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IMPORTANT
KEYS TO A
SEAMLESS
SUMMER





WHAT IS

SEAMLESS SUMMER?

Seamless Summer is a state- and federally-funded food distribution program targeted at Georgia Title 1 school districts. Many students in these impoverished areas lack good nutrition, and some are provided very little food at home. so their primary source of nutrition is the school.

Seamless summer operates in 8 of the 9 weeks between the school years to help make kids' nutrition almost "seamless."

The program is open to all kids ages 1-18 in Gilmer County. There are no prequalifications. Students can arrive at a distribution center within the specified hours (11:30-12:30 each day during the summer) to receive a small lunch.

In 2014, there were 9 distribution centers in Gilmer County. Some locations handle big crowds of kids, some only a small handful.



HOW HAVE WE BEEN INVOLVED IN THE PAST?

The Orchard Church has been involved with Seamless Summer, and with the Gilmer County School System since before we ever had our first official worship service.

In previous years, we have been serving at the Ellijay Elementary School parking lot, which is the second-largest distribution site in Gilmer County.

In addition to distributing food, we have read stories, played games, provided family resources, had special event days with the children.

2015 will be our 6th year to be involved specifically with Seamless Summer.



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WHAT'S DIFFERENT THIS YEAR?

This is really big.

For the first time ever, **The Orchard Church** is eligible to be a Seamless Summer distribution center. That means we will be able to invite children in for lunch all summer long.

We have been given the freedom to invite the children into our building, where they can have a much more comfortable environment to eat and to get to know each other.



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HOW IS THIS IMPORTANT TO THE ORCHARD?

At The Orchard Church, our purpose is to Love God, Love Others, and Make Disciples that Make Disciples.

Our only real tool is the gospel. We believe that the only way God deals with the believer is to remove him and to replace him with the person of Jesus Christ. It is about dying to self, and about Him living through each of us. That is the gospel!

Matthew 22:37-40
“ ‘You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’* 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’* 40 The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.”

Matthew 28:18-20
“I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. 19 Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations,* baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. 20 Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

This is exactly why we are here. We are called to make a difference in this world. We do that by making the gospel relevant in our community. Here’s how that works for everyone involved:

For Outsiders:

They have a chance to see first-hand that the gospel has immediate, practical implications in their life. When they see our example of Christ, they will be exposed to His love and grace.

You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.... Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

-Jesus, Matthew 5:14-16

For Insiders:

The gospel informs us to serve others the way Jesus served us. We appropriate the gospel by dying to our own will, our own time, our selfishness, and we give ourselves away to serving the least among us.

‘I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!’

-Jesus, Matthew 25:40

5 OUR NEW PLAN FOR 2015

Instead of serving kids in a hot parking lot, as we have done in the past, we want to throw open the doors of our facility for kids to enjoy some air conditioning, fun, and experience the love of Christ.

We will resist the temptation to turn this program into a summer-long daycamp. We just don't think that is sustainable at this time. BUT, we WILL be very intentional about how we leverage the time we have with kids to tell them about Jesus.

Here are some keystones for Seamless on our campus.

The Gospel, Relevant

This is the entire reason we exist! Everything we do is for the sake of the gospel in people's lives. We will leverage Seamless to connect the gospel into children's lives.

1-hour timeframe (sometimes)

This is the official program schedule. We will largely aim for this, but have certain days where we run longer for themes, games, events, activities, etc.

Themes and Activities

We will have certain days where we do extra stuff, for the purpose of engaging kids, leveraging their attention for the gospel.

Vacation Bible School

We will do our best to invite every child to our VBS this July 13-16.



SEAMLESS SUMMER THEME IDEAS

Here are some of our theme ideas for this summer. We don't know which of these we will actually be able to pull off. Do you have any good ideas?

Water Day

Some oldschool outdoor fun in the sprinklers... Maybe even a slip-n-slide!

Movie/ Popcorn Day

Just like it sounds. A 'drive in' with the two big screens in the church auditorium.

Fire Truck Day

The Fire department could stop by and show off their gear.

Police Car Day

The Police Department could stop by too

Sports Day

Outdoor competition and fun

Christmas in July

make a gift for someone in your family

Music Day

Karaoke, anyone?

Everest

Our Vacation Bible School theme!

Art Project Day

Create something beautiful!



BONUS HELP FOR US!

There are youth groups passing through the area this summer, interested in partnering with us on Seamless Summer! What a privilege to have these church groups as resources to increase our ministry capacity!

Southside Baptist Church

Wednesday and Thursday, June 10-11

6 teenagers and 2 adults coming to help us build VBS props

First Baptist Church of Ocala

Tuesday June 16 and Thursday June 18

25 students and adults coming to help finish VBS props

First Baptist Church of Jackson

Wednesday, June 24

20 students and adults will do a Bible Club that afternoon

Rockdale Baptist Church

Thursday, June 25

15 students and adults coming to do another Bible Club

East Valdese Baptist Church

Tuesday, July 7 and Thursday, July 9

40 students and adults will do a Bible Club



HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

Sign Up To Serve
Sunday Mornings
in the auditorium

You can also sign up by
contacting one of our
awesome coordinators:

Glenda Murphy
706-273-6102
glendam@ellijay.com

Dianne Fowler
770-377-7935
dsfowler3@gmail.com

We Make It Easy For You

All you have to do is commit for a “season” of serving this summer... BUT, YOU get to define what a “season” is! Here are some potential examples:

- a season of one week
- a season of Tuesdays in June
- a season of Monday, Wednesday, Friday all summer

Signups begin on Sunday, May 17, and positions will likely go fast, so the earlier you can sign up, the more flexible we can be.

No Training Required

For most people, you can just show up on your assigned day and start helping, with no prior training... But we will be doing a few short (20-minute) trainings on Sundays right after the church service this summer to help you out.

Positions Available Now

We know for certain we need these key positions filled so we can serve kids this summer:

- Food courier
- Food distributor
- Story teller/game player

Bring More To It

If you have a special talent, skill, or ability you'd like to use, just let us know! Contact Glenda Murphy, or Dianne Fowler.



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