

Church Friends—Additional Activities

A Bold Invitation (10-15 minutes)

This craft creates a way for students to invite others to meet the Messiah.

Supplies: cardstock

Have students create an invitation to church or Sunday school with a worship/activity schedule included. Have them decorate their invitations and choose one particular friend or relative they would like to invite. Encourage them to boldly share about Jesus with their invitation.

Body Snacks (5 minutes)

This snack encourages children to play with their food. **Supplies:** pretzel sticks, marshmallows

Give each child a handful of pretzel sticks and a marshmallow. Have them arrange the pretzels in the shape of a body, using a marshmallow for the head. As children eat their “body parts,” talk about how why each part of the body is important.

Meet the Pastor (5-15 minutes)

This interactive event gives children a chance to meet and talk to their pastor or other church staff.

Invite the pastor or another church leader to visit your class for a short time. Ask the visitor to talk about how communion is handled or why the church observes communion. An alternative is for the visitor to talk about what his or her role is and how they contribute to the worship service.

Finger Play (5 minutes)

This classic game reinforces that the church is the people, not the building.

Your kids are probably familiar with the finger play, “Here’s the church” (hands clasped with fingers inside), “here’s the steeple” (index fingers pointing up to form a steeple), “open the doors” (open your hands up). To illustrate a point in this lesson, on this last phrase instead of saying “and see all the people,” change it to say, “the Church is the people” (wiggle your fingers).

Serving Others Brainstorm

(5 minutes)

This interactive activity sparks children’s ideas about serving this week.

This can be done as a whole class or in smaller groups. Have a helper work with each group if breaking into more than one. First have children call out people in their daily lives whom they could serve. Make a column for each. (For smaller groups, assign each group one person to work on: mom, dad, brother or sister, neighbor, teacher, etc.) Then choose one person and have kids call out realistic ways to serve that individual. Move on to the next one. When the brainstorming is done, talk about why we serve others. Then ask children to choose one person and way to serve and make a promise to do that this week. Close by asking children how they will serve Jesus in heaven.