

SUMMER

OUTreach

5 Volunteer-Free Family Outreach Events

Even though these family events don't feature a program, Bible study, or memory verse, they do provide an opportunity for fellowship and community—which are so important! Plus, you never know how going out into your community will help people in your town meet your church family members—and ultimately Jesus!



1

Picnic in the Park Family Event

It's simple! Enjoy the great outdoors with families at a local park. At this family event, have families pack a picnic lunch and gather with other families for a play date!

Planning tips:

- Some parks allow you to rent a pavilion or picnic area.
- Clearly communicate where to meet—the closer to the playground, the better!
- Provide water or juice for families.
- Pack some extra sandwiches and snacks just in case some families miss the memo to bring lunch along.
- Bring tablecloths and trash bags for easy prep and clean up.



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2



Church-Wide Pool Party Family Event

Make a splash with a church family outing at your community swimming pool. You could just invite families with kids, but it may be even more fun to invite the whole church family to this family event! Kids will love seeing Sunday school teachers, teen helpers, and even pastors have fun in the sun.

Planning tips:

- Call the community pool office to find out how much it costs to rent the facility for an afternoon or evening.
- Determine the best date, time, and any costs you'll ask attendees to contribute.
- Consider offering pizza, drinks...and sunscreen!
- Share this fun worship song with families as you advertise your event!

3

Matinee Movie Meet Up

Summer days are super fun...but they can also get a little long. By the time midafternoon rolls around, parents and kids may be getting a little stir crazy at home. Why not meet up at the movies?

- Check to see which kid-friendly movies are playing in a theater near you.
- Determine the best date and time, and any costs you'll ask attendees to contribute.
- Pre-purchase tickets together, or announce the movie, theater, date, and time and invite families to purchase their own tickets.
- Some theaters may even allow you to rent a theater for a private family event!



4

Take Families Out to the Ballgame

Many cities and towns have major or minor league professional baseball teams who'd love to provide a fun family event for your church. Group tickets can often be purchased at a discount. Some ball parks have designated seats for families. Many teams even host a "Faith Night" featuring Christian music and an opportunity for players to talk about their friendship with Jesus.

Planning tips:

1. Find a team near you.
 2. Review the team schedule and determine the best date and time for your outing.
 3. Call the team's box office to inquire about group rates. You can even ask for your church to be highlighted on the big screen!
 4. Determine what costs you'll ask attendees to contribute.
- Get a head count before purchasing tickets, or guesstimate how many you'll need. You can always reach back out to the group sales office to buy more if needed.



5

Amusement Park Family Event

An amusement park has a little something for everyone, so many families love spending the day there. And the rides and games are even more fun when other families are there, too! So, consider coordinating a day for families from your church to go together.

- Find an amusement or water park near you. If you don't have one nearby, consider a trampoline park, mini golf course, or children's museum.
- Call the ticket office to inquire about group rates.
- Determine what costs you'll ask attendees to contribute.
- Get a head count before purchasing tickets, or guesstimate how many you'll need. You can always reach back out to the ticket office to purchase more if needed.
- Determine a "home base" for this family event where families can connect, take a break, and snack together.



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Find more summer fun ideas at ChildrensMinistry.com!

ChildrensMinistry.com exists to help “champions of kids” (like you!) to find a vast array of ministry ideas designed to help kids develop a lifelong friendship with Jesus, and to help you become an even better leader. You’ll get sound advice and hundreds of ideas for Bible lessons, activities, family ministry, outreach, and SO MUCH MORE!

Visit ChildrensMinistry.com today and search for these “summer fun” articles to inspire you and make this summer a blast!

- 10 Fun Summer Night Ideas Guaranteed to Be a Blast for Families
- Splash Into a Spectacular Summer
- 5 Summer-Time Crafts, Games, and More
- 4 Low-Cost Summer Program Ideas for Families at Your Church
- 9 Simple Stations for a Summer Bible Olympics Event
- 8 Summer Faith Builders for Christian Families to Try Together

LOOKING FOR A NEW CURRICULUM?

At Group, **we’re passionate about a lifelong friendship with Jesus.** And we believe lasting change happens when kids move their faith from their head (knowing facts) to their heart (truly knowing God’s heart). And that’s why every Group curriculum program is created with innovative, purposeful experiences that engage the senses, trigger emotions, and create lightbulb moments.

