



# **MISSION ARLINGTON<sup>®</sup> MISSION METROPLEX**



**May-June  
2012  
Mission  
Trip  
Planning  
Packet and  
Rainbow  
Express  
Curriculum**

# What is this packet?

We are so grateful that the Lord is bringing you to Mission Arlington / Mission Metroplex for your May-June 2012 Mission Trip. This packet contains all of the information you need to plan for a successful ministry here. Please don't be intimidated by the size of this document. Most of these pages are reproducible coloring sheets, memory verse posters, team rosters, handouts, etc.

Use this page as a road map to find what you are looking for. After thumbing through this material, please let us know if there are any questions we can answer. We want to be available to help you in any way that we can as you prepare.

**A Note on Saving Money When Printing This Curriculum:** Obviously, this is a large document. We believe it is always better to have as much information as possible to be prepared. However, printing a complete copy for every person coming on your trip can become *very* expensive, especially for large churches. Save money by printing this document two-sided and/or in black and white. You also may find it is not necessary to give every person on the trip every page of this packet. This is how we recommend preparing packets:

## Section One: Trip Planning Helps for Leaders and Students

- This section contains schedule information, maps, dress codes, descriptions of the types of accommodations where you may be staying, packing lists, contact information for parents, and other general planning information. These pages have a blue border. Print one copy of this for each leader on the trip. *Note—even though the information is in the leaders' section, you will probably want to include a copy of the packing list and the dress code for each student.*

## Section Two: Rainbow Express Training Materials

- This section contains aids for preparing your team to lead Rainbow Express, Mission Arlington's version of an outdoor Vacation Bible School. Here you will find outlines and descriptions of everybody's roles. These pages have a green border. Print one copy of this material for the leader of each Rainbow Express team. (For example, a youth group with 60 people will be four to six Rainbow Express teams.) The leader of each team can distribute the instructions for each role to the correct person.

## Section Three: Rainbow Express Curriculum

- This section contains the lesson plans for each of the four days of Rainbow Express. These pages have a red border. Every person coming on the trip needs a copy of this section. Even if they are not leading a particular portion of the Rainbow Express program, they need to be familiar with the whole thing so that they can be prepared to be helpful.

## Section Four: Rainbow Express Supplemental Materials

- This section contains reproducible materials and extra helps for Rainbow Express like games instructions, song lyrics, etc. These pages have a purple border. Print one copy of this section for each Rainbow Express Team leader. Each team can be familiar with the various activities, The copies of coloring sheets, etc. for your Rainbow Express programs will be provided by Mission Arlington while you are here unless you notify us ahead of time that you would like to donate these copies.

Please let us know anything we can do to help! If, after reading this packet, you still have questions or if you just need some guidance in preparing, please do not hesitate to contact us at Mission Arlington. Our office phone number is 817-277-6620.

# Section One

## Trip Planning Helps for Leaders and Students

- Mission Arlington Key Terms
- Schedules
- Dress code
- Information on accommodations
- Packing lists
- Map to Mission Arlington
- “The Refrigerator Sheet”:  
General Mission Arlington  
information sheet for parents
- T-shirt information and order  
form for leaders

# Mission Arlington Key Terms

A visitor to Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex once told us that we sometimes speak in code. We readily admit that so many different things are happening here that it can become a little confusing. This is an explanation of some terms you will run into over and over in this packet.

- **Apartment Churches:** Mission Arlington began in 1986 with a very simple philosophy: take church to people who, for whatever reason, were not coming to a church building anywhere. On the first Sunday of August of that year, a Bible Study met in the living room of a woman that lived in a local apartment community. That first morning, seventeen people found that they could meet Christ in a church that met right where they lived. Today, more than 270 congregations meet all over Arlington in apartments, mobile homes, community centers, playgrounds, laundry rooms, and wherever people will gather. Any given Sunday, more than 5,000 people attend a Mission Arlington church in their own neighborhood.
- **Rainbow Express:** Rainbow Express is the name of the Backyard Bible Clubs you will be leading while you are here. Mission Arlington has been leading outdoor Vacation Bible Schools for our many apartment churches since the beginning. When these programs first began the volunteers that were leading them had a large portable stage built on a trailer that they pulled from site to site for puppet shows. This trailer, which was decorated with a rainbow, came to be known to the children as the Rainbow Express. Rainbow Express then became the name for all of the Vacation Bible Schools.
- **Work Projects:** Mission Arlington follows Jesus' model of ministry: meet both physical and spiritual needs to provide a tangible expression of the Father's love and people will be drawn to Him. Part of each day you are here will be spent leading Rainbow Express programs. With the remainder of each day you will participate in some of Mission Arlington's many other ministries. This might include picking up donations, delivering furniture to families, working in the clothing room or the food warehouse, passing out flyers to invite people to an event, holding field days or other fun events in one of the apartment communities, or any number of other opportunities. Any special materials or training that you may need will be provided while you are here.

