Bonus Activities

All Ages

Enjoy a Snack: Provide a popular snack for your class, plates or bowls, napkins and water. As children enjoy their snack, talk about how Glen Allen Baptist Church supports students at local elementary schools by packing food backpacks for the children to use on the weekends.

All Ages

Play a Game: Set up an area outdoors or in the classroom to play soccer or basketball. Provide a soccer ball and goal or basketball and hoop. Adapt the game to fit the age of your students and the size of your class. Talk to the children about how Glen Allen Baptist Church helps school sports teams by providing meals for them.

Older Children

Thank a Teacher: Gather construction paper and markers.Write a thank you note to a teacher! It can be one of your teachers at school or a teacher at church. Thank them for the time they spend preparing and teaching.

Pathlight

www.cbf.net/pathlight

CBF's *Pathlight* curriculum helps children explore the Good News of Jesus through stories, scripture and activities.

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Pathlight

Your word is a lamp that gives light wherever I walk. **Psalm 119:105 (CEV)**

Theme Overview

Glen Allen Baptist Church has partnered with three local schools: an elementary, middle and high school. Through this partnership, they have helped make sure students have enough to eat and the supplies they need. They also offer support to teachers. By dreaming for their community and working to make those dreams a reality, Glen Allen Baptist is helping change their community and sharing God's love. This session focuses on the theme of dreaming.

Bible Verse

Isaiah 43:18–19

Forget what happened long ago! Don't think about the past. I am creating something new. There it is! Do you see it? I have put roads in deserts, streams in thirsty lands.

Session Outline

Prepare

- Make copies of the Student Handout.
- Review the Story and Bible Verse.

Welcome

- Greet students as they arrive.
- **Ask**: "Who helps in your community?"

Engage

- Distribute the Student Handout.
- Read and discuss the Bible Verse.
- Work on the Handout Activity.
- Transition to Story Time.

Share

- Tell the Story, "Dreaming for the Community."
- Share the photo and caption.
- Discuss the Story and pray.

Conclude

- Lead students in Bonus Activities as time permits.

Dreaming for the Community

"Hi Donna, thanks so much for meeting with me today," Ruth said as she shook hands with Donna, the superintendent of schools. "Of course, Ruth," Donna said. "It's very nice to meet you. How can I help you today?" "Actually, this is more of a "how can we help you" meeting," Ruth said. "I am a member of Glen Allen Baptist Church. There are three schools within a four-mile radius of our church, and we know that many of those students qualify for free and reduced lunch and are learning English as a second language. We want to help. So, my question for you is this: How can we help you?" "Wow!" said Donna. "Thank you for asking! The schools that you mentioned need a lot of help. I know many of the students don't have school supplies, warm winter coats and extra books. A lot of the children are hungry on the weekends. There's a lot to do in those schools." "Then we better get started!" Ruth said. A few weeks later, Ruth and the team started putting together a plan. First, they'd contribute school supplies. Then they would collect hygiene items. And then winter coats. They created a schedule for weekly office volunteers and started finding volunteers to pack backpacks for hungry students. Things wouldn't change overnight, but the Missions and Ministry Team at Glen Allen Baptist knew that their continued involvement in these schools could change lives—including their own!

Discussion and Prayer ✱

- **Ask**: How is Glen Allen Baptist Church helping the schools around them?
- **Ask**: Why do you think they want to help the schools around them?
- **Ask**: Are there children at your school who might need the same kind of help? How can our church help them?
- **Say**: Glen Allen Baptist Church is helping the schools around them with the things they need. The church collects school supplies, hygiene items and even coats. Members are volunteering at the school and offering things to show appreciation to the teachers. They even pack food backpacks for hungry children to use on the weekends! They do this to share God's love with their community and to help others in need. We can do the same to help others in need in our community as well.
- **Pray**: Dear God, thank you for the people of Glen Allen Baptist Church and their dreams for their community. Thank you for the many ways they help children in their community have enough. Help us find ways to help others have enough in our own community as well. Amen.

Glen Allen Baptist Church

Glen Allen Baptist Church has partnered with three local schools: an elementary, middle and high school.

STUDENT HANDOUT
JANUARY 18, 2026

Pathlight

Your word is a lamp that gives light wherever I walk. Psalm 119:105 (CEV)

Learn About

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Play Concentration

Cut out your cards and find a partner. Combine your card sets and turn them face down. With each turn, turn over two at a time. If you find a matching set, you get to keep the cards. Once all the cards are matched, count the pairs to see who won!

People from Glen Allen Baptist Church volunteer in the offices at the elementary, middle and high school close to their church.	Many of the children who go to these schools qualify for free and reduced lunch programs.	Glen Allen Baptist Church provides weekend backpack nourishment for about 250 students a week for 10 elementary schools.
Glen Allen Baptist has contributed school supplies to the three schools.	Glen Allen Baptist has collected and distributed hygiene items and winter coats.	Glen Allen Baptist supported a literacy fair so that everyone would know how important reading is.
Glen Allen Baptist provides meals for the girls' basketball team and boys' soccer team.	Glen Allen Baptist supported a recycling drive and a student learning expo.	Glen Allen Baptist provided a teacher appreciation trail mix bar.
The middle school front office staff has joined Glen Allen Baptist for Wednesday night dinners.	The girls' basketball team has joined Glen Allen Baptist for Sunday worship.	Glen Allen Baptist Church has big dreams for a continued relationship between the schools and church.