



Children's Ministry Handbook

Dear OHC Kids Team Member,

As a member of the OHC Kids team, God has called you to be a part of an amazing opportunity to lead children as they begin to understand who God is and identify what He can be in their lives. OHC values children and the priceless opportunity God has granted to impart His truth to this generation of Christ followers. At OHC, we strive to provide an environment where children are safe, loved, prayed for, and shown what a relationship with Jesus looks like through personal investment by consistent leaders.

Orchard Hills Church has two services, a 9am and an 11am. Children's ministries operates programming for all children, birth through sixth grade, during both services to serve the needs of our families. The children's classes are divided into the following groups:

Infants – birth through 1 year old

Toddler 1's – 1 year old through 2 years old

Toddler 2's – 2 years old through 3 years old

Pre-K 3's – 3 years old through 4 years old (potty trained)

Pre-K 4's – 4 years old through 5 years old (not yet in kindergarten)

K1 – kindergarten and first grade

Club 23 – second and third grade

Club 456 – fourth, fifth, and sixth grade

Special Needs – any age child with a need for very small group instruction

In the following pages, you will find some important information about our ministry. Please read and contact me with any questions or concerns. Thank you for your interest in serving the children and families at Orchard Hills Church.

Blessings,
Lisa Miles
Children's Director

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Orchard Hills Church Belief Statement

Focus: Connecting people with other people so that they can better connect with God.

Mission: “Come, Grow, Go”

Statement of Faith:

While there are diverse ideas, backgrounds, and cultures within our church, we focus on the basics of the Christian faith to find agreement. Our beliefs can be summed up in the ancient creeds of the church, most clearly the Nicene Creed, established early in the 4th century AD. The creeds are not exhaustive, nor are they meant to be; rather they are a summary of the essentials of the Christian faith, as they have been passed down faithfully through the generations.

Outside of these, we follow the motto: *“In essentials, unity; in matters of opinions, liberty; in all things, love.”*

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, light from light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake, he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day, he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father [and the Son], who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Children's Ministry Job Descriptions

Every Sunday our team members show up and work together in their unique roles to create a loving environment for our babies through sixth graders. We could not exist without the leadership and expertise of our team.

Serving Opportunities are:

- **Small Group Leaders** care for an assigned small group of children each week as they experience spiritual growth through relationships, discussion, and activities; and consistently connect with their families. They create an environment where children are known, prayed for, and invested in each week. All lesson content and materials are provided.
- **Small Group Assistant** assists the Small Group Leader as they help children experience spiritual growth through relationships, discussion, and activities. All lesson content and materials are provided.
- **Room Assistant** provides loving nursery environment for infants, crawlers, and walkers under 3 years old.
- **Coaches** provide leadership and support to a team of small group leaders during Sunday morning programming, as well as making personal contact during the week.
- **Check-in Hosts** make the best first impression by greeting families and guiding them through the registration and check-in process to make them feel welcome and informed. They assist families in finding classrooms and also provide security and oversight for the hall.
- **Worship Leaders** lead our children in worship with fun music that is full of motions and dance, and introduce the large group video clip, the Bible story, and Bottom Line in such a way that it becomes unforgettable to a child. All lesson content and materials are provided.
- **Special Needs Team** provides a safe, caring environment where children with special needs learn about God's love for them. All lesson content and materials are provided.
- **Tech Team** enhances the Bible story and worship experience through sound, lights, and video without distracting the audience.
- **Classroom Prep** will come during the week to copy, cut out and collect needed supplies for Sunday morning classes. They check the condition of the rooms and ensure everything is ready for Sunday.
- **Special Event Team** works together during specific events during the year, such as VBS, in a variety of roles from decorations, snacks, recreation, and leading children's groups.

Requirements for Serving in Children's Ministry

All persons who desire to work with the children participating in our programs and activities will be screened. This screening includes:

- **Six Month Rule**

No volunteer will be allowed to work with children until he/she has been a member or regular attendee of Orchard Hills Church for a minimum of six (6) months. This time of interaction between our leadership and the applicant allows for better evaluation and suitability of the applicant for working with children.

- **Written Application**

All persons seeking to work with children must complete and sign an Application to Serve form to be supplied by us. The application form will be maintained in confidence on file in the children's ministry office.

- **Personal Interview**

Upon completion of the application, a face-to-face interview may be scheduled with the applicant to discuss his/her suitability for the position.

- **Reference Checks**

Before an applicant is permitted to work with children, at least two of the applicants' references will be checked. Documentation of the reference checks will be maintained in confidence on file in the children's ministry office.