## Tentative Sunday Schedule

- 9:00 AM** Meet at Mission Arlington with all groups for welcome, prayer, and orientation
- 10:00 AM** Students depart with Mission Arlington missionaries to participate in Mission Arlington's apartment churches. The leader of each group joins Tillie Burgin, Executive Director of Mission Arlington, for a tour of Mission Arlington's Ministry
- 12:30 PM** Return from apartment churches, take lunch break
- 1:30 PM** Pass out flyers in apartment communities where Rainbow Express will be taking place this week.
- 3:30 PM** Return to Mission Arlington
- 4:00 PM** Join Mission Arlington missionaries for weekly prayer, worship, and preparation time
- 5:00 PM** (Very) short meeting for all group leaders with Matt Hart, Rainbow Express Coordinator
- 5:15 PM** Leave Mission Arlington, pray and make any last minute preparations for beginning Rainbow Express tomorrow

# Tentative Daily Schedule

## Monday—Thursday

*Please be flexible with your schedule. We may make changes to this schedule to better work with our kids.*

### **Schedule for groups coming any week the Monday of which falls in June**

8:30	Meet at Mission Arlington for morning devotional time
9:15	Devotional time dismisses, use bathrooms, fill water coolers, etc.
9:45	Morning Rainbow Express groups leave for their site
10:30	Morning Rainbow Express begins
NOON	Morning projects and Rainbow Express end. Clean up, walk children home, etc., then return to Mission Arlington for lunch break. <i>Each student needs to have his/her own sack lunch. You will NOT have time to cook.</i>
1:30	Meet to worship and prepare for Rainbow Express
2:30	Depart for Rainbow Express
3:00	Rainbow Express begins
4:30	Rainbow Express ends. Clean up.
5:00	Turn in daily report to Mission Arlington. Options for projects in the evenings will be made available during the week.

### **Schedule for groups coming any week the Monday of which falls in May**

8:30	Meet for morning devotional time
9:30	Devotional time dismisses
9:45	Work projects groups begin assignment (work projects will last from 10:00-1:00)
1:00	Take a lunch break (all groups) <i>Each student needs to have his/her own sack lunch. You will not have time to cook.</i>
2:15	Meet to worship and prepare for Rainbow Express
3:15	Depart for Rainbow Express
4:00	Rainbow Express begins
5:30	Turn in daily report to Mission Arlington. Options for projects in the evenings will be made available during the week.

# Dress Code

Mission Arlington's dress code is very basic. We ask all participants to dress modestly, comfortably, and in something where they are ready to work. Casual dress is fine all week long, Sunday included. Here are a few specific requests we make of all groups:

- Shorts are fine all week long. Please no short shorts.
- Footwear is up to you, but because we do so much work and active play outside we recommend tennis shoes over flip-flops.

Please remember that there are certain things you might wear at home working outside in the heat but that may not be the right image for knocking on doors and asking parents to let their children go with you. Because of this, please follow these additional guidelines all week long:

- T-shirts are great to wear, but please no tank tops or any other kinds of sleeveless shirts.
- Baseball caps are fine, but please wear forward at all times. Do not wear bandanas or any other type of head gear. (Winter headgear is okay if it's cold.)

# Accommodations

Some of you, we know, will be spending the nights in a hotel or other location that you have set up. This page answers common questions for the rest of you who have chosen to stay in the accommodations that we provide.

- **Where will we be staying?** Mission Arlington uses several different types of facilities to house guests. All of them boil down to the same basic concept: a safe, clean floor to sleep on, showers, and a kitchen. Smaller groups (anything up to about twenty people) generally stay in our apartment churches. Larger groups generally stay in one of our community centers or in a local traditional church that partners with Mission Arlington. Because group sizes have a tendency to fluctuate so much at the last minute, we do not make final assignments of who will stay where until the week before your arrival.
- **How much does it cost?** We do not charge anything to stay in any of our accommodations because we are committed to the belief that God wants us to provide an open door for anyone who wants to come serve here. There are costs involved for items such as utilities, rent, maintenance, etc. Voluntary donations are very welcome, but not necessary. We believe God always provides.
- **What do I need to bring?** It is a good idea to plan as if you were coming into a completely empty facility. Often our supplies get accidentally packed up by groups when they are leaving and they don't realize it is not a part of what they brought. So, to be on the safe side it is wise to bring or buy here everything you might need: toiletries, kitchen supplies, air mattresses, and more.

Here are some other tips to prepare for a successful experience in our accommodations:

- **Be flexible and unpack only what you need each day:** Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex is a very busy place. All of our facilities are constantly being used to reach people for the Lord. When you check in for your trip, you will be given a schedule of any activities that might be happening in the location where you are staying.
- **View your accommodations location as another ministry opportunity:** Every place where you will be staying, whether in an apartment or at one of our gyms, is surrounded by other apartments or neighborhoods where the people might know nothing of church except what they see in you. When you park your church van and climb out, the people around you know that you represent Mission Arlington, and much more importantly, our Savior. They may come over to ask you questions. The neighborhood children might want to play tag. Represent Christ in all that you do while you are there, from your behavior in the parking lot, to noise level inside, to how clean you keep the place. Let people see Him in you, and you will find that your "mission trip day" will not end when you return to your home away from home in the evenings.

# Useful Items to Bring for Rainbow Express

Here are some items that may be useful for your group during Rainbow Express. Try to bring as many as you have and as cargo space permits. Some of these items can be borrowed from Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex if you do not have a way to bring them.

- Some of the memory verse activities require simple supplies like balloons or popsicle sticks. (Since everything at Mission Arlington is donated, some of these items may not be available at Mission Arlington, so bring what you need.)
- Tarp (at least 10' by 10'): excellent to use for the children to sit on during Rainbow Express
- Posterboard: use it for memory verse posters, puzzles, etc.
- Puppets: Mission Arlington has some to loan if you don't have access to puppets
- Battery operated CD player (with batteries): *Very important*
- Water cooler and drinking cups: *extremely* good idea. It's hot in Texas.
- Craft supplies: Mission Arlington will provide some glue, scissors, crayons, etc. You may find it helps your group run smoother if you have some extras.
- Games equipment: cones, hula hoops, etc. will be very useful during your game time. *Note: Please do NOT bring balls or frisbees unless they are of the soft, "Nerf" foam variety. This is by request from the managers of the apartment communities where we hold Rainbow Express.*

## Personal Packing Lists

Here is a personal packing list for each student and sponsor.

