

“Gathering” Activity

Primary Activity Purpose: Allow the children to get to play and get to know each other better while we are waiting for all members of the group to arrive.

Description: Have a simple game (get to know you, memorizing articles of faith, etc.) going once the first couple kids arrive. As children arrive, have them participate in the gathering activity until it is time to start the planned primary activity.

Planting a Garden

Primary Activity Purpose: To teach the children about God's creations and our responsibility to care for our Earth.

Description: With potting soil and flower or bean seeds, sow seeds that the kids can transfer into their own gardens. Have a discussion about how faith grows like seeds. Sing “Faith” (p.96) and read Alma 32:28.

Service: Weed flower/garden beds for someone who could use help after a surgery, baby birth, etc.

Senior Service

Primary Activity Purpose: To serve God by serving our older friends who are in need (and to learn more about family history.) Mosiah 2:17

Description: Help an elderly neighbor with yard work or another task they would have difficulty doing. At the conclusion of the service (as children are having water and a snack) ask the older person to share a story about their childhood (What school was like, what toys they played with, what kinds of chores they did...). Encourage the children to go home and ask a grandparent for a story from their youth.

Serving our Community

Primary Activity Purpose: To help children see that small services can help their community. “Small and simple things” (Alma 37:6)

Description: Pick up trash along a parade route, in a city retention area, or at a park (be careful of traffic). Sing “Give,” Said the Little Stream and discuss how even though kids are small, they can make a big difference.

Saratoga Springs Temple Prep.

Primary Activity Purpose: Help the children get excited about making and keeping covenants as they prepare for the new temple open house.

Description: Sing, “I Love to See the Temple” and discuss the verses. Show children photos of the interior of other temples and appropriately explain the basic function of the different rooms and the definition of words like “endowment.” Have the children build miniature temples out of Legos.

Cooking Class

Primary Activity Purpose: Help the children learn basic cooking skills. Taking care of our bodies.

Description: Find an age appropriate recipe to make as a group. Teach children about kitchen safety and how to follow instructions, properly measure ingredients, etc. Discuss how the scriptures are like a recipe. Read Alma 32:28. Why do you think the word of God is described as “delicious”?

Sewing and Mending

Primary Activity Purpose: Teach the children about maintaining and repairing clothing, self-reliance, and modesty.

Description: Based on the age and skill level of your group, teach the children how to mend socks, replace a button or make a simple project like a rice bag. Talk about how making and mending clothing is something that people have done since the time of Adam and Eve. You may also choose to talk about modesty or how our bodies are like temples (1 Corinthians 3:16–17 also see D&C 89).

Backyard Camping Crash Course

Primary Activity Purpose: Highlight all the best parts of camping out in nature in a 1-hour backyard campout!

Description: Teach how to set up a tent, start a fire, hike safely, identify dangerous plants, stay warm, observe God’s creations, identify constellations, and more! Make smores in a fire-pit, on the bbq, or microwave oven. Sing, “My Heavenly Father Loves Me.” Discuss how the Lord shows His love through the beautiful creations of this Earth.

Basic First Aid

Primary Activity Purpose: Have the children learn basic wound care and cleanliness. This skill can be used to comfort others (Mosiah 18:8-9).

Description: Teach the children how to properly clean cuts and scrapes. Explain how to treat (and prevent) sunburns and insect bites. You may choose to make a basic emergency kit that the kids can keep in their backpack. Tell the story of the good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-37). Encourage the children to “Go, and do thou likewise” not only physically but emotionally and spiritually.

Goal Planning FOLLOW-UP

Primary Activity Purpose: Help the children use their Children’s Guidebook (goal tracking workbook) to chart their goal progress.

Description: Follow-up with the children on their progress with goals. Use this opportunity to suggest future activities as a group (teaching them leadership and administrative skills). Help the children see that they can accomplish their goals and do hard things. Do a simple activity like decorating sugar cookies as you discuss.

