Reading across the miles

Theme

Books to read together

Reading the Bible together

Looking at the Book of Common Prayer together

What we need to do this work together

Talking or writing together

Passage of time
Challenges of deployment

Night Catch (Brenda Ehrmantraut)
On Earth (G. Brian Karas)
Me on the Map (Joan Sweeney)
Inter-linked Space (Ben Denne and Eileen O’Brien)
Family Traditions for All Seasons (Dr. Mary Keller)

Eccl. 3:1-9 (For everything there is a season)
Rom. 8:34b-39 (Nothing can separate us from the love of God)

Prayer for those in the armed forces of our country, p 823
Prayer for those we love, p 831

Stars (paper or cardboard or multi-dimensional)
markers
star charms
lanyard cord
stars on white paper

We read in the Roman’s passage that nothing can separate us from the love of God. Discuss as a family how nothing can separate each other from the love of family. What can you as a family do to make this happen? The reading from Ecclesiastes was made into a song by Pete Seeger.
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Making something together

Make star necklaces or bracelets for each family member. Put each family member’s name on a star and have stars for each person to wear. You may wish to make a star book with a page for each family member. Include a photo. Look at a constellation map and find Polaris. Then locate Polaris from where you live (and from where you are deployed.) Looking at the star each evening will help to connect you with your family. If you have a globe (map will work but not as well) get in a darkened place and shine a flashlight on the place where you live. Then shine the light where your family member is deployed. Sing “This Little Light of Mine” and include a verse “Shine all over _____ (where you live) and Shine all over _____ (where your family member is deployed.) Put dots on the globe where you have lived. You may wish to draw pictures of the Ecclesiastes reading on a calendar, or make your own calendar and have a larger space for your artwork.

Singing and praying together

See above suggestions for singing. For your devotion center include the globe and the star booklet or some other stars.