children at this time, it will help them to see that our God is real.

*Many parents will have their own creative ideas, and we would welcome your input at this time, so please write to us.*

Here are our suggestions.

- 'Be there' emotionally for your children – welcome the extra opportunities to spend time with them and build relationships. Don't just immerse yourselves in your work.
- Spend some time each day reading the Bible together as a family, praying together and singing (if it is appropriate in your context). Use online Bible study resources or whatever you have at home to help provide a structure. Pray for those around you and the unreached peoples using material from Joshua Project or Operation World.
- Make a drama from a Bible story and act it out together.
- If you are not allowed out of the home, do some exercises using a DVD or online source. If you don't have any of these resources, ask colleagues or friends for ideas. Rearrange your furniture to make space for play or exercise. The home may have to be a bit messier than usual for a while.
- If your children's school has set them online work, support them by helping them to set up a timetable and clear goals for each day.
- Choose a project to study as a family or individually. Ask your children to pick a topic that they are interested in and research it, then give a presentation to the rest of the

family. How about...a type of animal, landscape features such as deserts or lakes, inventions that have changed history, another language.....

- Play games together – have a slot each evening where you do some fun things. Play card games or board games, make up quizzes. A simple one involves choosing a letter of the alphabet (adapt this approach to suit your first language) and writing down something beginning with that letter over a variety of topics – boys’ names, girls’ names, capital city, country, river, vegetable/fruit, animal, etc. Score points giving more for the rarest answers.
- Read a story to your children, one chapter each evening. We did this in Keur Massar in Senegal by the light of a paraffin lamp and our kids loved it. At the time they were 12, 10 and 7. Even many years later they still loved reading stories in his way.
- Keep a personal diary to process events and your feelings about it and encourage the children to do the same.
- Draw the view from each window in your home. Paint it if you have the resources.
- Learn a new skill or teach one to your children. This is an opportunity for them to learn to cook, do origami, sew or knit if you have the materials.
- Allow for the fact that everyone might need some time alone. Talk about this and facilitate it.

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**Educare is a ministry of WEC International.**