Good Music

(Doctrine & Covenants 25:11-12)

Primary Activity Purpose: Teach how good music can invite the Spirit and help us if we are struggling with hard emotions.

Description: Play a clapping game, musical chairs, choreograph a simple dance, play reverent music while the kids journal. Teach how the scriptures say that righteous music can be like prayer. Discuss how different music makes you feel and what types of music the children feel best listening to. If there are children with musical abilities, invite them to perform a simple musical number.

Care Center Christmas Cards

(Matthew 25:37-40)

Primary Activity Purpose: To serve God by serving others. Especially those who may be lonely at Christmas time.

Description: Watch a video on how to do a simple cartoon drawing on the face of a card. Color the cards and write a message of love. Have hot cocoa or sing Christmas songs while you work. Deliver cards to a nearby care/assisted living center.

Playing Soccer

Primary Activity Purpose: Spend time building comradery and discussing the importance of goal making.

Description: Play a simple game of soccer together. Consider labeling the net with goals some of the children have made. Talk about how it is important to work together and have a plan to reach your goals.

Fiery Darts of the Adversary and the Armor of God

Primary Activity Purpose: Teach the children about the armor of God and how it can protect them.

Description: Read Doctrine and Covenants 27:15–18, Ephesians 6:13–17. Discuss the parallels between physical and spiritual armor. Make shields out of cardboard. Using nerf guns, snow balls, balls, rolled socks, etc. play dodgeball.

Food Drive

Primary Activity Purpose: Gather food donations for those in need.

Description: Working with your local food pantry, arrange a neighborhood food drive. (Mosiah 2:17, Matthew 25:35)

Pinewood Derby

Primary Activity Purpose: Develop woodworking skills, just like Jesus might have. Learn more about physics.

Description: Consider inviting fathers (being sensitive to individual circumstances) to participate in a pinewood derby.

“The carpenter from Galilee built more than wood or clay. He shaped the people’s hearts and souls; His message lives today.” (New Era 1994)

Prepare for General Conference

(Doctrine & Covenants 1:38)

Primary Activity Purpose: Help children prepare and get excited for General Conference.

Description: Work together to make conference packets or journals that the children can use to remain attentive during General Conference weekend. Ask the children to share ideas of what their families do during conference. Make a trail mix or other snack. Pass out treats to be eaten only when a certain word (Faith, Scriptures, Temple, etc.) is used.

Follow-up activity: After conference, have a trivia game activity about what was taught. Let the children know before conference about the game so that they can take good notes!

Pioneer Day Activity

Primary Activity Purpose: Help children learn about how life was for the pioneers.

Description: What did pioneer children do for fun? Ask the children to come prepared to share any family pioneer stories they may have. You can find other pioneer stories to share as well. You could do relays, Pioneer dress-up contest, butter making, etc.

Covenant Bike Path

Primary Activity Purpose: To remind the children that the covenant path has obstacles, but with Jesus we can reach eternal life.

Description: Create a bike/scooter course in the church parking lot. At baptism we covenant to follow Jesus (Moroni 10:32). But we will encounter obstacles (Use chalk drawings, cones, string, streamers, etc. to represent the obstacles). Create opportunities for other children to help those who are navigating the course. Explain how Jesus isn't waiting for us to finish our course, but He is with us throughout it.

Arts and Crafts

Primary Activity Purpose: children will enjoy learning how to use new skills such as painting or drawing.

Description: Try such things as making temple picture frames out of twigs, drawing pictures to represent the sacrament, creating dream catchers to hang above beds, painting rocks or stones to hide around town for others to find, making friendship bracelets, sidewalk chalk art, or designing flyers for an upcoming ward activity.

SERVICE STICKS

Label sticks with chores, service opportunities and simple activities to help curb summer-time boredom and help children remain “anxiously engaged in a good cause.” (Doctrine and Covenants 58:27-28)

General Conference Activities!

Help children stay engaged during 10 hours of conference! Scan this code:



Conference Notebooks, conference squares (Bingo), coloring and activities, and more!!