
5 COVID-FRIENDLY OUTREACH IDEAS FOR YOUR CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



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**“So, what’s the plan?
What are we going to do
for kids this summer?”**

Your pastor asks.

You look at the calendar. It’s been who knows how long since COVID overtook our lives. We’ve been stuck inside. We’ve eaten too much. We’ve felt sad or lonely. We’ve been frustrated and impatient.

And to top it all off, we’ve had to reimagine and rethink how to “do” children’s ministry online, outside, in homes, with masks, sitting 6 feet apart, and so. much. more.

Exhaustion has set in. It feels hard. Maybe even impossible.



But given a piece of paper and a pen (go ahead, pick one up right now), you could probably create a large list of silver linings...

of the good that's come out of this...

- Families spending more time together.
- Parents getting more involved in kids' faith journeys.
- More appreciation for the great outdoors and God's creation.
- Less pollution.
- Doves of people helping people.
- And on and on.

And you marvel—WOW, God!

It's amazing how spending just a few minutes thinking of the positive can reenergize and bring renewed strength!



“So...what are you going to do? You know...for outreach to kids this summer?”

This COVID thing is no joke.

But, if you think about it, God has a habit of putting people in uncomfortable situations. He has a reason, and he’s prepared you for such a time as this.

Shake your fist at this virus and tell it, “You’re not going to win.” Not with God on your side!

Done? Okay, good. Now let’s get on with it: Five great outreach ideas for this summer...

“For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to bring you a future and a hope.” (Jeremiah 29:11)

OUTREACH IDEA #1:

HOLD YOUR VBS!

Now before you proclaim this isn't a new idea, which it isn't, and before you reject the idea and say "but we already canceled," or "we've tried to figure it out and there's no way," or...

We know.



The way we've done VBS for ages just isn't going to work.

But don't give up...PLEASE!

As one of the top VBS resource providers in the nation, we've been hard at work reimagining VBS for you. We've held live Q&A sessions with churches who have or are on the verge of canceling. And once they're done with the Q&A, they have a renewed energy.

They leave with the spirit of "we can do this."



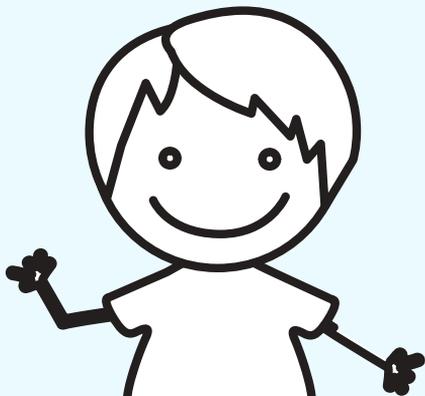
YOU CAN DO THIS! WE'LL HELP.

There's never been a time when kids will be more anxious to do something fun. From online VBS to backyard small-group gatherings, to VBS for families...

...there's an option that will work for you!

For tips, ideas, videos, and how-to's for keeping your VBS going this summer, look no further than Group. Find our Online VBS Guides and keep up to date on plans as they unfold on our [modified VBS website](#). And be sure to follow our [Facebook page](#) so you don't miss out on opportunities for LIVE Q&A sessions, updates, and more.

VBS STRONG!



OUTREACH **ADOPT-A-CHILD** **IDEA #2:** **CAMPAIGN**

Say what...adopt a child?

This is a fresh idea we've seen pop up with hundreds of high schools around the country, intended for communities to recognize and support their local graduates. The high school seniors have loved it—so why not spread the love throughout the summer to the younger kids as well?

The idea is simple...

- Create a private Facebook Group sponsored by your church, and invite people to join.
- Parents or legal guardians post a picture and special story about their child.
- Someone else in the group responds to the post in the comments that they want to “adopt” them.
- By adopting them, they're agreeing to recognize the child in a special way (see ideas on the sidebar).

Ideas...

- Quietly show up at their house with sidewalk chalk and leave a special creation on the sidewalk or porch. It could be an encouraging message or Bible verse, a cheery drawing, or even a fun sidewalk game to play, like hopscotch.
- Drop off a small gift on their doorstep such as water balloons, sidewalk chalk or paints, Otter pops, or a yummy snack.
- Arrange to bring them lunch.
- Create a craft kit with all the supplies they need. Find easy ideas on Pinterest! Drop off on their doorstep.
- Mail them an encouraging card.



