

HOW TO:

**SUMMER
CHURCH
GROWTH
PLAYBOOK**

100 IDEAS TO REACH, ENGAGE, AND GROW

BY [SERMONCENTRAL.COM](https://www.sermoncentral.com)

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INTRODUCTION

A SUMMER OPPORTUNITY

Summer doesn't have to be a slow season. While some families travel and routines shift, this is also a time when people are looking for connection, simplicity, and purpose. It's a season of openness—longer days, lighter schedules, and the perfect opportunity for your church to reach new people and re-engage regulars in fresh ways.

This playbook offers 100 practical, proven, and creative ideas to help you grow your church in attendance, engagement, and impact during the summer months. You don't need to do all 100. Pick what fits your context, test quickly, and adapt what works.

Use this as a toolkit. Use it in staff meetings, brainstorms, volunteer huddles, or planning retreats. Think of this summer as a 12-week growth sprint—and let's get to work.

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SECTION

SUNDAY SERVICE BOOSTERS

Make Sundays something people look forward to all week. These ideas are designed to draw in new visitors, re-energize your regulars, and turn the ordinary into memorable.

1. Outdoor Worship & Picnic Sunday

What it is: Move your service outside—on your lawn, a local park, or even a rented venue—and follow it with a church-wide picnic.

Why it works: The casual, open-air vibe makes it easier for people to invite friends and neighbors. It feels less intimidating and more fun.

Scripture: “They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts.” – Acts 2:46

Checklist:

- Secure outdoor location and backup rain plan
- Rent/borrow sound equipment + portable seating
- Invite food trucks or organize potluck sign-up
- Promote on social, website, and via text

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], we’re hosting an outdoor service + picnic on [Date]! Can you help with setup or directing guests? Should be a great way to welcome new faces!”

2. Invite-a-Neighbor Challenge

What it is: Encourage members to personally invite 1–3 people to church this summer. Provide cards, graphics, or scripts to make it easy.

Why it works: Personal invites are the most effective way to grow. A simple, tangible tool increases follow-through.

Scripture: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...” – Matthew 28:19

Checklist:

- Print invite cards with service times + location
- Create social graphics for congregants to share
- Share a 60-second “how to invite” video
- Celebrate invite stories in service

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], can you help pass out invite cards after service this Sunday? We’re launching a summer invite challenge and need all hands!”

3. Kids Takeover Sunday

What it is: Let kids help lead the service—welcome, prayer, songs, and even short testimonies or memory verses.

Why it works: Families love it, kids feel empowered, and guests see a church that invests in the next generation.

Scripture: “Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young...” – 1 Timothy 4:12

Checklist:

- Meet with kids ministry to plan
- Rehearse roles with kids (keep it short & simple)
- Promote to parents 2–3 weeks ahead
- Include a fun photo moment after service

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], we’re doing a Kids Takeover Sunday on [Date]. Would you help rehearse with the kids or manage transitions during service?”

4. Summer Series Kickoff

What it is: Launch a high-energy sermon series with a fun or thought-provoking theme that’s easy to invite people to.

Why it works: People love a fresh start. A well-branded series feels like an “event,” not just another Sunday.

Scripture: “Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season...” – 2 Timothy 4:2

Checklist:

- Choose a theme (e.g., “Road Trip,” “Unfiltered Psalms”)
- Create visuals and teaser graphics
- Film a 30-sec preview video
- Print invite cards and plan social rollout

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], can you help us share some promo posts for our new summer series starting [Date]? We’re pushing invites hard this week.”

5. Weekly Giveaways

What it is: Do a drawing each Sunday for simple prizes—local coffee shop gift cards, books, church swag, or movie tickets.

Why it works: It creates buzz and gives guests and regulars a fun extra reason to attend.

Scripture: “God loves a cheerful giver.” – 2 Corinthians 9:7

Checklist:

- Choose 4–6 simple prizes (under \$25)
- Create entry method (connect card, QR code, social post)
- Announce winner in service or via email
- Highlight past winners on social

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hi [Name], can you help collect giveaway entries and pass out winner prizes this Sunday? Just a quick fun add-on to the service!”

6. Summer Testimony Sundays

What it is: Each week, a different church member shares a 2–3 minute testimony before the sermon.

Why it works: Real stories deepen faith, build community, and remind people that God is moving.

Scripture: “Let the redeemed of the Lord tell their story...” – Psalm 107:2

Checklist:

- Identify 4–6 potential testimony sharers
- Meet briefly to coach length and clarity
- Schedule and confirm dates

- Share a clip on social after Sunday

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], would you be open to sharing a short 2–3 minute story of what God’s done in your life this year? We’re doing ‘Testimony Sundays’ to encourage the church—let me know!”

7. Serve One, Sit One Volunteer Push

What it is: Encourage volunteers to serve one service and attend the other (if you have two). Or rotate service teams so no one misses the full experience.

Why it works: Keeps volunteers refreshed while maintaining team strength.

Scripture: “Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others...” – 1 Peter 4:10

Checklist:

- Identify service roles that need rotation
- Send out sign-up form or text blast
- Print “I served today” stickers or badges for fun

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], this summer we’re launching ‘Serve One, Sit One.’ Would you be open to serving in [Team] at 9 AM and attending 11 AM once or twice in July? Helps everyone stay filled!”

8. Summer Celebration Sunday

What it is: Host one big Sunday mid-summer with baptisms, family photos, food trucks, and a high-energy worship experience.

Why it works: It becomes a community magnet and momentum-builder.

Scripture: “We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death...” – Romans 6:4

Checklist:

- Secure baptism setup or location
- Invite photographers or set up a photo booth
- Promote 2–3 weeks in advance via email and stage
- Pre-register baptisms (and have towels ready!)

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hi team! We’re planning ‘Summer Celebration Sunday’ on [Date]. Could you help with set-up, hospitality, or prayer support? It’s going to be a powerful day—lots of first-time guests and baptisms!”

9. Sermon Q&A Live

What it is: After the message, take 10 minutes for live questions via text or on a Google Form users can reach using a QR code.

Why it works: Creates dialogue and helps people apply the message in real time.

Scripture: “Instruct the wise and they will be wiser still...” – Proverbs 9:9

Checklist:

- Choose a message with a practical or theological focus

- Set up a text-in number or QR code
- Appoint a moderator (tech volunteer or host)
- Keep the tone light, honest, and brief

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Can you help moderate some live Q&A this Sunday after the message? Just need someone to filter 4–5 questions that come in via text!”

10. Summer Series Invite Card Challenge

What it is: Design simple invite cards for your summer series and challenge each attendee to hand out 3 per week.

Why it works: Gives people a tangible way to evangelize—especially if the series feels relevant and welcoming.

Scripture: “Go out into the highways and hedges and compel them to come in...” – Luke 14:23

Checklist:

- Design and print cards with clear info & friendly tone
- Include a QR code to a welcome video or series trailer
- Set a church-wide goal (e.g., 500 invites in July)

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], can you help hand out invite cards before and after service this Sunday? We’re challenging everyone to invite 3 friends this week to our new summer series!”

SECTION

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Simple ways to bless your city and build bridges this summer. You don't need a massive budget or team to make a big impact. Outreach isn't about doing everything—it's about doing something consistently, with love and intentionality. These ideas are designed for small teams, tight schedules, and real results. Whether it's handing out school supplies or hosting a free car wash, each action opens a door for relationships and invites people one step closer to faith.

Use these as one-off ideas, or stack a few together into a monthly rhythm of outreach. Every act of kindness creates a ripple—and this summer, your church can be the source.

11. Park Prayer & Trash Pickup

What it is: Gather volunteers to clean up a local park while praying for the neighborhood.

Why it works: Visible service demonstrates care and opens doors for conversation.