- **Criminal Background Check**

A national criminal background check is required for all who serve at Orchard Hills Church. Prospective workers will be asked to go online to a link supplied by Orchard Hills to input their personal information into a secure site offered through Protect My Ministry. If an individual declines to sign the authorization form, he/she will be unable to work with children.

The background check authorization form and results will be maintained in confidence on file online at Protect My Ministry.

- **Abuse Prevention Training:**

Those who serve are also required to complete abuse prevention training through Protect My Ministry. This training is on-line and will take @ 45min to complete. The assessment score at the conclusion of the training is sent to Lisa Miles and verifies that training has been successfully completed.

Children's Ministry Guidelines

Badges:

All volunteers will wear a name badge on Sunday mornings. These may be kept on hooks located at the volunteer station at the end of the Children's Ministry hall. New name badge supplies will be located on the volunteer table in the hallway.

Sunday Morning Schedule:

- Leaders need to be in the classrooms no later than 15 min prior to service.
- Classroom Schedules are posted in each room. The times are approximate and to be used as a guide for your class. Following the routine provides consistency for the children.
- If you are unable to make your Sunday, please use email list on the lesson email to try to switch Sundays with another volunteer. If a change is made, or if no one is able to switch, please inform Lisa Miles or Brenda Simmons.
- If there is an emergency on a Sunday morning causing you to be unable to serve, please call or text Lisa Miles 540-206-4954 or Brenda Simmons 540-977-5690 as early as possible.
- At the end of your class, please straighten room and make sure supplies are orderly for next service. At the end of the 11am service, please make sure snack containers are closed, water pitcher emptied, and trash taken to the dumpster.

Check-in and Check-out:

All Children will check-in and should have a name badge sticker. If a child is not checked in, please ask the parent to return to the check-in area and check-in the child.

- Allergies should be noted on the nametag with a circle sticker.

Children should only be released to the parent or adult chaperone. Please check the parent sticker to ensure it matches the child.

Supplies:

If a craft supply is not in the classroom, extra supplies are kept in the supply closet next to the children's ministry office. If there is something specific you need, please let Lisa Miles or Brenda Simmons know.

Snacks:

Snack supplies are in each classroom. For first grade and younger, goldfish and/or cheerios and water are supplied. These are low allergen foods and are used in most households.

For older Clubhouse Kids: snacks are individually packaged items.

Any variation of the normal snack must be posted for parents. We try to be a nut free area, so please do not allow parents to supply unapproved snacks that may cause a serious reaction for another child.

- If a child needs wheat free or gluten free snack, Rice Chex cereal are available and are kept in separate containers in classrooms.

Discipline:

Our Rules:

1. Love God
 2. Love Others
 3. Listen when you're leader is talking
- Please handle all behavior problems from a positive approach. Leaders should at all times exhibit a patient and kind attitude toward the children and parents.
 - Place yourself level with the child when correcting behavior and use a low tone making your conversation personal.

If necessary:

1. Move child to another seat if the child is disruptive.
2. Take the child into the hallway to talk and then return.
3. Text Lisa Miles (540)206-4954 or Brenda Simmons (540)977-5690 to remove the child from the room.

It is the policy of Orchard Hills Church not to administer corporal punishment, even if parents have suggested or given permission for it. There should be no spanking, grabbing, hitting, or other physical discipline of children.

If there are discipline concerns, please contact Lisa Miles or Brenda Simmons.

- Reward good behavior with positive words of encouragement.
- Remember that children often act out due to situations to which we are ignorant.
- The average faithful attender will only be in children's ministry for 40 hours over the course of an entire year. What do you want them to remember about their 40 hours?

Restroom Guidelines

Children five years of age and younger should utilize a classroom bathroom, if one is available. If a classroom bathroom is not available, workers should escort a group of children to the hallway bathroom. They should always go in a group, never taking a child to the bathroom alone. The workers should check the bathroom first to make sure that it is empty, then allow the children inside. The workers should then remain outside the bathroom door and escort the children back to the classroom. If a child is taking longer than seems necessary, the worker should open the bathroom door and call the child's name. If a child requires assistance, the workers should prop open the bathroom door and leave the stall door open as he/she assists the child.

For the protection of all, workers should *never* be alone with a child in a bathroom with the door closed and never be in a closed bathroom stall with a child. Parents are strongly encouraged to have their children visit the bathroom prior to each class.

Safety Protocol:

There are two first aid kits located in the building. One is located in the upper cabinet in the kitchenette between toddler 2's and 3's. The second is located on the wall next to the children's ministry office. Benadryl and children's Advil are located in the one near the office. Do not administer medicine. It is for parents to administer. Exceptions to the medications policy may be granted to parents of children with potentially life-threatening conditions (such as asthma or severe allergic reactions). Parents of such children should address their situation with Lisa Miles to develop a plan of action.