SAFETY FIRST!

Keeping children safe in an online world is critical. This is why it's important to keep the group private. It's also important that the participants understand that posts need to come from a legal parent or guardian.

People should not post a picture of a child if they don't have consent to do so. Setting the guideline for parents and guardians to be the only posters will help you feel confident they have consent. And remind parents and guardians that they should never give their address or contact information to someone they don't know.



OUTREACH IDEA #3:

PEN PALS

You've got mail!

There are many people in your community feeling an extreme sense of loneliness. From the elderly living alone or in nursing homes, to single men and women, to people in treatment facilities, and more.

Reach out to church members, community groups, etc. to compile a list of people who may be experiencing loneliness, depression, or anxiety. Then match up the kids in your ministry with an individual so they can become old-school pen pals!



SAFETY FIRST!

For safety and privacy reasons, have all letters sent to your church to be distributed. Find volunteers who can either deliver the messages back and forth between the kids and their pen pals, or who can address and stamp them—using the church location as the return address.

Request letters to be in unsealed envelopes so you can screen for inappropriate messages before delivering to kids. Guide kids to leave any personal identification out of the letters unless they personally know the individual. And encourage parents to read the notes their kids write for added security.

OUTREACH IDEA #4:

FREE LUNCH DRIVE-THRU

Keeping bellies full.

There are many kids who receive free lunch through their school district. And when summer comes, those meals often stop. In fact, they may have even stopped a long time ago when schools around the nation closed for virus control. Plus, with the high and growing unemployment rates, there are more and more kids left without basic needs.

Give families one less thing to worry about.



You'll need...

- Volunteers to create a master plan. Many children's ministry volunteers haven't been utilized during this time. Most of them are probably ready and willing to pitch in!
- Money/food supplies. Ask your congregation to support the cause financially or by dropping off supplies.
- Ways to get the word out. Think yard signs, flyers, social media, and more. Well thought-out plan to execute the drive-thru in an orderly, clean, and socially-distanced fashion.
- Volunteers to hand out lunches. This would be a great way to involve your youth group kids!

TIP! Consider setting up drive-thrus in more places than your church parking lot so you can reach an even bigger community. Partner with other churches in your area, or contact the schools about setting up in their lots. This way kids can walk to pick up their lunches.



SAFETY FIRST!

Think about common allergies when you put your lunch bags together, as well as food safety since it will be HOT outside! And be sure to check your local ordinances to ensure a safe model for this COVID environment.

OUTREACH DRIVE-BY ICE IDEA #5: CREAM SOCIAL

I scream. You scream. We all scream for ice cream!

Who doesn't love ice cream...right?

You'll need lots of coolers (which you can borrow) and lots of ice to pull this off. Buy a variety of single-serving ice cream cups, popsicles, fudge bars, and ice cream bars. Allow families to drive by and pick out a yummy treat for each member in the car.



Don't forget Fido!

Dogs love to get out as much as their human handlers. Starbucks serves up "Puppuccinos," which is just a fun and fancy way of saying whipped cream in a cup. But if that's too much trouble, they'll be happy with a Milk Bone!

A double scoop is even better!

Donations welcome! Use this as an opportunity to collect money for a local food pantry, your own food pantry, or another organization or cause your ministry supports. (Maybe even use this as a way to collect for Outreach Idea #4!)

For added flair...

Prepare bags of ice cream fixin's and an ice cream scoop to hand out to each family—encouraging them to host their very own neighborhood ice cream social. Socially distanced, of course!

Sunday School for the Challenges of Today AND the Bright Future Ahead

For today, you need curriculum that can easily adapt to the unique challenges of a COVID-19 world while growing kids' faith, and without quadrupling your Sunday school prep time.

For tomorrow and the days ahead, you need curriculum that engages kids and energizes volunteers in a normal church environment.

Why not choose a curriculum that prepares and equips you for both?

From stay-at-home orders to normal church services and everything in between, Group Sunday School provides curriculum options that will help kids (and families) experience the Bible while growing in a deeper relationship with Jesus... reaching them wherever they're at.

Discover our COVID-friendly Sunday school options [HERE](#).



DIG IN
CREATING DEEPER BIBLE EXPERIENCES FOR KIDS