Scripture: “Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” – Matthew 5:16

Checklist:

- Choose a park and date

- Gather supplies: trash bags, gloves, water
- Assign prayer leaders
- Promote via social media and church announcements

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hi [Name], we’re organizing a Park Prayer & Cleanup on [Date] at [Location]. Can you join us to serve and pray for our community?”

12. Free Car Wash Outreach

What it is: Offer a no-strings-attached car wash to bless the community.

Why it works: Acts of kindness can lead to meaningful conversations and connections.

Scripture: “Serve one another humbly in love.” – Galatians 5:13

Checklist:

- Secure a location with water access
- Gather supplies: hoses, soap, towels
- Create signage: “Free Car Wash – No Donations Accepted”
- Prepare invite cards for church services

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], we’re hosting a Free Car Wash Outreach on [Date] at [Location]. Would you be willing to help wash cars and connect with our neighbors?”

13. Community Movie Night

What it is: Host an outdoor movie screening with free popcorn and drinks.

Why it works: Provides a family-friendly event that fosters community engagement.

Scripture: “Be hospitable to one another without grumbling.”
– 1 Peter 4:9

Checklist:

- Choose a family-friendly movie
- Secure a projector, screen, and sound system
- Obtain necessary permits if required
- Promote through flyers and social media

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hi [Name], we’re planning a Community Movie Night on [Date] at [Location]. Can you help with setup, serving snacks, or greeting guests?”

14. School Supply Giveaway

What it is: Distribute backpacks filled with school supplies to children in need.

Why it works: Supports families and builds relationships with the local community.

Scripture: “Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none.” – Luke 3:11

Checklist:

- Collect donations of backpacks and supplies
- Assemble supply kits
- Coordinate with local schools for distribution
- Plan a giveaway event with fun activities

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], we’re organizing a School Supply Giveaway on [Date]. Would you like to help pack backpacks or assist during the event?”

15. Neighborhood Prayer Walk

What it is: Walk through local neighborhoods, praying for residents and offering to pray with those you meet.

Why it works: Demonstrates care and opens opportunities for spiritual conversations.

Scripture: “Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.” – Colossians 4:2

Checklist:

- Map out a safe walking route
- Prepare prayer guides or prompts
- Train volunteers on respectful engagement
- Provide church info cards to hand out

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hi [Name], we’re doing a Neighborhood Prayer Walk on [Date]. Would you like to join us in praying for our community?”

16. Free Ice Cream or Popsicle Pop-Up

What it is: Set up a table or cart in a local park or at a busy community event and give away popsicles or ice cream for free—no catch.

Why it works: It's simple, low-cost, and builds positive visibility for your church in a low-pressure setting.

Scripture: "Taste and see that the Lord is good..." – Psalm 34:8

Checklist:

- Choose a date, time, and high-traffic location
- Buy bulk popsicles or ice cream cups (cooler + ice)
- Print small invite cards to hand out
- Bring a team of 3–5 people to smile and serve

Volunteer Text Prompt:

"Hey [Name], want to help hand out free popsicles at [Park/Event] this Saturday? No strings attached—just a fun way to bless the community!"

17. Single Moms Oil Change Day

What it is: Offer free oil changes to single moms or low-income families at your church or a partner location.

Why it works: It meets a practical need while communicating deep value and dignity to people often overlooked.

Scripture: "Religion that God our Father accepts... is to look after orphans and widows..." – James 1:27

Checklist:

- Partner with mechanics or DIY car-savvy volunteers
- Set clear registration system (limit to 10–15 cars)
- Provide a shaded waiting area with snacks & conversation
- Include printed church info and prayer teams on-site

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], we’re offering free oil changes for single moms on [Date]. Can you help with setup, car check-in, or snacks?”

18. Local Business Thank-You Drop

What it is: Drop off donuts or snacks to local small businesses with a thank-you note from your church.

Why it works: Builds goodwill with leaders in your community who often feel unseen or under-appreciated.

Scripture: “Encourage one another and build each other up...” – 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Checklist:

- Choose 5–10 local businesses
- Purchase donuts/snacks (individually wrapped is best)
- Write a handwritten thank-you card from the church
- Include a “How can we pray for you?” response card

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], we’re doing thank-you drops to local businesses on [Date]. Can you help deliver a few with us?”

19. Community Prayer Box

What it is: Set up a public prayer request drop box outside your church or at a high-traffic location with a clear sign.

Why it works: Allows people to share burdens anonymously and shows your church cares 7 days a week, not just Sundays.

Scripture: “Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.” – 1 Peter 5:7

Checklist:

- Set up a weather-proof box or repurposed mailbox
- Attach signage: “Need prayer? Drop a note here.”
- Provide pens, cards, and a small light
- Collect weekly, pray over each request, and follow up if possible

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], would you help check the prayer box weekly and pray over the requests with our team?”

20. Fire & Police Station Encouragement Drop

What it is: Deliver care packages or handwritten cards to local police officers and firefighters with snacks and a short message of encouragement.

Why it works: First responders often experience stress and feel disconnected from the community they serve.

Scripture: “Give honor to whom honor is due.” – Romans 13:7

Checklist:

- Buy snacks and write notes (or have kids draw pictures!)
- Assemble simple bags or baskets
- Call ahead and arrange drop-off times
- Invite them to future events or just say thank you

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], we’re putting together snack packs for our local fire and police teams. Can you help write a few notes or do the drop-off?”

21. Laundry of Love Day

What it is: Cover the cost of loads at a local laundromat for anyone who comes in during a set time window.

Why it works: It meets a real, often-overlooked need in a setting where many people feel stuck or unseen.

Scripture: “Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.” – Galatians 6:2

Checklist:

- Partner with a local laundromat for a 2–3 hour block
- Bring quarters, detergent pods, and dryer sheets
- Create signs that say “Free Laundry – No Strings Attached”
- Have team members available to greet and chat

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], want to help bless people with free laundry this Saturday? We’ll be at [Laundromat Name] from [Time]—just being the hands and feet of Jesus!”

22. Encouragement Chalk Walk

What it is: Use sidewalk chalk to write encouraging Bible verses and affirmations on sidewalks around your community.

Why it works: It’s uplifting, creative, and shares scripture in a non-intrusive way.

Scripture: “Pleasant words are like a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.” – Proverbs 16:24

Checklist:

- Buy bulk sidewalk chalk
- Identify walkways near schools, parks, or downtown
- Pre-plan 10–15 short verses or affirmations
- Optional: Add your church name or URL

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], want to join us for a chalk walk this weekend? We’ll be writing encouraging verses on sidewalks around town!”

23. Water Bottle Giveaway at Local Events

What it is: Distribute free cold water bottles with a smile at a sports game, park, or community event.

Why it works: On a hot day, it meets an immediate need and creates a moment of kindness.

Scripture: “And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water... truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward.”
– Matthew 10:42

Checklist:

- Purchase bottled water in bulk
- Add simple church sticker or verse label
- Use coolers and ice to keep water cold
- Choose a visible, high-traffic spot with permission

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], we’re giving out free cold waters at [Event/ Location] this Saturday. Want to join us for an hour to bless the community?”

24. Host a Free Yard Sale

What it is: Invite your church to donate clothes, shoes, and small goods, then give everything away for free in a “yard sale” format.

Why it works: It relieves financial pressure and builds trust with the community.

Scripture: “Freely you have received; freely give.” – Matthew 10:8

Checklist:

- Announce donation drive 2–3 weeks ahead
- Sort and organize items by category
- Set up tables or racks outside your church or partner site
- Offer prayer stations or invite cards on-site

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], can you help sort donations or assist guests at our Free Yard Sale on [Date]? We’re hoping to bless a ton of families!”

25. Food Truck Friday Hangout

What it is: Bring in 1–2 food trucks and invite the neighborhood to hang out in your parking lot or nearby park.