In the event of an incident, please notify Lisa Miles or Brenda Simmons as soon as possible. An incident report will be filled out and the parent will be called out of service if needed.

If a child is unconscious, call 911 and have the assistant get Lisa, Brenda, or another staff member immediately.

The church owns an AED which is located on the wall next to Scott's office in the foyer. There are child sized pads for the device.

In the event of an evacuation of the building, evacuation maps are located next to the door of each classroom. Please count the children, exit the building and walk down the sidewalk away from the building. Do not allow parents to interrupt this process. Ask parents to join you and assist the class down the sidewalk. When your class is settled, parents may take their children.

Sick Child Policy

It is our desire to provide a healthy and safe environment for all of the children at Orchard Hills Church. Parents are encouraged to be considerate of other children when deciding whether to place a child under our care. In general, children with the following symptoms should not be dropped off:

- Fever, diarrhea, or vomiting within the last 48 hours
- Green or yellow runny nose
- Eye or skin infections
- Other symptoms of communicable or infectious disease

Children who are observed by our workers to be ill will be separated from other children and the parent or guardian will be contacted to request that the child be picked up for the day.

Curriculum:

Orchard Hills Church uses Orange curriculum for infant through 6th grade. Pre-k 4's and younger are under First Look. Kindergarten and older are under 252. Lessons are emailed to all volunteers during the first week of the month. Hard copies of the lessons are in each classroom.

To access the curriculum online, go to <http://www.whatisorange.org> and the login info is:

User name: orchardhc

Password: volunteer

Each class has a DVD component to the lesson. These videos introduce the Bible lesson of the day. As leaders, you reiterate, explain, and expand on the introduction by retelling the lesson through games, crafts, snack, and prayer time. There is a monthly memory verse and always a main point for each lesson that can be repeated numerous times.

All supplies for activities in the curriculum will be prepped in the classrooms.

The following pages are sample of curriculum:

First Look for Pre-K 4's and younger pages 11-17

252 Basics for K1 through Club 23 pages 18-24

March 1, 2015

Theme: Little or a Lot

Basic Truth: Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

Key Question: How can I love?

Bottom Line: I can love like Jesus.

Memory Verse: "Love one another." John 13:34, NIV

Bible Story: I can share when I have a lot.

Bigger Barns • *Luke 12:16-21*

Here's an overview of what you'll be teaching in 2s this week.

Make It Fun

(Choose one or all of these activities)

- Construct It
- Dig It
- Measure It

Make It True

- Worship
- Bible Story

Make It Stick

(Choose as many of these activities as you like)

- Verse and Motions
- Bigger Barns
- Make and Shake
- Share Bag

Dismiss

If you are choosing to lead "Bigger Barns" during Make It Stick, post the "Allergy Alert Poster" (from the "Start Here" tab on the Web site). Be sure to list the foods you will be serving today. As parents bring their children to your room, call their attention to the sign.

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Bible Story: I can share when I have a lot.
Bigger Barns • Luke 12:16-21

Make It Fun

Prepare to offer one or more of the following activities as your 2-year-olds arrive. Let one or two teachers lead small groups of children in activities throughout the room while another teacher greets parents and kids at the door. At this age not all children will participate, but most will want to be part of the fun.

1. Construct It

"Construct It" is an activity that introduces this week's Bible story and theme while encouraging kids to use their gross motor skills to build a big barn.

What You Need: Toy construction tools and cardboard blocks or boxes

What You Do:

Before the activity: Collect all the toy tools and place them with the blocks.

During the activity: Pretend to be construction workers. Encourage and help children build the biggest barn. If time allows, see if kids can build an even bigger barn.

At the end of the activity: Knock down the barn and put away all the blocks/boxes and tools. Introduce the Bible story.

What You Say:

Before the activity: "I have a fun activity for us to do today! Here are some blocks and some tools. What do you think we should do with them? *(Pause.)* Yes! We should build something! Let's pretend to be construction workers and build the biggest barn ever!"

During the activity: "Grab your tools and let's start building! *(Help as needed.)* Whoa! Look at how big your barn is! What great builders you all are! Who wants to try and build an even bigger barn? *(Pause.)* Let's trade tools! *(Pause.)* That is amazing! This barn is even bigger than the first one!"

At the end of the activity: "That was so much fun working together as construction workers! You built a big barn and then you built an even bigger barn! In our Bible story today, we are going to hear about a person who kept building bigger barns."

2. Dig It

"Dig It" is an activity that introduces this week's Bible story and theme while encouraging kids to use their gross motor skills to dig and discover hidden construction tools.

What You Need: Plastic container, rice, cookie sheet, and toy construction tools

What You Do:

Before the activity: Place the construction tools in the plastic bin and cover with rice. Make sure the tools are covered. Place the plastic bin on top of the cookie sheet.

