



PRE-GETWAY FAMILY TIME

Note to Parents

Thank you for signing up for our 8th annual Highrock Summer Family Getaway! Our theme for the getaway is Home Tones! This theme is one of our absolute favorites, and so we're bringing it back with lots of fresh updates from when we first did it in 2018. It plays off lots of musical metaphors to help your family consider how you can improve the spiritual tones, marriage tones, and parenting tones in your home. Specifically, we'll be thinking about:

Melody – Creating Order that Fills With Purpose (Genesis 1)

Harmony – Building Chords of Intimacy (Genesis 2)

Jazz Improv – Improvising with Grace in the midst of Brokenness (Genesis 3)

The following is a short family activity to get everyone thinking about Home Tones and where things are currently, so you can begin to dream about where you'd like to see things go, starting at the getaway and leading into the upcoming school year. I aim at elementary-age kids, so adjust accordingly if you have older or younger kids, and if nothing else, be sure to show the video that will set up the skits we'll be enjoying throughout the getaway.

Setup

- Have a fun snack or dessert prepared.
- Have a laptop or other device ready to show the skit video.

Opening Game Option: Hot Potato (if short on time, skip)

Use this [YouTube video](#) which automatically stops for you so everyone can play. Use whatever object would be fun for your family. Be outside if it's nice. With older kids you can use a soccer ball, frisbee, water balloon etc. and spread out further to make it more challenging. Just have some fun and be silly together.

Opening Song Option: Be a Worship Band (if short on time, skip this too)

Pick a favorite family worship song - maybe from Summer Blast - and sing it together. Grab instruments, use motions ... make it fun. The theme is all about music and the skits involve a band so be your own Home Tones Band to start out.

Opening Discussion

Offer everyone the snack or dessert, and once people are eating, open with the following question (note: for all of the questions/activities, it is great to have the parents answer/participate as well):

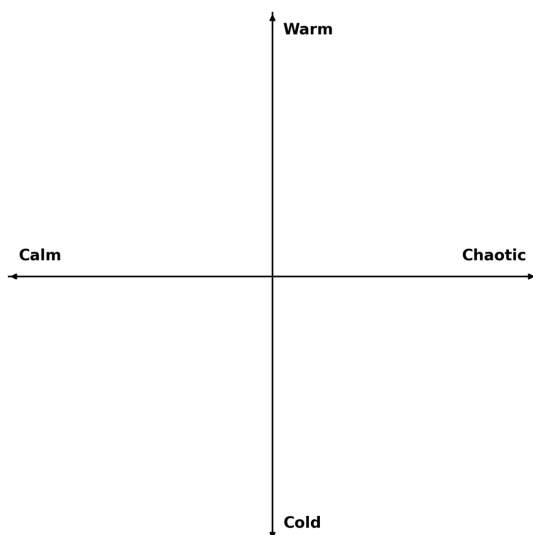
- What is something you are looking forward to on the Summer Family Getaway?

Theme Introduction

Say, “Well, the theme for this summer is Home Tones.”

Ask some or all of the following questions:

- What do you think Home Tones are?
- Let’s think of Home Tones this way. Get a piece of paper or whiteboard and draw an XY axis. Put Calm - Chaotic on the X axis and put Cold - Warm on the Y axis. See example below.



Starting with the youngest in the family, invite them to put their initials (or you can write them) where they think your family lands on a warm-and-connected scale (y-axis) and a hectic-and-busy scale (x-axis). Don’t critique anyone’s placement of their initials. Just allow it to give everyone information about where people stand - starting with the youngest ideally avoids them just doing whatever older siblings do and allows you to help them first.

- What makes our Home Tones not so good?
- What makes our Home Tones great?

Theme Verse

Say, “Well, the theme verse for the weekend is:

“Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts.”

Colossians 3:16 (NLT)

Say, “Let’s look at the different parts of this verse and see how they can help us with our Home Tones.” (It might help to write this out or show it on a laptop or in a Bible so all readers can follow along. If you have little ones, I might just say a few of your own thoughts about the verse, sing a fun song or two that your kids like and then start working on memorizing it).

1. What does the first sentence encourage us to do? How could that help our Home Tones?

(Having Jesus fill each of our lives is always going to be the first step to having good Home Tones. Without Jesus, we’ll always struggle to love others well.)

2. What do you think the second sentence is talking about? How could that also help our Home Tones?

(Offering God’s wisdom to each other as we learn to have good home tones is huge! God has so much to teach us about forgiveness, fun, and family. Any time we can remind each other of God’s ways, we are going to help our family grow a ton!)

3. What do you think about the last sentence? How could having thankful hearts make our family awesome?

(Gratitude is such a key element to the health of all our relationships. If we are self-centered, our tones will be pretty lousy. But thankfulness is a lot like a song that everyone loves to hear over and over again.)

“This is a great verse to memorize as we gear up for the getaway. Pastor Brian thinks it’s such a great one that he’ll be passing out a candy prize to anyone who can say it from memory on their way in the first night! So let’s start practicing it!”

Pre-Getaway Skit Video

Say, “Well, since we’re talking about Home Tones, we obviously will need a cool band for the Summer Getaway. Let’s check out this video and see who they’ve booked!”

Watch the video link that was given

Closing Prayer

Say, “Well, I am really excited about our time together on the getaway that’s coming up! Let’s pray and ask God to help us get ready for all the cool things He wants to do while we’re there!”

Prayer: “Lord, we are really thankful for the chance to go on the Summer Family Getaway. Help us start now to create better Home Tones by loving you more and loving each other better. Forgive us for the ways we struggle with that and prepare our hearts to have a great time together that leads toward an awesome year ahead! In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.”