

## THE CROSS AND THE EMPTY TOMB

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Mark 15:13–16:8; Luke 23:26–24:1–9

**FOCUS VERSES:** Ephesians 1:19–20; Romans 6:4–5;  
John 11:25–26

**Summary:** After His arrest, Jesus was led away and put on trial by religious and political officials. Even though He had done nothing wrong, Jesus was beaten, mocked, and sentenced to die on the cross. Jesus was crucified in between two thieves. One made fun of Him. After Jesus died, He was buried in a tomb. When some of His followers returned on the first day of the week, they were shocked to find an empty tomb. Angels said, “He is not here! He is risen!” Jesus defeated death!



### MONTHLY *Memory Verse*

*For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.*

**(JOHN 3:16)**

### **BRITE** *Idea*

**Jesus defeated death!**

HE

#### **HOW COULD JESUS RISE FROM THE DEAD?**

God, in His great power, raised Jesus from the dead, proving that He had defeated death and sin forever.

WE

#### **WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR US THAT JESUS IS ALIVE?**

Because Jesus defeated death, we can be forgiven of our sins and have eternal life with God forever. We can choose to trust in Him as our Savior.

ME

#### **HOW IS GOD INVITING ME TO RESPOND?**

Kids will be given the opportunity to reflect on the truth they learned about God and respond accordingly.

*Pray for each regular attendee by name. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Pray specifically for kids who are typically overlooked by others. Pray that they would be made to feel special and valued. Also pray for kids who are typically doing the “overlooking.” Ask God to show them other kids who need to feel valued. Pray that these kids would work to make others feel included and special.*

## Before Kids Arrive

- Go through your supply tub and make sure you have all the supplies you need for the morning. (we do sometimes make mistakes 😊)

## Arrival

Kids will be with their parents for worship and be dismissed to meet you in the Bridge Kids Lobby. During the kids blessing, come to the Bridge Kids Lobby and get your Attendance Book.

Welcome kids and verify you have all kids listed in the book (and that all kids ARE listed in the book. Any kids not listed will need to be checked in by the Welcome Desk).

## Big Group

When prompted, take your group to the Big Group Room. If any brought their Bibles, have them place their names on the slips of paper and place in the proper container.

**Please sit with your few and help them be good listeners.**

## After Big Group

Welcome the kids to your group.

Ask: What was the best part of your week? What was the worst part of your week?

Ask: How did God use those experiences to grow you as a disciple of Jesus?

Ask: How can I pray for you (write them on the journal page).

Start With Prayer Requests – this builds relationship.

You will pray at the end of the service



# Leader TRAINING

## LEADER TRAINING TOPIC: MODEL INCLUDING OTHERS

Kids learn by watching us. If the leaders are inclusive and welcoming, the kids will more likely be so too!

- **Invite others.** If a kid seems to be on the outside of the action, prompt other kids to invite the kid to join them. You may have to coach them with what to say.
- **Join others.** While it's important to invite, some kids may not be comfortable or developmentally able to participate in the activity others are doing. Join the kid in their preferred activity, modeling to others how to be inclusive.
- **Speak directly to each kid.** Even if a kid is nonverbal, speak directly to them. If they have a communication device, give them time to respond and engage in the conversation however they can.

## NAVIGATING A BROKEN WORLD: DID THE RESURRECTION REALLY HAPPEN?

According to a 2021 survey, one-third of American adults are unsure the resurrection truly happened.\* As a result, there may be kids in your group who have written off the resurrection as a fairy tale. Kids likely won't verbalize opinions like that in a church environment, but be aware that there may be doubts in the minds of some kids. Emphasize with the kids in your group that this is a true story. If you sense that kids in your group have doubts, encourage them to research with their parents and to check into the historical facts about the resurrection. Most importantly, point kids toward the truth that our God is powerful enough to raise Jesus from the dead and to defeat death. Nothing is impossible for Him.

\*For more resources on this topic, check out:

[britecurriculum.com/resources](https://www.britecurriculum.com/resources)

### ELEMENTARY GLOSSARY

**Crucify:** a punishment where a person is nailed to a cross until they die

**Redeemer:** the One who makes something right or better

**Resurrection:** when someone comes back to life after being dead

# Small Group ROADMAP

**1 BELONG**  
(10 MINUTES)

*Goal: For kids to experience God's love through a welcoming community*

**ROLL THE EGG**  
**SUPPLIES:** Painter's tape, plastic eggs (1 per kid), spoons (1 per kid)

**OR**

**MYSTERY BAG**  
**SUPPLIES:** Paper bag (1 per kid), random small objects (1 per kid)


**2 BELIEVE**  
(10 MINUTES)

*Goal: For kids to discover who God is by engaging with the Bible*

**EGG TOSS**  
**SUPPLIES:** Bibles, teaching slide, plastic eggs (1 per 2 kids), painter's tape

**OR**

**MIRACLE MATCH**  
**SUPPLIES:** Bibles, printable pages, scissors

**3** 

**DISCIPLESHIP DISCUSSION**  
(10 MINUTES)

*Goal: To engage kids in faith conversations that help them navigate a broken world with biblical wisdom*


**4 BECOME**  
(10 MINUTES)

*Goal: For kids to learn to follow Jesus by applying faith to their lives*

**CROSS PRAYER**  
**SUPPLIES:** Bibles, Take-Home page, writing supplies, printable page, paper (1 per kid)

**OR**

**BECAUSE HE LIVES**  
**SUPPLIES:** Bibles, Take-Home page, writing supplies, smooth glass plate, large glass cup, colored water, eye dropper, penny, votive candle, matches

**5** 

**SMALL GROUP WRAP-UP**  
(5 MINUTES)

**SUPPLIES:** Take-Home page, writing supplies



# ROLL THE EGG

**SUPPLIES:**

Painter’s tape, plastic eggs (1 per kid), spoons (1 per kid)

**PREP:**

Create a maze using painter’s tape for kids to roll their eggs through.

**LEADER TIP:** For large groups, consider creating two mazes for kids to roll their eggs and divide the kids into two groups. To see an example, check out: [britecurriculum.com/resources](http://britecurriculum.com/resources)

**ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS:** For kids with mobility needs, allow modified movements specific to their needs (e.g., roll with hand instead of spoon, use of shorter/longer/wider utensil).

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. *Welcome each kid by name and welcome any new kids to the group.*
2. **Discuss:** What was the best and worst part of your week?
3. **Discuss:** This month we are learning that God is our Redeemer, which means the One who makes everything right or better. How have you seen this week that God is Redeemer?
4. *Give each kid a plastic egg and a spoon.*
5. *Line kids up at the start of the maze.*
6. **Say:** Let’s play an Easter game together! We will use our spoons to roll our eggs through the maze.
7. *Give kids time to play.*
8. *Gather kids together and have kids open the eggs. Discuss what is inside.*



**ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:**

I’m impressed with how quickly you rolled your eggs through the maze! We are learning about a heavy stone that was rolled away! It revealed something that was empty, just like your eggs!



# MEMORY MYSTERY BAG

**SUPPLIES:**

Paper bag (1 per kid), random small objects (1 per kid)

**PREP:**

Place a small item in each bag and fold the top so you cannot see what is inside (1 per kid).

**LEADER TIP:** Consider random objects like a feather, a bottle top, modeling dough, a pencil, small plastic animal figure, an orange, straw, pine cone, etc.

**ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS:** For kids with sensory needs who struggle to touch unseen or unfamiliar objects, show them the object and let them describe it instead.