During the activity: Let kids take turns digging in the rice to find all the different tools.

At the end of the activity: Introduce the Bible story and talk about the construction tools children find.

What You Say:

Before the activity: “Hello, friends! In our Bible story today, we are going to hear about a farmer who built a big, big barn. Let’s dig in this container and see what building tools we can find.”

During the activity: “Dig down and feel around. What did you find? *(Pause.) (Help children identify the tool that they pull out.)* What else can you find? *(Continue as long as interest holds.)* Super job!”

At the end of the activity: “Everybody hold up the tool you found. *(Pause.)* Look at all the different tools we found. You could build a lot of barns with these tools. We’ll hear why the farmer was building big barns in our Bible story today.”

3. Measure It

“Measure It” is an activity that introduces the children to the Bible story while they scoop, pour, and measure rice.

What You Need: Two cookie sheets, rice, two large plastic bowls or containers, plastic measuring cups, and measuring spoons

What You Do:

Before the activity: Put the rice in one of the plastic bowls/containers and place it on top of one of the cookie sheets. Place measuring cups and spoons next to the rice bowl. Set the other bowl on top of the remaining cookie sheet and position it next to the rice bowl.

During the activity: Let kids experiment with scooping, measuring, and pouring the rice using the different measuring utensils. If desired, have the kids see how many tablespoons it takes to fill a cup and how many cups it takes to fill the other bowl.

At the end of the activity: Clean it up. Talk about how there was enough rice and tools for everyone to share.

What You Say:

Before the activity: “Come on over and sit with me! I have some measuring cups *(hold up cups)* and measuring spoons *(hold up spoons)* for us to use to scoop and measure and pour this rice. Let’s dig in!”

During the activity: “You can use any of these to scoop and measure and pour the rice. See how many scoops it takes to get the rice from this bowl to the other bowl. *(Pause.)* Wow! That’s a lot of rice and you all got to scoop, measure, and pour! Great job!”

At the end of the activity: “Let’s put all the spoons and cups down and clean up. Thank you! I liked how you shared the measuring spoons and measuring cups with each other. Today in our

Bible story we'll hear about a farmer that had a lot of grain, like this rice, and the farmer had lots and lots of it. Do you think he shared like you were sharing today? Let's find out."

Make It True

After children have participated in Make It Fun, tell the Bible story and then encourage the kids to have fun singing with you.

When sharing the Bible story, guide kids to gather around you on the floor. Some kids (especially the younger ones) may wander. That's OK. They're still listening and learning!

Worship

What You Need: CD player, this month's worship song, "The Sharing Song," downloaded from the Web site, and the motions for the song.

LEADER: "I am so excited to see you today! It's a new month, so we have a new song. Are you ready to sing it with me? Great! Let's go!"

Lead children in singing "The Sharing Song."

LEADER: "Great singing, everyone! You were fantastic. It's so awesome to know that I can love like Jesus whether I have a little or a lot. **How can I love? [Bottom Line] I can love like Jesus.**"

Bible Story PLAY DVD

Make It Stick

Choose two or more of the following activities to help make the Bottom Line stick. Lead the activities with small groups of children. Encourage children to play on their own if they do not wish to take part in an activity.

1. Verse and Motions

"Verse and Motions" is an activity that teaches the kids this month's Memory Verse and motions.

What You Need: Nothing needed

What You Do:

Before the activity: Spread out in an open area in the room.

During the activity: Teach the children this month's Memory Verse and motions.

At the end of the activity: Say the Bottom Line with the kids.

What You Say:

Before the activity: "We have a great new Memory Verse to learn today! Come spread out around me."

During the activity: "Our Verse this month goes like this, 'Love one another,' John 13:34. Say that with me. 'Love one another,' John 13:34. Great! Now let's put some motions to it. Watch me and do what I do. 'Love (*hug yourself and twist*) one another' (*point to all your friends*), John

13:34. *(Open your hands like a book.)* Let's do it again! *(Repeat as many times as desired.)*
Super job!"

At the end of the activity: "You guys rocked our Memory Verse today! Great job! The Bible says to 'love one another.' That means we can love like Jesus! **How can I love?** *(Pause.)* **[Bottom Line] I can love like Jesus.**"

2. Bigger Barns

"Bigger Barns" is an activity that retells the Bible story while kids use their fine motor skills to fill the barn.

Be sure to list the foods you will be using today on the "Allergy Alert Poster" from Other Resources on the Website and post it at the door to your room.

What You Need: "Allergy Alert Poster" from Other Resources on the Website, "Barn" from the Activity Pages on the Website, copy paper, scissors, a tall clear plastic container, tape, Rice Chex[®], measuring cup, wet wipes, and napkins

What You Do:

Before the activity: Copy "Barn" on paper and cut out. Tape it to the container. Open the cereal.

