

TIM SHOEMAKER



a division of Baker Publishing Group Grand Rapids, Michigan © 2019 by Tim Shoemaker

Published by Revell a division of Baker Publishing Group PO Box 6287, Grand Rapids, MI 49516-6287 www.revellbooks.com

Printed in the United States of America

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—for example, electronic, photocopy, recording—without the prior written permission of the publisher. The only exception is brief quotations in printed reviews.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Shoemaker, Tim, author.

Title: The very best, hands-on, kinda dangerous family devotions: 52 activities

your kids will never forget / Tim Shoemaker.

Description: Grand Rapids: Baker Publishing Group, 2019. Identifiers: LCCN 2018045152 | ISBN 9780800735555 (pbk.)

Subjects: LCSH: Christian education—Home training. | Christian education of

children. | Object-teaching. | Families—Religious life. Classification: LCC BV1590 .S56 2019 | DDC 249—dc23 LC record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2018045152

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the Holy Bible, New International Version®. NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. www.zondervan.com. The "NIV" and "New International Version" are trademarks registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office by Biblica, Inc.™

Scripture quotations labeled NLT are from the *Holy Bible*, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2007, 2013, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.

All activities and projects in this book are intended to be performed under adult supervision. Appropriate and reasonable caution is required at all times, and the

suggested activities cannot replace common sense and sound judgment. Observe safety and caution at all times. The author and publisher disclaim all liability for any damage, mishap, or injury that may occur from engaging in the activities featured in this book.

19 20 21 22 23 24 25 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 6 15 20 6 In keeping with biblical principles of creation stewardship, Baker Publishing Group advocates the responsible use of our natural resources. As a member of the Green Press Initiative, our company uses recycled paper when possible. The text paper of this book is composed in part of post-consumer waste.





TP Blaster

THEME: Holy Spirit control / walking in the Spirit versus living in our own power

Leaf blower—the more powerful the better, with an oval-shaped snout opening Extension cord (25 feet is ideal) and access to electrical outlet if leaf blower is electric 4-inch paint roller; pick the smoothest moving one you can find Duct tape—or for a very sturdy mounting, a drill, a bit, and two bolts with nuts to attach the paint roller handle to the end of the leaf blower snout Flat metal file if the paint roller handle is rounded At least six single-ply, thousand-sheet rolls of toilet paper

Advance Prep

If you already have a leaf blower, great. If you're purchasing one, make sure that the end of the snout where the air blows out is oval, not round, so you'll get a more concentrated blast of air directed at the TP.

Buy a really free-wheeling roller. The cheap ones don't spin as easily or quickly, and you don't want anything inhibiting your demonstration. I went to a paint shop to find one. If the handle is rounded, it will be tougher to mount to the snout without it tipping from side to side. Take a metal file and flatten out a spot on the handle. That will keep the roller mounted square—which means the roll of TP will be held in the perfect position.

Now position the roller at the end of the leaf blower snout, and either wrap with duct tape to fasten or drill through both the handle and the snout. Slide the bolts through, snug down the nuts, and you're ready to roll—or better yet, unroll!

Make sure the tube in the TP roll is nice and round for a free-flowing experience. It's a good idea to make sure each of the rolls has been unrolled a few turns before you start. Generally, the manufacturer glues down the leading edge.

Place the tube on the roller. It won't fit snugly—you'll need to hold the blower on a bit of an angle so the TP doesn't fall off. The end of the paper should roll off the tube away from the leaf blower.

Okay—give it a try. Your kids are going to love this as much as you do!

Running the Activity

The TP Blaster should be plugged in and ready to go, but drape a towel over it to keep it hidden for now. Now call the kids over.

Hand a roll of toilet paper to one of the kids, explaining that they'll be in a race to unroll the paper. They can use their two forefingers as an axle to twirl the paper off the tube, or they can use one finger as an axle and use the other hand to pull the paper off the tube. If they choose the second method, explain that if they rip the paper three times they'll be disqualified. Demo this for them so they know exactly how to do it.