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. *Welcome each kid by name and welcome any new kids to the group.*
2. **Discuss:** What was the best and worst part of your week?
3. **Discuss:** This month we are learning that God is our Redeemer, which means the One who makes everything right or better. How have you seen this week that God is Redeemer?
4. *Gather kids in a seated circle.*
5. *Place a paper bag in front of each kid.*
6. **Say:** There is a mystery object inside of each bag. Your job is to guess what the object could be based on how it feels.
7. *Choose someone to go first. They will use their sense of touch to guess what the object might be. Then have them open the bag to reveal the object.*
8. *They will then put it back into their paper bag. Remind everyone to pay attention to the objects as they will need to remember what they all are.*
9. *The next person in the circle will take their turn. First they will repeat the previous mystery objects from memory. Then they will guess what is in their bag. After they guess, they will open the bag to reveal if they were right.*
10. *Repeat until every kid has repeated the mystery objects and opened their own bag.*
11. **Discuss:** What was the most challenging part of this game?



**ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:**

You were great detectives using your sense of touch and memory skills to solve the mystery of what was inside the bag. Today we are learning about a famous mystery of an empty tomb!



# EGG TOSS

**SUPPLIES:**

Bibles, teaching slide, plastic eggs (1 per 2 kids), painter's tape

**PREP:**

Print or show the Memory Verse teaching slide (Image 03). Make two parallel lines with painter's tape on the floor that stretch across your space about 12 inches apart from each other.

**ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS:** For kids with mobility needs, allow extra space and time for specialized equipment or buddy them up with a familiar friend to assist.

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. *Lead kids to find John 3:16 in their Bibles. Read the verse aloud together.*
2. **Discuss:** What does it mean that God "gave" the world His Son?
3. **Discuss:** What did Jesus do for us?
4. **Discuss:** How could Jesus rise from the dead?
5. **Say:** God, in His great power, raised Jesus from the dead, proving that He had defeated death and sin forever. He loves us so much He gave His Son to do this for us.
6. *Divide kids into pairs. Have them line up facing each other on the painter's tape lines.*
7. *Pass out a plastic egg to each pair.*
8. **Say:** As I repeat the memory verse to you, one word at a time, you will toss the egg to your partner, then take a step back.
9. *Lead kids through the recitation of the memory verse, reading one additional word at a time for them to repeat after you. E.g., For (for), For God (for God), For God so (for God so).*
10. *If kids drop an egg, they should go back to the starting lines and continue repeating the verse.*



**ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:**

Because Jesus was fully man and fully God while He was walking on Earth, He was able to be the perfect sacrifice for our sins and die in our place and then conquered death by rising from the dead. Praise God for His great love for us!



# MIRACLE MATCH

**SUPPLIES:**

Bibles, printable pages, scissors

**PREP:**

Print the printable pages and cut out. Form a deck with the cards. Keep the leader guide with you.

**LEADER TIP:** Consider making multiple sets of the cards and divide kids into smaller groups.

**ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS:** For active learners, provide more structure by giving specific instructions on where you would like kids to sit.

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. **Say:** In our Bible story today we heard how after Jesus died on the cross for our sins, His tomb was miraculously empty! He conquered death!
2. **Discuss:** How could Jesus rise from the dead?
3. **Say:** God, in His great power, raised Jesus from the dead, proving that He had defeated death and sin forever.
4. *Lead kids to find Ephesians 1:19–20 in their Bibles. Read it aloud together.*
5. **Discuss:** God used His miraculous power to perform miracles that are recorded in the Bible.
6. *Show kids a set of the memory cards and use the printable leader page to briefly discuss each miracle. Encourage kids to tell you what they know.*
7. *Lay the cards out face down in a grid pattern. Kids will take turns choosing two cards at time to match the problem to the miracle.*
8. **Discuss:** Which is your favorite miracle to read about? Why?



**ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:**

Jesus’ resurrection was a miracle! God continues to show us His miraculous power today. Ask your family and friends about a time they have seen God work a miracle in their lives.



## Discipleship DISCUSSION

### HOW CAN I KNOW THIS IS TRUE?

**Discuss:** How do we know Jesus really died and came back to life?

**Say:** The Bible says Jesus died on a cross and rose again. Archaeologists have found first-century nails and even the heel bone of a man crucified, showing crucifixion was real and brutal, just like the Gospels describe. The tomb was also real. Archaeologists in Jerusalem have uncovered rock-cut tombs with rolling stones, the same kind mentioned in Mark. Early writings from non-Christian historians like Josephus and Tacitus confirm Jesus was executed under Pontius Pilate. The empty tomb and eyewitness accounts remind us the resurrection happened in real history and we can trust it is true.

**Read Mark 16:6 directly from the Bible:** *He has risen; He is not here.*

### BUT WHAT ABOUT ... DID THE RESURRECTION REALLY HAPPEN?

**Discuss:** Have you ever heard anyone question if Jesus really did rise from the dead?

**Discuss:** What are some reasons people might doubt that it really happened?

**Discuss:** What does God have to say about that?

**Say:** Some people may think the resurrection couldn't be real because things like that don't happen outside of movies. But the resurrection really did happen! After He rose from the dead, Jesus appeared to hundreds of people. In 1 Corinthians 15:6, Paul wrote: *Then He appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive.* When the writers wrote the Gospels, people could easily say whether it was true or not. It is okay to have doubts sometimes about some of the awesome truths of the Bible. When you do, talk to a trusted adult and let them help you look for answers.



# CROSS PRAYER

**SUPPLIES:**

Bibles, Take-Home page, writing supplies, printable page, paper (1 per kid)

**PREP:**

Print the Take-Home page (1 per kid). Print the printable page.

**LEADER TIP:** Practice folding and ripping the paper so that it will come easily for you.

**ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS:** Kids with fine motor needs may have difficulty writing on paper and following folding directions. Assist by providing extra cueing, hand over hand and/or encouragement to persevere.

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. **Discuss:** What would this piece of paper look like if we ripped it?
2. **Say:** Let's fold and rip this plain piece of paper and end up with something amazing.
3. *Give each kid a piece of paper and invite them to follow your lead. Use the step-by-step directions on the printable page.*
4. *Lead kids to find Romans 6:4-5 in their Bibles. Read the verses aloud together.*
5. **Discuss:** What did Jesus defeat on the cross?
6. **Discuss:** What did Jesus defeat when He rose from the dead?
7. **Discuss:** What does it mean for us that Jesus is alive?
8. **Say:** Because Jesus defeated sin and death, we can be forgiven of our sins and have eternal life with God forever. We can choose to trust in Him as our Savior.
9. *Give kids several minutes to write a prayer on their cross thanking Jesus for making a way to have eternal life with God.*
10. **Say:** What an amazing surprise to discover a cross from the paper. Jesus, the perfect Son of God, paid the penalty for our sin on the cross. Thank You, Jesus, for defeating death and giving us an opportunity to trust You as our Savior.

**ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:**

Today we learned that Jesus defeated death! As we learn truths about God, we can respond to Him. We can tell Him our feelings, we can pray, or we can decide to do something or change something.

*Lead kids to use the "Me Question" box on their Take-Home pages to choose a prompt and draw/write their response. Allow kids to volunteer to share their responses.*



# BECAUSE HE LIVES...

**SUPPLIES:**

Bibles, Take-Home page, writing supplies, smooth glass plate, large glass cup, colored water, eye dropper, penny, votive candle, matches

**PREP:**

Print the Take-Home page (1 per kid).

