

Thank you for meeting needs and changing lives with the hope of the gospel! To help you prepare for this year's VBS offering through the Send Relief catalog, we have prepared creative ideas for churches just like yours.

Getting Started

Download free resources. You can find free print and digital materials for your VBS program here: www.sendrelief.org/gift-catalog-resources.

Set a donation goal with your children's group and promote it in your church bulletin, website and social media platforms.

Hang posters in high-traffic areas and talk about this special offering as you promote VBS.

Use Send Relief promotional materials to get your kids excited about the fundraising efforts.

Creative VBS Fundraising Ideas

Color Your Progress

Create a visual to track progress towards the goal. Print out an outline of your goal gift, like a cow or chicken, and add incremental fundraising marks along the side. You could create a large poster or individual prints for each child. Allow the kids to color in each amount as it is raised.

Stuffed Animal Auction

Purchase stuffed animals of your goal items and auction them off to your congregation live, or you can do a silent auction in the area where parents drop off and pick up their kids. The money raised will go toward purchasing the real animal for someone in need, and the winner gets to keep the stuffed animal.

Petting Zoo

Have cows, chickens, pigs and goats for children of all ages to pet and follow up with the Send Relief kids activity booklet or reading a story about a child overseas whose life was transformed by the gift of an animal.

Piggy Bank

Have a class piggy bank that the children get to name—i.e., "Penny the Pig"—and have them donate/bring their money until the end of the VBS program when they get to count up how much the class has been able to save together to put towards purchasing a pig. Encourage them to ask their parents to match their class donation!

Team Up

If your church has multiple VBS classes, have each class pick a different animal—i.e., Team Moo, Team Cluck, etc.—and compete against each other to see who can raise the most money.

Offer an incentive for kids to work towards throughout VBS if they are able to reach the class goal, i.e., throw a pizza party, have the children's minister kiss a goat, host a Sundae Service with ice cream and toppings buffet, etc.

Scattered Donation Jars

Have kids decorate empty jars as VBS activity. Place them throughout the church with signs encouraging congregants to donate spare change.

Chores for Change

Give children ideas for ways to raise money at home, i.e., organizing a Bike-A-Thon where they collect pledges for each mile biked, do household chores for extra money, host a neighborhood carwash, make a lemonade stand, have a garage sale with their extra toys, etc.

Art Sale

Have kids draw, paint or sculpt the animals they want to purchase and sell them at your church and through your social media.