

8 Ways to Bring Summer Inside

by Dana Wilkerson



If you're not able to take your kids outside much during the summer, bring summer inside to them! Try one or all of these fun summer ideas.

1. Turn your classroom into an outdoor paradise. Collect recyclable materials that kids can use to decorate. They might stack coffee cans and top them with newspaper sheets to make palm trees. Or fill a large box with packing peanuts to create an indoor "beach."

2. Make bats and balls out of newspapers and play an indoor baseball game. Make it a learning activity. Each time a team gets a hit, they have to answer a question about the day's lesson before the hit counts.

3. Help kids get into the spirit of water stories by using a kiddie pool. If you're doing a lesson on Noah, Jonah, or Jesus walking on water, fill a kiddie pool with an inch or so of water. Let kids sit around the outside of the pool with their feet in the water, and direct them to splash or swirl the water with their feet at various parts of the story.

4. Fill that same kiddie pool with sand to give kids an opportunity to make bricks with the Israelites in Egypt, create and then knock down the walls of Jericho, build the temple with Solomon, and so on. Make sure to put down plenty of plastic tablecloths to keep the sand off the floor!

5. Create commercials for a Bible-times audience. Use summer objects in the commercial. A pool raft would make a great bed for baby Jesus or mat for a paralyzed man. A sand shovel and bucket could be helpful for building a wall or temple. Insect repellent would be a great addition to any trip across the Red Sea or Sea of Galilee. Encourage kids to incorporate various Bible stories into their commercials.



6. Bring in a backpack full of campout gear to use during a lesson. Bring flashlights, a CD of outdoor sounds, and food for s'mores. Let the kids pretend they're on a campout as you present the day's lesson.

7. After a Bible lesson, give kids a bowlful of ice cream. Guide them to use spoons to make an ice cream sculpture of something from the story. Let kids share what they made and explain how it ties into the lesson. Even if the sculptures are unidentifiable, it will still be a fun—and yummy—activity!

8. Use kids' vacations as a launching point to pray for people around the world. Provide large sheets of paper on which kids can create wall-sized maps of your state, your country, and the world. Each week, give them a chance to tell where they've traveled in the past few weeks. Mark them on the maps, and then lead a short time of prayer for the people in those locations.

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