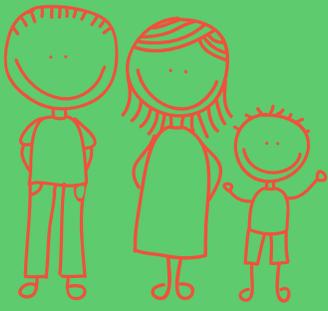
Learn more about these innovative and life-transforming curriculum programs.

Visit Group.com/Curriculum

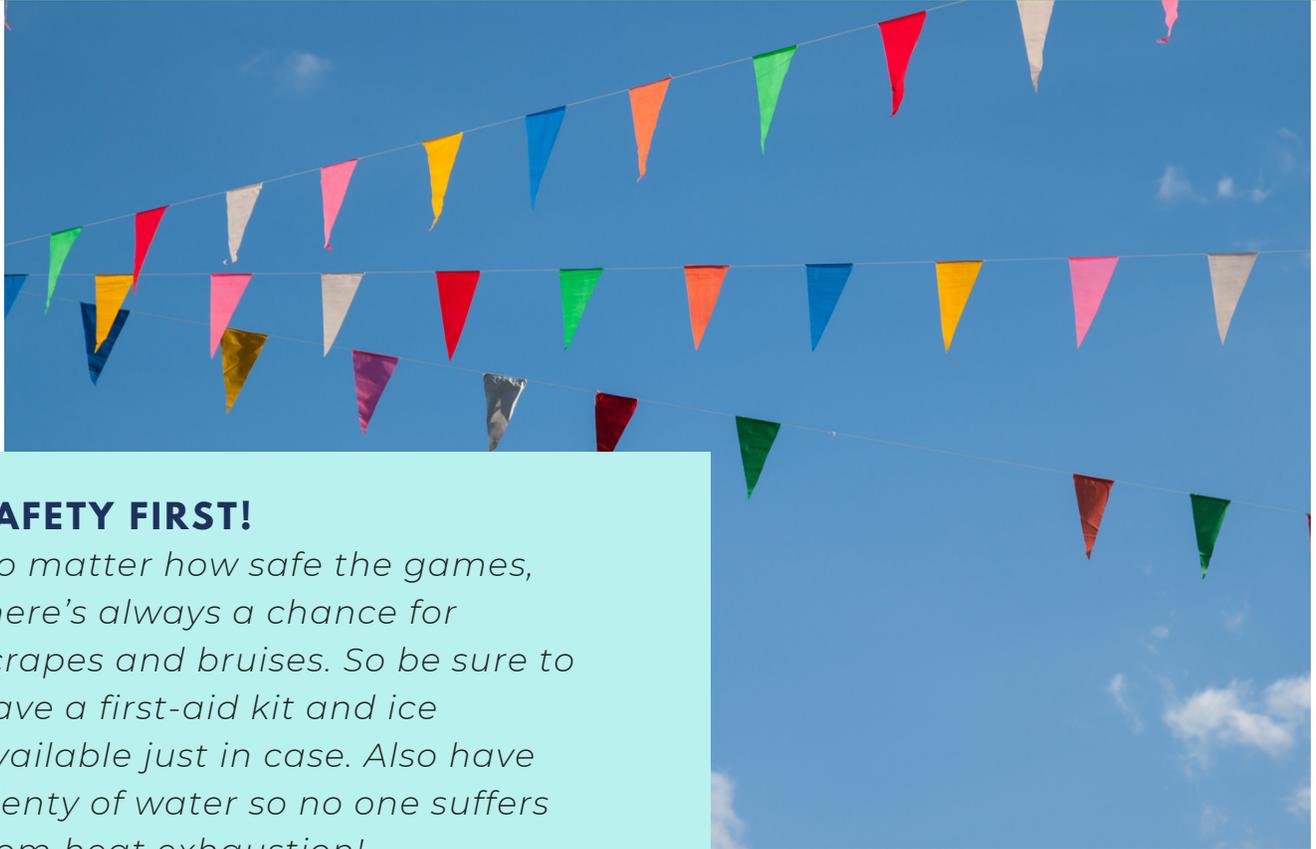


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BONUS! FAMILY FIELD DAY



SAFETY FIRST!

