

Summer Sunday School —Ten fresh new ideas to try

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Canadians have a habit of shifting gears after May 24. Regular Sunday school often winds up. But the learning and fun can continue. Here are some fresh new ideas and opportunities to try in the period from June to August.

1. Challenge families to read through an entire Bible story book together over the summer. A good choice is *The Family Story Bible*, Northstone, 1996. Start the project with a backyard barbeque and end with a picnic in the park.
2. Instead of doing a week-long Vacation Bible School, buy the material and use it week by week in Sunday school.
3. Hire a high school student to run an engaging Sunday morning program. Everyone will benefit! If university/college students are home for the summer, invite them to help with summer Sunday school. If possible, give them the gift of a bursary for their return to school in the fall.
4. Download from the internet (www.presbyterian.ca) and use the Bible Carnival. You'll find it under "Christian Education: Sunday school programs."
5. Rent good short Christian movies and host movie-and-popcorn Sundays. You may obtain videos/dvds from the national office. (See www.presbyterian.ca and look under "Video Rental Library" on the home page.)
6. Set up quiet stations at the back or side aisle of your worship area. Add puzzles, mazes, story books, earphones and CDs, playdough, crayons. Invite the children to do something specific that relates to the worship service.
7. Plan a series of outdoor worship services and include the children and youth. Think of beautiful and unusual sites in your area—a cabin, lake, park, farm, baseball diamond.
8. Create a "sharing table" and encourage people to bring surplus produce from their gardens to share. Children can bring labeled toys and games to trade with others.
9. If you have some green space near your worship area, set up a tent and do the summer Sunday in the tent. The kids will love it!

Take the summer to stress ecology. A good website that links God, nature and humans is <http://en.arocha.org/usakids/index8.html> .

