

252 Basics®

Group and Family Experiences for K-5th Grades

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Statement of Faith

ABOUT GOD

God is the one and only true God, yet He exists in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. God is the Creator, so everything belongs to Him and is under His control. God is holy, so He is righteous, majestic, and loving. God is all knowing and purposeful, so He's at work to bring about His will. No person, thing, or idea compares to God.

ABOUT THE SCRIPTURES

God reveals Himself to us through the Bible, and it is 100% accurate, reliable, and authoritative.

ABOUT PEOPLE

People are made in God's image and for His pleasure. But everybody falls short of God's intention, or ideal, for people. In other words, everyone has sinned. As a result, we are all separated from Him, even though He wants an intimate relationship with each of us.

ABOUT SALVATION

That's why Jesus—God's Son—came and lived on this earth, died, and rose again. God offers His free gift of salvation to all who believe in Jesus and accept Him as Savior—the only way to be forgiven and reconciled to God. Anyone who accepts this gift is adopted as a son or daughter into God's family and will live with Him forever in heaven.

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Roadwork

Virtue: Service—lending a hand to help someone else.

Memory Verse: “Work with enthusiasm, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people.” Ephesians 6:7, NLT

Bible Story: Roadwork (Jesus says to go the extra mile) • *Matthew 5:41*

Bottom Line: What in the world are you doing that’s more than you have to do?

Plug In: Focus the Energy (Small Groups, 10-15 minutes)

K–5th Grade PREVIEW

Plug In is designed to introduce children to the day’s topic in a setting that gives them individualized attention from a leader and plenty of interaction with their peers. If you have enough leaders, divide kids into small groups of up to 10 children. Ideally, assign the same leader to the same group of kids for the entire year.

FOR LEADERS ONLY

Basically, a virtue is something God does in us to change the world around us. As you read the next paragraph, you’ll notice some numbers. Here’s what they refer to: (1) the virtue definition. (2) The fact that God created that virtue and exemplifies it. (3) God instills that virtue in us as He shapes us to become more like Him. (4) God uses that virtue in us to influence and impact our families, friends, and neighbors. As others notice the virtue being lived out in our lives, we have more opportunities to tell them about God. As they come to trust God, they’ll influence others as well. See the cycle?

Last month we focused on the virtue of responsibility, introducing the idea that God’s gifts to us come with some expectations, responsibilities with which God has entrusted us. This month we continue the line of thought by focusing on service. There’s what you HAVE to do (responsibility); then there’s what you CHOOSE to do (service). Just as God created responsibility, He created (1) service—lending a hand to help someone else. (2) Just as God is the ultimate example of responsibility, He is also the epitome of service. No one ever did or could do more to serve others than Jesus did. He did it in His everyday life, He did it when He went to the cross, and He taught us to do it as well. (3) So today help kids begin to understand what Jesus meant when He said to go the extra mile. (4) Help them see how that extra mile shows others God’s love.

Tip: To see a preview video about this month’s materials, go to the homepage at www.252basics.org and click one of the “Virtue Videos” next to the video screen. Choose the one for “service.” Show it to all your leaders to help ensure that everyone’s on the same page. To download the clip in full resolution, as well as the script, go to our online store and search for “service virtue video.”

GET READY

Early Arriver Idea

Ask kids to tell the group how they were the light of the world to others last week. Were they able to show God's goodness to someone? How? Did anyone show God's goodness to them? How? Invite the kids to put their offerings in the offering container.

Go Fish!

SUPPLIES: decks of cards

Lead kids to play "Go Fish." Your group can play one game with everyone, or you can group kids into teams of four to five kids and let each team play. Instead of collecting sets of four of the same card, kids need only collect pairs of each card.

WRAP UP

LEADER: "You guys got lots of pairs of cards. A pair is two of something. *[Transition]* **Two is an important number in today's Bible story. Let's go to large group and find out why.**"

Lead your group to the large group environment.

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Power Up: Engage the Heart (Large Group, 20-25 minutes)

Power Up: (Large Group, 25-30 minutes)

Opening Announcements (Worship Team – 2 minutes)

Worship Time (10 – 12 minutes)

Video Lesson – Roadwork (10 minutes)

Prayer (2 minutes) - Worship Leader

“Let’s pray that God will help us do that this week ... God, thank You for giving us Jesus to serve us and teach us to serve others. Help each one of us to do something extra this week, to help someone, and to serve You. Amen.”

