

RESOURCES: CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

IN PERSON OPTIONS

Icebreakers

Foot Golf: using Bocce balls and course. Keep track of the number of kicks for the course. Set up course with decorations or whatever you have on hand.

Spoon/Eyeball Relay: Plastic spoons, eyeballs (ping pong balls), orange cones to set up for the course. Object is to keep eyeball on the spoon without dropping it while going through the course.

Two Truths and a Lie: (best for older elementary students) The students sit in a circle and tell three "fun facts" about themselves, two are true and one is a lie. The group then guesses which "fun fact" is the lie. These facts can be simple or elaborate depending on how much time you have. This helps groups get to know each other better.

Infection Tag: Each student will need a pool noodle.

1. Chose a certain number of players to be IT. There needs to be an appropriate ratio of ITS to players (e.g., 5 ITS: 25 Players). Then set boundaries for the area they can play in.
2. The ITS will have a special infectious "virus" on their pool noodles. If they tag another player with the pool noodle, the virus has now transferred to the other player. Now they are a "pod" and must work together to tag others. The infected population will grow. The last person not in the infected "pod" wins.

Activities/Lessons

Pumpkin Toss. Purchase small pumpkins & laundry baskets. Dollar Tree, for each person. Break into partners, face each other, and toss the pumpkin. Your partner has to catch the pumpkin in the laundry basket. Every time the pumpkin is caught, partner take a step back. Winners are the partners who catch the pumpkin and are farthest apart.

Spooky Cans: 10 empty cans close to the same size. You stack the cans and knock them down with a bean bag. I will have bean bag for each kid. Move kids back farther each time they throw their bean bag.

Events

Car Scavenger Hunt: This can be done by youth and children families together or apart for one of many seasons. We did it for kick-off, but it could be done anytime.

- Recruit several Senior Adult households to act as the destinations in similar areas of town. Consider including a retirement center if you have people who live in one. These people stay on their porches as they greet people.
- Write up clues sheet – a question and answer (perhaps bible facts or info about your members), an activity or motion (sing Jesus Loves Me, draw greetings in sidewalk chalk, do jumping jacks, video doing a dance, take a photo doing a silly pose, etc) and then include addresses of which house to go to for that clue. (Mix up the order of clues so that every car does not end up at the same house at the same time.) We choose 6 stops and it took people about 1 ½ hours because we are spread out. SEE ATTACHED SAMPLE
- Plan to start at a gathering place to pass out clues sheet like church parking lot. Plan to end at a similar place and be there to pass out a treat of some sort (popsicles or hot chocolate)
- Take signs and cones or something to each house ahead of time to make sure folks know where to go. Also leave Sidewalk chalk or other “props” for the hosts.
- Set ground rules – All must be masked and stay with their family units, only leaving car to do the activity from the sidewalk, etc.

Mission Ideas

- Make Manna Bags for the Stewpot. [Learn more about Manna bags here.](#)
- Write cards or draw pictures for the members in your congregation who are isolated. (have the envelopes pre-addressed and with pre-stamped.)

Helpful Links:

<https://apcenet.org/resources/> - This is the site for the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators. There are curated resources from past event, and links to many other resources for all ages.

<https://store.illustratedministry.com> - Illustrated Ministry offers resources for faith formation for all ages for purchase based on church size. There are devotionals, coloring pages, worship bulletins, stickers, cards and so much more which go with the church season.

<https://buildfaith.org> - Building Faith is published by Lifelong Learning at Virginia Theological Seminary. Their mission is to equip and inspire churches and individuals for the ministry of Christian education and faith formation. Full of helpful articles and practical resources and ideas to download for all ages.

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ONLINE OPTIONS

Icebreakers

Name Zoom: Say someone's name who is in the group and then person says someone else's name and so on.

One Unique Thing about You: Break out groups needed. Find out something you didn't about people in your group. When we come back together, tell that unique and see if rest of the group can figure out who it is.

Heads or Tails

- Leader needs a coin.
- Leader says "Heads or Tails."
- Everyone stands and chooses one and then either touches their head or their behind
- Leader tosses coin at the same time.
- Leader calls which way the coin fell.
- Those who got it right stay standing and keep going and others sit down.

Color Scavenger Hunt

- Leader calls out a color
- Participants reach for something that is that color within reach of them and holds it up.
- Leader repeats several times.

Pet show and Tell

- Participants are invited to bring and show their pet and tell about them.
- These can be real and live pets or stuffed animals.

Activities/Lessons

Blind drawing

- Each person needs a piece of blank paper and a pencil or pen
- Everyone put the paper on top of their head.
- Leader calls out an object to draw. EX - House, Tree, Flower, Cat.
- Everyone tries to draw the object while the paper is on top of their head
- Share drawings on the screen with each other.

Object Scavenger Hunt

- Leader has a list of items common around the house.
Ex - hat, stuffed animal, bible, coat,
- Leader calls them out one by one.
- Participants bring back items and hold them up.

Zoom Duck Duck Goose:

- A fun picture guessing game for elementary-aged kids.

[Click here to access slides for game](#)

Events**Children's Sabbath:**

Children are given parts to read or sing for a worship service. Parents can record using their devices and send in to be put into the worship service. This can work for pre-recorded worship services or for services that are streamed using a streaming software.

Chopped:

Send the parents a list of 5 secret ingredients a week before. The Zoom call begins before the students have seen the secret ingredients. Then, the students will each have to cook an appetizer, entrée, or dessert using these 5 secret ingredients just like in the Food Network Show Chopped—you assign which category it is in. They may need help from a parent or sibling, but they have 45 minutes to make their dish. They can use pantry items such as spices, flour, eggs, oil, butter, milk, etc. At the end of this event the parent or caregiver judges for taste, and the online “judges” can make judgement calls for creativity and presentation. We gave each person a unique prize but labeled one person the “Queen/King of Chopped” for the overall best performance. This is best for students ages 4th grade and up.

Helpful Links:

Building Faith: <https://buildfaith.org/games-for-all-ages-via-zoom/>