



SUMMER PROGRAMS

BRAINSTORMING

for Churches

QUESTIONS TO START FROM

- What is the main purpose of your summer ministry with children/youth/families?
- What is your ministry context?
- What would you like to nurture in children/youth/families?
- What are the best methods for providing radical hospitality to the children with whom you are engaged in ministry?
- How do you start accomplishing this goal?



SUMMER MINISTRIES TOOLKIT

MORE THAN ONE WAY

On the Summer Ministries Toolkit website, they offer brainstorming options around many different approaches...

Storybook Hour for Young Children

Themed Summer Camp (use member passions – Music, Art, etc.)

Take Out Church....

Service Projects

Traditional Summer Program in a Box...

Family Friendly Events



Salt Project...

Great & Small

This offers either a take home for families to do independently or for a team to create 6 fun family sessions around song and Biblical & faith storytelling.

Sing! Play! Summer!

The sequel to Great & Small, this offers another collection of 6 songs with activities themed around each song.

Find Your Slow Summer

50 family activities designed to help folks slow down and enjoy God's beauty... use it to create a summer series.

Like Illustrated Ministries – pricing is scaled by church size!

Gen On...

Each session with Gen On focuses around 4 activities or acts...

Eating Together, Playing Together, Studying God's Word Together, Praying Together

Living Water

5 Sessions...

Gifts of the Spirit

9 sessions

link takes you to

1 session free sample...

Tell Your Story

7 Sessions...


link takes you to

1 session free sample



**Build Faith Reviews
for
Traditional Kits**

Top Picks



Camp Firelight

A Summer Camp Adventure with God
Cokesbury

Compassion Camp

What Every Living Thing Needs
Illustrated Ministry

Hometown Nazareth

Where Jesus was a Kid
Group

Gather Together

Intergenerational Events to
Explore All Creation Sings
Sparkhouse

Kingdom Crafters

Imagine, Build, Discover
Chalice Press

Seekers in Sneakers

Discover Jesus
Shine (MennoMedia)

Linked by Love

Chalice Press

Camp Firelight: The Basics

- **Theme:** “A Summer Camp Adventure with God”
- **Publisher:** [Cokesbury](#), coming March 2024 ([United Methodist Church](#))
- **Intended ages/grades:** grades pre-K – 5
- **Format:** onsite
- **Number of sessions:** 5
- **Types of activities:** music, drama, storytelling, games, arts and crafts, science
- **Starter kit cost:** \$199.99

Camp Firelight: Scope & Sequence

- **Day 1: Trust God to Go with Us!**
Genesis 28:10–22, God Goes with Jacob
- **Day 2: Trust God to Lead the Way!**
Ruth 1, Ruth Chooses to Go
- **Day 3: Trust God to Share Wisdom!**
Luke 2:41–52, Young Jesus Shares Wisdom
- **Day 4: Trust God to Give Us Peace!**
Mark 4:35–41, Jesus Calms the Storm
- **Day 5: Trust God to Spark Joy!**
Acts 8:26–40, The Good News Sparks Joy

Compassion Camp: The Basics

- **Theme:** “What Every Living Thing Needs”
- **Publisher:** [Illustrated Ministry](#), 2023 (independent)
- **Intended ages/grades:** grades K – 5 as well as pre-K and intergenerational offerings
- **Format:** onsite; adaptable for alternative formats like offsite and online programs
- **Number of sessions:** 5
- **Types of activities:** music, Bible study, physical engagement, games, service
- **Starter kit cost:** sliding scale by congregation size: \$299.99 for 1–100 members, \$349 for 101–500, \$449 for 501+

Compassion Camp: Scope & Sequence

- **Day 1: Every Living Thing Needs Shelter**
Psalm 104
- **Day 2: Every Living Thing Needs Food**
Psalm 104
- **Day 3: Every Living Thing Needs Water**
Psalm 104
- **Day 4: Every Living Thing Needs Air**
Psalm 104
- **Day 5: Every Living Thing Needs Community**
Psalm 104

Hometown Nazareth: The Basics

- **Theme:** “Where Jesus Was a Kid”
- **Publisher:** Group, 2024 (independent)
- **Intended ages/grades:** grades K – 5
- **Format:** onsite
- **Number of sessions:** 5
- **Types of activities:** worship, celebration, crafts, fun and games
- **Starter kit cost:** \$224.99; \$264.99 with digital starter kit

