

Children's Activities

1. All Good Gifts around Us

The following ideas are suggestions of games/activities that link to the five food themes that shape the sermon and bible study series in this pack. Highlighted in bold beside each activity is an age suggestion, but the appropriateness of the game will depend largely on the group, so please feel free to experiment with the ages and also adapt any of the ideas below!

1. Fruits of the Forest (All Ages)

God has given us everything on the planet to use, but not to abuse or overuse. He gives us tasty food from many plants and trees and asks us to look after them. As a group, see if you can identify some of the different trees God has given us...

Name the Trees (children could hold up pictures of trees while the rest of the group / congregation are asked which are which)

Apple	Pear	Walnut	Pomegranate
Fig	Cherry	Orange	Pine nuts
Plum	Sweet Chestnut		

God's Character All these trees give us food but they also show us different aspects of God's nature. You could ask children / congregation, what we see about God's character in these trees:

a) Faithfulness?

Each year the tree produces fruit

b) Abundance?

Many trees produce large amounts of food

c) Joy?

Colour, shape and taste of all different foods

d) Service?

The tree is providing food for us and other creatures

What do I need?

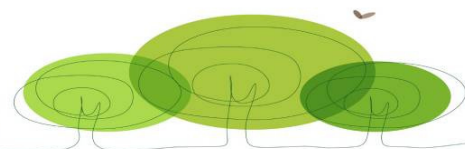
- Large pictures of the various trees. You could write the words 'faithfulness', 'abundance' etc on large signs and hold them up

2. Bible Background

Read Genesis 1:26-31 (God's gift of food for all), perhaps from The Message or a children's bible with pictures. Ask the children to think about the following questions:

- What does God say is 'very good'?
(everything – not only people but all the creatures and plants – in fact the whole world)
- What does God give to us – and to the animals – for food?
(seed-bearing plants, fruit trees – meat was only allowed later, after the time of Noah)

3. Seed Banner (Age 3-8)



On a large piece of paper, card or wall-paper write: 'All good gifts around us' and then encourage the children to fill in the letters using different seeds. If you want to do a brightly coloured banner, you could collect some leaves from outside, paint them and stencil leaf-prints onto the banner, alongside the seeds.

What do I need?

Large piece of paper / card, various types of seeds (lentils, coriander seeds, sunflower seeds etc...), glue, paint, paint-brushes, paint-palettes, old water glasses and leaves

4. The Plant Poems (Age 5-10)

(Taken from: Green days in gardens by Lydia Fulley-Love for Ventnor Botanic Gardens)

Example: The laughter Tree - I wanted to make my sad friend laugh, so I planted the seed of a tiny joke, I watered it with trickles of humour, I fed it with games and riddles, I sunned it with wide smiles and cheeky grins, I sheltered it with warm hugs, and it grew, both day and night, until one day a crazy stripy star fruit winked at us and we laughed until we cried.

Invent your own 'feeling plant'. You could ask the children to draw a plant and use a poem pattern like the one below:

The Plant

I wanted to so I planted

I watered it with I fed it with

I sheltered it with I warmed it with

And it grew both day and night until

What do I need?

- Crayons, paper, printed copies of the poem pattern

5. Food Memory Game / Kim's Game (Age 8-12)

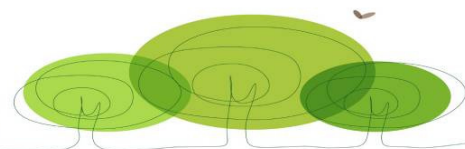
The aim of this game is to remember as many objects on the tray as possible. Place a selection of objects on a tray and give the children 1 or 2 minutes to look at each object (it's a good idea to hold up and name each object). Then cover the tray of objects with a cloth and allow 3-4 minutes for the children to write down as many of the objects as possible. Lastly, uncover the tray of objects hold up and name each one while children tick the ones they got right.

What do I need?

- A tray, a cover of some sort, different smallish food related things, pencil & paper for each person

6. Treasure Hunt (Age under 10)

Take the group outside to a green space/garden/woody area and see what they can find. Ask them to collect something soft, green, smooth, man-made, spiky, light, round, that makes you smile. Then



bring the group back together and discuss what each object says about the Creator?

What do I need?

- A list of things to find (something soft, green etc...) and small bag to carry items

7. Prayer

Get the children to think about their favourite kinds of fruit or vegetable, and go around thanking God for each of these in turn.

