

# BREAKTHROUGH

## 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 *Breakthrough!*

**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 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.

- ◆ **Make clay art** — Give each person a portion of clay (natural or purchased) and have them create an animal or plant from God's creation. Discuss how God created all things.
- ◆ **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 photo frame** — collect some sticks and either make them into a photo frame or glue them on to another frame. Then have the youth create pictures of something they are thankful for. Give thanks at the end of the activity for everything they have shared and for the Creation with which we have been gifted.
- ◆ **Make Healing Tiles** — Give each camper a ceramic tile. Remind them of the four men who took the paralyzed man onto the roof, removed the tiles, and lowered him to Jesus to receive healing. Instruct the campers to think about their own lives and what needs to be healed by Jesus. This can be physical or spiritual. Give them a few minutes to think. Spread the paint colors and brushes around the table or floor. Be sure you have made a sample painting of your own need for healing to show them. Now ask each camper to paint a picture on his/her tile that represents his/her need for healing. If campers would like to share, give them time to tell about their paintings. Ask them to say a silent prayer for healing and then set the tiles aside to dry.

**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 of the different parts of Creation.
- ◆ **Play Musical Chairs**— Have campers each take a chair, arranging them in a circle facing out. Remove one chair and tell the campers to walk around the circle while you play music or sing a song. Explain that when the music stops, everyone must find a chair and sit in it. One person will be out. Remove another chair and begin the music. Continue until only one person is left. You can play this several times. When the games are done, ask: “How does it feel to be out of the game because you did not get to a chair?” Invite campers to imagine how it might feel not to be able to play a game because of a physical or mental challenge.
- ◆ **Create a rainstorm** — gather participants and ask them to follow the actions of the leader. The leader then mimics a rainstorm. Create each sound for a few seconds before moving on to the next. Start by rubbing hands, then move to snapping fingers, clapping hands, patting thighs, stomping feet, return to patting thighs, clapping hands, snapping fingers and back to rubbing hands. You may do this activity in a group or in a circle. If doing it in a circle, create a “round” by having the leader walk around the circle while participants mimic actions as they pass by. Several variations of this activity can be found by searching for “creating a rainstorm” online. After creating the rain, talk about how rain is helpful to the earth and God’s creatures.
- ◆ **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. Talk about how God calls us to care for Creation even when we can’t see, hear, or smell it.
- ◆ **Plant a reminder** — Help youth become stewards of God’s Creation by planting trees or flowers, bulbs or plants. Discuss the importance of renewing Creation with plants.

**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. A book of camp songs and hymns may be requested at [camping@wisconsinumc.org](mailto:camping@wisconsinumc.org) if needed.