**LEADER TIP:** Practice the activity ahead of time. Do not allow kids to handle matches or lit candle.

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. *Lead kids to find 1 Peter 2:24 in their Bibles. Read the verse aloud together.*
2. **Discuss:** What did Jesus' death and resurrection "heal" us from?
3. **Say:** Jesus took the punishment for our sin. He defeated death forever. When we believe in Him, we are made right with God and will live with Him forever.
4. *Show kids the penny and tell them that this represents us—humans. Place the penny on one side of the plate.*
5. *Fill the eyedropper with colored water. Tell kids that this represents sin.*
6. *Squirt the colored water onto the coin and all over the plate.*
7. *Show the kids the candle and tell them that this represents Jesus. Light the candle and place it in the center of the plate (not touching the penny).*
8. *As it burns, tell the kids that Jesus died in our place on the cross. Place the cup on top of the candle.*
9. *As soon as the cup is covering the candle, the colored water will begin to move into the cup. The candle's flame will eventually go out.*
10. *Explain that this represents Jesus' death on the cross.*
11. **Say:** Just as the candle took all the water off of the penny, Jesus took all of our sin when He died on the cross. When we trust in Jesus, we are no longer covered in sin—we are healed and forgiven!
12. *Show kids the penny as you explain this.*
13. **Discuss:** What does it mean for us that Jesus is alive?
14. **Say:** Because Jesus defeated death, we can be forgiven of our sins and have eternal life with God forever. We can choose to trust in Him as our Savior.

**ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:**

Today we learned that Jesus defeated death! As we learn truths about God, we can respond to Him. We can tell Him our feelings, we can pray, or we can decide to do something or change something.

*Lead kids to use the "Me Question" box on their Take-Home pages to choose a prompt and draw/write their response. Allow kids to volunteer to share their responses.*



# Wrap-Up

## CHOOSE YOUR Challenge

**Say:** We want to respond to God and remember what He has taught us today. We also want to use what He’s taught us during the coming week. As we become more like Jesus, our lives change!

*Read the challenges from the Take-Home page aloud. Ask kids to mark which one they want to choose for this week.*

**SUPPLIES:**

Take-Home page, writing supplies

**PREP:**

Print the Take-Home page (1 per kid).



## PRAYER

Dear Jesus, thank You for defeating death! We praise You for being our Savior and paying the price for our sins on the cross. Help us to trust in You more each day. Amen.



## SAY GOODBYE!

Tell kids goodbye and thank them for being a part of your group.

*As kids wait to be picked up, encourage them to complete the activities on the back of the Take-Home page. As kids work, ask relationship-building questions, such as, “What are you looking forward to this week?” or “What do you do for fun?”*

*As parents arrive at pickup, look for opportunities to connect with them, pointing out the Take-Home page their kid is bringing home.*

## Extra Time?

- Work on Books of the Bible
- Work on Memory Verse
  - ERASE A WORD: Write on a white board, erasing one word at a time after the class repeats the verse out loud to you.
  - BEAN BAG: Have children toss a bean bag to each other and when they catch the bean bag they say the next word in the verse
  - POPCORN: Have children sit in a circle and jump up in turn and say the next word of the verse, sitting down quickly after saying their word
  - HAND MOTIONS: Either you or the kids make up hand motions to key words or phrases of the verse. Practice and then have a competition between boys and girls.

**Greet parents at the door. Make sure you match their security tag with Attendance Book. Have them initial Attendance Book (their security tag and child's nametag can be given to Welcome Desk for nametag ball.)**

**Hand each parent:**

- Any craft/activity page

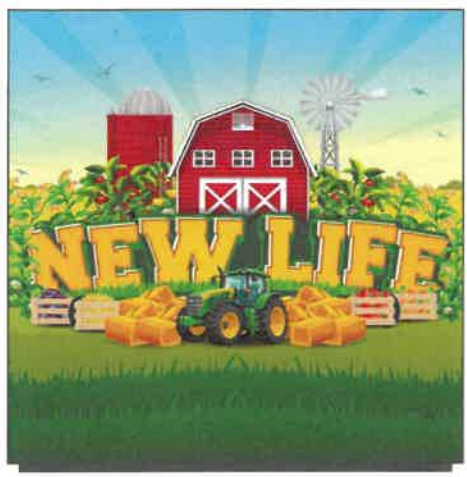
## **BEFORE YOU LEAVE:**

### **After 10:00 Services:**

- Erase whiteboard.
- Place Prayer Journal and Curriculum book in supply tub.
- Return Prayer Sheet, Blue Report (if needed) and Attendance Book to Welcome Desk

### **After 11:45 Services:**

- Erase whiteboard.
- Make sure chairs are stacked (kids can do this)
- Turn off TV by:
  - Close PowerPoint
  - Power off computer
  - Turn off TV
- Put everything away – all tables should be completely empty
- Place Prayer Journal and Curriculum book in supply tub.
- Return Prayer Sheet, Blue Report (if needed) and Attendance Book to Welcome Desk
- Take supply tub to Resource Room



# THE ROAD TO EMMAUS

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Luke 24:13-35

**FOCUS VERSES:** Luke 24:44; 2 Timothy 3:16; Psalm 119:104

**Summary:** Two of Jesus' followers were walking along a road discussing all that had happened. Jesus walked beside them, but they didn't recognize it was Him. They told Him all that had occurred over the past few days. Jesus explained to them how all of the Old Testament pointed to Him and how He would rescue the people from their sins. Later they ate with Jesus and their eyes were opened. They realized Jesus was truly alive!



## MONTHLY *Memory Verse*

*For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.*

**(JOHN 3:16)**

## **BRITE** *Idea*

**God gave us the Bible to point to Jesus.**



**WHAT IS THE BIBLE?**  
The Bible is God's message to us. It is the true story of God's plan to redeem His people.



**WHY IS READING THE BIBLE IMPORTANT?**  
The Bible is a gift from God because it teaches us how to have a relationship with Jesus and how to live life His way.



**HOW IS GOD INVITING ME TO RESPOND?**  
Kids will be given the opportunity to reflect on the truth they learned about God and respond accordingly.

*Pray for each regular attendee by name. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Pray specifically for kids who are typically overlooked by others. Pray that they would be made to feel special and valued. Also pray for kids who are typically doing the “overlooking.” Ask God to show them other kids who need to feel valued. Pray that these kids would work to make others feel included and special.*

## Before Kids Arrive

- Go through your supply tub and make sure you have all the supplies you need for the morning. (we do sometimes make mistakes 😊)

## Arrival

Kids will be with their parents for worship and be dismissed to meet you in the Bridge Kids Lobby. During the kids blessing, come to the Bridge Kids Lobby and get your Attendance Book.

Welcome kids and verify you have all kids listed in the book (and that all kids ARE listed in the book. Any kids not listed will need to be checked in by the Welcome Desk).

## Big Group

When prompted, take your group to the Big Group Room. If any brought their Bibles, have them place their names on the slips of paper and place in the proper container.

**Please sit with your few and help them be good listeners.**

## After Big Group

Welcome the kids to your group.

Ask: What was the best part of your week? What was the worst part of your week?

Ask: How did God use those experiences to grow you as a disciple of Jesus?

Ask: How can I pray for you (write them on the journal page).

Start With Prayer Requests – this builds relationship.

You will pray at the end of the service



# Leader TRAINING

## LEADER TRAINING TOPIC: PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

Everyone wants to contribute and be a part of something bigger than themselves. While some tasks may take a little longer with a little one assisting, giving kids an opportunity to serve others increases a kid’s self-confidence and shows them they are an important part of the group.

