

# Dinosaur Devotions

By Michelle Medlock Adams

[www.MichelleMedlockAdams.com](http://www.MichelleMedlockAdams.com)

## Extension activities for use by parents and teachers.

1. **Dinosaur Dig:** Bury dinosaur figures in a plastic tub or swimming pool filled with playground sand. Be sure to use dinosaur figures that are accurate representations of known dinosaurs. Kids can “excavate” for dinosaurs with a dry paint brush. Use a dinosaur guide to identify their finds. (fine motor skills)

For older kids create an excavation grid on top of your “fossil field.” Dinosaur “finds” should be identified, photographed, and cataloged according to location in the grid. Photos can be taken with an instant camera or printed from computer files. Photos, defining characteristics, location of find, and other dinosaur information can be compiled in an “archeologist’s” notebook. (note taking, using a grid)

For a more realistic dino dig, create dinosaur bones using a basic salt dough. Consult several dinosaur books to see how the bones can be shaped. When the bones are ready, they can be buried at the dig site instead of plastic figures.

### Salt Dough Recipe:

2 cups flour

1 cup salt

1 cup water

Stir until thoroughly mixed. Knead dough on lightly floured surface until smooth.

Use the dough to create bones.

Bake finished bones at 250° F for three hours.

2. **Dinosaur Memory Game:** Print pairs of dinosaur pictures or use two identical sets of purchased dinosaur photo cards. Shuffle cards and turn them face down. Turn over two pictures at a time. If the pictures match, take them out of the game. If they don’t, return them to their face down position. This game can be played alone as a concentration game or with a partner as a competition. When all the cards have been picked up, the player with the most cards wins. (recognition, memory)

Extension: To keep a pair, a player must also identify the dinosaur in the photos by name. Each correct identification is a point to be added to the card total.

3. **Dinosaur Bingo:** Use a dinosaur bingo card (see free printables online) with the names or pictures of various dinosaurs. The caller says a dinosaur name or shows pictures of dinosaurs one at a time. Players put a bingo marker on the correct picture or name. The first player to get a full row wins. (recognition, listening)
4. **Dino Measurements:** Using the information from the Dino Stats feature of *Dinosaur Devotions*, measure the length of various dinosaurs on a driveway or sidewalk. Use colored chalk to make a line from the beginning measurement to the ending measurement. Use a different color of chalk for each dinosaur. Label each line. Compare sizes. Which dinosaur is the largest? Which is the smallest? (measurement, labeling, compare and contrast)
5. **Dino Characteristics:** Write 3 to 5 defining characteristics of a particular dinosaur on index cards. Keep it short and to the point by using key phrases. Attach a picture of the dinosaur on the back of the card. Display the cards with the characteristics face up. Allow kids to read the characteristics and try to identify the dinosaur described. Turn the card over to check answers. (reading comprehension, identification)

Extension: Turn the pictures face up. Ask the child to choose a dinosaur and identify its defining characteristics. Refer to the back of the card for answers.

Extension: Choose any card. What lesson can Christians learn from that dinosaur? Refer to *Dinosaur Devotions* for a devotion related to that dinosaur.

6. **Dino Webs:** Write the name of a dinosaur in a circle in the middle of a blank page. Draw lines from the center circle to additional circles around the original. Write short facts about the dinosaur in the circles. Then draw lines from those circles to additional circles. Write a spiritual truth learned through the study of this dinosaur. (webbing, summarizing, making inferences)
7. **That's a Dinosaur!:** Use various types of pasta to create dinosaur skeletons. Glue the pieces to a piece of construction paper. Label the dinosaur. (fine motor skills, labeling)

Extension: Refer to *Dinosaur Devotions*. Write a Bible verse that relates to something learned about that dinosaur at the bottom of the page.

8. **Dino Facts Sheet:** Hold a piece of 8½ x 11 inch paper in portrait position and fold in half horizontally. Fold horizontally in half again. Unfold and turn entire paper to horizontal (landscape) position. The folds should create four columns. In the middle of the page write a plural dinosaur name as the title. (Example: Stegosauruses) Then label the top of each column with: Had, Could, Were, Teach Me. Use short phrases to fill in the information for each column. Example: Stegosauruses; Had: large plates, spikes, small brains; Could: swing tail powerfully; Were: plant eaters, vertebrates; Teach Me: put on the full armor of God (summarizing, drawing conclusions)