



tips for youth workers

MAY 2022

SUMMER SUNDAYS TOGETHER

This summer provides lots of opportunities to be together with families. Here's a quick brainstorm of some ways that we can make Summer Sundays a special time together. We'd love to add your ideas to the list as well, feel free to send them to valerie.pavey@salvationarmy.ca and we'll grow this list!

BRUNCH WITH THE BUNCH – Invite your congregation to come together for a time of food, fellowship, and worship. (You might even want to change the time of your service to fit with the Brunch idea.) Move your morning meeting to a room where you can have families or congregation members sit around tables together. Provide a light breakfast, such as juice, coffee, and muffins to begin your time together. Plan activities and games that the table groups can complete together and maybe even compete against other tables. These could include Bible trivia, word puzzles; “Name that Praise and Worship song,” and so on. Plan a Bible lesson time that will appeal to all ages, keeping it interactive and engaging. Use this as an opportunity for families to relax and learn together.

WAFFLES & WORSHIP – Similar to Brunch with the Bunch, invite your congregation to church for a waffle bar. Have a team making fresh waffles that participants can top with their favourite toppings, then provide a time of multi-generational worship. Invite children, youth, families, and seniors to participate in worship in some unique way. They could read scripture, lead a prayer, share their story, or share their talent.

TAILGATE PARTY – Move your worship service to your parking lot. Ahead of time invite members of your congregation to park their car in your lot and host an activity from their trunk or tailgate. You could focus your activities on themes such as Canada Day, local sports team, or Bible Heroes. Tailgate ideas can include photo booth, crafts, trivia games, drinks, and snacks. Be sure to have upbeat worship / contemporary music playing in the background. The Bible lesson could either be one of the tailgate events or you could gather everyone together in the middle of the circle of vehicles and have a time of family worship.

PRAYER RUN 2022 (or walk or bike or scooter) – Invite your congregation to join the CANBDA Youth's prayer walk. Spend one Sunday morning this summer doing a 5K (or 10K or 25K) prayer walk around your church neighbourhood praying for those who live and work there. This is a wonderful opportunity to bring your congregation together in support of their community. To register or learn more visit: CANBDAYOUTH.COM. (Medals can be ordered and multi-age prayer prompt ideas are provided.)

CHURCH IN THE PARK – Let's make an old idea new! Invite your congregation to gather at a local park – somewhere near playground equipment if possible. Encourage them to bring lawn chairs and blankets (and extras for those passing by who may want to join in). Bring acoustic instruments, and a portable sound system. Plan a simple family friendly worship time with upbeat songs, an object lesson, a short devotional, and light weather-friendly refreshments. You may want to move your service to later in the day to a time when more families are at the park. (Be sure to check if you need a permit to gather.)