### The Basics

- Bible: keep it with you all the time. It will be your most important lifeline for the week.
- Sleeping bag or other bedroll
- Air mattress or other cot
- Towels, washcloths, toiletries
- Your Rainbow Express material
- Clothing: **see dress code**. Bring plenty of comfortable clothing and be ready for Texas summer weather, which means temperatures ranging from 95° to 105° (or above). **Note—if you choose to dress in something that does not fit with our dress code, a Mission Arlington staff member will ask you to change before you begin your day's assignments. This only slows down your group and gives you less time to effectively minister during the day. So, please stick to the dress code.**

### A daily backpack

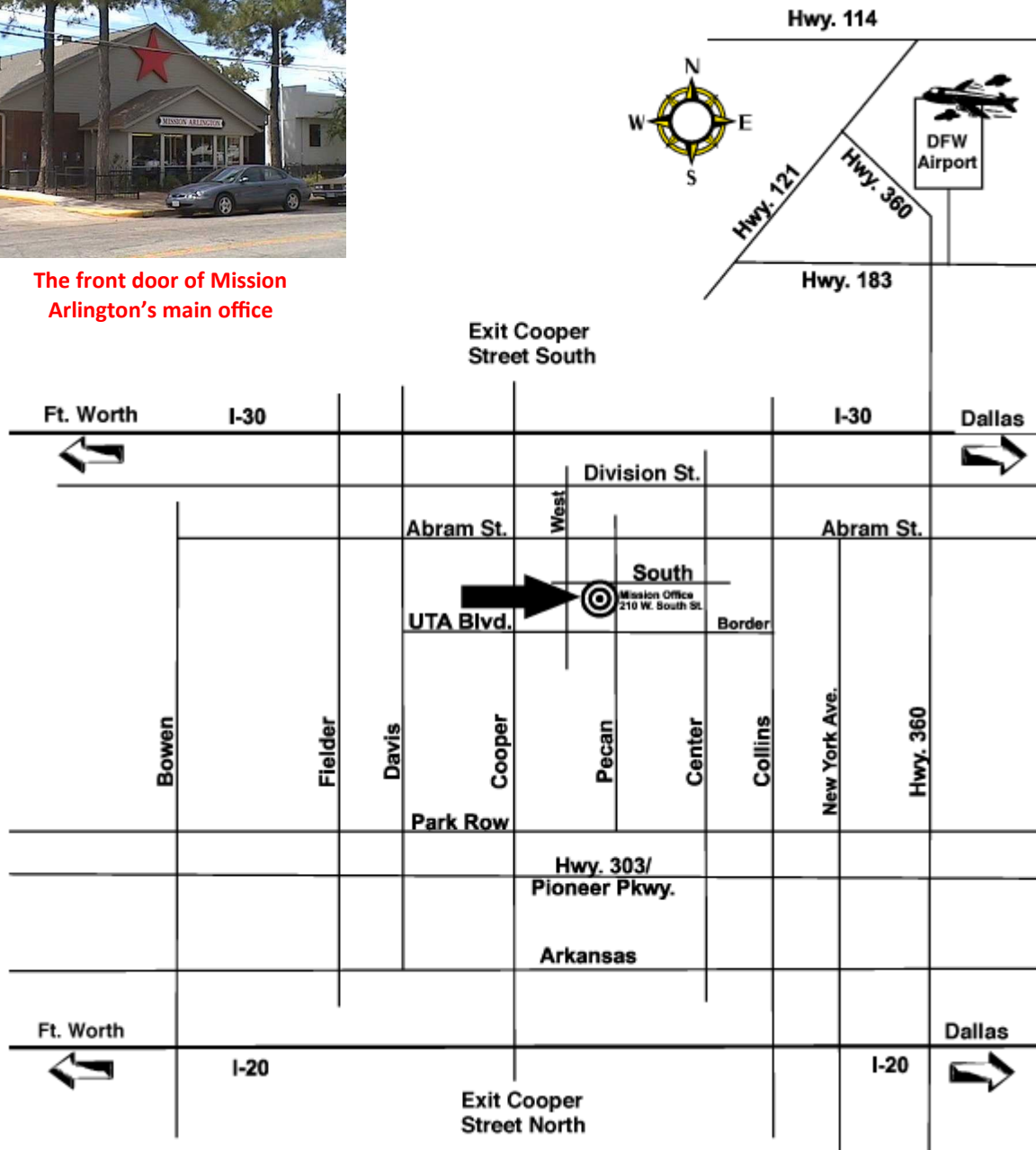
This optional suggestion is borrowed from some of our groups, and it has worked great for them. Have everybody bring a backpack with any or all of the following items:

- Extra Bibles to give away
- Small, basic first aid kit
- Trash bags for cleaning up while you are at Rainbow Express
- Water bottle (*very good idea*)
- Candy or small prizes to give away

# Map to Mission Arlington



The front door of Mission Arlington's main office



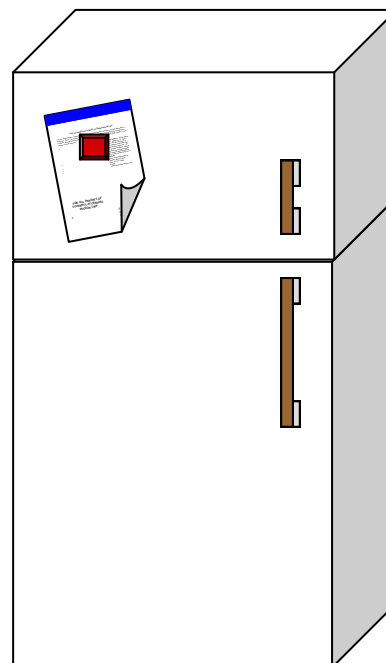
This map, which is not to scale, shows Mission Arlington/ Mission Metroplex in relation to all of the major highways in and around Arlington.