During the activity: Retell the Bible story as you fill the barn with cereal. Show how you can love like Jesus by sharing a snack.

At the end of the activity: Say the Bottom Line and enjoy the snack.

What You Say:

Before the activity: "Hey, friends! Come over and sit with me! Today's story was about a farmer. This farmer grew grain. We use grain to make all sorts of foods like bread and cereal and cookies and all kinds of other yummy things we eat!"

During the activity: "The farmer in the story would grow crops of grain and then store the food he made in his barn every year. *(Place the container with the barn in front of you.)* Let's pretend this is his barn. But one year he had so much grain, it didn't fit in his barn! *(Fill the jar with the cereal.)* Oh my. There's wayyyyy too much grain here to fit!

The farmer had to make a choice. He could either build a bigger barn and keep everything for himself, or he could SHARE what he had with others. What do you think Jesus would do? Do you think He would keep it for himself or share with others? *(Pause.)* Jesus would share with others! But the farmer didn't share. He kept it all for himself and God was very disappointed. But you know what? WE don't have to be like the farmer. WE can love people like Jesus did and share when we have a lot! I can share when I have a lot. I'm going to share this snack with you because **[Bottom Line] I can love like Jesus.**" *(Hand out wet wipes for kids to clean their hands. Give each child a napkin and a scoop or two of cereal.)*

At the end of the activity: "Sharing is yummy! **[Bottom Line] I can love like Jesus!** It's true! You and I can love like Jesus! **How can I love? [Bottom Line] I can love like Jesus!**"

3. Make and Shake

"Make and Shake" is an activity that encourages kids to scoop and pour rice into a plastic egg to make their own shaker.

What You Need: “Shaker” from the Activity Pages found on the Website, Avery® labels #5160 or equivalent, rice, two plastic bowls, cookie sheet, measuring spoons, plastic eggs, fun patterned duct tape, scissors, permanent marker, music player, and this month’s worship song from the Website

What You Do:

Before the activity: Copy “Shaker” on the labels so each child will have one. Pour rice in one plastic bowl, set the bowl on top of the cookie sheet, and place the measuring spoons in the bowl. Place the plastic eggs in the other bowl and set it on the table with the other supplies.

During the activity: Help kids scoop rice into their eggs. Close the eggs and secure them with duct tape. Add the “Shaker” label. Move and shake to the music.

At the end of the activity: Place shakers aside to send home. Make sure to write kids’ names on their eggs.

What You Say:

Before the activity: “We mixed and measured a lot of grain today. Let’s make something fun with it our grain! Come sit with me and pick out an egg from the bowl.”

During the activity: “Now that you have your egg and it’s open, we’ll pour a little rice into it, but we don’t want to fill it all the way up. *(Pause.)* Great. Now we close it and wrap it with the tape. *(Pause.)* Place your sticker on where you want. *(Pause.)* Now for the fun part. Shake it like this. *(Demonstrate.)* Let’s dance and shake our shakers!” *(Start the music.)*

At the end of the activity: “That was so much fun! Let’s write your name on the shakers so you can take them home today. The sticker you put on it tells you where to find our story in the Bible and it also says, ‘I can love like Jesus.’ **How can I love? [Bottom Line] I can love like Jesus.** Super! Say it again! **How can I love? [Bottom Line] I can love like Jesus.**”

4. Share Bag

“Share Bag” is an activity that reintroduces the Bible story while children prepare a bag with stickers they can share.

What You Need: “Share Bag” and “Parent Note” from the Activity Pages found on the Website, Avery® labels #5160 or equivalent, cardstock, crayons, scissors, small paper lunch bags, marker, and sticker sheets (two per child)

What You Do:

Before the activity: Copy “Share Bag” on the labels so each child will have one. Copy “Parent Note” on cardstock and cut apart. Divide sticker sheets if needed.

During the activity: Talk about the Bible story as kids decorate their bags. Let kids place both sticker sheets and the instruction sheet inside the bag and explain what they are to do with their stickers.

At the end of the activity: Make sure to write kids’ name on their bags and put them aside.

What You Say:

Before the activity: “We learned today that we can love like Jesus and share our things.”

During the activity: “The farmer in our story today had a lot of grain—more than he could fit in his barn. Instead of sharing and loving like Jesus, he built a bigger barn and didn’t share! That’s not loving like Jesus! But we don’t have to be like the farmer. We can share! Let’s make a share bag! (*Hand out a bag to each child.*) Can you make your bag pretty? (*Pause.*) Super! Here’s a sticker to add. It tells you where to find the Bible story we heard today. Now, we need to put these stickers and this card in your bag. You get to keep one sticker sheet and you can share the other one with a friend.”

