

Have a Faith Filled Summer!!!

Summer is a great time to change it up and try some new ideas/activities. Listed below you will find a variety---some tried and true, some that are old with a new twist and some that have a fresh----ya, let's give that try feeling. The purpose is to get your creative juices flowing and see what great faith experiences you come up with. I know your ideas will be even better than mine, so as you plan for your children and family ministries, please share your ideas with us!!

Library/book ideas

("God's gift to us because they are from God's gifted people"

Remember that books depict a journey and that Faith is a journey.)

- Library reading challenge complete with Reading logs and prizes at the end
- PB&J-(Pillows, books and Jesus) come in Pj's for comfort, Bible Stories, crafts, music and of course, cookies and milk!!
 - Theme book- example: discuss the Ten commandments and then write an 11th commandment. Read: The 11th Commandment (Publisher: Jewish Lights)
 - Let's cook - book/story and then cook it. Example:
Field Trip by Melody Carlson ---Read it out of the Bible too!!!
Matthew 13:3-9; 18-23 Then make the recipes match the theme---Field of veggies sandwiches, Silo Spirals, scarecrow Fruit sticks, and Rocky dirt cake!!!

Summer is a good time for bridge over events

Examples: K into 1st

2nd into 3rd

5th into 6th

8th into high school

And Grads leave a legacy

you may want to do an ice cream party, Fiesta, beach party and etc.

VBS - traditional or with a twist

- Do a 3 day mini camp for pre-school- 2nd graders and then have a lock in for the 3rd through 5th graders
- Sunday morning for a month with a 5th Sunday whole

church celebration.

- Don't want to do Sunday morning, but want to try one day a week, have a intergenerational Friday night Live or Wild Wednesday---etc.
 - Have a destination: VBS on the Road!
- Use a retreat format Friday night through Saturday. Make the destination a mystery!! (make sure the adults know the destination!!!)

Mission, Mission, Mission

*Dear God, Let my heart break for all the things that break your heart.
Adapted from comments by Tony Campolo*

- Breakfast club - doughnuts/bagels (easy food) followed by the days mission project
- Sunday School mission a month
- Mission Mania whole church events
- Some Mission ideas to get you started; Heifer International, Tabs for Ronald McDonald House, Teddy bears for police departments, No more Malaria, Luggage for foster kids, clean stuffed animals, shoes in good condition you no longer wear, school supplies, zip lock bags with activities for kids in the hospital, plant flowers for older members, fleece tie blankets, new socks and undies to start the school year, kits for distribution center, spend a day at the distribution center, books for kids, clean up a park, send "we care" cards, care boxes for military units, Food scavenger hunts -take food to your local food pantry and etc. and etc. and etc.

Some guides to help as you plan:

- Biblically sound---and remember to teach grace along the way
- Creative and inviting
- Paced for attention span of the age group
- Volunteer friendly
- Look at the ordinary and make it extra-ordinary!!!
- End with kids excited about the fun and what they learned
- No Harm, Do Good, Love God
- And have a Faith Filled Summer.