- **Give your job away.** Look for tasks you are doing that a kid could do on their own. This may include setting out markers, cleaning tables, putting toys away or passing out Take-Home pages during the pick-up process.
- **Invite a kid to assist you.** Have kids help you greet their friends as they arrive. If setup is required for small groups, have a kid join you in getting supplies in the proper places. This also gives a kid one-on-one time with you.
- **Divide your role into smaller tasks.** If you’re presenting, pick out elements that a kid could do, including praying, leading worship or holding props. During small group, give kids an opportunity to pass out supplies, read from the Bible or ask questions from the lesson.

### NAVIGATING A BROKEN WORLD: DEPRESSION

According to 2023 data, more than 2.7 million American children live with severe depression.\* Our kids are truly in a mental health crisis. Depression in kids is more than just occasional sadness. The greatest sign that a kid is struggling is a significant and prolonged change in behavior, involvement or attitude. Kids with depression may complain of physical ailments, such as headaches or stomach aches. They may avoid activities they have previously enjoyed. In today’s lesson, kids will learn that Jesus’ friends were sad and confused after His death, before they knew He was alive. Kids who are struggling with depression can trust that Jesus is always beside them. If a kid says something in the group that leads you to be concerned for their mental health, especially if they hint in any way about harming themselves, communicate immediately with parents and church leaders.

#### ELEMENTARY GLOSSARY

**Redeemer:** the One who makes something right or better

\*For more resources on this topic, check out: [britecurriculum.com/resources](https://britecurriculum.com/resources)

# Small Group ROADMAP

**1 BELONG**  
(10 MINUTES)

*Goal: For kids to experience God's love through a welcoming community*

**I'M GONNA TAKE...**

**SUPPLIES:** Random items (1 per kid), large bag

**OR**

**BALLOON BALANCE**

**SUPPLIES:** Balloons (1 per 2 kids), painter's tape

**2 BELIEVE**  
(10 MINUTES)

*Goal: For kids to discover who God is by engaging with the Bible*

**AIRPLANE VERSE**

**SUPPLIES:** Bibles, teaching slide, printable pages

**OR**

**PICTURE GOD'S PLAN**

**SUPPLIES:** Bibles, paper (1 per 2 kids), coloring supplies

**3** 

**DISCIPLESHIP DISCUSSION**  
(10 MINUTES)

*Goal: To engage kids in faith conversations that help them navigate a broken world with biblical wisdom*

**4 BECOME**  
(10 MINUTES)

*Goal: For kids to learn to follow Jesus by applying faith to their lives*


**GO TO THE GIFT**

**SUPPLIES:** Bibles, Take-Home page, writing supplies, printable pages, scissors, painter's tape, gift bag

**OR**

**READ TO RELATIONSHIP**

**SUPPLIES:** Bibles, Take-Home page, writing supplies, printable page, paper (1 per kid), coloring supplies

**5** 

**SMALL GROUP WRAP-UP**  
(5 MINUTES)

**SUPPLIES:** Take-Home page, writing supplies



# PICTURE GOD'S PLAN

**SUPPLIES:**

Bibles, paper (1 per 2 kids), coloring supplies

**PREP:**

None

**ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS:** Pair kids who may struggle with this activity with a friend who can help.

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. **Discuss:** How did Jesus help His disciples on the road to Emmaus understand who He was?
2. *Lead kids to find Luke 24:44 in their Bibles. Read the verse aloud together.*
3. **Discuss:** What is the Bible?
4. **Say:** The Bible is God's message to us. It is the true story of God's plan to redeem His people.
5. **Say:** All of Scripture points to Jesus and God's plan to redeem the world through Him. It is all part of God's Big Story to save us!
6. **Say:** Let's dig into the Bible to learn about God's redeeming plan for His people.
7. *Divide kids into pairs and pass out paper and coloring supplies to each pair.*
8. *Assign pairs one of the following verses.*
  - *Creation—Genesis 1:1*
  - *Fall—Genesis 3:1-7, 20-24*
  - *Redemption—Ephesians 1:7*
  - *Restoration—Revelation 21:1-5*
9. **Say:** Write the reference on your paper. Read the Bible passage aloud together. Then, draw pictures to help explain the message of the verse.
10. *Gather everyone together and have kids line up in order of God's Big Story. Invite kids to share their pictures and review each part of God's redemptive plan.*



**ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:**

God's plan to redeem His people is perfect. Praise Him for sending us His perfect Son, Jesus, to die in our place on the cross for our sins. We can praise Him for making a way for us to live with God forever!



## Discipleship DISCUSSION

### HOW CAN I KNOW THIS IS TRUE?

**Discuss:** How can we know Jesus really appeared to people after He rose from the dead?

**Say:** The Bible tells us two disciples walked with Jesus on the road to Emmaus after His resurrection. Ancient roads have been identified leading from Jerusalem to villages west of the city, one of which is still called Emmaus today. Ancient historians like Josephus also mention Emmaus as a real town from that time. The New Testament records that over 500 people saw Jesus alive after His death, confirming He really appeared to many. The road to Emmaus shows that Jesus' resurrection wasn't a secret. It happened in real places with real people.

**Read Luke 24:31 directly from the Bible:** *And their eyes were opened, and they recognized Him.*

### BUT WHAT ABOUT ... DEPRESSION?

**Discuss:** What are some things that make kids sad?

**Discuss:** What is the difference between feeling sad and being depressed?

**Discuss:** What does God have to say about depression?

**Say:** Some people struggle with sadness more than others. Depression is when someone is really sad for a long time. This depression could be caused by something really bad that is happening or has happened in the past. Sometimes there is not an explanation for depression, but it is still really hard for the person experiencing it. Psalm 34:18a says: *The Lord is near to the brokenhearted.* God is near when we are sad or depressed, but the sadness can make it feel like He is far away. We can trust that what God says is true, even when our feelings don't line up. He loves us. He is with us. He has a plan for us. Depression can cause you to feel stuck, but God can help with that too. If you struggle with sadness, make sure you talk to a loving, caring adult whom you trust. God gives us good people to help when we are struggling.



# GO TO THE GIFT

**SUPPLIES:**

Bibles, Take-Home page, writing supplies, printable pages, scissors, painter’s tape, gift bag

**PREP:**

Print the Take-Home page (1 per kid). Print the printable pages and cut out (1 numbered card per kid). Place the numbered cards into the gift bag. Hang the situation printable pages around your space.

**ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS:** Strategically divide kids into groups with stronger peers who could naturally assist.



**INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. **Discuss:** What was the best gift you received? What made it so special?
2. **Discuss:** What did Jesus tell the followers on the road to Damascus about the Bible?
3. **Discuss:** Why is reading the Bible important?
4. **Say:** The Bible is a gift from God because it teaches us how to have a relationship with Jesus and how to live life His way.
5. *Lead kids to find 2 Timothy 3:16 in their Bibles. Read the verse aloud together.*
6. *Have kids draw one number card from the gift bag and get into groups based on the number they drew.*
7. *Give kids time to find the printable page that matches the number they drew. In their groups, kids will read the situation and verse on the page and discuss them.*
8. *Monitor discussion and help guide kids as necessary.*
9. *If time allows, have kids draw new numbers and discuss new situations.*
10. *Bring the group back together. Have each group read their situation and Bible verse, and point out key points from their discussion.*



**ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:**

Today we learned God gave us the Bible to point to Jesus. As we learn truths about God, we can respond to Him. We can tell Him our feelings, we can pray, or we can decide to do something or change something.

*Lead kids to use the “Me Question” box on their Take-Home pages to choose a prompt and draw/write their response. Allow kids to volunteer to share their responses.*



# Wrap-Up

## CHOOSE YOUR Challenge

**Say:** We want to respond to God and remember what He has taught us today. We also want to use what He’s taught us during the coming week. As we become more like Jesus, our lives change!