At the end of the activity: “We can love like Jesus by sharing our stuff. You can love like Jesus by sharing your stickers with a friend. **How can I love? [Bottom Line] I can love like Jesus.**”

Get Ready to Dismiss

Set any take-home creations where you or parents can get them easily. Greet parents at the door and

tell them that this month preschoolers are learning that **[Bottom Line] I can love like Jesus!** Encourage

parents to repeat the Bottom Line at home and help their child understand that **[Bottom Line] I can love**

like Jesus!

Have this month’s Parent CUE available for parents to pick up or send it in a monthly email. Encourage parents to use the activities found in Parent CUE to reinforce this month’s Bottom Line: **[Bottom Line] I can love like Jesus!**

252 Basics K-6th Grade

Stewless

Bible Story: Stewless (Esau can't wait) • *Genesis 25:24-34*

Bottom Line: When you think you can't wait, think twice.

Memory Verse: "Wait for the LORD. Be strong and don't lose hope. Wait for the LORD."
Psalms 27:14, NIV

Life App: Patience—waiting until later for what you want now.

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

GET READY

Prepare ahead of time for 2nd–3rd grade Small Groups this week:

Plug In: Focus the Energy (*Choose one or both of these activities.*)

Early Arriver

- An offering container

Slap the Two

- 1 deck of cards for every 4 kids

Catch On: Make the Connection (*Choose as many of these activities as you like.*)

** If you don't have time to do all these activities, be sure to do activity #1. Activities #1 and #3 are particularly good for children who need to move in order to stay engaged.*

Think Twice Relay (*application activity / great for active learners / possible large-group activity*)

- Print the "Patience Word Cards" Activity Page; cut apart; 2 sets per Small Group

What Would You Pay? (*application activity*)

- Play-Doh®; enough for each kid
- White board and marker OR paper and pencil
- Cookie/cupcake/candy bar in a paper bag

Motor Verse Cars (*memory verse activity*)

- You have two options for this activity:
 - *Option 1:* Purchase 9 toy cars. Using masking tape, write the words to the memory verse on the tape and stick a word or word phrase on each car. Put the cars into a paper bag. Provide one set per team. Depending on the size of the Small Group, you will have a minimum of 2 teams.
 - *Option 2:* Provide one set of "Motor Verse Cars" Activity Page. Put the cars in a paper bag. Provide one set per team. Depending on the size of the Small Group, you will have a minimum of 2 teams.
- Stop sign
- Horn or whistle
- Bibles

NOTE: Hold on to these at the end of Small Group. The option you chose for “Motor Verse Cars” will be used again in Week 4.

Prayer

- The “Motor Verse” Car with the word “wait” on it from the “Motor Verse Cars” activity

Additional Resources:

- Make copies on cardstock of this week’s GodTime and Parent Cue cards.
- Tell parents about our additional family resources: **Studio252.tv**, **CUE Box**, and the **Parent Cue app**. To find out more about these great resources, go to <http://www.Studio252.tv/leaders>.

FOR LEADERS ONLY

GOD VIEW: the connection between **PATIENCE** and God's character,
as shown through God's One Big Story

There's a phrase we say a lot in 252 Basics—it's one of our three basics truths: "I can trust God no matter what."

As people who follow God and call ourselves Christians, this is something all of us say. And probably for the most part we live this out. We trust God to provide for our needs, for our safety, even for our health and well being. But there are certain times when trusting God seems just a bit more difficult—often those are times that try our patience. Times when we're not where we were, but we're not at our final destination. We're somewhere in between on this journey. Put simply, we're waiting. And it's in the waiting that our faith is tested.

Patience is important. It's a Fruit of the Spirit, and actually it's a foundational way that we reflect God's character. From the very beginning God has shown patience with people. When Adam and Eve broke God's rule, He could have killed them on the spot. Rather, He showed them grace. Yes, there were consequences, but God had a plan for their rescue. All throughout the Bible we see God showing patience in order that more people could come to know and believe in Him.

For God, it seems as though patience is all about relationships with people. Even after we sinned, He still pursued us. He sent Jesus, His own Son to make a way for us to be with Him. He waited time after time for people to repent and make things right—something He still does today.

When we show patience, we are less likely to hurt our relationships with others. We are more likely to trust that God has something better for us in the future. And when we trust God with our future, even when we're in-between on life's journey and asking Him, "Are we there yet?" we can have patience knowing that His plan and His timing are always better than our own.

This month, let's think about how:

- (1) God has been patient with us since the very beginning.
- (2) The Bible challenges us to reflect patience in our lives with how we respond to circumstances that are out of our control.
- (3) As we demonstrate patience, we begin to look more like Jesus.

