

MINISTRY MINUTE



SUMMER 2026

SUMMER CONNECTIONS

School's out. The sun is shining. The calendar is empty. It's exciting to not have homework, the pressure of getting to places, but for many of our young people summer is a time of loneliness and disconnection. This summer plan a few activities that will keep your students connected to each other and to you, or will help you follow up with kids you sent to camp.



Here's a list of ideas for you to look through, grab a few and then plan how you can make summer connections.

- Pizza and Sundae Party (let students make their own pizza and build their own sundae)
- Board Game Night (set up a challenge where students move around from game to game)
- Historic Site Visits (see what Canada Strong sites are available in your area)
- Mystery Tour (only let parents know where you'll be taking the students - a museum, a zoo, etc.)
- Talent Night (invite your students to share their hidden or already known talents with each other)
- Picnic Party (host a picnic at a local park with food and old fashioned picnic games)
- Summer Skate (enjoy a winter sport at a local community centre)
- Movie Night (host a movie indoors or outdoors and be sure to have lots of popcorn)
- Arts & Crafts (host an evening or afternoon with simple camp-style crafts)
- Park Partners (organize your students into a clean-up crew at a local park each month of summer)
- Good Neighbours (invite your students to help you cut and clean up seniors' yards)
- Trail Day (invite your students to join you at a local park or bike trail and enjoy a ride together. Be sure to have snacks and water on hand)
- Backyard Games (host backyard games like Hide'n Seek, Kick the Can, Flashlight Tag or Capture the Flag)
- Waterworks Party (create your own water slide with a large ground sheet, a hose and soap)
- Small Group Visits (invite a few students at a time to go for an ice cream or donuts at a local hang out. Use the time to get to know each other)
- Campfire (host the students at a home that has a campfire pit, sing camp songs and make s'mores)
- Brunch with the Bunch (invite students to brunch letting them help prepare the meal)
- Porch Visits (plan to visit your students at their home and leave them with activity sheets or a craft kit to work on during the week)
- Baking Challenge (host students at your church kitchen and teach them how to bake cookies, muffins and cakes)

Be sure to create fun invitations/announcements that are shared through your church's socials, messages to parents and your students. Invite your students to bring along their friends who are looking for a place to belong.

Don't forget to include a short devotional that ties into the theme of your events.