

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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Neighborhood Watch

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: Neighborhood Watch (the parable of the good Samaritan) • Luke 10:30-37

Bottom Line: What in the world are you doing to help someone others won't help?

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

Last week we introduced kids to the virtue of (1) service, lending a hand to help someone else, in essence doing more than you “have to.” (2) We said that Jesus always did more than He had to for others, more than the expected, and that (3) He wants us to treat others the same way. Living this way—more like the Samaritan and less like the Levite and priest—requires us to look and do: look, be intentional, keep an eye open for ways to lend a hand; then do it. (4) Help kids see that when we lend a hand to someone, including someone others won't help, we're showing that person—as well as everyone else in the neighborhood—Jesus' love.

Early Arriver Idea

Supplies: Paper and Markers

Guide kids to talk about fictional characters (from books, TV, movies) that they don't like. Then ask what they would think if they had to help that character do something. Invite kids to draw a picture of them helping the character that they picked. Invite the kids to put their offerings in the offering container.

Plug In:

Run Whole heartedly (a memory verse activity)

SUPPLIES: Bibles, open space for kids to run

Ask a volunteer to tell you what book of the Bible this month's memory verse is found in.

(*Ephesians*) Can anyone name the book before Ephesians? (*Galatians*) What about the book immediately after Ephesians? (*Philippians*) Lead kids to open the Bibles to Ephesians 6:7.

When everyone has found the verse, choose a few older kids to read the verse aloud. (Lesson continues onto the next page or may be used later in today Small group class time.)

Tell kids that you want to help them physically understand what “wholeheartedly” means. Ask everyone to stand at one end of the room. Then ask them to jog casually to the other end of the room. Intro and explain “casual”: without much concern or feeling; not very seriously; without much enthusiasm. (Leader and Assistant should run too, exaggerating the meaning of the word through their actions.) What did it feel like? Did it feel urgent, like they were rushing to rescue someone from a burning house? Did it feel engaging and enjoyable, like the best game they’ve ever played and didn’t want to stop playing? Next, ask everyone to run wholeheartedly from one end of the room to the other. What did that feel like? Did they feel energized, committed, and involved? Tell kids that this is how God wants us to serve—wholeheartedly, with enthusiasm, energy, and determination to finish what we start.

Lead everyone to chant the verse aloud with you. You start by chanting a phrase of the verse, and then everyone repeats it after you. Continue with remaining sections of the verse. Do this in a wholehearted manner, so kids can feel the energy of the verse and the way God wants them to serve.

LEADER: “Are you willing to serve wholeheartedly? If you are, then you won’t make excuses. When you serve wholeheartedly, you’re ready to serve wherever you’re needed—including serving people others won’t help. **[Impress] What in the world are you doing to help someone others won’t help? [Apply] Will you serve wholeheartedly, without making excuses, at home and wherever you go this week?”**

LEADER: “Let’s go to large group for ‘Power Up Worship’ and see if we can find out more about helping others.”

Lead your group to the large group area to worship & watch videos.

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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 – Neighborhood Watch (10 minutes)

Prayer (2 minutes) - Worship Leader

“God, thank You for giving us the story of the good Samaritan. I pray that this week, You'll help each of us to be a good neighbor to someone. Help us to notice people who are being passed by, and show us ways we can serve these people. Amen.”

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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.

** If you don't have time to do all these activities, be sure to do activity #2. Activity #1 is particularly good for children who need to move in order to stay engaged (not just for boys).*

1. What Would You Do? (*application activity / review the Bible lesson / great for boys*)

SUPPLIES: Provide 25 pieces of light-colored cardstock or construction paper. tape to stick to the floor, “Scenarios” (Activity Page)

Use the paper and tape to create a path on your floor. You can make it a winding path, a circular path, a U-shaped path, or whatever you wish. Kids will be both walking and drawing on these papers later, so make sure they're taped down well.

Ask everyone to take his/her shoes off (you, too!). Lead kids along the path, stopping every so often to read a scenario from the Activity Page and let kids act out what they would do to help the person in that scenario.

LEADER: “You did a great job of thinking of ways to help these imaginary people. **[Apply]** Remember that God wants us to LOOK for ways to serve others, and then DO it! **[Impress]** What in the world are you doing to help someone others won’t help? **[Apply]** How did YOU help someone last week?” (Give kids time to remember and answer.)

*** 2. People to Serve (application activity)**

SUPPLIES: “People Pictures” (Activity Page), crayons or markers, paper path from “What Would You Do?”

Fan the cards out facedown, and let each kid pick one. (Help beginning readers read the captions on the cards.) Then instruct them to spread out along the path and draw a picture (on one of the path papers) of them helping the person on their card.

LEADER: (Hold up one of the ‘People Pictures.’) “We may not meet someone every day who needs help. **[Apply]** But God wants us to LOOK and DO: be on the lookout for people who need help and then do something to help them. He also wants us to help all kinds of people, not just people who are like us. **[Personalize]** (Tell about a time you helped someone who wasn’t like you, such as a homeless person, someone who was new to your country, or someone you helped on a mission trip, local or faraway.) **[Impress]** What in the world are you doing to help someone others won’t help? **[Apply]** How can you help someone at home this week, especially if no one else is around to help?” (Give kids time to think and answer. Ask them where else they will go this week and how they can help someone there. For instance, how could they help someone at ball practice? How could they help their parent when they go to the grocery store? How could they help someone if they go out to eat?)

3. If you need another activity repeat the Plug In Activity from the beginning of today’s lesson.

WRAP UP

LEADER: “I’m glad you were here today to learn about service and to hear about the Good Samaritan. Jesus was like the Good Samaritan. He came to be everyone’s Savior, not just the Savior of people who are like us. He died for everyone. When anyone asks Him to be their Savior, He will be. All people need to hear that good news about Jesus. When we help someone, including someone others won’t help, we’re showing them Jesus’ love. I hope you’ll look for a way to help someone others won’t help this week.”

Give each child a GodTime card. Distribute Fridge Door cards to parents as they arrive.