

Be A Hero, Be A Friend

Sunday School Suggestions

Sunday School Learning Center—create learning and exploring centers for Sunday School youth and their families. Here are some ideas

Cabin — use a large family style cabin tent, have a Bible study on ***Be a Hero, Be a Friend***.

Lake — bring in a piece of blue carpet and a canoe, have someone demonstrate the proper way to enter a canoe, and show how to use the paddles.

Snacks — prepare the ingredients needed for s'mores. Layer graham crackers, chocolate bars, and marshmallows in s'mores fashion, heat them briefly in the microwave. Enjoy camp memories while eating yummy treats.

Craft Table — prepare a simple craft project.

- ◆ **Decorate Flower Pots** — Keep the faith alive - explain to youth that they can decorate a flower pot and plant flower seeds as a reminder of their love of Jesus and their call to share it with others.
- ◆ **Create a web** — provide each person with a wooden hoop. Secure yarn or floss to the hoop and create a criss-cross design with the yarn until they have created a web. The webs can then be embellished with small items from nature or things that connect them to the world. Remind them that all of creation is interconnected.
- ◆ **Make a Pinecone Birdfeeder** — attach a fishing line or yarn to a large (open) pinecone. Spread out newspaper and have children cover pinecone with shortening or peanut butter. Then roll pinecone in birdseed. They can hang them around outside the church or take them home. Complete the activity by talking about caring for all the creatures in God's kingdom.
- ◆ **Make a friendship bookmarks** — collect some small sticks, leaves, pinecones, and other nature items (remind them not to collect from living plants). Talk about "who is a friend" as they create bookmarks by gluing the supplies collected onto a bookmark frame. Give thanks at the end of the activity for friends and have them share their bookmarks with a friend.
- ◆ **Fingerprint a Friendship Rock** — collect or provide some medium-size, clean rocks. When the rocks are dry, use acrylic paints to place thumbprints on the rocks of every other person in the group. Use fine-tip markers to write their names on their own rocks.
- ◆ **Make Musical instruments** — Remind campers of the story of Miriam and the other women who picked up tambourines and began to sing and dance. (Exodus 15:19-21) Pass out two paper plates, a clean plastic bottle with a lid, or an empty paper towel tube—one option per each person. Use markers, crayons, and other materials to decorate their plates, bottles, or tubes. When you are finished decorating, show them how to put pebbles in between the paper plates and staple them together to make a shaker, or to fill their plastic bottles with pebbles. If using a paper towel tube, show them how to cover both ends by attaching paper with rubber bands after they have put the pebbles inside. Close this time with prayer, giving thanks to God for the chance to be creative and make instruments to praise God.

Camp Games and Activities — if weather is favorable, move outside into a camp like setting and play games. Here are some suggestions.

- ◆ **Play human knot** — get all participants into a circle, with their hands in the center, have each participant grab another hand. The hands should be two other people not standing next to them. The group then works together to untangle themselves without releasing hands. Wrap up the activity by talking about the interconnectedness to each other and how our actions affect those around us.
- ◆ **Play Amoeba Tag** — Gather everyone in an open space. Use cones to mark of the field and adjust the size for the physical needs of the group. Explain that you are going to play amoeba tag. Set rules that respect the physical limitations of your participants, such as walking instead of running. Choose one person to be “it.” The other players can move freely within the playing area. Explain that when they are tagged, they must link elbows with “it” or someone else in the tagged group. Eventually, all players will be tagged and join the amoeba. To continue playing, the last person tagged becomes the new “it.” Wrap up by talking about accepting others.
- ◆ **Race through Silly Obstacle Course** — Set up a silly obstacle course in a large, open space. The course can include things such as circling a tree, walking through a creek, slurping Jell-O from a bowl, crawling under picnic tables, skipping, walking backwards, falling together into a pile, etc. Remind youth that God, who created them, wants them to be heroes and to continue the chain of faith in Jesus. Have them make a human chain by holding onto bandanas together and going through the obstacle course without letting go of their bandanas.
- ◆ **Take a hike** — have students gather for a silent walk. While walking have them use their senses to note what they see, hear, and smell. When walk is concluded, share their experiences, what did they see, hear and smell. Connect the experiences with Stewardship, and that giving is not just about money. It can be about time and energy too. Help them to make a list of the gifts in nature they like best. Then ask them to make another list of how they can protect and care for those elements of nature. You may even consider a project they can do to care for an element of creation around their church. They may plant a tree or other plants, do litter pick-up, or assist with composting, for example.

Campfire — having Bible time around the campfire is always special at camp. Invite youth around a mock campfire and tell Bible stories and sing campfire songs.