*Read the challenges from the Take-Home page aloud. Ask kids to mark which one they want to choose for this week.*

**SUPPLIES:**

Take-Home page, writing supplies

**PREP:**

Print the Take-Home page (1 per kid).



## PRAYER

Dear God, thank You for the gift of the Bible. Help us to read Your Word and let it change our lives so we will live like Jesus. Amen.



## SAY GOODBYE!

Tell kids goodbye and thank them for being a part of your group.

*As kids wait to be picked up, encourage them to complete the activities on the back of the Take-Home page. As kids work, ask relationship-building questions, such as, “What are you looking forward to this week?” or “What do you do for fun?”*

*As parents arrive at pickup, look for opportunities to connect with them, pointing out the Take-Home page their kid is bringing home.*

## Extra Time?

- Work on Books of the Bible
- Work on Memory Verse
  - ERASE A WORD: Write on a white board, erasing one word at a time after the class repeats the verse out loud to you.
  - BEAN BAG: Have children toss a bean bag to each other and when they catch the bean bag they say the next word in the verse
  - POPCORN: Have children sit in a circle and jump up in turn and say the next word of the verse, sitting down quickly after saying their word
  - HAND MOTIONS: Either you or the kids make up hand motions to key words or phrases of the verse. Practice and then have a competition between boys and girls.

**Greet parents at the door. Make sure you match their security tag with Attendance Book. Have them initial Attendance Book (their security tag and child's nametag can be given to Welcome Desk for nametag ball.)**

**Hand each parent:**

- Any craft/activity page

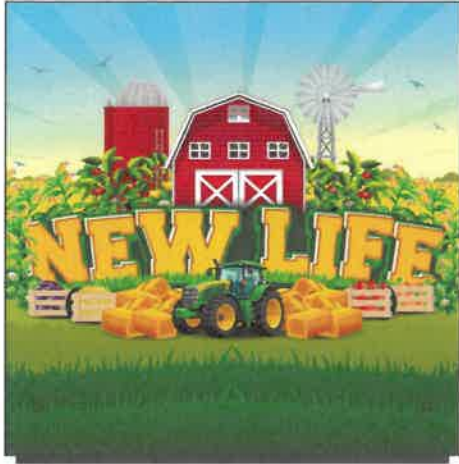
### **BEFORE YOU LEAVE:**

#### **After 10:00 Services:**

- Erase whiteboard.
- Place Prayer Journal and Curriculum book in supply tub.
- Return Prayer Sheet, Blue Report (if needed) and Attendance Book to Welcome Desk

#### **After 11:45 Services:**

- Erase whiteboard.
- Make sure chairs are stacked (kids can do this)
- Turn off TV by:
  - Close PowerPoint
  - Power off computer
  - Turn off TV
- Put everything away – all tables should be completely empty
- Place Prayer Journal and Curriculum book in supply tub.
- Return Prayer Sheet, Blue Report (if needed) and Attendance Book to Welcome Desk
- Take supply tub to Resource Room



# JESUS' RETURN IS PROMISED

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Acts 1:1-11

**FOCUS VERSES:** Revelation 1:7; Hebrews 9:28;  
Matthew 24:14; Matthew 28:19-20

**Summary:** After Jesus died on the cross, He appeared to His disciples many times. He stayed with them for forty days, teaching about God's Kingdom. Jesus told them to wait in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit. Then He ascended into heaven. Two men in white told the disciples Jesus would return one day in the same way that He left. The disciples prayed together in Jerusalem, awaiting the Spirit's arrival.



## MONTHLY Memory Verse

*For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.*

**(JOHN 3:16)**

## BRITE Idea

**Jesus will return one day.**

HE

**WHY WILL JESUS RETURN?**  
Jesus will return as the ruling King to fully complete God's plan of salvation and make all things new again. This hasn't happened yet, but we can be confident it will.

WE

**WHAT DOES GOD WANT US TO DO WHILE WE WAIT FOR JESUS' RETURN?**  
God wants us to be His witnesses and share the Gospel with the whole world.

ME

**HOW IS GOD INVITING ME TO RESPOND?**  
Kids will be given the opportunity to reflect on the truth they learned about God and respond accordingly.

*Pray for each regular attendee by name. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Pray specifically for kids who are typically overlooked by others. Pray that they would be made to feel special and valued. Also pray for kids who are typically doing the “overlooking.” Ask God to show them other kids who need to feel valued. Pray that these kids would work to make others feel included and special.*

## Before Kids Arrive

- Go through your supply tub and make sure you have all the supplies you need for the morning. (we do sometimes make mistakes 😊)

## Arrival

Kids will be with their parents for worship and be dismissed to meet you in the Bridge Kids Lobby. During the kids blessing, come to the Bridge Kids Lobby and get your Attendance Book.

Welcome kids and verify you have all kids listed in the book (and that all kids ARE listed in the book. Any kids not listed will need to be checked in by the Welcome Desk).

## Big Group

When prompted, take your group to the Big Group Room. If any brought their Bibles, have them place their names on the slips of paper and place in the proper container.

**Please sit with your few and help them be good listeners.**

## After Big Group

Welcome the kids to your group.

Ask: What was the best part of your week? What was the worst part of your week?

Ask: How did God use those experiences to grow you as a disciple of Jesus?

Ask: How can I pray for you (write them on the journal page).

Start With Prayer Requests – this builds relationship.

You will pray at the end of the service



# Leader TRAINING



## LEADER TRAINING TOPIC: MEET THE UNIQUE NEEDS OF EACH KID

With a group full of kids, it may seem overwhelming to attempt to even discover the needs of everyone. However, asking a few questions and getting curious will help us provide an environment where kids feel seen and known.

- **Partner with parents.** If you are having difficulty caring for a kid, ask the parents for guidance. They are the experts on their kid and may be able to identify barriers to participation or triggers.
- **Offer options.** If a kid is struggling, consider how you might change the environment to better meet their needs. For example, rather than sit with their peers during large group, offer a seat in the back. If the small group activity is causing frustration, modify the activity or offer assistance.
- **Use fidgets as tools.** Some kids need something in their hands to reduce anxiety or to more fully participate. Have a few fidgets, like stress balls, available to offer to kids who may benefit. As kids are better able to participate, they feel more included in the group.

### NAVIGATING A BROKEN WORLD: IS IT OKAY TO SHARE WHAT I BELIEVE?

A troubling belief is on the rise among Christian millennials in the U.S. As many as 47 percent believe that it is wrong to share your faith with someone of a different faith. \* Kids today face pressure to accept all belief systems. In our culture it can be seen as hateful to disagree with what someone believes. This perception can be an incredibly scary obstacle to sharing the Gospel for anyone, but especially kids. In today's lesson, kids will learn about Jesus' command to be His witnesses to the world. As you discuss this with kids, emphasize the importance of being bold to share the truth of the Gospel in loving and respectful ways. Remind the kids that every single person desperately needs Jesus. It is our call to love others and share the Gospel in a broken world.