# The Refrigerator Sheet

## FOR ALL PARENTS OF STUDENTS ATTENDING MAY-JUNE MISSION TRIP

For our May-June Mission Trip this year we will be going to Mission Arlington / Mission Metroplex in Arlington, Texas. We will be serving with Mission Arlington through participating in apartment churches, leading Rainbow Express (Mission Arlington's version of a Vacation Bible School), and a variety of work projects.



- **Mailing Address:** 210 W. South Street, Arlington, TX, 76010. (Note—you are welcome to send students mail while they are at Mission Arlington. On the outside envelope indicate the name of the student and the name of the church or school with whom they are on Mission Trip. Please allow time for mail delivery and for the Mission Arlington staff to sort it and deliver it to our group. You will want to have mailed things by Monday for your students to receive them during their trip here. Any unclaimed mail at the end of the week will be returned to sender.)
- **Website:** [www.missionarlington.org](http://www.missionarlington.org)
- **Phone:** 817-277-6620
- **Fax:** 817-277-3388
- **E-mail:** [mission@missionarlington.org](mailto:mission@missionarlington.org)

# T-Shirts

Every year Mission Arlington/ Mission Metroplex makes mission trip t-shirts available for groups. Shirts are available in sizes from Adult Small to XXX-Large for \$10 each. The money goes to help fund Rainbow Express and the free summer camps we provide each year for the children and teenagers from the Mission Arlington apartment churches. There are three ways to order shirts:

1. Buy them while you are here.
2. Pre-buy with check or credit card. We will have them here for you when you arrive.
3. Pre-buy with check or credit card. We will mail them to you. There will be an extra charge for shipping that will depend on how many shirts you purchase.

(An order form to use for pre-orders is on the next page.)

If you need more information about shirts, or to place an order, call Matt at 817-704-6145 or e-mail [matt@missionarlington.org](mailto:matt@missionarlington.org).





# T-Shirt Order Form

Group: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of order: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact name and phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Receipt needed:  Yes  No

Small \_\_\_\_\_

Method of Payment:

Medium \_\_\_\_\_

Check

Large \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card

X-Large \_\_\_\_\_

XX-Large \_\_\_\_\_

XXX-Large \_\_\_\_\_

Total: \_\_\_\_\_

X \$10.00= \_\_\_\_\_

*For those paying with Credit Card:*

Card type: (please circle)



Name as it appears on card: \_\_\_\_\_

Billing address of credit card: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration date: \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount to be charged: \_\_\_\_\_

T-shirt purchases are optional. You may turn this sheet in when you are here or pre-buy by:

- Printing and faxing this form, along with credit card information, to 817-277-3388.
- Printing and mailing this form, along with a check made out to Mission Arlington, to 210 W South St, Arlington, TX, 76010.
- Calling 817-277-6620 with credit card information and sizes.

Most groups pick up their shirts when they arrive here. If you prefer, we can also mail the shirts to you, with you paying the shipping. If you would like the shirts mailed, please call and ask for Matt Hart.

# Section Two

## Rainbow Express Training Materials

- Descriptions of each Rainbow Express team member's role
- Team rosters
- Rainbow Express outline
- Tips for a successful Rainbow Express
- Tips for working with teenagers that attend Rainbow Express
- Tips for preparing to share your personal testimony

# Prepare the Team

Rainbow Express works best with teams of about 10-15 at each location. If your group is larger, consider dividing into two or more teams, and each team will lead a Rainbow Express at a different apartment community. For junior high or high school students, each team needs at least one adult. If you have one or more teams sharing a vehicle, let the Mission Arlington staff know so they can assign sites accordingly. A brief description of each team member's responsibilities is given on the following pages.

## Team Responsibilities

Each team member will be given one or more of the following responsibilities:

- Team Leader
- Small Group Teachers/Helpers
- Song Leader
- Memory Verse Teacher
- Large Group Leader
- Puppet Team Coordinator
- Game Leader
- Attendance Taker
- Youth Leader

## Team Leader

- ◆ Be the prayer leader for your group. Pray for your team, the people you will encounter in Arlington, and for the Mission Arlington workers that are preparing the way and will be doing follow up.
- ◆ Be in constant communication with Mission Arlington staff as you plan. Ask questions and offer suggestions. Make sure extra activities you are planning do not conflict with your responsibilities at Mission Arlington.
- ◆ Pick a member of each team for each of the team responsibilities. Give each member of the team a copy of the Rainbow Express material. **Remember that each team member will be a small group teacher or helper.** If you have a limited number of workers, one person can do more than one task.
- ◆ Give each member of your team a complete Rainbow Express curriculum packet so that they all can be familiar with every aspect of the program. Make sure they are prepared for their particular assignment.
- ◆ Oversee the preparation of all other team members. Be very familiar with the lessons and activities for each day. Ensure that any advance preparation needed for crafts, memory verse activities, or closing activities has been done.

