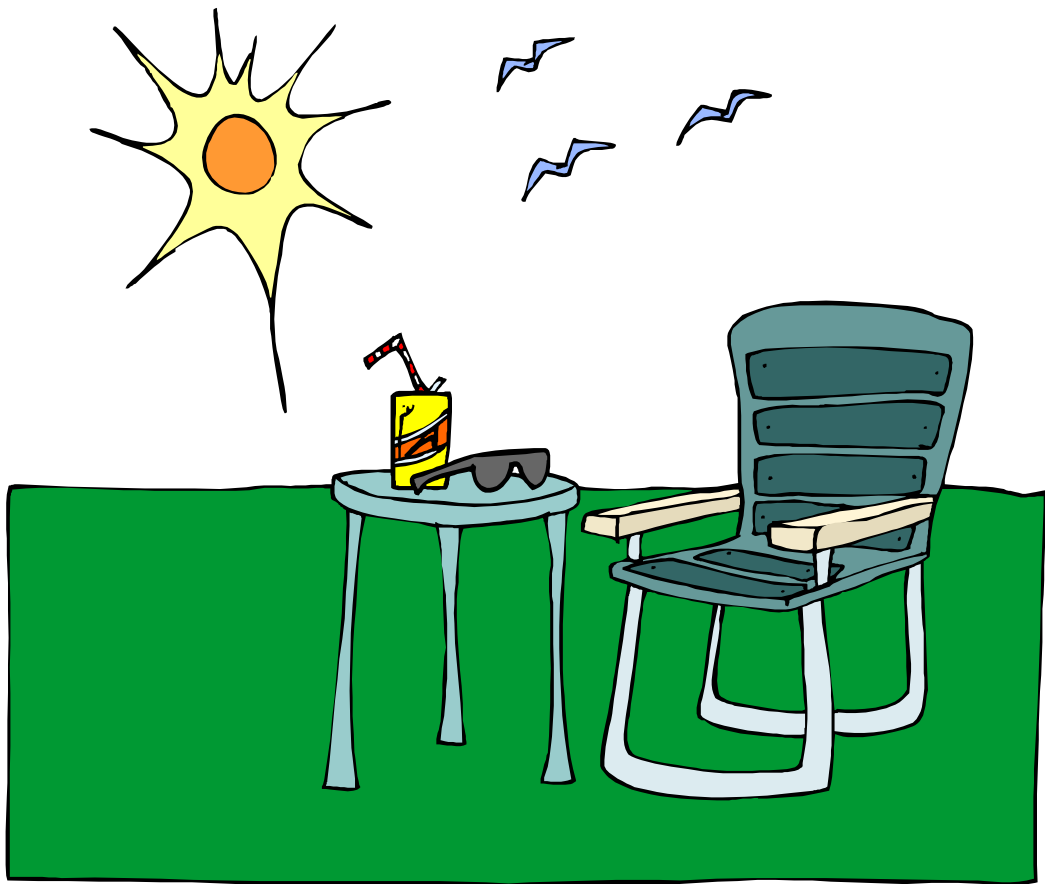


SUMMER



Where winter is cold and lonely, summer is warm and full of fun. The weather is usually very warm and we can do many things that we cannot do in winter. We feel free. Even our clothes are light weight.

In summer there is an amazing amount of life all around us. Birds sing in the trees, frogs croak and insects make a nice sound in the evening.

What can we learn from God's creation of summer?

When we believe that Jesus is our Lord and Savior, we are at peace with God the Father. Instead of feeling lonely and sad, we are happy that our sins are forgiven. Instead of feeling weighed down by our sins, we feel free. When we believe the Bible's message of salvation for all who believe in Jesus, we are free just like we are in summer. Jesus teaches us in John 8:31, 36, "If you hold to my teaching you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth and the truth will set you free ... So if the Son (Jesus) sets you free you will be free indeed."

When we are free to move around in summer we can learn the lesson of telling others about Jesus. We often make new friends in summer as we go out to play. Jesus told us that we should go out into the world to tell everyone about Him and what He has done for all of us. Jesus teaches us about telling others in Mark 16:15 when he said, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved." As

we go out exploring in the neighborhood where we live, think about how the apostles went out in their home towns telling everyone about Jesus.

In the summer we see a lot of life all around us. We see birds flying and sitting in the trees singing. If we live near a stream we might hear frogs croaking. If we live near a field we might hear crickets chirping in the evening. There are plants in full bloom everywhere we look. God uses all of these living things to remind us that we are not alone in the world. There are many who share the world with us and we should think of everyone as our neighbors. Jesus teaches us in Matthew 19:19, "Love your neighbor as yourself." We should be considerate of others since we are all God's creation. The Bible teaches us in Colossians 3:12-14, "As God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these

virtues put on love which binds them all together in perfect unity."

Summer also teaches us about heaven. In summer the sunlight is very bright compared to the other seasons. The sunlight is so bright that if we looked at the sun we would go blind. When we see Jesus in heaven He will be as bright as the sun but instead of being blinded by the light, we will be filled with joy. The Bible teaches us in Psalm 34:3-5, "Glorify the Lord with me; let us exalt his name together. I sought the Lord and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears. Those who look to him are radiant; their faces are never covered with shame." Because Jesus died on the cross to take away our sins, we will shine like the sun in heaven and have eternal joy. We know that we will be like this because the Bible tells us it is true. When Jesus went up on a mountain to pray, He was met by Moses and Elijah and they were glorious to see as we read in Luke 9:29-30, "As he (Jesus) was praying, the appearance of his face changed and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. Two men,

Moses and Elijah, appeared in glorious splendor talking with Jesus."

