

Reading across the miles



Theme

Staying connected to family members who are deployed.
Help children adapt to family and daily changes that occur when a parent is away.

Importance of nurturing resilient family bonds to sustain children through deployment.

Books to read together

In My Heart (Molly Bany)

While You are Away (Eileen Spinelli)

How Many Stars in the Sky? (Reading Rainbow)

Mommy, You are My Hero (Michelle Ferguson-Cohen)

Daddy, You are My Hero (Michelle Ferguson-Cohen)

Reading the Bible together

Gen. 12 and 17:1-8

(Story of Abraham and Sarah as they leave home and God's telling Abraham that he would have as many children as there are stars in the sky.)

Looking at the Book of Common Prayer together

Prayers for Family and Personal Life are found beginning on page 828 of the Book of Common Prayer.

What we need to do this work together

A journal book for each family member

Length of freezer paper

Tape

Markers

World Map

Talking or writing together

You might like to research the part of the world where your family member is deployed. Find the place on the map. Look in the Bible at the story of Abraham. Where did this take place? Can you find it on the map? What other biblical events can you find that took place where your family member is?

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Making something together

Praying and Singing together



*Armed Services Edition
Office of the Bishop for Federal Ministries
The Episcopal Church
www.episcopchap.org
Lifelong Christian Formation
The Episcopal Church
www.episcopalchurch.org*

Don't forget to add spiritual and faith formation components to your journal, such as your prayers, something you read in the Bible or another spiritual book, going to church or Vacation Bible School, etc.

On the length of freezer paper, divide the paper into segments. Draw faith events along with existing events that will happen while the family member is deployed, for example birthdays, Christmas pageants, etc.

For young children, you may wish to make a story box. Use sand if your family member is deployed in the desert, water if deployed in the waters, a large rock for a mountain, feathers, kites or a small fan if your family member is a pilot. The story boxes can be used to tell biblical stories - Moses in the desert, Abraham and Sarah, Noah and the flood, Jesus' stories that took place at the Sea of Galilee, the wisemen and the star, etc. Small wooden pegs make great people, little plastic boats and plastic fish help tell the stories. An underbed storage box makes a great story box.

Make a "Flat Stanley" type doll representing your family member who is deployed. Take "Flat _____" wherever you go and take photos to send to your loved one who is away.

Your family devotion center can contain a photo of the deployed member, a photograph of your family and a small calendar.

A Prayer for Those We Love

Almighty God, we entrust all who are dear to us to your never-failing care and love, for this life and the life to come, knowing that you are doing for them better things than we can desire or pray for; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
(Book of Common Prayer p. 831)