Hometown Nazareth: Scope & Sequence

- **Day 1: Jesus Had a Family**
Luke 1:26–38, Mary is chosen to be Jesus's mother
- **Day 2: Jesus Had a Name**
Luke 2:1–40, Jesus is born and gets his name
- **Day 3: Jesus Had a Home**
Matthew 2:13–14, 19–23, Jesus's family escapes to Egypt
- **Day 4: Jesus Went to Church**
Luke 2:41–52, Jesus goes to temple
- **Day 5: Jesus Served Others**
John 2:1–12, Jesus does a miracle in Cana

Gather Together: The Basics

- **Theme:** “Intergenerational Events to Explore All Creation Sings”
- **Publisher:** [Sparkhouse](#), 2023 ([Evangelical Lutheran Church in America](#))
- **Intended ages/grades:** intergenerational for all ages
- **Format:** onsite
- **Number of sessions:** 8
- **Types of activities:** meal option, worship, art, nature walk, puzzles
- **Cost:** \$40; All Creation Sings is sold separately

Gather Together: List of Events

- **Event 1: Earth Is Full of Wit and Wisdom**
A kick-off event to introduce All Creation Sings
- **Event 2: The Work of the People**
An event about worship
- **Event 3: Image-ine the Possibilities**
An event about images for God
- **Event 4: All Around the World**
An event about our global Lutheran community

*** 4th session -
could swap their 4th day
for Moravian (or PCUSA) Missions**

Kindom Crafters: The Basics

- **Theme:** Building Community
- **Publisher:** [Chalice Press](#), 2023 ([Christian Church/Disciples of Christ](#))
- **Intended ages/grades:** suitable for elementary children; could be adapted for youth and intergenerational groups
- **Format:** onsite
- **Number of sessions:** 5
- **Types of activities:** worship with simple songs, Bible storytelling, wondering, games, crafts, snacks
- **Starter kit cost:** \$75

Kindom Crafters: Scope & Sequence

- **Day 1: Welcoming Is Building**
Genesis 18:1–8, Abraham and Sarah's Hospitality
- **Day 2: Fixing Is Building**
Genesis 45:1–15, Joseph and Family Reconnect
- **Day 3: Choosing to Build Together**
Ruth 1:16–19, 4:9–10a, Ruth and Naomi's Chosen Family
- **Day 4: Build Everywhere**
Matthew 4:18–23, Jesus Calls Disciples
- **Day 5: Keep Building**
Acts 2:1–12, Pentecost Starts Building the Church

Seekers in Sneakers: The Basics

- **Theme:** “Discover Jesus”
- **Publisher:** Shine by Brethren Press & MennoMedia, 2024 (Church of the Brethren, Mennonite Church USA, & Mennonite Church Canada)
- **Intended ages/grades:** grades pre-K – 5
- **Format:** onsite
- **Number of sessions:** 5
- **Types of activities:** worship, drama, Bible study, geocaching, art and science experiments, games
- **Starter kit cost:** \$229.99

Seekers in Sneakers: Scope & Sequence

- **Day 1: Jesus the Learner**
Luke 2:41–52, Jesus in the temple talking with leaders
- **Day 2: Jesus Our Companion**
Matthew 4:17–22, Jesus at the Sea of Galilee calling disciples
- **Day 3: Jesus Our Teacher**
Matthew 5:14–16, John 8:12, Jesus on a mountain preaching to a crowd
- **Day 4: Jesus Our Example**
John 13:1–17, Jesus at a home in Jerusalem sharing a meal with his disciples
- **Day 5: Jesus Our Helper**
John 21:1–14, Jesus by the Sea of Galilee helping his disciples catch fish

Linked by Love: The Basics

- **Theme:** We Are All Linked by Love
- **Publisher:** Chalice Press, 2023 (Christian Church/Disciples of Christ, produced by a multi-denominational protestant team)
- **Intended ages/grades:** grades 1 – 12 as well as intergenerational groups
- **Format:** onsite
- **Number of sessions:** 7
- **Types of activities:** lessons, worship, games, art, science, small group devotions, journaling
- **Cost:** \$395 (congregations may also be able to receive access through a local camp center; you can contact the publisher for more info)

Linked by Love: Scope & Sequence

- **Day 1: Linked in Love**
Colossians 3:12–14
- **Day 2: Linked through Acceptance**
Luke 10:38–42
- **Day 3: Linked and Present**
Job 2:11–13
- **Day 4: Linked by Grace**
Luke 15:11–32

Linked by Love: Scope & Sequence

- **Day 5: Linked in Truth**
Exodus 18:5–24
- **Day 6: Linked to Change**
Philemon 1:8–17
- **Day 7: Linked to Love**
1 John 4:7–9, 19