Why it works: It’s casual, relational, and gives people a reason to stick around, chat, and see your church as a place of connection.

Scripture: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” – Mark 12:31

Checklist:

- Book food trucks (ask if they’ll give small church discount)

- Set up picnic tables or seating areas
- Promote to neighbors and on social media
- Play music and offer church tours or info table

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], we’re doing a Food Truck Friday hangout on [Date]. Can you help greet guests or just hang out and meet new folks?”

26. Blessing Bags for the Homeless

What it is: Assemble small bags with hygiene items, snacks, socks, and encouragement cards to give to people experiencing homelessness.

Why it works: It offers practical help and dignity in a moment of need, and can be distributed by church members throughout the week.

Scripture: “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” – Matthew 25:40

Checklist:

- Gather items: socks, granola bars, toothbrush/toothpaste, hand wipes
- Include handwritten encouragement notes or verses
- Assemble in gallon-size ziplock bags
- Keep available in church lobby for members to take and distribute

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], want to help pack blessing bags this week for people in need around our city? Should only take an hour—we’ll provide the supplies!”

27. Back-to-School Haircuts Day

What it is: Partner with local stylists or barbers to offer free back-to-school haircuts for kids and teens.

Why it works: A haircut is a confidence boost that many families struggle to afford when prepping for a new school year.

Scripture: “Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.” – Philippians 2:4

Checklist:

- Find 2–3 local barbers willing to volunteer
- Schedule 5–10 minute time slots
- Promote registration with church + local schools
- Set up waiting area with refreshments and church info

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], we’re offering free back-to-school haircuts for kids on [Date]. Could you help with check-in, snacks, or greeting families?”

28. Coffee & Donuts at the Bus Stop

What it is: Hand out free coffee and donuts to parents and kids at a busy school bus stop or park-and-ride.

Why it works: It’s a meaningful surprise in a routine moment and starts the day with kindness.

Scripture: “Do not grow weary in doing good...” – Galatians 6:9

Checklist:

- Pick a high-traffic location with parent/student flow
- Provide coffee carafes, cups, donuts or mini muffins
- Use signage: “Free breakfast – You’re loved!”
- Invite people to your church with a simple card or QR

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], we’re handing out free coffee and donuts at the [Location] bus stop on [Date]. Want to join us from [Time]?”

29. Community Board Game Night

What it is: Open your church space one evening for families and neighbors to drop in and play board games.

Why it works: It creates low-key fun and builds friendships across generations.

Scripture: “How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity!” – Psalm 133:1

Checklist:

- Gather classic board and card games
- Set up tables and snacks (optional: small prizes)
- Share on community Facebook groups
- Have a short welcome message or invite for Sunday

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], we’re doing a Game Night at church on [Date]! Can you bring a board game or help host a table?”

30. Host a Mobile Food Pantry

What it is: Partner with a local food bank to host a mobile food distribution site at your church.

Why it works: Provides critical support for families during tight summer budgets.

Scripture: “If you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry... then your light will rise in the darkness.” – Isaiah 58:10

Checklist:

- Connect with your regional food bank
- Confirm delivery and pickup process
- Recruit volunteers for setup and distribution
- Promote quietly and respectfully in your community

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], we’re hosting a mobile food pantry at church on [Date]. Can you help us unload food and serve families that morning?”

SECTION

YOUTH & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Simple ways to engage the next generation and strengthen families this summer. Summer creates space to connect with students and parents in fresh ways. Families are looking for rhythm, not routine—and your church can be a trusted anchor during the most unstructured season of the year. These ideas are designed to build joy, relationships, and spiritual momentum that carries into the fall.

Whether you've got a full youth ministry or just a few families, these moments create lasting impact with low effort and high relational return.

31. Family Field Day

What it is: Host an afternoon of classic outdoor games like sack races, water balloon toss, and tug of war for families to enjoy together.

Why it works: It builds positive memories tied to the church and invites participation from all ages.

Scripture: "Children are a heritage from the Lord..." – Psalm 127:3

Checklist:

- Choose a Saturday and location with open space

- Plan 5–6 easy relay-style games
- Provide water, simple snacks, and shade
- Award small prizes for fun (not just winning!)

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], want to help us run games at Family Field Day on [Date]? Super fun, super simple—just need good energy and a smile!”

32. Backyard VBS (or Block VBS)

What it is: Instead of a full church-campus VBS, empower 2–3 families to host mini VBS sessions in their yards for neighbors.

Why it works: Lower lift, more relational, and spreads outreach across the city.

Scripture: “Go and make disciples of all nations...” – Matthew 28:19

Checklist:

- Create simple 3-day curriculum with games, snacks, lesson, craft
- Recruit 2–3 host homes
- Promote via flyers or door invites
- Supply VBS kits from church (snacks, crafts, scripts)

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], would you consider hosting a Backyard VBS for a few neighborhood kids this summer? We’ll give you everything you need!”

33. Summer Scripture Memory Challenge

What it is: Challenge kids and teens to memorize 5–10 Bible verses over the summer, with a reward or recognition at the end.

Why it works: Keeps scripture active in their hearts during the least structured time of year.

Scripture: “I have hidden your word in my heart...” – Psalm 119:11

Checklist:

- Choose 5–10 short, powerful verses
- Create memory cards or a digital tracker
- Promote at services and on social
- Celebrate completions with shout-outs, prizes, or certificates

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], could you help encourage or quiz kids who are doing the Scripture Challenge this summer? Just a few minutes during or after service!”

34. Teen Taco Night

What it is: Host a casual taco night at church or someone’s home just for middle and high school students.

Why it works: Food and fun builds trust and gives teens a no-pressure way to bring friends.

Scripture: “Do not let anyone look down on you because you are young...” – 1 Timothy 4:12

Checklist:

- Set date and location

- Provide taco bar (or ask families to bring ingredients)
- Plan 1 short activity or conversation prompt
- Optional: give away \$5 Taco Bell card to 1 guest

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], we’re doing a Taco Night for teens on [Date]. Want to help set up, drive, or just hang out with students?”

35. Parent-Child Serve Day

What it is: Create an outreach project specifically designed for parents and kids to serve together (e.g., packing meals, cleaning a park, visiting a nursing home).

Why it works: Builds legacy, shared faith moments, and helps kids experience service firsthand.

Scripture: “Train up a child in the way he should go...” – Proverbs 22:6

Checklist:

- Choose an easy, time-bound project (1–2 hours)
- Communicate it as “families serving together”
- Provide kid-safe tasks and supplies
- Celebrate with snacks or photos afterward

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], want to join us for a Parent-Child Serve Day on [Date]? Super simple service project to help families live out their faith together.”

36. Family Movie Night at Church

What it is: Set up a screen and projector for a movie night at your church with popcorn, drinks, and family seating.

Why it works: It's a low-cost, high-impact way to draw in families and create a positive experience associated with your church.

Scripture: "Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." – 1 Corinthians 10:31

Checklist:

- Pick a family-friendly film (G or PG-rated)
- Promote via social, email, and word of mouth
- Set up seating (blankets, chairs, floor space)
- Offer popcorn and water (or ask for snack donations)

Volunteer Text Prompt:

"Hey [Name], we're doing a Family Movie Night at church on [Date]. Could you help with setup, snacks, or greeting families?"

37. Water Wars Day

What it is: A fun event for kids and teens with water balloons, water games, and a short devotional or prayer time.

Why it works: Combines energy and spiritual moments in a way that kids remember.

Scripture: "A cheerful heart is good medicine..." – Proverbs 17:22

Checklist:

- Buy water balloons, hoses, buckets, slip-n-slide
- Choose a safe outdoor location
- Invite kids/teens to bring friends & towels

- Share a 5-minute devotional halfway through

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], we’re planning a Water Wars event on [Date]. Can you help run games or be on water balloon refill duty?”