**PREPARATION TIP—There is a blank team roster in the back of this section. Make one copy for each of your teams and write in who will be fulfilling each responsibility. These sheets should be passed out to each adult sponsor in your group and to Mission Arlington coordinators while you are here. (You will not be able to fill in the Rainbow Express sites until you are at Mission Arlington.)**

# Small Group Leaders

- ◆ You will be telling the stories to your small group. Pray that God will prepare the hearts of the kids you will be sharing with to hear His message.
- ◆ Before you come, read all of the stories. Take the time to read them from the Bible and from the packet. Know each story well. As you tell the story have your Bible open to the story. **Never read to the kids word for word from the packet!**
- ◆ Help your children or youth to understand that the story they are learning comes from the Bible. The story you are telling is included in each day's packet as an age-appropriate retelling for children. Be very familiar with the scripture and then use the retelling as a guide to communicate the themes to the children you are working with.
- ◆ Be excited about the story you are teaching. Have fun as you share the love of Christ. The kids need to know that you believe what you are saying and really want them to understand. Make eye contact with the kids and give them 100% of your attention and energy.
- ◆ Take the time to get to know the children in your small group. They need to know you care about them.
- ◆ Watch the kids as you teach. If you are losing their attention, try to involve them more. Make sure the kids hear the message.
- ◆ Review the story at the end by asking questions.
- ◆ Always have your Bible with you while you are leading your small group. Help the children understand that the stories you are teaching this week are true stories from the Bible that help us know how to follow Jesus.

**PREPARATION TIP—It is often best to work in pairs. Have two workers in each small group. While one is leading the activity (telling the story, explaining the craft, etc.) the other can help children to listen, assist with crafts, and aid in other ways.**

## Song Leader

- ◆ You will be leading songs with your Rainbow Express group. Pray that God will help the kids to learn the songs so they can carry the message of Christ's love with them.
- ◆ There is a list of suggested songs at the end of this packet. You are not limited to doing only the songs in the list. Feel free to do any other children's songs that your group knows.
- ◆ Have songs chosen ahead of time that you will sing each day. You can take requests, but have a list of songs ready.
- ◆ Sing "stand up" songs with lots of motions first, then sing "sit down" songs to prepare the children for the puppet show or Bible story.
- ◆ Be sure all of the team members know the songs you are going to sing. All team members should sing with enthusiasm.

## Memory Verse Teacher

- ◆ Pray that they will learn the verse of the week, so they can carry a piece of the Bible with them always.
- ◆ The children will have two opportunities to hear the memory verse each day: once in the opening time in a large group and once after the story time in a small group. You will be responsible for leading the memory verse activity in the large group.
- ◆ Read through the suggested activities ahead of time. Some require additional planning and/or materials. Make sure you have what you need.
- ◆ Make sure everyone on your team knows the activities you plan to use. Help the other small group leaders decide which memory verse activities they will do each day.

- ◆ Do more than just lead the activities as they are described in the packet. Spend time explaining the meaning of the verse and how it applies to life. Help the children understand what the memory verse means.
- ◆ The verse of the week is:

*English: Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. Psalm 119:105*

*Spanish: Tu palabra es una lámpara a mis pies; es una luz en mi sendero. Salmos 119:105*

**PREPARATION TIP**—Bring a poster with the memory verse to teach the kids the words. This is an extremely useful visual aid. There is a one-page poster at the end of the packet. Make sure each small group has one copy. Make a larger, posterboard size for use with the large group.

## Puppet Team Coordinator

- ◆ Puppets can attract people to Rainbow Express and are a tool to share the message of Jesus. Pray that God will use your puppet shows to reach people.
- ◆ You need 3-4 people from your team to use a puppet for each show. Assign each person a “voice” (i.e. know who is singing the lead and who is doing the background).
- ◆ **Make a CD of puppet songs to lip sync along with when you arrive at Mission Arlington. Use a few minutes each evening to practice the next day’s songs. See the section on puppets in the back of this packet for tips.**
- ◆ Bring a battery-powered boom box for each team.

**PREPARATION TIP**—If at all possible bring a loud, portable, battery operated CD player for each team with you when you come.

## Attendance Taker

- ◆ Pray for the children that will attend your Rainbow Express and for the Bible Study leaders that will follow-up with the children.
- ◆ The multi-housing communities where you will hold Rainbow Express are places with ongoing Mission Arlington Bible Studies, After School Programs, and other activities. The information you gather will be a valuable resource for the Mission Arlington teams doing follow-up after you are gone.
- ◆ THIS IS AN EXTREMELY IMPORTANT JOB! We need to know about every child that comes and where they live so that we can get them involved in weekly Bible study. Also, if a child accepts Christ as their Savior or needs special attention, you will mark this on the attendance sheet so that the appropriate follow-up takes place.
- ◆ As children arrive on the first day of Rainbow Express, ask for their name (first and last), age, apartment number, and building number (if applicable). *Please do not allow children to write on the attendance sheet.* Please neatly write down the information they give you.
- ◆ Be sure you have the attendance sheets before you depart for the site each day. **Make sure you turn in these sheets after Rainbow Express each day.** Mission Arlington will provide the blank sheets.

# Large Group Leader

- ◆ Pray for the children you will be teaching. Pray that this week will change their lives.
- ◆ It is your responsibility to help the program flow from one activity into the next activity while in a large group.
- ◆ At the beginning of each day, lead a brief introduction to help transition into the small group times. During the opening time, ask the kids questions about what they learned the day before. See if any of them know the memory verse.
- ◆ Keep the kids involved and interested in everything you do.
- ◆ Always have your Bible with you while you are leading the large group. Help the children understand how much you love your Bible.

# Games Leader

- ◆ Be prepared to play some games before Rainbow Express begins as a way to gather and meet children. Play again afterwards to allow more interaction time with those that have come.
- ◆ Kids are more likely to listen to and interact with people who they know care about them. Playing games is one way to build relationships with the kids. Pray that God will use the game time to build relationships between your team members and the children.
- ◆ Find ways to incorporate the concepts of the memory verse and lessons for each day into games you are playing.
- ◆ There is a list of games at the end of this packet. You are not limited to the games on the list. Decide which games you are going to play each day. Involve everyone. Have some games prepared to play with older children and other games prepared to play with younger children.
- ◆ The apartment managers in the places you will be serving have asked Mission Arlington not to use regular balls or Frisbees or anything else that could potentially break windows in the apartment communities. If you want to use these items, bring soft, Nerf® type balls and toys that cannot cause any damage.