No matter how safe the games, there's always a chance for scrapes and bruises. So be sure to have a first-aid kit and ice available just in case. Also have plenty of water so no one suffers from heat exhaustion!

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FUN

WHO DOESN'T LOVE A LITTLE FRIENDLY COMPETITION?

For decades, schools around the country have held field day events to help kids celebrate the end of another school year. From sack races to relays to tug-of-war, it's a pastime sure to bring smiles to faces and help families work together.

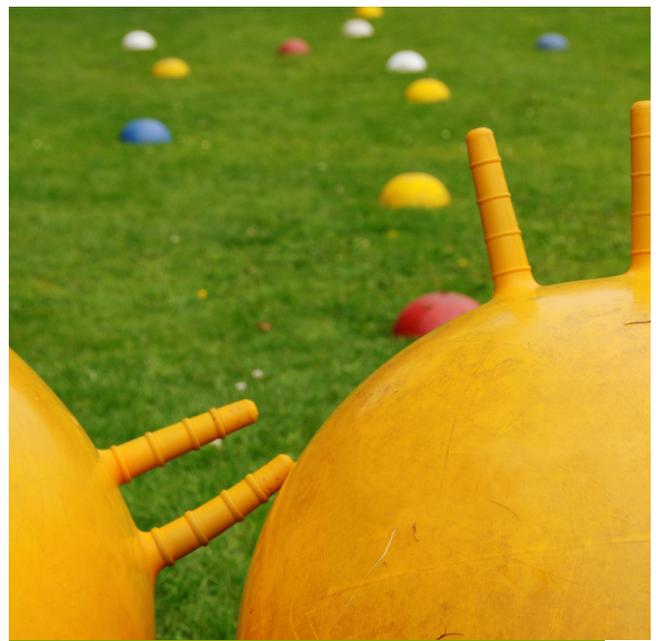
FUN-IT-UP!

- Ever been to or watched a race and seen people dressed up in all kinds of fun gear? Challenge families to come dressed-to-impress in a themed family “uniform” or costume.
- Give fun prizes such as best dressed, best teamwork, most challenges won, and so on.
- Get a dunk tank and let kids dunk their parents!
- Choose a few of the games and surprise everyone when you announce the winners are actually the last place finishers.
- Host a picnic or BBQ after the event is over so everyone can fellowship and relax.

HIPPITY-HOP RELAY

See if families have some hippity hops you can borrow; or pick some up for around \$10 each. You'll need one hippity hop and 3-4 cones per team.

Create teams of 4 (mix up families). Taking turns, each team member races down the path, circling each cone on the way down. Then they hop straight back and pass the hippity hop off to the next person.



WATER BALLOON TOSS

Two family members stand across from each other and toss the balloon gently to one another. After each toss, instruct pairs to step backward two steps. When the balloon breaks, they're out. For a twist, have each person hold a dish towel and toss and catch the balloon using the towel instead of their hands.



KIDS VS. PARENTS WATER BUCKET RELAY

Create mixed-family teams of kids and parents. You'll want at least 2 kids versus 2 parents. Fill a bucket with water and put an empty bucket about 10-15 feet across from it. Put a piece of tape about halfway up the empty bucket to indicate the fill line. Each team takes turns filling up a sponge with water, racing to the other side, and squeezing it out over and over until the water reaches the line. For a twist, give the kids an advantage by giving them larger sponges than their parents.



SERVICE PROJECT STATION

Families race to complete 10 bags to be handed out to people in need or to kids in hospitals.

Create stations for one or both of these...

- **Bags of Sunshine** – These can be given to kids in the hospital to bring them joy. Pack with coloring books, crayons, stickers, and a special faith-based book like *Notes From Jesus* found on Group.com or on Amazon.
- **Essentials bags** – These can be given to House of Neighborly Service or other charities that serve the homeless. Pack these with water bottles, snack bars, socks, bandages, lip balm, travel-size sunscreen, toothbrushes, and so on. (**Tip!** Pack the hygiene items in a separate bag so that the snack bars don't take on any flavors of sunscreen...blech!)

