

SUMMER seminars

CONNECT & GROW

Kids Summer 2026 Leader Guide



June 24- Growing in Our Relationship with God

Bible- Matthew 7:24-27- We can make wise choices with the help of God.

Video- "Parable of the Two Builders"

Leader QR Codes-



ASK Leader



Leader Devos



Like It Counts

Summer Seminar Group Schedule

Leaders Arrive: 6:15 PM
Family Dinner: 6:30 PM – 6:50 PM
Small Group: 6:50 PM- 7:20 PM
Outside Play: 7:30 PM- 8:00 PM
Dismiss: 8:00 PM- 8:05 PM

Family Talk

What to Do:

As you gather everyone to eat, discuss these questions together. If one question takes the whole time, that is great. Your group has a great dynamic and feels comfortable talking to you and the group.

TALK ABOUT IT:

- What is your favorite thing about the Fourth of July—fireworks, food, or fun with family?
- If you could design your own firework, what colors and shapes would it have?
- Would you rather have a backyard water balloon fight or watch a big fireworks show?
- What is your favorite summer treat to eat at a celebration?

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Social Game

Supplies: None

Set Up: Kids can stand in a circle or scatter across the space.

What to Do: Let's play a game where you try to do whatever I do. Here's the tricky part: I'll say one thing and I might not do that same thing, but I might do something different from what I say. You have to do what I do, no matter what I say.

For example, I'll say, "Jump on one foot. Do it like this." And then I might not jump on one foot, but I might do a jumping jack instead. You must do what I do, no matter what I say. Ready?

- Spin in a circle. Do it like this. (*Spin in a circle.*)
- Pat your head. Do it like this. (*Jump up and down.*)
- Clap your hands. Do it like this. (*Scratch your nose.*)

Continue playing, alternating doing and saying the same motion and doing and saying different motions. Invite children to take turns being the leader to see if they can confuse each other with saying one thing and doing something different.

When everyone has run out of ideas for funny ways to "do it like this," have children sit in a circle.

ASK: What made it easy or difficult to obey the leader in our game? When have you had a person tell you to do one thing with their words, but then do something different through their actions? What makes it easy or difficult for you to obey your parents or teachers?

SAY: In a game, it's fun to try following and obeying. But sometimes there are people who tell us to do one thing, but then they do something different. For instance, if you hear a doctor say "Don't smoke" but later you see that doctor in the parking lot smoking a cigarette, that can be confusing.

God's Word, the Bible, doesn't try to confuse us or trick us. The Bible gives us clear directions about what's right and wrong. When we're followers of Jesus, we obey God's Word.

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Video

What to Do: We are going to watch a video now from a part of the Bible called the Sermon on the Mount. It is found in the Book of Matthew chapter 7. In this part of the Bible, Jesus is talking to a big crowd and helping them learn about what it looks like to Love God and Love People. Sometimes Jesus taught by using parables. Parables are stories related to things we see around us that help us learn a bigger lesson. In lesson today, we are going to hear about houses on rocks and sand. Let's watch and see what this means.

PLAY: "Parable of the Two Builders"

SAY: This story helps me understand so many things. To build a sturdy house, the builder had to dig way down to solid rock. I'm not sure I would be very good at digging that far. The house on sand makes me think of sandcastles. Have you ever built one of those? What happens when the waves come up the beach? It melts, right? This parable helps us think about how we follow Jesus. When we build our life on Jesus, The Rock, we can have strength when hard times come. Just like the wind, waves and rain that hit the houses, we will face hard times and need to make a choice on who we will stand with, Jesus, or crumble like the sandcastle.

Activity

Solid Foundation

Supplies: 2 or more sofa cushions or large pillows

Set Up: Ask kids to remove their shoes and socks. Place cushions on the floor.

What to Do: You are about to do something difficult: stand on these cushions. Trust me, it's harder than it looks.

Form into two teams and then have a child from Team One stand on the cushions opposite a child on Team Two who is standing on the floor. Ask both children to do the following:

- Stand on both feet, arms outstretched to the side, eyes open.
- The same as step one, but standing on only one foot.
- The same as step two, but with eyes closed.
- The same as step three, but with arms at the child's side.

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Activity

Children on the cushions will start wobbling at step three, so stand close so you can spot them. If you have lots of children (and lots of cushions, have more than one child on cushions at a time, but make sure you have adequate, responsible spotters.

After kids have finished, have teams switch locations so everyone can feel what it's like to follow the instructions while standing on the cushions and the floor. Then discuss:

- How tempted were you to open your eyes? Did you open your eyes?
- Why couldn't you stand firm?
- How would it have changed things if you'd been able to open your eyes?

SAY: Your brain didn't have the information you needed to keep your balance. That's why you wanted to open your eyes.

When you don't have a steady, solid foundation, it's easy to fall over. When you don't have the information you need to stay steady, it's easy to tip in the wrong direction.

That's true about your life too. The builders in the story today built on two very different foundations.

- What made one builder foolish and the other wise?
- How can you tell if your life is built on rock or sand?
- What's a storm- a tough thing- that's happened to you? Did knowing Jesus help you stay strong? If so, how?

When we listen to Jesus and follow His teaching, he helps us make good decisions. We build our lives on a solid foundation. It's wise to obey Jesus!

PRAY: God' thank You for the firm foundation of your love and your Word. We want to be wise in where we build our lives, so we ask your help building our lives on you.

Color Page

What to Do: Distribute the coloring pages and crayons. **Say:** Good news! Jesus asks us to obey him and to do what he wants. And he shows us how to be obedient. He did exactly what God wanted him to do.

We can obey Jesus!

Allow time for kids to color.