This week, we're discovering:

We'll kick off the month with one of the best examples of what happens when you're not patient; you lose something of value. In **Genesis 25:24-34**, we discover the story of Esau sacrificing his birthright for a bowl of stew. Because Esau was impatient, he lost something he could never get back.

Bottom Line: When you think you can't wait, think twice. Don't let your lack of patience cause you to make a decision you'll regret. Think twice about what really matters and wait patiently.

Our memory verse is **Psalm 27:14**. **"Wait for the Lord. Be strong and don't lose hope. Wait for the Lord!" (NirV)** When having patience seems too difficult, the Lord will give us strength to wait.

Stewless

Bible Story: Stewless (Esau can't wait) • *Genesis 25:24-34*

Bottom Line: When you think you can't wait, think twice.

Memory Verse: "Wait for the LORD. Be strong and don't lose hope. Wait for the LORD."
Psalms 27:14, NIV

Life App: Patience—waiting until later for what you want now.

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

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

Focus the energy on today's Bible story in a Small Group setting with an engaging discussion question and an interactive opening activity.

Before kids arrive, pray for each regular attendee by name. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. As you begin this month of talking about patience, ask God to speak to the kids' hearts and show them why patience is important. Ask God to give you more patient than usual; to make you a living example of patience.

1. Early Arriver Idea

What You Need: An offering container

What You Do:

Invite kids to put their offerings into the offering container as they arrive. Form a circle. Explain you are going to play the game, "I'm going on a road trip ..." The first person will say, "I'm going on a road trip, and I'm taking a ..." He should complete the sentence by naming something beginning with the letter "A." The next person will repeat the sentence, including the first item and adding a second item beginning with the letter "B." Play for several minutes, continuing to add items.

2. Slap the Two

What You Need: 1-2 decks of cards

What You Do:

This is a version of the card "Slap Jack" but instead of slapping the jacks, the kids will be looking for the twos.

Have two to four kids sit in a circle facing each other. The dealer shuffles and deals the cards to the kids face down until all cards have been dealt. It does not matter if everyone receives the same number of cards. Each kid places their cards in a stack, face down, without looking at them. The kid to the left of the dealer goes first. They take the top card from their stack and place it face up in the center of the playing area. The next kid then places their top card face up on top of the previous kid's card.

Play continues until someone lays down a 2. As soon as the 2 appears, everyone slaps their hand down on top of the card pile. The first kid to slap the 2 wins the round and adds the pile of cards to the bottom of his stack. Play begins again with the kid to the left of the successful slapper. If a kid gets excited and slaps any card other than a 2, he must give each kid a card from his stack. If a kid runs out of cards she is NOT automatically out of the game; instead she

must carefully watch while the game continues. If she is the first one to slap when a 2 appears she takes the card pile and rejoins the game. The player with the most cards at the end wins.

What You Say:

“That was a fun game! You really had to think twice before you slapped the stack because you certainly didn’t want to slap anything but a two. **[Transition] Let’s head to Large Group to hear about the importance of thinking twice before reacting.**”

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

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

Make the connection of how today’s Bible story applies to real life experiences through interactive activities and discussion questions.

*** 1. Think Twice Relay (*application activity / great for active learners / possible large-group activity*)**

What You Need: “Patience Word Cards” Activity Page

What You Do:

Divide your Small Group into two teams and have each team form a line. Across from each team (about 15 feet away), lay down a set of “Patience Word Cards.” The teams will have a relay race to select the cards that make up the definition of patience. Remind the kids that, though it is a race, it is important to think twice to make sure the words they choose are the correct ones. Explain to the kids that some of the cards contain correct words, but they don’t work to complete the definition. If they select the wrong card, they must return it, run back to the group to “start over,” run down to the cards, and grab another card. When a group has the correct definition of “patience” they must sit down and say, “Think twice.” Check to make sure they have the definition right. The first team to have the correct definition wins.

What You Say:

“When you are in a race, you want speed. You want to go really fast so you finish first. But even when you think you can’t wait, it is still important to think twice. In our competition, when you selected the wrong word, it took extra time to return it. You needed to show patience and look over all your options and think twice to make sure you grabbed the right card. There may be times this week when you feel the need for speed. Maybe you finish your homework really fast so you can go and play; and because you didn’t take time to stop and think twice you end up with a bad grade on your homework. Maybe you clean your room really fast because you simply don’t like to clean and you hide your dirty clothes under the bed; and because you didn’t take time to stop and think, your soccer uniform didn’t get washed in time for your big game.