Dismiss children to their small groups.

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Catch On: Make the Connection (Small Groups, 25-30 minutes)

K–5th Grade PREVIEW

Catch On is designed to help kids understand how the day’s topic applies to them. They’ll discuss real-life experiences, interact with a group of peers, and participate in a variety of activities that appeal to different learning styles. Life-application and memory-verse activities, as well as prayer, are always a part of this hands-on time. Gather children into the same small groups as for Plug In.

Heads up: Today’s small group includes an explanation of God’s plan for our salvation. (See the highlighted paragraph in particular.) Make sure you spend time thinking about and praying for the kids who will walk through your doors today as you prepare for this lesson. Ask God to help you be sensitive to His leading, to choose your words carefully, and to prepare the kids’ hearts for this most important message. Use simple, concrete terms that kids can understand, but let the Holy Spirit do the leading.

As always, you have a choice when it comes to the activities suggested here. For instance, you may want to do the memory verse activity, the prayer experience, and one of the application activities. Choose the activities you think will appeal most to your kids and that meet your time and budget needs.

** If you don’t have time to do all these activities, be sure to do activity #1. Activity #1 is also particularly good for children who need to move in order to stay engaged (not just for boys).*

*** 1. Steps to Doing More (application activity / great for boys)**

SUPPLIES: index cards, paper, tape, two dice

Give each person two index cards. **[Apply]** Ask kids to write on each card one job they are responsible for. Help beginning writers as needed. Collect the cards. These are the game cards. Next, let kids make the game board by taping the 20 pieces of paper to the floor in whatever path they like. Ask everyone to line up at the starting square. Let kids take turns rolling the dice (or number cubes) and moving that number of spaces. Every time a kid stops, read a game card. **[Apply]** If the kid can name a way to do more than what is expected of them in

that situation, they can take one more step forward. The first player to finish wins, but play until everyone has completed the path.

LEADER: [Impress] “What in the world are you doing that’s more than you have to? **[Apply]** When you are helping at home or at school, you can do more than you have to do for others. Jesus did more than He had to for everyone, including you and me. He did it while He was here on earth, in His everyday life, and He did it when He died on the cross for us. When you do more than you have to, it shows others God’s love and it gives you an opportunity to tell them about Jesus—that God loved everyone, that He gave us Jesus, that when we believe in Jesus and ask Him to be our Savior, we will receive life forever in heaven. That’s one way to be a positive influence on others.”

[Personalize] Tell kids about a time you did more than you had to and helped someone else. How did your action show God’s love to that person?

2. With Your Whole Heart (*memory verse activity*)

SUPPLIES: Bibles

Help kids look up the memory verse, Ephesians 6:7.

Finding verses with kindergartners: Guide children to open the Bibles to the marked page. Point to the word *Ephesians* at the top of the page as you say “Ephesians” aloud. Then guide children to find the big number 6 on the page. Explain that this is the chapter number. Finally, guide them to look under the big 6 for the little 7; this is the verse number. Tell them to leave their finger on the verse as you read it aloud. Read the first part of the verse that corresponds with the printed memory verse. Then lead everyone to say it together.

Finding verses with 1st graders: Guide kids to open their Bibles to the table of contents, look under the New Testament list, and find the page number for Ephesians. When the kids find it, lead them to find the right page in their Bibles. When they find the book of Ephesians, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers, and help them find chapter 6. Then explain that the small numbers are verse numbers, and help them find verse 7 in chapter 6. Ask kids to follow along as you read the verse aloud. Then lead everyone to say the verse together.

Teach 2nd – 5th graders a shortcut to the verse: Prompt kids to find the middle of their Bibles. They should be in Psalms or Proverbs. Tell them to look at the top of the page to see what book they’ve found. Then show them how to turn to the middle again (to the right). They should be somewhere in the gospels. Guide them to do this one more time, (finding the middle to the right). This time, they should be in the epistles, or letters. Help them to flip pages to the right or left in order to find Ephesians. Ephesians is the fifth letter in the New Testament. When they find Ephesians, remind them the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Tell them to find chapter 6. Remind them that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell them to find verse 7 in chapter 6. Remind them they went half, half, half to get to about the right place.