If you have enough kids, mention that one of them will work together with you, but you'll have to unload two rolls instead of just one—and you'll use a different method to do that.

Now give the kid unrolling the TP by hand a head start. Once they begin, uncover the leaf blower and hand it to the kid helping you. Load a roll of TP on the paint roller, and show him or her how to hold the leaf blower at an angle so the TP roll doesn't slide off. Now you're set . . . turn on the leaf blower.

Get the next roll ready and pop it on as soon as the first one is done.

Teaching the Lesson

The one unrolling the TP by hand was working as hard as they could, trying not to become disqualified. This is how many people try to live the Christian life. Sometimes we're working so hard, just trying not to mess up.

- To be the kind of Christian we should be
- To be the kind of son or daughter we should be
- To be a good brother or friend or student or whatever

The truth is we don't feel we can do much more than we are doing now. And sometimes even when we try our best, we still mess up—or think we could have done better.

But that's where we need something beyond ourselves . . . the power of the Holy Spirit to help us. The modified leaf blower represents the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. You didn't expect that we'd have something like this leaf blower to unroll the TP—and probably didn't have any idea it would be so effective. And that's how it is with the Holy Spirit. When we give the Holy Spirit control in our lives, he does the unexpected. The unforeseeable. Often, he changes our hearts.

If we really desire to give the Holy Spirit control so he can change us and help us be the person we should be through all circumstances, we need to let him lead.

Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives. (Gal. 5:25 NLT)

Letting the Spirit lead is often as simple as *asking* him to lead . . . and then following when he does.

Why don't we follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives? Sometimes it boils down to us wanting to do whatever it is we want to do.

- If we're in a bad mood, sometimes we don't want to change.
- If we're mad at someone, we don't really want to forgive them.
- If we're lusting after someone, we don't want to turn off the fantasy.
- If we're doing something wrong, sometimes we don't want to stop.

All of these examples are old nature things—the very things the Holy Spirit wants to help us overcome. If we want to experience the power of the Holy Spirit working in our lives, often it means we need to exercise some self-control as well. Sometimes that means controlling ourselves enough to ask God for help.

A person without self-control is like a city with broken-down walls. (Prov. 25:28 NLT)

Think about ancient times and a city with broken-down walls. How safe was someone who lived in a city like that?

People living in a city without walls were vulnerable to attack. To raiders that would come in to steal and destroy. How are you vulnerable to danger when you don't practice self-control? Can you think of an example?

Sometimes self-control itself is hard. Sometimes we feel we have so little self-control. God can help us with that as well. One of the fruit of the Spirit, one of the things the Holy Spirit produces in our lives, is *self-control*.

But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. (Gal. 5:22–23 NLT)

Living the Christian life to the fullest isn't something God intends for us to do on our own, solely with our own power. He has given us the Holy Spirit.

Summing It Up

We need to give the Holy Spirit permission to work in our lives. To change our hearts. Our desires. To give us more self-control. And we need to exercise self-control ourselves. This is a real key to helping us live more like a Christian and keeping us out of danger. Without it, we're vulnerable to attacks from the enemy.

So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise. Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do. Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit. (Eph. 5:15–18 NLT)

So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves. (Gal. 5:16 NLT)

God isn't looking to rob us of fun. God gives us the Holy Spirit to *rescue* us from things that are wrong, from things that can hurt us, from things that come from our enemy, the devil and his demons.

God gives us his Holy Spirit to make changes inside us, in our hearts. He uses the Holy Spirit to do things in and through us that we could never predict. Things that would be impossible on our own.

So when we're struggling with our attitude, or with sin in any way, let's remember to exercise a little self-control . . . and let's remember to give the Holy Spirit permission to make changes in us. As we do that, we'll find that our walk as a Christian will get stronger.

- We won't mess up as much.
- We'll have fewer regrets.

And each time we give the Holy Spirit control, we'll be growing more and more into the person God wants us to be, so we can accomplish the good plans he has for us.