#### ELEMENTARY GLOSSARY

**Ascend:** to move from a lower place to a higher one

**Holy Spirit:** third person of the Trinity; He is the Helper for followers of Jesus

**Salvation:** rescue from sin and separation from God

\*For more resources on this topic, check out: [britecurriculum.com/resources](http://britecurriculum.com/resources)

# Small Group ROADMAP

**1 BELONG**  
(10 MINUTES)

*Goal: For kids to experience God's love through a welcoming community*

**COLOR SHARES**  
**SUPPLIES:** Printable page, red, blue, green, yellow and orange pipe cleaners (1 of each per kid)

**OR**

**KEEPY UPPY**  
**SUPPLIES:** Paper plates (1 per kid), balloons (1 per 2 kids)


**2 BELIEVE**  
(10 MINUTES)

*Goal: For kids to discover who God is by engaging with the Bible*

**MIXED UP TO JUST RIGHT**  
**SUPPLIES:** Bibles, teaching slide, printable pages, scissors, painter's tape

**OR**

**REVERSE STICK MAN**  
**SUPPLIES:** Bibles, 10 sticky notes, whiteboard, dry-erase marker, marker

**3**  **DISCIPLESHIP DISCUSSION**  
(10 MINUTES)

*Goal: To engage kids in faith conversations that help them navigate a broken world with biblical wisdom*


**4 BECOME**  
(10 MINUTES)

*Goal: For kids to learn to follow Jesus by applying faith to their lives*

**GOOD NEWS**  
**SUPPLIES:** Bibles, Take-Home page, writing supplies, printable pages, scissors

**OR**

**SHARE IT PRAYER**  
**SUPPLIES:** Bibles, Take-Home page, writing supplies, paper (1 per kid), coloring supplies

**5**  **SMALL GROUP WRAP-UP**  
(5 MINUTES)

**SUPPLIES:** Take-Home page, writing supplies



# REVERSE STICK MAN

**SUPPLIES:**

Bibles, 10 sticky notes, whiteboard, dry-erase marker, marker

**PREP:**

Write the letters for the phrase "Ruling King" on each sticky note. Hide the sticky notes around your space. Draw the blanks for the phrase "Ruling King" on the whiteboard.

**ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS:** For struggling kids, allow a "phone-a-friend" option that allows them to ask for help from a friend if they feel overwhelmed.

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. **Discuss:** How did Jesus's followers know that He would be returning?
2. *Lead kids to find Revelation 1:7 in their Bibles. Read the verse aloud together.*
3. **Discuss:** What do you think it will be like to see Jesus returning to Earth?
4. **Say:** I have hidden 10 sticky notes around our space. Let's see if we can find them all!
5. *Give kids time to find the sticky notes.*
6. *Have kids take turns guessing where their sticky note should be placed on the board.*
7. *If they guess correctly, it stays in place.*
8. *If they guess incorrectly, draw a piece of the stick man (head, neck, arm, etc.). Then tell them where the letter belongs.*
9. *The goal is to place the letters correctly before the stick man is fully drawn.*
10. **Discuss:** What does the phrase "Ruling King" have to do with our story from today?
11. **Discuss:** Why will Jesus return?
12. **Say:** Jesus will return as the ruling King to fully complete God's plan of salvation and make all things new again. This hasn't happened yet, but we can be confident it will.



**ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:**

The Bible tells us that Jesus will return one day to make all things new. He will be our Ruling King forever!



## Discipleship DISCUSSION

### HOW CAN I KNOW THIS IS TRUE?

**Discuss:** How can we be sure Jesus will really come back?

**Say:** The Bible says Jesus rose into heaven from the Mount of Olives, and angels promised He would return the same way. Archaeologists have uncovered ancient paths and tombs on the Mount of Olives, showing it was a real place of worship and burial in Jesus' time. Even today, the mountain overlooks Jerusalem exactly as described in Acts. Early Christian writings outside the Bible (like the Didache and Justin Martyr) confirm that believers expected Jesus to return. Because Jesus' first coming, death and resurrection happened in real history, we can trust His promise that He will come back again.

**Read Acts 1:11b directly from the Bible:** *This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw Him go into heaven.*

### BUT WHAT ABOUT... IS IT OKAY TO SHARE WHAT I BELIEVE?

**Discuss:** Do you know people who don't believe in Jesus? What do they believe in?

**Discuss:** Have you ever tried to talk about Jesus to someone who believed differently?

**Discuss:** What do you think God has to say about that?

**Say:** You may have heard that it is mean or judgmental to tell someone their beliefs are wrong. You may have even heard that it's wrong to share the good news of Jesus with someone if they believe something differently because it's mean or will hurt their feelings. It's true that we shouldn't ever be mean or rude. God is a loving God, and as followers of Jesus, we need to show His love to others. Jesus is for all people and all people need Jesus, so the most loving thing we could do is tell someone about Him in a respectful and loving way. Jesus made a way for all people to be in a right relationship with God again and to give us an abundant life. It won't always be the easiest or most comfortable conversation, but as followers of Jesus, we are given the awesome responsibility to share the good news of Jesus with the world, even when it is difficult.



# SHARE IT PRAYER

**SUPPLIES:**

Bibles, Take-Home page, writing supplies, paper (1 per kid), coloring supplies

**PREP:**

Print the Take-Home page (1 per kid).

**ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS:** Struggling writers may need support such as brainstorming ideas to draw.

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. *Lead kids to find Matthew 28:19–20 in their Bibles. Read it aloud together*
2. **Discuss:** If you were one of Jesus' original followers and you heard those words, what would you teach others who didn't know Jesus?
3. **Discuss:** Do you think the commandment has changed since then? What do you think Jesus wants us to teach others about Him?
4. **Discuss:** What does God want us to do while we wait for Jesus' return?
5. **Say:** God wants us to be His witnesses and share the Gospel with the whole world.
6. *Pass out coloring supplies and paper to kids.*
7. **Say:** Let's make posters to teach others about the good news of what Jesus has done.
8. *Give kids time to create their posters.*
9. *Kids will take turns sharing their creations with the group.*
10. **Discuss:** Do you ever feel nervous thinking about sharing Jesus with others?
11. **Say:** Jesus promised us a Helper—the Holy Spirit—to give us the words to say at the right time. When you feel nervous, pray that the Holy Spirit will give you confidence and peace to share Jesus' love.
12. *Give kids time to pray as a group that the Holy Spirit would prompt them to share with others about what Jesus has done.*

**ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:**

Today we learned that Jesus will return one day. As we learn truths about God, we can respond to Him. We can tell Him our feelings, we can pray, or we can decide to do something or change something.

*Lead kids to use the "Me Question" box on their Take-Home pages to choose a prompt and draw/write their response. Allow kids to volunteer to share their responses.*



# Wrap-Up

## CHOOSE YOUR Challenge

**Say:** We want to respond to God and remember what He has taught us today. We also want to use what He's taught us during the coming week. As we become more like Jesus, our lives change!

*Read the challenges from the Take-Home page aloud. Ask kids to mark which one they want to choose for this week.*

### SUPPLIES:

Take-Home page, writing supplies

### PREP:

Print the Take-Home page (1 per kid).



## PRAYER

Dear God, thank You for giving us the opportunity to share Your love with others. Help us trust the Holy Spirit to give us the confidence to tell others about You. Amen.



## SAY GOODBYE!

Tell kids goodbye and thank them for being a part of your group.

*As kids wait to be picked up, encourage them to complete the activities on the back of the Take-Home page. As kids work, ask relationship-building questions, such as, "What are you looking forward to this week?" or "What do you do for fun?"*

*As parents arrive at pickup, look for opportunities to connect with them, pointing out the Take-Home page their kid is bringing home.*

## Extra Time?

- Work on Books of the Bible
- Work on Memory Verse
  - ERASE A WORD: Write on a white board, erasing one word at a time after the class repeats the verse out loud to you.
  - BEAN BAG: Have children toss a bean bag to each other and when they catch the bean bag they say the next word in the verse
  - POPCORN: Have children sit in a circle and jump up in turn and say the next word of the verse, sitting down quickly after saying their word
  - HAND MOTIONS: Either you or the kids make up hand motions to key words or phrases of the verse. Practice and then have a competition between boys and girls.