# Youth Leader

This position was created to help your group share the gospel with the teenagers that will often gather around the periphery of your Rainbow Express. Choose two people (if possible one male and one female) to be ready to work with any youth.

- PRAY! Youth have always been a part of Rainbow Express, because groups like yours have always worked at making friends with the older students that hang out around your activities. However, we have really felt led to make a concentrated effort to expand the scope of Rainbow Express to include youth. Ask God to use the Rainbow Express that you lead exactly as He would desire.
- Be sensitive to the youth. Some may enjoy participating in parts of the regular Rainbow Express program, especially if they have younger siblings that are attending or if they are involved in helping in some way. Others will feel more comfortable staying completely separated from the children for the entire time.
- Be flexible. Every apartment community is different and every teenager is different. You might have no teenagers, you may have one, and there might be a dozen. Be prayerfully ready for whatever happens.
- Be sure to report any youth that attend on the Rainbow Express attendance sheet so that the Mission Arlington missionaries can effectively follow up.

There is no sure-fire method for working with youth, but here is one possible suggested schedule for a youth Rainbow Express:

While the children are:	The youth leaders are:
in opening large group: singing, puppets, memory verse, etc.	meeting any teenagers, going with them to invite their friends, etc.
in small groups: story, crafts	having the youth help to pass out craft supplies to children's small groups, then gathering in their own location. Lead a Bible Study based on the children's Bible Story for the day. Help the youth learn the memory verse.
in games time	having their own youth recreation time. See <i>Tips From A Mission Arlington Missionary</i> for ideas.

# Rainbow Express Team Roster: Team

---

Contact Cell Phone Number:

AM Rainbow Express Site:

*(to be filled in at Mission Arlington)*

PM Rainbow Express Site:

*(to be filled in at Mission Arlington)*

<b>Adult Sponsor(s):</b>	
<b>Team Leader:</b>	
<b>Large Group Leader:</b>	
<b>Song Leader:</b>	
<b>Memory Verse Teacher:</b>	
<b>Puppet Team Coordinator:</b>	
<b>Game Leader:</b>	
<b>Attendance Taker:</b>	
<b>Youth Leader:</b>	
<b>Small Group Teachers/ Helpers:</b>	

*Remember that one person can have more than one responsibility.*

## The Plan: What to do at Rainbow Express

- ◆ Begin by gathering the children. The games leader and attendance taker will wait for the children at the site. All other team members need to **knock on doors**.
- ◆ As the children arrive, begin playing games. **Write down each child's name and apartment number** on the attendance sheet.
- ◆ After finishing the games, begin singing **songs**. You may want to sing a couple of songs, then do a puppet song, then sing another song, then a puppet song. This will give the puppet team a chance to rest their arms in between songs.
- ◆ A couple of students share their **testimony**.
- ◆ Ask for prayer requests and pray.
- ◆ The Memory Verse leader will lead the children in learning the memory verse during the first **memory verse activity**.
- ◆ Divide up into **small groups**, as small as you can depending on the number of children and people in your group. During this time you will tell them the **story**, make your **craft**, and do another **memory verse activity**.
- ◆ Each small group will lead a closing activity for their small group.
- ◆ Reassemble for a large group **closing time**. The Large Group Leader will lead a short review time to help wrap up the day's activities.
- ◆ Play **games** until it is time for Rainbow Express to end.
- ◆ Pass out **snacks** to each child and **walk them home**.
- ◆ **Pick up trash** and make sure your Rainbow Express site is clean before you leave.

## Tips for a Successful Rainbow Express

- ◆ **PRAY!** This is what will make or break your week. Everything you do must be bathed in prayer.
- ◆ When you first get out to the apartment community, most of the team needs to go door to door and round up the children. Some children will come early, so one or two people need to be ready to stay at the site to play games with the children (rather than knock on doors).
- ◆ Parents and older youth will probably stand around the perimeter. Get to know them, talk with them, and invite them to the Bible study at that particular apartment complex. You will receive the information about these Bible Studies when you are here.
- ◆ The opening and closing Large Group Times can be a difficult time to keep the children's attention. The more energy, preparation, and creativity you put in, the more interested and involved the children will become.
- ◆ Be sure you are always with the children. You can make a difference in their lives this week. They want and need your undivided attention.
- ◆ Love all the children. Try to get to know each of them.
- ◆ Remember that you have important jobs to be done. Don't forget your responsibilities.
- ◆ If you are not leading the singing or telling the story, sit among the children.
- ◆ Have fun! If you are having fun, the children will have fun. Likewise, if your attitude isn't the best, they will imitate your attitude.
- ◆ Everyone needs to make sure that every child and his/her apartment number are on the attendance list.
- ◆ Everyone work together and help each other.
- ◆ **PRAY!** Remember to **pray without ceasing** the whole week.

## Tips About Working With Youth From A Mission Arlington Missionary

As you are gathering the younger children for Rainbow Express, inevitably you will see older youth who seemingly couldn't care less about hanging around with the little kids. Some of these youth will, however, hang out around the periphery of your Rainbow Express acting, of course, like they're not interested. But don't be fooled. If they're hanging out, they are interested.

I pray that these tips, which have been effective in reaching youth in the apartment communities where we minister, will give you some guidance on ways to engage these youth in non-threatening ways.