38. Family Picnic & Praise Night

What it is: Invite families to bring dinner and lawn chairs for a casual outdoor worship night with acoustic music and prayer.

Why it works: Combines physical presence and spiritual focus in a low-key, family-first environment.

Scripture: “From the lips of children and infants you, Lord, have called forth your praise.” – Matthew 21:16

Checklist:

- Book a park or use church lawn
- Arrange 2–3 acoustic worship leaders
- Encourage families to bring dinner/picnic
- Close with a short message or prayer circle

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], want to help with Family Picnic & Praise Night on [Date]? Could use support with setup, sound, or greeting!”

39. Youth Group “Serve & Ice Cream” Day

What it is: Take your youth group to serve locally (e.g., food pantry, park cleanup), then reward with an ice cream stop.

Why it works: Pairs spiritual formation with relational fun, and shows students that service is part of the Christian life.

Scripture: “Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant.” – Matthew 20:26

Checklist:

- Choose a simple, age-appropriate serve project
- Confirm location and any waivers needed
- Budget for ice cream or ask for sponsorships
- Take photos and share testimonies

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], can you help drive or chaperone for our Youth Serve & Ice Cream Day on [Date]? We’re doing a quick project then rewarding the crew!”

40. Family Prayer & Vision Night

What it is: Invite families to come together for a night of worship, prayer, and vision-casting for their home and future.

Why it works: Re-centers families around faith and creates shared spiritual goals heading into fall.

Scripture: “But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.” – Joshua 24:15

Checklist:

- Prepare 2–3 guided prayer activities
- Set up worship with lyrics on screen
- Create family “vision cards” with prompts
- Offer childcare for toddlers if possible

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], we’re hosting a Family Prayer & Vision Night on [Date]. Could you help lead a prayer station or assist with child care?”

41. Popsicles & Playground Meetup

What it is: Invite families to meet at a local park after church for popsicles, playground time, and casual connection.

Why it works: Low prep, relationally rich, and makes it easier for new families to plug in without pressure.

Scripture: “Be devoted to one another in love.” – Romans 12:10

Checklist:

- Choose a park with shade and restrooms
- Bring a cooler of popsicles or frozen treats
- Share address in service and via text
- Keep it informal and welcoming

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], we’re meeting at [Park Name] after church on [Date] for popsicles and playground time. Want to help bring treats or greet new families?”

42. DIY Father’s Day Craft Station

What it is: Set up a craft table the Sunday before Father’s Day where kids can make cards or simple gifts for their dads or male mentors.

Why it works: Creates a fun, meaningful way for kids to show appreciation—and gets families excited about being at church.

Scripture: “Honor your father and mother...” – Exodus 20:12

Checklist:

- Provide blank cards, markers, stickers, simple craft supplies
- Set up a table before/after service
- Recruit 2 volunteers to guide kids
- Display finished cards on a board or send home in envelopes

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], can you help run a DIY Father’s Day craft station before/after service on [Date]? Super simple way to help kids honor their dads.”

43. Back-to-School Prayer Service for Families

What it is: A focused Sunday service or evening event where families gather to pray over the new school year.

Why it works: Equips parents and students spiritually and emotionally for a new season.

Scripture: “Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans.” – Proverbs 16:3

Checklist:

- Invite students, parents, and teachers
- Print custom “school year prayer cards”
- Include worship, short message, and group prayer
- Commission students by grade at the end

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], we’re planning a Back-to-School Prayer Service on [Date]. Would you help greet, pray with families, or assist with students?”

44. Teen “Ask Me Anything” Night

What it is: A safe-space Q&A night where teens anonymously submit questions about faith, life, relationships, etc., and leaders respond.

Why it works: Gives students a voice and opens space for real dialogue around spiritual and personal issues.

Scripture: “Get wisdom, get understanding...” – Proverbs 4:5

Checklist:

- Set up anonymous question box or QR code
- Choose 2–3 adult leaders to respond
- Provide snacks and chill environment
- Keep answers honest, biblical, and age-appropriate

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], we’re doing a Teen AMA Night on [Date]—a safe space for questions. Would you help with snacks or join the leader panel?”

45. Family Game Night (Indoors Edition)

What it is: Host a night of board games, team challenges, and fun for all ages in your church lobby or fellowship hall.

Why it works: Builds intergenerational connection and brings laughter into your church culture.

Scripture: “A time to laugh... and a time to dance.” – Ecclesiastes 3:4

Checklist:

- Provide or borrow a variety of games (card, trivia, family-style)
- Create team-based activities (e.g., charades, Bible trivia)
- Offer light snacks or potluck-style table
- Award small prizes or “most competitive family” awards

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], we’re planning a Family Game Night on [Date]! Want to help lead a game table or bring snacks?”

46. Summer Birthday Bash for Kids

What it is: Celebrate all the kids with summer birthdays in one fun group party after church with cupcakes, games, and a birthday prayer.

Why it works: Kids feel seen, parents feel valued, and it builds excitement for kids ministry.

Scripture: “Rejoice with those who rejoice...” – Romans 12:15

Checklist:

- Gather names of summer birthday kids
- Provide cupcakes, balloons, and simple party games
- Print birthday prayer cards or blessing bookmarks
- Take a group photo and share with parents

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], we’re throwing a group birthday party for kids with summer birthdays on [Date]! Can you help set up games or serve cupcakes?”

47. Bible Story Puppet Show

What it is: Host a puppet show with simple skits that bring Bible stories to life for younger kids.

Why it works: Engaging storytelling captures attention and reinforces scripture in a fun way.

Scripture: “So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.” – Romans 10:17

Checklist:

- Choose 2–3 short Bible stories (Jonah, David, etc.)
- Use puppets or sock puppets and cardboard stage
- Practice with 2–3 youth volunteers or leaders
- Invite families and younger siblings for a special event

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], want to be part of a Bible Story Puppet Show for kids on [Date]? We’ll provide the script and puppets—just need fun energy!”

48. “Bring a Friend” Challenge for Kids & Teens

What it is: For 2–3 Sundays, encourage kids and teens to bring a new friend to church with simple incentives and fun surprises.

Why it works: It sparks outreach in a way that feels exciting and relational for the next generation.

Scripture: “Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in...” – Luke 14:23

Checklist:

- Print invite cards for students to hand out

- Offer rewards (small toys, snacks, entries to win bigger prizes)
- Celebrate each guest and their inviter in service
- Share photos/stories on social

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], we’re doing a ‘Bring a Friend’ challenge for students over the next few weeks. Want to help pass out cards or track guests?”

49. Family Worship Sunday

What it is: Once a month or quarter, bring kids and families together for one big service that includes child-friendly worship and a short, interactive message.

Why it works: Builds family unity and helps kids learn the rhythm of full-church worship.

Scripture: “Let the little children come to me...” – Matthew 19:14

Checklist:

- Plan 2 kid-focused worship songs and motions
- Create a short, engaging message with visuals
- Prepare kid-friendly sermon notes or coloring pages
- Provide quiet activities for younger children

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], we’re planning a Family Worship Sunday on [Date]. Can you help lead a song, guide a table, or support during service?”

50. Summer Devotional Booklet for Families

What it is: Create a short 4–6 week devotional for families to go through together during the summer—just one per week.

Why it works: Keeps faith alive in homes even when church schedules loosen.

Scripture: “Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home...” – Deuteronomy 6:7

Checklist:

- Choose 4–6 weekly themes (faith, kindness, prayer, etc.)
- Write or repurpose short devo readings + discussion Qs
- Add memory verses and simple activities for each week
- Print copies or distribute as PDFs

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], we’re putting together a summer devotional for families. Want to help with editing, design, or delivery?”

SECTION

SOCIAL & DIGITAL GROWTH

Quick wins to boost visibility, invite engagement, and reach new people online. Most guests will meet your church digitally before they ever walk through your doors. Social media isn't just a side project—it's your front porch.

