

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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Feet First

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: Feet First (Jesus washes the disciples’ feet) • *John 13:1-17*

Bottom Line: What in the world are you doing to put others first?

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

Remember that old “‘After you!’ ‘No, after you!’” gag in which each cartoon character insists that the other go first? Ridiculous in the extreme, but that’s where we’re going today. (1) Service—lending a hand to help someone else—is, in essence, putting someone else first. Not just letting someone GO first, but being intentional about putting them and their needs before our own. (2) When Jesus washed the disciples’ feet, He put them first, even though by all that was right they should’ve been washing HIS feet. (3) If Jesus, God’s Son, could put others first, then we should, too. Forget position or title, who got there first, or who did or didn’t make the mess. Following Jesus’ example involves seeing to others’ needs before our own comfort. So this week, help kids discover that (4) when they put others first, they’ll be showing them what Jesus is like.

Picky Feet

SUPPLIES: Small Objects, Styrofoam bowl

Have kids remove their shoes and socks. Spread objects out on small area of floor and give kids 1 minute to pick up as many objects as they can with only their toes, and place them in the bowl. Repeat as much as time allows.

WRAP UP

LEADER: “You did a great job of picking up those objects with your feet. *[Transition]* You know, I bet we’re going to hear something about feet in large group today. Let’s go find out!”

If you wish, let kids stay barefoot as they go to large group.

Lead your group to the large group area.

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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 – Feet First (10 minutes)

Prayer (2 minutes) - Worship Leader

“Let’s pray ... God, thank You for giving us Jesus to be our Savior, our Friend, and our example. Help us to be like Jesus and serve others. Help us remember to put others first and show them Your love. 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 #1 or #2. These activities are also particularly good for children who need to move in order to stay engaged (not just for boys).*

*** 1. Tattoo Time (for K-1st grade / application activity / review the Bible lesson / great for boys)**

SUPPLIES: washable markers & baby wipes for kids who want to clean their feet

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

- What did Jesus do for His disciples? (*Washed their feet*)
- Why did Jesus wash the disciples’ feet? (*Their feet were dirty; to put them first; to show them they should serve others, just like He did*)
- Who can you put first? (*Parents, brothers/sisters, teachers, friends*)

Guide kids to draw their own tattoos on a partner’s feet. Challenge them to draw something that will symbolize putting others first, like “U 1st” or “U First.”

As kids work, comment that Jesus always put others first. The most important way He put us first was coming here to be our Savior. When we ask Jesus to forgive us for the wrong things we've done and to be our Savior, He will. Then we'll live forever in heaven with Him and God.

LEADER: *[Apply]* "I am so glad that Jesus always put others first. You know what? We need to follow Jesus' example. If Jesus, God's Son, could put others first, then we should, too. *[Impress]* What in the world are you doing to put others first? *[Apply]* How have you put others first at home, at school, or with a friend?" (Give kids time to think and answer.)

*** 2. Follow My Lead (for 2nd-5th grade / application activity / great for boys / review the Bible lesson / Scripture search)**

SUPPLIES: Bibles, "References" (Activity Page)

Group kids in five teams. Give each team a card from "References" and a Bible. Ask teams to find their reference in the Bible, read the passage, and be prepared to act out their Bible story without words. The other teams will try to guess what story or Bible person they are acting out. After several minutes, choose a group to start. Set the "References" card for this group where the other kids can see it. Tell kids that they can look up the Scripture passage if they need help guessing the Bible story or person. Let the first group present their charade until someone guesses correctly, or stop them after two to three minutes. Let every group take a turn.

Depending on your kids' Bible knowledge and how well they read, you may need to help them think through their sketch first:

- **John 13:3-9** (This is today's Bible story. Kids should remember the story and will likely act it out as it was presented during large group.)
- **Genesis 24:15,17-20** (Abraham's servant went to look for a wife for Abraham's son. He stopped at a spring [where you get water] to rest and pray, asking God to help him find the right girl. Just then, Rebekah came to the spring and filled her water jar. The servant asked Rebekah for some water. Rebekah gave him a drink then offered to give his camels some water, too. She filled her water jar many times and poured it into the trough for the camels to drink.)
- **Exodus 17:8-13** (The Amalekites attacked the Israelites. Moses told Joshua to gather his army and to fight the Amalekites. Moses went up a hill to watch the battle. As long as Moses held his staff over his head, the Israelites were winning. But when Moses' arms got tired and he lowered the staff, the Amalekites started winning. So Aaron and Hur got a stone for Moses to sit on and held his arms up. One held his right arm up, and the other held his left arm up.)
- **Ruth 1:8-19** (After Naomi's husband died, she decided to go back home to Bethlehem. Her two daughters-in-law wanted to go with her. Naomi urged them to go back to their parents' homes. But Ruth put Naomi first and insisted on going with Naomi back to Bethlehem. So they packed up and walked all the way to Bethlehem.)

- **Luke 5:17-26** (*Jesus was teaching inside a house. Four men came to the house, carrying another man on a mat. The man on the mat couldn't walk. The four men tried to take their friend inside the house to see Jesus, but there were so many people, they couldn't. So they went up on the roof, dug a hole, and lowered their friend down in front of Jesus. Jesus healed the man. The man immediately stood up and went home, praising God.*)

LEADER: “The Bible was written by people who were inspired by God. That means God told them what to write. God uses the Bible to help us know Him—what He is like, how much He loves us, and how we should live. The Bible is full of true stories of amazing people, including these five people who put others first. We need to follow the example of people in the Bible, but particularly Jesus. Jesus put others first in so many ways, like the time He washed the disciples’ feet. But the most important way He put us first was coming here to be our Savior. When we ask Jesus to forgive us for the wrong things we’ve done and to be our Savior, He will. Then we’ll live forever in heaven with Him and God.

“If Jesus, God’s Son, could put others first, then we should, too. **[Impress] What in the world are you doing to put others first? [Apply] What is one thing these people from the Bible did to put others first that you can do, too?”** (*Help a friend accomplish a task, go out of your way to help someone, stick by a friend when he or she is all alone, do a thankless and maybe dirty job to show someone you care*)

3. Comic Strips (*application activity*)

SUPPLIES: crayons or markers, “Comic Strips” (Activity Page)

Give each kid a “Comic Strips” page. Tell them to look at the first two boxes in each strip to see what is happening. Then in the third box they should finish the strip, drawing something that shows putting others first.

LEADER: **[Apply]** “Jesus wants us to look for ways to put others first, just as you did on your comic strips. **[Personalize]** (*Tell kids about a way you put someone else first in the past few weeks at work, home, or school.*) **[Impress]** What in the world are you doing to put others first? **[Apply]** Let’s remember to LOOK for ways to put others first this week. How do you plan to put someone first at home? (*Give kids time to think and answer each question.*) How could you put a friend first?”

Optional 5th Grade Discussion Questions

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

- In John 13:17, Jesus says we will be blessed if we do like He did—humble ourselves to the status of a servant. But we usually don’t go after service for the blessing. Why do you think we don’t?
- What if we saw every opportunity for service, especially the ones we’d least like to do, as a chance to gain God’s blessings? How might this change us?
- Okay, so what if you do take us up on this and start putting others first all the time. What if you end up doing it so often that it becomes a habit? Do you end up stronger, or do

you end up a doormat? How do you know when you're developing character and when you're letting people take advantage of you?

WRAP UP

Be prepared to distribute this week's GodTime and Fridge Door cards.

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

If kids haven't put their shoes back on, encourage them to do so before they leave! ;)