- **Introduce yourself:** Don't wait for the youth to walk up to you—it won't happen. You (2 or 3 of you) should walk up to them, stick out your hand to shake theirs & introduce yourself. If you're meeting guys, invite them to throw the football, play soccer, or even wall-ball (at an appropriate place). Try to do this event somewhat removed from the younger kids because they may get distracted. If you're meeting girls who aren't interested in football, soccer, or wall-ball, just be prepared to sit with them and get to know them.
- **Engage them:** Maybe they can help you unload, carry boxes, pick up trash, help translate (lots of Spanish speaking kids will be attending Rainbow Express), play with the younger kids after Rainbow Express is over, etc. During this time, you will continue to get to know them.
- **Develop a Relationship:** Remember that in Jesus' ministry, he met physical & emotional needs a lot of time before he addressed a person's spiritual needs. Don't be judgmental even if their looks, language, or conversation startles you. Hopefully you will have four days with them, so get to know them and when the Spirit leads you, begin the conversation about a relationship with Christ. Don't make assumptions about whether or not they are believers. You'll come across both.
- **Make Them Feel Special:** You want them to know that you have planned this time for them. Come prepared with football, soccer ball, basketball, etc. Maybe bring an additional snack for them. Sit around with the youth & munch on chips or cookies while you get to know them. Bring a few Bibles (pick an easy to read translation like NIV) so as one reads they can all follow along. Keep the actual lesson time short—most of the time should be spent getting to know them & discussing the lesson.

## Tips on Preparing Your Testimony

- **Be Brief**—Remember the age of the children you are working with. They have short attention spans. You want them to understand and remember your point. The longer you talk, the less they may walk away with. Your goal should be not more than five minutes each for two testimonies, six to seven minutes for one, tops.
- **Be Simple**—Your children will not understand the phrase “I used to really struggle with trying to keep the reprobate, carnal impulses of my fleshly nature under control until I accepted the sanctifying work of the Lamb on the cross”. They will understand “When I pray and ask Jesus for help, He helps me do what God wants me to do”. Avoid the temptation to speak *churchese* while you share. Talk like you really talk.
- **Be Animated**—Let your love for Jesus show in your words, face, gestures, and tone of voice. If you share your testimony like you would share a school report on 18<sup>th</sup> century garbanzo bean farming techniques, the children will not care. If you are excited about what Christ has done in your life, the children will be too.
- **Be Excited**—Sometimes there is a temptation to think that your personal testimony may not be as interesting as somebody else's. Remember that we never need to compare our relationship with Christ to another. It took just as much of Jesus' sacrifice to save us as it did any other human being on the planet. Be excited and grateful for what God did in your life, whether it happened as an adult in prison or a five-year-old in Sunday School.
- **Be Prayerful**—Like everything else you do this week, sharing your testimony must be bathed in prayer. Ask God to give you the right words and demeanor. Ask Him to prepare the hearts of the people that will be hearing.
- **Give God the Glory**—This may sound obvious: but remember to make your testimony about God. Your testimony is not about the bad things you used to do. It's not about the good things you do now. It is about the change that Jesus brought in your life. It is about His sacrifice and His forgiveness. Make sure people walk away from your testimony impressed by Jesus, not by you.

# Section Three

## Rainbow Express Curriculum

Stories, crafts, memory verse activities, and opening/closing activities for all four days of Rainbow Express

# Day One

## SUMMARY

- **Large Group**
  - Songs
  - Puppets
  - Testimony
  - Opening Time: Who likes getting messages?
- **Small Group**
  - Story: God Gives the Commandments to Moses
    - Today's Theme: The Bible Comes from God
  - Memory Verse Review
- **Large Group**
  - Story review questions

### Pre-Rainbow Express Gathering

You will begin each day by knocking on doors and then playing games to help attract children to your Rainbow Express.

### Song Time/Puppets

When it is time to begin your activities, have all the children sit down in a large group. It would be helpful to bring a tarp for them to sit on. When the children are together and seated on the tarp, begin your song time.

The Song Leader will come to the front of the group to lead songs. One or two others may also want to come to the front to help show motions. Be sure to have several songs ready to sing and that everyone in the group knows the songs.

During this time you will also have the puppets sing their song(s). Doing the puppet show in between songs can help keep the children's attention. You are provided with one song for each day. If the children are responding well and enjoying the puppet music, it is okay to perform more than one of the songs and repeat the songs from day to day.

### Memory Verse Activity

When the Large Group Leader finishes his opening time, the Memory Verse Teacher will come to the front to lead the memory verse activity. The large group memory verse activity for day one is "Fast and Slow". Have your poster of the memory verse available. Read through the verse all together several times to practice. Practice saying the memory verse faster and faster. Try saying it slower and slower. Say it in "slow motion", using exaggerated hand motions and deep slow motion voices.

### Introduction of Today's Story--Building the Foundation

*Each day the Large Group Leader will welcome the children and provide an introduction to the day's themes and activities. The more creative and engaging the Large Group Leader acts, the more interested and involved the children will be during the large group.*

*The Large Group Leader will come to the front of the group and explain the day's theme before the children divide into their small groups. What is provided here is a guide for the day's opening. Do not simply read from this page. Read through the discussion guide repeatedly and be able to lead it from memory. Do not feel that the Large Group Leader has to memorize and recite this page. It is not necessarily intended to serve as a script. Rather, use it as a suggestion to help you know how to lead the opening time.*

**TIP—The Large Group Leader should serve as a sort of "master of ceremonies" to keep each activity flowing smoothly. He should not, however, tell the day's Bible story. That will go much smoother in the small group time. Children listen more attentively in smaller groups.**

# Day One

Hello everybody. I want to thank all of you for coming to Rainbow Express today. We are going to have a really fun week playing together and learning about the Bible. Before we can learn about the Bible, we have to know what the Bible is. Let's see if we can figure it out together.