These ideas are designed for leaders who don't have time for complicated strategies but want to stay consistent, relevant, and visible online. Think micro-moments with macro impact.

Even if you only implement one idea per week, your church will stay top-of-mind and easy to find for new guests and curious neighbors.

51. “Meet the Pastor” Reel or Short Video

What it is: Record a 60-second introduction from your pastor or staff member to post on Instagram, Facebook, and your website.

Why it works: Personal video builds trust and removes friction for first-time visitors.

Scripture: “I have become all things to all people... so that by all possible means I might save some.” – 1 Corinthians 9:22

Checklist:

- Write a simple script: Who we are, what to expect, when we meet
- Film in natural light or clean space (phone is fine!)
- Add captions or upload with auto-captioning
- Post on social and pin to your profile

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], can you help record or post a quick ‘Meet the Pastor’ video this week? Just a 60-second welcome to help new people feel connected before they visit.”

52. Weekly Verse Graphic

What it is: Share a consistent, branded scripture graphic every Monday to encourage your audience and stay in their feed.

Why it works: Encouragement builds engagement. Predictability builds trust.

Scripture: “The word of God is alive and active...” – Hebrews 4:12

Checklist:

- Choose 12–16 go-to verses (short and powerful)
- Use Canva or a template to brand consistently
- Schedule with Facebook/Instagram Creator Studio
- Add a short reflection or prayer in the caption

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], can you help create a few scripture verse graphics for our socials? Just a short verse and design—Canva’s totally fine!”

53. Invite-a-Friend Story Template

What it is: Design an Instagram Story template that says, “I’m going to church this Sunday! Want to come with me?” with space to tag friends.

Why it works: Equips your members to organically invite others using their own voice.

Scripture: “We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors...” – 2 Corinthians 5:20

Checklist:

- Use Canva or IG Story tools to create a clean graphic
- Post on your church’s Story with instructions
- Ask 5–10 members to repost and tag friends
- Track how many guests come from the Story

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], would you repost our Invite-to-Church IG Story today and tag a friend or two you’d love to join you?”

54. 30-Day Testimony Challenge

What it is: Collect and post one short story per day for 30 days from members about how God has moved in their life.

Why it works: Real stories create trust and engagement like nothing else.

Scripture: “They triumphed... by the word of their testimony.” – Revelation 12:11

Checklist:

- Invite 30 members to share a 2–3 sentence story or 30-sec video

- Create a branded template for consistency
- Post daily with tags and hashtags
- End the month with a highlight video or recap post

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], we’re doing a 30-day testimony challenge. Would you be willing to share a short story or video about something God has done in your life?”

55. Digital Invite Card (Downloadable Graphic)

What it is: Create a clean, branded image with your church’s service times and a warm invitation that people can text or post.

Why it works: Puts the power to invite in your members’ pockets—literally.

Scripture: “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.”
– Luke 10:2

Checklist:

- Use Canva to design a clear, mobile-friendly graphic
- Include service time, address, website, and friendly copy
- Upload to your site and post download link in bio
- Announce it from stage and encourage sharing

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], we made a new digital invite card for church. Can you post it or text it to a couple friends you’ve been meaning to invite?”

56. “Why I Love My Church” Photo Wall

What it is: Ask members to submit photos with a one-sentence caption finishing the sentence: “I love my church because...” Post these daily or as a collage.

Why it works: It builds community and provides authentic, positive messaging from real people—not just leadership.

Scripture: “Therefore encourage one another and build each other up...” – 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Checklist:

- Announce in service and via email/social
- Collect 10–20 photos and captions
- Use a consistent background or border for branding
- Share one per day or as a full gallery

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], can you send us a photo and finish this sentence: ‘I love my church because...’? We’re building a summer encouragement wall!”

57. Behind-the-Scenes Sunday Prep Reel

What it is: Film short clips of your setup, worship team rehearsal, or hospitality prep and compile into a fast-paced Reel or Story.

Why it works: Gives people a peek into the life of the church and celebrates volunteers.

Scripture: “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart...” – Colossians 3:23

Checklist:

- Film 4–6 5-second clips on Saturday/Sunday morning
- Add background music and simple captions
- Post with a call to action (e.g., “See you tomorrow!”)
- Tag volunteers or teams to increase reach

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], can you help grab a few behind-the-scenes clips this Sunday? Just 5-second shots—we’ll turn them into a quick Reel!”

58. Sermon Quote Graphic

What it is: Design a graphic each week with one powerful quote or takeaway from the Sunday message.

Why it works: It reinforces the message and gives people something shareable that keeps the sermon alive through the week.

Scripture: “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly...” – Colossians 3:16

Checklist:

- Capture 1–2 quotes during the sermon
- Design in Canva with church branding
- Post on Monday or Tuesday with brief recap in the caption
- Encourage members to share or repost

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], can you help design our weekly sermon quote post this week? I’ll send the quote—just need a simple Canva layout!”

59. Sunday Selfie Challenge

What it is: Encourage attendees to snap a selfie before or after service, tag your church, and use a shared hashtag.

Why it works: It organically promotes community and puts your church in front of new audiences.

Scripture: “Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!” – Philippians 4:4

Checklist:

- Announce from stage and post challenge online
- Choose a hashtag (e.g., #SundaysAt[ChurchName])
- Offer a small giveaway or prize for most creative selfie
- Repost the best ones on Monday

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], would you take a Sunday Selfie this weekend and tag us? We’re running a fun challenge and would love to feature you!”

60. Facebook Group Question of the Week

What it is: Post one open-ended question each week in your church’s Facebook group to encourage connection and discussion.

Why it works: Keeps your online community active between Sundays and surfaces stories you might not hear otherwise.

Scripture: “Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds...” – Hebrews 10:24

Checklist:

- Brainstorm 10–12 light but meaningful questions

- Schedule weekly posts (e.g., “What’s one way you saw God move this week?”)
- Like, comment, and tag others to keep engagement going
- Highlight one answer during service

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], can you answer this week’s Facebook group question and tag someone new? Helps us keep the convo going!”

61. Instagram Reel Devotionals

What it is: Post short (30–60 second) devotional thoughts from your pastor, staff, or volunteers each week as a Reel.

Why it works: Bite-sized video devotionals boost visibility and provide midweek encouragement.

Scripture: “Encourage one another daily...” – Hebrews 3:13

Checklist:

- Write or outline a short devo thought or scripture reflection
- Film in vertical format with good lighting and clean audio
- Add captions or subtitles
- Post weekly and share to Stories and Facebook

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], would you be open to sharing a short (under 60 sec) devotional thought on video this week? We’ll help with filming if needed!”

62. “Guess That Worship Song” Game

What it is: Post 5–10 seconds of an instrumental worship song on Instagram or Stories and have followers guess the song in comments.

Why it works: It boosts engagement, connects people through music, and increases story interaction.

Scripture: “Sing to the Lord, all the earth; proclaim his salvation day after day.” – 1 Chronicles 16:23

Checklist:

- Clip a short, recognizable part of a worship song
- Post with question sticker or comment prompt
- Reveal answer the next day with a short video
- Encourage people to tag a friend who’d get it right

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], can you help us come up with a few worship songs for our ‘Guess That Song’ game on IG this week?”

63. Social Media “Volunteer of the Week” Spotlight

What it is: Feature one volunteer each week with a photo, quote, and why they serve.

Why it works: Celebrates your people, builds culture, and shows guests the heart of your church.

Scripture: “Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people.” – Ephesians 6:7

Checklist:

- Take a photo of the volunteer in action
- Ask: “Why do you serve?” or “What do you love about [team]?”