**Greet parents at the door. Make sure you match their security tag with Attendance Book. Have them initial Attendance Book (their security tag and child's nametag can be given to Welcome Desk for nametag ball.)**

**Hand each parent:**

- Any craft/activity page

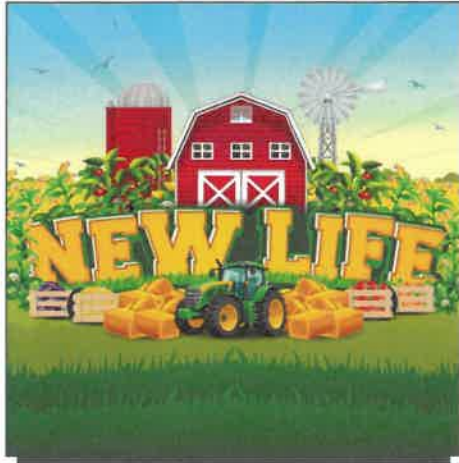
## **BEFORE YOU LEAVE:**

### **After 10:00 Services:**

- Erase whiteboard.
- Place Prayer Journal and Curriculum book in supply tub.
- Return Prayer Sheet, Blue Report (if needed) and Attendance Book to Welcome Desk

### **After 11:45 Services:**

- Erase whiteboard.
- Make sure chairs are stacked (kids can do this)
- Turn off TV by:
  - Close PowerPoint
  - Power off computer
  - Turn off TV
- Put everything away – all tables should be completely empty
- Place Prayer Journal and Curriculum book in supply tub.
- Return Prayer Sheet, Blue Report (if needed) and Attendance Book to Welcome Desk
- Take supply tub to Resource Room



## THE HOLY SPIRIT ARRIVES

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Acts 2:1–41

**FOCUS VERSES:** John 14:17; 1 Corinthians 6:19–20;  
John 14:26

**Summary:** The disciples gathered on Pentecost. They heard a mighty rushing wind from heaven. Tongues of fire appeared above their heads, and they were filled with the Holy Spirit. The Spirit gave them the ability to speak in foreign languages. People from various nations were amazed. Peter explained that this was a fulfillment of Joel's prophecy and preached about Jesus' death and resurrection. Three thousand believed and were baptized, marking the birth of the church.



### MONTHLY *Memory Verse*

*For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.*

**(JOHN 3:16)**

### BRITE Idea

**The Holy Spirit lives in believers.**

HE

#### WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

The Holy Spirit is God and has all of the power and authority of God. The same Holy Spirit given to believers at Pentecost lives in followers of Jesus today.

WE

#### HOW DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT HELP US?

When we trust in Jesus, the Holy Spirit comes to live inside of us. He helps us know how to follow God and spread His love.

ME

#### HOW IS GOD INVITING ME TO RESPOND?

Kids will be given the opportunity to reflect on the truth they learned about God and respond accordingly.

*Pray for each regular attendee by name. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Pray specifically for kids who are typically overlooked by others. Pray that they would be made to feel special and valued. Also pray for kids who are typically doing the “overlooking.” Ask God to show them other kids who need to feel valued. Pray that these kids would work to make others feel included and special.*

## Before Kids Arrive

- Go through your supply tub and make sure you have all the supplies you need for the morning. (we do sometimes make mistakes 😊)

## Arrival

Kids will be with their parents for worship and be dismissed to meet you in the Bridge Kids Lobby. During the kids blessing, come to the Bridge Kids Lobby and get your Attendance Book.

Welcome kids and verify you have all kids listed in the book (and that all kids ARE listed in the book. Any kids not listed will need to be checked in by the Welcome Desk).

## Big Group

When prompted, take your group to the Big Group Room. If any brought their Bibles, have them place their names on the slips of paper and place in the proper container.

**Please sit with your few and help them be good listeners.**

## After Big Group

Welcome the kids to your group.

Ask: What was the best part of your week? What was the worst part of your week?

Ask: How did God use those experiences to grow you as a disciple of Jesus?

Ask: How can I pray for you (write them on the journal page).

Start With Prayer Requests – this builds relationship.

You will pray at the end of the service



# Leader TRAINING

## LEADER TRAINING TOPIC: NURTURE BELONGING

↳ Sometimes kids have difficulty finding their people and fitting in. Offering a few simple activities during your time together can foster increased connection among the group.

- **What’s different; what’s the same?** As kids circle up with their friends, have them identify ways they are the same as their friends and ways they are different, such as eyeglasses, number of siblings or hair color. Even kids who appear different share traits and characteristics with others.
- **Inside/Outside.** With a small group of kids, have each share something that is visible on the outside (clothes they are wearing, their height, eye color) and something on the inside that can’t be seen. For example, they may be nervous or hungry or have a donut in their stomach from breakfast. Sharing helps kids become more empathetic, especially toward kids who are different from them.
- **Create rituals.** Create a greeting that is used upon arrival or end large group with the same chant every week. Doing these rituals with the group helps kids bond with each other.

### NAVIGATING A BROKEN WORLD: UNIVERSALISM

Universalism is the belief that everyone will eventually be accepted by God and go to heaven. A Barna research survey found that 25 percent of Christians agree that all people will eventually be saved or accepted by God.\* While it is true that God cares about all people and desires for them to be saved (1 Timothy 2:4), that doesn’t mean that all people will go to heaven regardless of what they believe. Listen for kids’ misconceptions and point them toward the truth of the Gospel that only those who have trusted in Jesus will have eternal life. Assure kids that God loves all people and everyone has the opportunity to believe in Jesus and be saved. But also instill in them the knowledge that salvation is not a universal right. Anyone can be saved, but it is only through belief in Jesus and nothing else that we are saved.

#### ELEMENTARY GLOSSARY

**Holy Spirit:** third person of the Trinity; He is the Helper for followers of Jesus

**Pentecost:** a special Jewish festival and the day the Holy Spirit came and the church was born

**Redeemer:** the One who makes something right or better

\*For more resources on this topic, check out: [britecurriculum.com/resources](http://britecurriculum.com/resources)

# Small Group ROADMAP

**1 BELONG**  
(10 MINUTES)

*Goal: For kids to experience God's love through a welcoming community*

**FIRE STARTERS**

**SUPPLIES:** Red dot stickers (1 sheet per kid)

**OR**

**SAY WHAT?!**

**SUPPLIES:** Printable pages, scissors, timer

**2 BELIEVE**  
(10 MINUTES)

*Goal: For kids to discover who God is by engaging with the Bible*


**FIRE AND WIND RELAY**

**SUPPLIES:** Bibles, teaching slide, orange, yellow and red streamers (1 roll of each), marker, straws (1 per kid), painter's tape

**OR**

**HOLY SPIRIT STRENGTH**

**SUPPLIES:** Bibles, string, liquid glue, bowl, scissors

**3** 

**DISCIPLESHIP DISCUSSION**  
(10 MINUTES)

*Goal: To engage kids in faith conversations that help them navigate a broken world with biblical wisdom*

**4 BECOME**  
(10 MINUTES)

*Goal: For kids to learn to follow Jesus by applying faith to their lives*


**HOW HE HELPS ME**

**SUPPLIES:** Bibles, Take-Home page, writing supplies, printable pages, sandwich bag, scissors, die

**OR**

**BALLOON RESPONSE PRAYERS**

**SUPPLIES:** Bibles, Take-Home page, writing supplies, balloon, permanent marker

**5** 

**SMALL GROUP WRAP-UP**  
(5 MINUTES)

**SUPPLIES:** Take-Home page, writing supplies



# FIRE AND WIND RELAY

**SUPPLIES:**

Bibles, teaching slide, orange, yellow and red streamers (1 roll of each), marker, straws (1 per kid), painter's tape

**PREP:**

Print or show the Memory Verse teaching slide (Image 03). Write one word from the memory verse on a strip of streamer. Vary the colors you use to reflect flames. Mark a start and finish line on the floor with painter's tape. Lay the streamers behind the starting line in a mixed up order.

