



tips for youth workers

MAY 2018

MAKING SUMMER SUNDAYS SPECIAL

Looking for some different ideas to try this summer on those long weekends? Summer Sundays can sometimes be difficult to plan for and run. You don't always know how many workers, children or families you will have joining you. This summer don't cancel your kids Sunday programming, try something different instead – focus on ministry with the whole family. Continue to make your young people feel valued and wanted. Give one of these ideas a try:

KAKs (Kids Activity Kits) – Using resealable bags, provide each young person with a few different activity sheets. These sheets can be based around a Bible story theme or a holiday theme. It's also helpful to have activity sheets for two different age levels or readers and non-readers. Be sure to include a couple coloured markers or crayons and a snack. Have the kids come to a meeting spot during a song just before the sermon to pick up the KAK, and then return to sit with their parents while they complete the activities in the KAK.

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.

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 around 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 ON THE MOVE – Try this twist on a neighbourhood prayer walk. Invite families to gather together at your church building and provide them with a map of your neighbourhood. Send them out walking, biking or driving their cars and have them pray for the families living in the homes, business, hospitals (pray for staff and patients), emergency service providers and play grounds (pray for children and families who gather there), etc.. Feel free to encourage families/church members to do "Prayer on the Move" in their own neighbourhoods as well. You can get a copy of the "prayer sheets" by registering on www.saMinistryHelps.ca using this link: [Prayer on the Move].