- Post with their quote and a thank-you message
- Tag them and encourage others to comment

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], we’d love to feature you as our Volunteer of the Week! Can I grab a quick pic and quote from you this Sunday?”

64. Seasonal Countdown Stories

What it is: Create a countdown on Instagram Stories leading up to your next series, event, or big Sunday.

Why it works: Builds anticipation and creates multiple touchpoints for invites.

Scripture: “Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.” – Psalm 90:12

Checklist:

- Choose an upcoming event or series
- Design branded countdown templates for Stories
- Post daily or every few days leading up
- Include invite link or RSVP form

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], we’re doing an IG countdown to our new series! Would you share the countdown story and tag a friend each day?”

65. Community Polls & This-or-That Stories

What it is: Use Instagram or Facebook Stories to post light, interactive polls (e.g., “Early service or late service?” “Worship hands up or hands in pockets?”).

Why it works: Keeps your audience engaged, boosts algorithm favor, and adds personality to your feed.

Scripture: “A cheerful heart is good medicine...” – Proverbs 17:22

Checklist:

- Plan 4–5 lighthearted church-related polls
- Use Story stickers to create interaction
- Share results the next day with fun commentary
- Include a call to invite or attend Sunday service

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], want to help us brainstorm a few fun ‘this or that’ polls for our Instagram Stories? It’s a great way to keep people connected midweek.”

66. “How to Find Us” Story Highlight

What it is: Create an Instagram Story Highlight walking through parking, kids check-in, and what to expect on a Sunday.

Why it works: Reduces first-visit anxiety by answering questions before they’re even asked.

Scripture: “Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers...” – Hebrews 13:2

Checklist:

- Film short clips of parking lot, lobby, kids area

- Add simple captions: “Where to park,” “What to expect,” “Meet our team”
- Save as a Highlight on Instagram and Facebook
- Link from your website’s visit page

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], would you help film a few quick clips of our campus for a ‘How to Visit’ highlight on IG? Just showing what a guest can expect!”

67. Weekend Preview Post

What it is: Every Friday, post a short preview of what’s happening on Sunday—sermon topic, song list, special elements, etc.

Why it works: Preps your people spiritually and keeps your church top-of-mind going into the weekend.

Scripture: “Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds... not giving up meeting together...” – Hebrews 10:24–25

Checklist:

- Use a template for consistency
- Share sermon title, one worship song, and a call to invite
- Post on Instagram, Facebook, and optionally email
- Include a question in the caption to boost engagement

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], can you help create or schedule our Friday Weekend Preview post this week? I’ll send you the details!”

68. Highlight a Local Ministry or Partner

What it is: Feature a nonprofit or outreach ministry your church supports or partners with through a post or story.

Why it works: Builds community goodwill and shows your church is active beyond Sunday services.

Scripture: “Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds...” – Matthew 5:16

Checklist:

- Choose a partner or community organization
- Write a short blurb: what they do and why it matters
- Include a photo or logo with your church’s connection
- Tag their account and encourage people to follow or support

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], can you help write a short spotlight post about [Ministry Name]? Just a few sentences about what they do and how we partner.”

69. “Sunday Recap” Carousel Post

What it is: Post a Monday morning photo carousel of Sunday highlights—worship, volunteers, teaching, kids ministry, etc.

Why it works: Keeps the momentum going and shows others what they missed.

Scripture: “Proclaim his salvation day after day.” – 1 Chronicles 16:23

Checklist:

- Capture 5–7 photos during Sunday services
- Choose the best and edit lightly for consistency
- Post as a carousel with a short caption recap
- Tag volunteers or teams when possible

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], can you help snap some photos during service this Sunday for our weekly recap post? Just candid photos of what God’s doing!”

70. First-Time Guest Stories

What it is: Share short stories or quotes from recent first-time guests (with permission) about their experience.

Why it works: Builds trust with potential guests and reminds your church that every Sunday matters.

Scripture: “I was a stranger and you welcomed me.” – Matthew 25:35

Checklist:

- Follow up with first-time guests via connect card or email
- Ask: “What was something you appreciated or noticed on your first visit?”
- Post their quote (with a photo if available and approved)
- Thank them publicly and invite others to come experience it too

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], would you be comfortable sharing one thing you noticed or enjoyed on your first Sunday here? We’d love to post a quick quote to help welcome others!”

SECTION

VOLUNTEER & TEAM DEVELOPMENT

Encourage, equip, and energize your teams—without adding complexity. Strong teams don't just “happen.” They're built on appreciation, purpose, and clarity. These ideas are designed for churches of any size to boost volunteer morale, onboard new people, and strengthen the culture of service. You don't need a massive system—just intentional moments of connection and encouragement.

Even one well-timed note, huddle, or recognition can go a long way in making your team feel valued and empowered.

71. Volunteer “Thank You” Sunday

What it is: Take one Sunday to publicly thank all your volunteers during service—name a few, share a quick story, and give a small token of appreciation.

Why it works: Public gratitude strengthens culture and helps people feel seen.

Scripture: “Honor one another above yourselves.” – Romans 12:10

Checklist:

- Pick a Sunday and prep short talking points
- Print simple thank-you cards or gift bags (\$5 or less)
- Display team photos or play a short appreciation video

- Include a prayer of blessing over all volunteers

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], just a heads-up—we’re thanking all volunteers this Sunday in service. Be sure to come! We’ve got a little something for you.”

72. “Bring a Friend to Serve” Challenge

What it is: Encourage current volunteers to bring someone new to shadow them on their team one Sunday this summer.

Why it works: It’s the easiest, lowest-pressure way to onboard new people into serving.

Scripture: “Two are better than one... for if they fall, one will lift up the other.” – Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

Checklist:

- Announce challenge in huddles or from stage
- Create invite cards or digital graphics
- Ask leaders to follow up with shadows post-service
- Offer small prizes or thank-yous for those who bring someone

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], we’re doing a ‘Bring a Friend to Serve’ Sunday on [Date]! Got anyone you’d love to invite to try out your team with you?”

73. Monthly Volunteer Huddle with Vision + Coffee

What it is: Host a short (15–20 minute) huddle before service once a month with free coffee, encouragement, and one “why it matters” reminder.

Why it works: Builds rhythm, refreshes vision, and helps volunteers feel connected to the bigger picture.

Scripture: “Where there is no vision, the people perish...” – Proverbs 29:18

Checklist:

- Pick one Sunday/month and promote in advance
- Bring coffee, pastries, and upbeat music
- Prepare a 5-minute leadership devotional or update
- End with prayer and quick wins to celebrate

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], join us for our monthly volunteer huddle this Sunday at [Time]—coffee, quick vision, and a few high-fives before service!”

74. Dream Team Wall or Photo Board

What it is: Create a physical or digital photo wall of your volunteers by team (e.g., Kids, Worship, Tech, Greeters) with their names and a short “why they serve.”

Why it works: Builds ownership, visibility, and belonging.

Scripture: “Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.” – 1 Corinthians 12:27

Checklist:

- Take simple photos of each volunteer/team
- Add name and short quote or “I serve because...”
- Display on a bulletin board or digital slideshow in lobby
- Update quarterly to keep it fresh

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], we’re building a Dream Team photo wall! Can I grab a quick photo of you this Sunday and a short quote about why you serve?”

75. Volunteer Highlight Reel

What it is: Create a short video (1–2 min) of your volunteers in action with fun music and captions, then share it in service or on social.

Why it works: Celebrates the team, builds energy, and shows guests that your church is full of joyful servants.

Scripture: “Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others...” – 1 Peter 4:10

Checklist:

- Film or gather clips from a few Sundays
- Edit together with royalty-free background music
- Add fun captions: “Meet our Parking Crew!” “Kids Rockstars!”
- Play in service or post online with a thank-you

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], we’re putting together a short video to celebrate our volunteers! Can I grab a few clips of you serving this week?”