[Apply] “So this week, when you feel the need for speed and you think you can’t wait, stop, take a deep breath, and remember to think twice. God has a plan for all of us, and if we are rushing around we may miss something that God wants to share with us. Let’s say our Bottom Line together: **[Impress] when you think you can’t wait, think twice.”**

2. What Would You Pay? (*application activity / Bible story review*)

What You Need: Play-Doh®, white board and marker OR paper and pencil, cookie/cupcake/candy bar in a paper bag

What You Do:

Give each kid a ball of Play-Doh® and ask them to use it to create something they consider valuable. When the kids have finished making their creations, ask them to share what they made and why they think it is valuable. Make a list of the items they kids created on a whiteboard. Examples could include: favorite baseball bat, electronic device, TV, money, LEGOs®, a stuffed animal, etc. Have the kids put their creations in the center of the circle.

What You Say:

“Now I want you to imagine you are really hungry and you want to eat RIGHT now. Your stomach is growling and the only thing you want is some tasty morsel to eat (*pull out a cookie/cupcake from a paper bag*) like this cookie. Your mouth is watering and you can’t wait another moment to sink your teeth into this delicious dessert. What would you give me for eat this cookie? A dollar? Five dollars? (*Start going down the list of items they created. For example: Would they give up TV forever for the cupcake? How about their iPad®? Would they give away their favorite baseball bat forever?*)

“To give me your iPad® or your favorite baseball bat for this cookie would be CRAZY! And yet in our story today, that’s basically what Esau did. Esau was very hungry after a day of hunting. Now, Esau wasn’t going to die because he had no food; he was just really hungry and wanted to eat RIGHT NOW! He did not want to be patient. He was not willing to wait until later for what he wanted now! So what happened next? (*He sold his birthright for a bowl of stew.*) That is right! He gave away something incredibly valuable. He sold his birthright—all the land and money and animals he would one day inherit were gone! What was another option for Esau? (*He could have shown patience. He could have taken time to think twice.*) **[Apply] There are many times when it’s hard to wait to see what God has planned for you. I know it is hard to wait, but we need to trust God and His plan for us. [Make It Personal] (Share about a time you had to wait for something and it was hard.)** Remember, **[Impress] when you think you can’t wait, think twice.**”

3. Motor Verse Cars (*memory verse activity / great for active learners*)

What You Need: Paper bags with “Motor Verse Cars” Activity Page (or toy cars with verse words/phrases taped on them), stop sign, horn or whistle, Bible

What You Do:

Give kids a Bible and ask them to look up the memory verse for the month, Psalm 27:14.

Finding verses with 2nd and 3rd graders: Guide kids to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find Psalms in the list under “Old Testament.” When the kids find Psalms, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Psalms. Help the kids find the page. When they find Psalms, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 27. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 14 in chapter 27.

Next, play a variation of “Red Light/Green Light.” Divide your group into teams. Have the kids sit on the floor and explain each team will get a paper bag containing “Motor Verse Cars.” These cars contain words to the memory verse. Explain that when you honk the horn twice, each team will race to put the cars in the correct order. However, when you hold up the stop sign and say, “When you think you can’t wait,” the kids must stop, stand up and reply, “think twice.” When you honk the horn twice, the kids can sit back down and continue to work on putting the cars in order. Before handing out the cars to each team, you may want to practice with the stop sign and the horn a couple of times. The first team to have the cars lined up in the correct order wins. Also, you will need to shake the bags before handing them to the kids to ensure the cars are shuffled.

What You Say:

“Waiting is not easy! What are some things you have a hard time waiting for? *(Be sure to have a few examples of your own.)* God knew waiting would be hard for us at times and that’s why it is so important to remember this verse from Psalm 27. Let’s say our memory verse together: ‘Wait for the LORD. Be strong and don’t lose hope. Wait for the LORD,’ Psalm 27:14. **[Apply]** **Sometimes God asks us to wait for Him, but He wants us to remember to be strong and don’t lose hope. We can trust our God no matter what—even when He asks us to wait. [Impress] When you think you can’t wait, think twice.”**

Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: The “Motor Verse Car” with the word “wait” on it

What You Do:

Hold up the car and let the kids pass it around the circle. When a kid has the car, he says out loud or silently, “I will wait for You, Lord.” (Try to make this activity a bit more serious and reverent, in hopes that these words will land on kids’ hearts.) Close with prayer.

What You Say:

“God, we want to be patient. LORD, help us to wait for You. Give us strength and hope. When we think we can’t wait a moment longer, guide us to think twice and to remember we can trust You no matter what. Amen.

[Apply] **“When we show patience, we begin to look more like Jesus.** So let’s remember: **[Impress]** **when you think you can’t wait, think twice.”**

Give each child a GodTime card. Pass out Parent CUE cards as adults arrive to pick up.