LEADER: [Apply] “What does it mean to serve someone wholeheartedly, or with your whole heart? (*Pause for responses.*) It means doing kind things for others with all your might and with a good attitude. Let’s be determined to serve others, or do kind things for them, with our whole hearts this week. But that’s not always easy. Sometimes we just don’t feel like doing something with all our might or with a good attitude. That’s why God says to do kind

things for others like we're doing it for Him. That will encourage us and help us have the right attitude. **[Impress] What in the world are you doing that's more than you have to do?"**

Optional 5th Grade Discussion Questions

If you lead fifth graders, consider asking these discussion questions:

- Why would we want to do more? Is there something you can be proud of if you are always the kind of person who does more than asked?
- Can you think of a circumstance you sometimes find yourself in that is hard for you, a situation in which you are only doing what you have to do just to get by? Can you get a picture in your mind of what it would look like if you did this horrible task twice as hard or twice as well?
- Do you know anyone who seems to do everything just to squeak by? Do people notice? How do other people feel about him or her? Can you think of anyone who does just the opposite, always doing what is asked and sometimes even more?

4. Napkin Folding (*application activity / review the Bible lesson*)

SUPPLIES: "Napkin Folding Instructions" (Activity Page), paper towels, plastic spoons

Review the Bible lesson with the kids. Ask such questions as:

- What did Jesus mean when He said to "go the extra mile"? (*To do more than you have to; to do "extra" things that are kind or helpful for someone else*)
- Why do you think Jesus wants us to serve others? If we do kind things for others, what could that show them about Jesus?
- What kind of attitude do you think Jesus wants us to have when we help others?
- **[Apply] What are some things you "have to do" at home?** (*Give kids time to tell you their chores or other jobs.*) **What is something extra you could do?** (*Give kids time to think about something extra they could do in addition to their chores. Be ready to prompt their thinking with some ideas like: If your job is to set the table, an extra thing you could do is make sure everyone has their favorite plate or silverware, or make fun place cards for everyone.*)

Tell kids another thing they can do is to fold the napkins in fun ways. Hand out the "Napkin Folding Instructions" for the Silverware Napkin Roll, and give each kid a paper towel and a spoon. Lead them through folding their napkins according to the instructions. Then do the same for the Cone Napkin Fold. **[Apply] Tell kids they can take their napkins and instructions home with them so they'll remember how to do the napkin folds for their families.**

LEADER: "That was fun, wasn't it? See, going the extra mile isn't something that has to be hard or something you don't like. **[Personalize] (Tell kids about a fun way you did something extra for someone in the past month. Maybe you took your kids mini-golfing after swim practice. Or perhaps instead of just verbally thanking a co-worker for his help, you wrote a personal note or took him out to lunch.) [Impress] What in the world are you doing that's more than you have to do?"**

WRAP UP

Bring together all the groups in your classroom so the Leader can conclude the session with a review. Be prepared to distribute this week's GodTime and Fridge Door cards.

LEADER: "When we go the extra mile, that means we do more than we have to do or are supposed to do. God wants us to go the extra mile and serve others in ways that aren't always expected of you. This week, find ways to go the extra mile for the people in your family."

As kids leave, remind them about the school supply service project (or another project your children's ministry has chosen). Tell kids what they can do this week to take part in the project. Remind them of any important deadlines or challenges. Congratulate kids on the way they have shown service by participating in the project so far.

Give parents a GodTime card and a Fridge Door card (if you haven't already) as they arrive.

Tip: As you greet parents, explain how to use the Fridge Door (if you haven't already) and GodTime cards, particularly if they're new to your church:

- *Fridge Door: Point out the kid's question and the parent's question and the fact that it gives parents something specific to ask their kids and talk about today.*
- *GodTime: Encourage parents to help their children have some "God time" this week. There are four different devotions on the GodTime card. Each devotion is designed to be done on a different day. Bedtime can be a good time for devotions. Ease any guilt parents may feel (tell them doing one devotion a week is better than none!) or fears that they can't lead their child to spend time with God (following GodTime cards is easy!): (1) Find and read the Bible verse(s) in a Bible with your child. Use the table of contents to teach your child how to find verses in the Bible. (2) Read the devotion paragraph aloud to your child, or help him to read it. (3) Read and do the activity, letting your child do as much for himself as he can. (4) Pray a simple, short prayer aloud with your child, using the last sentence on the card as a guide. Note that this prayer suggestion always begins with T, A, L, K: thank God for something; ask God about something; look or listen for God to do something; or know that God will do something.*