76. First Serve Follow-Up Text or Call

What it is: Personally follow up with every new volunteer after their first time serving to say thank you and ask how it went.

Why it works: Immediate feedback and encouragement increases retention and helps people feel noticed.

Scripture: “Encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone.” – 1 Thessalonians 5:14

Checklist:

- Track first-time volunteers each Sunday
- Assign a team leader or coordinator to follow up within 48 hours
- Ask: “What went well? Any questions?”
- Invite them back and thank them again

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], it was awesome having you serve this weekend! How did it go for you? Anything we can do to support you as you get plugged in?”

77. “I Serve Because” Social Campaign

What it is: Feature volunteers on social media with a short quote or video answering, “Why do you serve?”

Why it works: Tells your church’s story through its people and inspires others to get involved.

Scripture: “Serve the Lord with gladness...” – Psalm 100:2

Checklist:

- Ask 10–15 volunteers to answer in 1 sentence or short video
- Create branded graphics or overlay text
- Post weekly or daily for a series

- Tag volunteers and use a consistent hashtag

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], would you be open to sharing a quick sentence or video on why you serve? We’re doing a summer ‘I Serve Because’ campaign!”

78. Shadow Sunday for Potential Volunteers

What it is: Invite people to “test drive” a volunteer team by shadowing without commitment for one Sunday.

Why it works: Reduces hesitation and lowers the barrier to entry.

Scripture: “Let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.” – 1 John 3:18

Checklist:

- Choose a Sunday for all teams to welcome shadows
- Promote via announcements and email
- Provide an easy RSVP or sign-up form
- Follow up personally after the experience

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], we’re doing a ‘Shadow Sunday’ on [Date]. No pressure, just a chance to check out what it’s like to serve on [Team Name]. Want to try it?”

79. Volunteer Prayer Huddle (Pre-Service)

What it is: Gather volunteers for a short circle-up before service to pray over the day, teams, and guests.

Why it works: Builds spiritual unity and reminds teams of the mission behind the role.

Scripture: “Where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.” – Matthew 18:20

Checklist:

- Choose a consistent 5–10 minute time
- Appoint a prayer leader each week (rotate roles)
- Include a quick scripture and 1–2 prayer points
- End with gratitude and encouragement

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], we’re starting pre-service prayer huddles at [Time] every Sunday. Would love for you to join—it’s short but powerful!”

80. Volunteer Check-In Station

What it is: Set up a small, welcoming check-in table or kiosk where volunteers can stop by, grab a name tag, snack, or encouraging note.

Why it works: Creates a consistent touchpoint and boosts morale from the moment they arrive.

Scripture: “Let us not become weary in doing good...” – Galatians 6:9

Checklist:

- Set up small table with name tags, snacks, pens
- Add a sign with “Thanks for serving today!”
- Stock simple notes or scripture cards volunteers can grab
- Rotate team leaders to staff the station

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], we’ll have a volunteer check-in table starting this Sunday! Stop by for your name tag, coffee, and a little encouragement before you serve!”

81. “Serve Stories” Video Series

What it is: Film short videos of volunteers sharing meaningful moments or lessons from their serving experience.

Why it works: Personal stories inspire others to step in and remind your church why serving matters.

Scripture: “Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others...” – 1 Peter 4:10

Checklist:

- Choose 3–5 volunteers with unique or heartfelt stories
- Film 1–2 minute videos with light editing and captions
- Share weekly via email, social media, or in-service video
- Include call to action for joining teams

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], would you be willing to share a quick video story about something meaningful you’ve experienced while serving? Just 1–2 minutes!”

82. “Text 3 Team Members” Encouragement Push

What it is: Once a month, encourage team leaders or volunteers to send three short texts of gratitude or encouragement to fellow team members.

Why it works: Promotes relational connection and a culture of encouragement.

Scripture: “Encourage one another and build each other up...” – 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Checklist:

- Remind volunteers during huddles or via text
- Provide 2–3 example encouragement texts
- Track how many people send messages
- Share stories from impact (with permission)

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], would you send 3 encouragement texts to people on your team this week? A quick ‘thank you’ or prayer can go a long way.”

83. New Volunteer Info Card

What it is: A simple one-pager or card that outlines expectations, roles, and core values for volunteers.

Why it works: Sets clear expectations and helps new team members feel confident and informed.

Scripture: “Let everything be done decently and in order.” – 1 Corinthians 14:40

Checklist:

- Include: mission, time commitment, dress code, contact info
- Print for in-person onboarding or email PDF
- Review during first serve or orientation
- Keep updated quarterly

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], here’s our new Volunteer Info Card—quick overview of what to expect and how to win while serving. Let me know if you have any questions!”

84. Team “Shoutouts” Slide Before Service

What it is: Run a slide on your screens pre-service with a rotating list of volunteer shoutouts or celebrations.

Why it works: Publicly honors team members and shows guests that service is a core value.

Scripture: “Give honor to whom honor is due.” – Romans 13:7

Checklist:

- Create a simple slide template in Canva or ProPresenter
- Collect names and shoutouts weekly from team leads
- Display 10–15 minutes before service starts
- Rotate regularly to keep it fresh

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], we’re featuring you in this week’s volunteer shoutouts! Thanks for all you do—we couldn’t do it without you!”

85. Monthly “Volunteer Wins” Email

What it is: A short monthly email highlighting stories, thank-yous, attendance wins, and reminders—just for volunteers.

Why it works: Keeps communication clear and builds a sense of shared momentum.

Scripture: “And let us consider how we may spur one another on...” – Hebrews 10:24

Checklist:

- Choose a consistent send date (e.g., first Monday of each month)
- Keep it brief: story, stat, quote, and key reminder
- Add 1–2 photos from the past month
- Use a tool like Mailchimp or just regular email

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], check your inbox! We just sent out this month’s Volunteer Wins email—quick stories and updates we think you’ll love.”

86. Serve Team Gear (Shirts, Hats, or Badges)

What it is: Create simple branded gear (like T-shirts or lanyards) that identifies and honors volunteers.

Why it works: Builds team identity and pride while making volunteers more visible to guests.

Scripture: “Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.” – 1 Corinthians 10:31

Checklist:

- Choose one item (shirt, lanyard, badge) for all teams
- Include your church name, logo, or serve team name
- Offer to new volunteers or give as a thank-you
- Optional: host a “Team Shirt Sunday” photo day

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], we’ve got new serve team shirts coming in! What size should we grab for you?”

87. “How to Win on My Team” One-Pager

What it is: A single sheet for each team leader to outline the basics: what to do, how to succeed, and how to handle common issues.

Why it works: Reduces confusion, builds confidence, and sets clear expectations for volunteers.

Scripture: “The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance...” – Proverbs 21:5

Checklist:

- Include expectations, call time, contact info, and 2–3 “pro tips”
- Review with new volunteers during first serve
- Print or email as part of onboarding packet
- Update seasonally if needed

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], here’s a quick ‘How to Win on My Team’ sheet for [Team Name]. Just the basics to help you feel confident and ready to go!”

88. End-of-Summer Volunteer BBQ

What it is: Host a casual cookout or potluck just for your volunteer teams to say thank you and build connection.

Why it works: Appreciation + food = retention. It also strengthens relationships across teams.

Scripture: “They broke bread... with glad and sincere hearts.” – Acts 2:46

Checklist:

- Pick a Saturday or Sunday afternoon
- Ask staff or leaders to grill or organize food sign-ups
- Add music, yard games, or a simple raffle
- Use time to share stories and cast fall vision

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], we’re throwing a Volunteer BBQ on [Date] to celebrate the team! Bring a chair and appetite—we’ll bring the burgers!”

89. Team Prayer Partner Pair-Ups

What it is: Pair up volunteers (same or different teams) to pray for each other for one month.