**LEADER TIP:** For large groups, divide kids into two groups and set up two relay races. See which group can put the verse in order first!

**ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS:** For kids who struggle with the straw, use modified wind such as waving a piece of paper in front of the streamer.

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. Lead kids to find John 3:16 in their Bibles. Read the verse aloud together.
2. **Discuss:** What did God give the disciples in our Bible story today?
3. **Discuss:** How does the gift of the Holy Spirit show God's love for us?
4. **Say:** To help us learn our memory verse we will use "wind" to move "fire."
5. Give each kid a straw and have them line up at the starting line.
6. One at a time, kids will use their straw to blow a streamer across the finish line. Once the first kid has successfully blown a streamer across the finish line, the next kid will go.
7. Once all the streamers have been blown across the finish line, kids will work together to put the verse in the correct order.
8. Give kids time to work together to put the verse in order.
9. **Discuss:** Who is the Holy Spirit?
10. **Say:** The Holy Spirit is God and has all of the power and authority of God. The same Holy Spirit given to believers at Pentecost lives in followers of Jesus today.

**ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:**

Fire and wind came down from heaven in our Bible story today, but the Holy Spirit is just as powerful and alive today in the lives of Jesus followers!



## Discipleship DISCUSSION

### HOW CAN I KNOW THIS IS TRUE?

**Discuss:** What would it be like if suddenly you could speak a language you've never learned and people from all over the world could understand you?

**Say:** The Bible says the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost, and people from many nations heard the disciples speak in their own languages. Archaeologists have found inscriptions and writings showing Jews from all over the world traveled to Jerusalem for Pentecost, just as Acts describes. Ancient records also list the very nations mentioned in Acts 2. Within weeks of Jesus' resurrection, thousands of people in Jerusalem became Christians, which is something historians agree happened. The rapid growth of the church in the same city where Jesus was crucified helps prove the events of Pentecost were real.

**Read Acts 2:4 directly from the Bible:** *And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.*

### BUT WHAT ABOUT...WILL EVERYONE GO TO HEAVEN?

**Discuss:** What are ways some people believe we can go to heaven, other than believing in Jesus?

**Discuss:** Do you think all people will go to heaven? Why or why not?

**Discuss:** What do you think God has to say about all that?

**Say:** You may have heard someone say something like, "God loves all people, so everyone will go to heaven no matter what." God does love everyone, but Romans 3:23 reminds us that every person has sinned. Sin separates us from God and breaks our relationship with Him. For us to be in the right relationship with Him again, there needed to be a way for us to have our sins forgiven. Jesus made a way for all people to be saved when He died on the cross and rose again. All people can be saved, but Jesus doesn't force anyone to believe in Him. We are all given a choice. 1 Timothy 2:4 tells us that *God desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.* But only people who trust in Jesus as Savior will have eternal life. This is why it is so important to share this great news with everyone we know!



# BALLOON RESPONSE PRAYERS

**SUPPLIES:**

Bibles, Take-Home page, writing supplies, balloon, permanent marker

**PREP:**

Print the Take-Home page (1 per kid).

**ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS:** For kids who are sensitive to sound or are anxious around balloons, headphones can be helpful or remove them from the space during this activity.

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. **Say:** Jesus gave us the Holy Spirit to guide and direct us.
2. **Discuss:** How does the Holy Spirit help us?
3. **Say:** When we trust in Jesus, the Holy Spirit comes to live inside of us. He helps us know how to follow God and spread His love.
4. *Lead kids to find John 14:26 and John 15:26 in their Bibles. Read the verses aloud together.*
5. **Discuss:** What do these verses say are some ways the Holy Spirit helps us?
6. **Say:** Look at this balloon. When inflated, we can't see the air inside it but we know it's there. We can't see the Holy Spirit with us, but when we trust in Jesus, the Holy Spirit fills us. Let's use this balloon to help us praise God for the ways the Holy Spirit helps us.
7. *Inflate the balloon.*
8. *Have kids share their praises and write some of their words on the balloon using the permanent marker.*
9. *Once everyone has had an opportunity to share, have kids stand in a circle. Throw the balloon in the air, and have the kids bop the balloon in the air as they take turns praying (either aloud or silently), thanking God for His Spirit.*
10. **Say:** We can thank God for sending the Holy Spirit. Even though we can't see Him, God is always with us. We can talk to Him and praise Him any time!



**ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:**

Today we learned the Holy Spirit lives in believers. As we learn truths about God, we can respond to Him. We can tell Him our feelings, we can pray, or we can decide to do something or change something.

*Lead kids to use the "Me Question" box on their Take-Home pages to choose a prompt and draw/write their response. Allow kids to volunteer to share their responses.*



# Wrap-Up

## CHOOSE YOUR Challenge

**Say:** We want to respond to God and remember what He has taught us today. We also want to use what He’s taught us during the coming week. As we become more like Jesus, our lives change!

*Read the challenges from the Take-Home page aloud. Ask kids to mark which one they want to choose for this week.*

### SUPPLIES:

Take-Home page, writing supplies

### PREP:

Print the Take-Home page (1 per kid).



## PRAYER

Dear Holy Spirit, thank You for guiding and directing me to live more like Jesus. Help me to pause and listen to Your voice. Help me to make choices that point others to Jesus. Amen.



## SAY GOODBYE!

Tell kids goodbye and thank them for being a part of your group.

*As kids wait to be picked up, encourage them to complete the activities on the back of the Take-Home page. As kids work, ask relationship-building questions, such as, “What are you looking forward to this week?” or “What do you do for fun?”*

*As parents arrive at pickup, look for opportunities to connect with them, pointing out the Take-Home page their kid is bringing home.*

## Extra Time?

- Work on Books of the Bible
- Work on Memory Verse
  - ERASE A WORD: Write on a white board, erasing one word at a time after the class repeats the verse out loud to you.
  - BEAN BAG: Have children toss a bean bag to each other and when they catch the bean bag they say the next word in the verse
  - POPCORN: Have children sit in a circle and jump up in turn and say the next word of the verse, sitting down quickly after saying their word
  - HAND MOTIONS: Either you or the kids make up hand motions to key words or phrases of the verse. Practice and then have a competition between boys and girls.

**Greet parents at the door. Make sure you match their security tag with Attendance Book. Have them initial Attendance Book (their security tag and child's nametag can be given to Welcome Desk for nametag ball.)**

**Hand each parent:**

- Any craft/activity page

### **BEFORE YOU LEAVE:**

#### **After 10:00 Services:**

- Erase whiteboard.
- Place Prayer Journal and Curriculum book in supply tub.
- Return Prayer Sheet, Blue Report (if needed) and Attendance Book to Welcome Desk

#### **After 11:45 Services:**

- Erase whiteboard.
- Make sure chairs are stacked (kids can do this)
- Turn off TV by:
  - Close PowerPoint
  - Power off computer
  - Turn off TV
- Put everything away – all tables should be completely empty
- Place Prayer Journal and Curriculum book in supply tub.
- Return Prayer Sheet, Blue Report (if needed) and Attendance Book to Welcome Desk
- Take supply tub to Resource Room