Why it works: Builds spiritual depth and new relationships beyond Sunday roles.

Scripture: “Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other...” – James 5:16

Checklist:

- Match pairs randomly or intentionally
- Provide a card with a few prompts (name, prayer needs, contact info)
- Encourage one text or prayer exchange per week
- Share testimonies at the end of the month

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], we’ve paired you with [Partner Name] for our volunteer prayer partner month! Reach out and let them know how you can pray for them.”

90. Serve Team Instagram Takeover

What it is: Let a volunteer take over the church Instagram Stories for a day to show their team's behind-the-scenes life.

Why it works: Adds personality, increases visibility, and honors your volunteers' voice.

Scripture: "Let your light shine before others..." – Matthew 5:16

Checklist:

- Choose 2–3 trusted volunteers to schedule
- Give access or gather clips for staff to post
- Provide a rough outline (intro, what they do, why they love it)
- Encourage interaction via polls or questions

Volunteer Text Prompt:

"Hey [Name], want to do a quick Instagram Takeover for your serve team? Just a few clips showing what you do and why you love it—we'll walk you through it!"

SECTION

GIVING & STEWARDSHIP

Inspire generosity with simple tools, stories, and next steps. Stewardship isn't just about money—it's about discipleship. These ideas are designed to make giving accessible, meaningful, and personal, especially during a season when generosity often dips. The goal is to remind people that their giving fuels real ministry and helps grow their trust in God.

These tools are bite-sized, story-driven, and built to support churches without a full-time generosity team or complex campaigns.

91. Summer “Give \$5 More” Challenge

What it is: Invite your congregation to increase their weekly giving by just \$5 during the summer.

Why it works: It feels doable for most people but adds up across the church.

Scripture: “Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give...” – 2 Corinthians 9:7

Checklist:

- Announce from stage and in email/social
- Share how much \$5 can do (e.g., feed a family, fund kids ministry)
- Track and celebrate total participation, not just amount

- Thank participants weekly

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], we’re inviting everyone to try the ‘Give \$5 More’ challenge this summer. Would love for you to pray about joining us!”

92. Giving Story Sunday

What it is: Share a 2–3 minute story (video or live) of someone whose life has been impacted by the church—thanks to giving.

Why it works: Connects dollars to life change and makes generosity feel personal.

Scripture: “Store up for yourselves treasures in heaven...” – Matthew 6:20

Checklist:

- Choose a story (baptism, family helped, outreach win)
- Record a video or schedule live testimony
- Pair with a giving moment or response
- Promote it across all platforms

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], your story could really inspire others. Would you be open to sharing how [ministry/event] impacted you—and how generosity made it possible?”

93. Text-to-Give Sunday Walkthrough

What it is: Take 60 seconds in service to walk the congregation through how to give via text, clearly and simply.

Why it works: Many people are willing to give but don't know how. Clarity removes the barrier.

Scripture: "Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous..." – 1 Timothy 6:18

Checklist:

- Prepare a short, clear script with humor or story
- Live demo on screen with phone step-by-step
- Include keywords and number on handouts or screen
- Follow up with a thank-you email or social post

Volunteer Text Prompt:

"Hey [Name], we're doing a text-to-give walkthrough this Sunday. Would you help us test the flow or give during service as an example?"

94. Kids "Give & Grow" Jar Project

What it is: Provide kids with jars to collect coins for a cause (e.g., missions, local need, or backpack drive).

Why it works: Builds generosity habits early and connects families to giving conversations.

Scripture: "Even a child is known by his actions..." – Proverbs 20:11

Checklist:

- Decorate and distribute jars to families
- Choose a goal and explain where funds go
- Celebrate with visuals (e.g., a giving thermometer)
- Highlight one child's story or quote in service

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], we’re launching a ‘Give & Grow’ jar project for kids this Sunday. Would you help pass them out or help track our progress?”

95. “What Giving Supports” Visual Slide

What it is: Create a simple slide that shows how tithes and offerings are used—by percentage or by ministry area.

Why it works: Builds trust through transparency and shows the reach of generosity.

Scripture: “Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand.” – 1 Chronicles 29:14

Checklist:

- Break down giving into key categories (e.g., Kids, Outreach, Facilities)
- Design one clean, branded graphic
- Share on Sunday slides and social media
- Update quarterly to reflect impact

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], we’re putting together a slide showing how giving supports ministry. Could you help with design or data gathering?”

96. Generosity Devotional Series

What it is: A short, 3–5 week devotional (print or digital) that walks people through what the Bible says about giving, stewardship, and trust.

Why it works: Teaching creates clarity. And clarity builds confidence in taking action.

Scripture: “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” – Matthew 6:21

Checklist:

- Write or repurpose short devos on trust, provision, sowing
- Add reflection questions or short prayers
- Design in Canva or PDF format for print/email
- Launch during a Sunday message or series

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], we’re putting together a short generosity devo series for the church. Would you help with writing or editing one of the days?”

97. “Give One Time” First-Time Giver Push

What it is: Challenge people who have never given to try a one-time gift and see what God does with it.

Why it works: It lowers the barrier and opens the door to long-term generosity through a no-pressure step.

Scripture: “Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty... – Malachi 3:10

Checklist:

- Announce from stage and email list
- Use a specific date or theme (e.g., “Change Sunday”)
- Celebrate total participation, not dollar amounts
- Share 1–2 impact stories afterward

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], have you ever made a one-time gift to the church? We’re inviting everyone to take one small step this Sunday—it’s not about the amount, just the heart.”

98. Testimony Wall: “What Giving Has Done”

What it is: Create a physical or digital wall with short quotes from people impacted by church generosity (e.g., scholarships, outreach, benevolence).

Why it works: Real stories make giving tangible and inspire others to take part.

Scripture: “Declare what he has done for my soul.” – Psalm 66:16

Checklist:

- Collect 5–10 short quotes or impact blurbs
- Display on poster board, slideshow, or webpage
- Rotate stories monthly
- Invite future testimonies through connect card

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], would you write 1–2 sentences about how giving at church has impacted you or someone you love? We’re building a wall of stories!”

99. “Multiply the Impact” Matching Gift Sunday

What it is: Partner with a generous donor or family to match all giving on a specific Sunday up to a set amount.

Why it works: People love seeing their giving go further, and it provides a tangible momentum push.

Scripture: “Give, and it will be given to you... a good measure, pressed down...” – Luke 6:38

Checklist:

- Secure a match sponsor and confirm amount
- Announce at least 2 weeks ahead
- Use screen slides and email for reminders
- Share final match results and ministry stories

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], we’re doing a Matching Gift Sunday on [Date]! Every dollar you give will be doubled—we’re excited to see what God does!”

100. “Summer Impact” Email Update

What it is: A mid-summer email that highlights how giving has made a difference—especially when attendance is low.

Why it works: Reminds people their support still matters, even when they’re away.

Scripture: “You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous...” – 2 Corinthians 9:11

Checklist:

- Include 2–3 ministry wins from June–August
- Add a giving link with suggested next steps
- Keep it short, visual, and story-based
- Thank them specifically and personally

Volunteer Text Prompt:

“Hey [Name], we’re sending a mid-summer update about what generosity has made possible. Would you help write or design it?”

You Don't Have to Carry It Alone

If you've made it this far, take a moment to breathe. You're not expected to implement all 100 ideas. The goal of this playbook isn't to give you more work—it's to remind you that you're not stuck. There's always a next step, a new connection, a small win waiting to be sparked. Ministry doesn't thrive on perfection—it grows through consistency, faith, and relationships.

Whether you're leading a team of 10 or doing most of the heavy lifting yourself, these ideas are meant to be tools. Use what fits. Adapt what doesn't. **And know that your faithfulness matters more than you know.**

SECTION NEXT STEPS

Need Weekly Help? SermonCentral PRO Was Built for This.

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