How many of you have ever received a letter? I really like getting mail. I think it is fun to go check the mail to see if anybody sent me anything. It makes me feel special to know that somebody took the time to write me a letter. I get letters from people in my family and from my friends. You may also get text messages or e-mails. Some of you tell me who you get messages from. What did the messages say? (Let children tell you about the messages they received.)

The best kinds of messages come from people that really love you. You may have received a letter like that before. You may have a family member or a friend that lives in another country or cousins in a different state that write you letters. Letters from somebody that loves you are the most special of all.

I know somebody that loves me very much. He loves me more than my friends do. He loves me more than my cousins and brothers and sisters and aunts and uncles. He even loves me more than my mom and dad. He loves you too. He loves you more than anybody else does. In fact, I know that He loves every single person in the whole entire world. Does anybody know who I'm talking about? (Allow the children to respond.)

The person that loves us the most is God. I know He loves us the most because He told me. God wrote us a letter, a very special letter. God's letter is not just to me, it's a special letter written to every single person on the whole planet. Does anybody know what God's letter to us is? (Allow the children to respond.)

I have God's letter right here with me. Let me show it to you. (Hold up your Bible.) In fact, I came here with my friends this week, just so we can talk to you about this letter. (Have all members of the Rainbow Express team hold up their Bibles where they sit.) This letter is called the Bible. It's a book that God gave us full of things that He wants us to know. It tells us that God made us very special. It tells us that God loves us. It tells us that God takes care of us and helps us and listens to us when we talk to Him.

The Bible is the best book ever written, because it's the true story of how much God loves us. It makes me feel very special that God wrote us this letter. You should feel special too, because God's letter is for you just as much as it is for us. I hope you will come to every day of Rainbow Express so that you can learn all about God's special letter to you.

## Small Group Story Time

*When the Large Group Time is over, divide the children into small groups for story time. The text provided here is to serve as a guide for you while you tell the story. Read it through several times and be able to tell it from memory. It is not important to be able to recite this story word-for-word. Your goal is to be able to relate the story to a level children will understand. Use the wording included here as suggestions to help you make these concepts understood by elementary age children. Feel free to adapt these words to fit well with your own style.*

## Today's Story

This week we are learning about the Bible. We learned that the Bible is a special book that tells us about God. It helps us know how much God loves us. But did you ever wonder where the Bible came from? It came from God.

A very long time ago there was a group of people called the Hebrews who believed in God and loved Him very much. The Hebrews talked to God by praying. They told God that they believed in Him and they loved Him. The Hebrews also asked for God's help, because they had a big problem.

The Hebrew people were slaves. A terrible king made them work all day in the hot sun, without any pay. They had to do whatever the king told them to do. They did not have nice places to live, or nice clothes to wear. They did not get to pick where they lived or what they did. The evil king had guards all around the Hebrews to punish them if they tried to disobey.

The Hebrews were very sad, because the evil king was so mean to them. They cried to God for help. They wanted to escape from being slaves. They wanted to move far away to their own country where they could be happy.

God listens when we talk to Him. He likes to help us. God helped the Hebrews too. God sent a man named Moses to set the Hebrew people free. Moses went to see the king.

# Day One

“God says to let His people go,” Moses told the king.

The king just laughed. “I am a king. I do not have to do anything that I don’t want to. I do not have to do what God says.”

“You should do what God says,” Moses warned the king. “God will not be happy if you do not let the people go. If you do not obey what God says, He will send you lots of trouble.”

The king would not listen. He refused to let the people go. God sent trouble to the king, just like Moses said. First all the water in the country turned into blood. Then God filled the country with frogs, lice, and flies. Next, all the animals in the country got sick. Next, a terrible storm came. Then the people were covered with painful sores. After the sores, God made the country dark for three days. Finally, when the evil king still refused to let the people go, many of the people in the country died. At last the king gave up. He knew that he should do what God said. He let the Hebrew people go free.

The Hebrews were so happy! They were finally free. They left the evil king in a big parade, singing to God and thanking Him for helping them. God promised to take care of the people and lead them to their own homes, where they could finally rest in their own country.

To get home, Moses had to lead the Hebrews across a giant desert. On their way, they stopped to camp in front of a big mountain. While they were there, God spoke to Moses. “Tell all the people that I saved them from the evil king,” God said. “Tell them that if they obey what I want them to do, I will always take care of them.”

“We will do everything that God wants us to do,” the people answered Moses.

“I am going to come and talk to you on top of the mountain,” God told Moses. A big dark cloud, like the ones in a thunderstorm, appeared on top of the mountain. Thunder boomed and lightning flashed around the cloud. A noise like a loud trumpet came from the mountain, and thick black smoke came out of the mountain like a volcano.

Moses went up to the mountain to talk to God. God carved two big stones out of the side of the mountain. He carved words into the stones. God told Moses what He wanted the people to do. He told Moses what we need to do to make God happy. When God finished, Moses took the stones down to the people with God’s special words called the Ten Commandments written on them.

We still learn the words God gave Moses on that mountain a long, long time ago. Those words are part of the Bible, a very special book. God told people like Moses special messages. They wrote these messages down and then later put them together into a book called the Bible. The Bible is one of God’s gifts to us. He gave it to us so we could know about Him. The Bible helps us know what God is like and what He wants us to do.

Most of all, the Bible tells us how much God loves us. It tells us that sometimes we mess up. Sometimes we break God’s rules in the Bible. When we break the rules, we push ourselves away from God. God loves us so much that He does not want to be away from us. Jesus came to help us. Jesus died on the cross so that He could be punished for the bad things we do. Then, on the third day, Jesus came back to life. The Bible tells us that we can ask Jesus to take away those bad things we do. He will help us to be friends with God.

If you want to know how to ask Jesus to be in your life, just ask us.

*Each day you will close the story time with an invitation to accept Jesus. Say something like this:* God wants everybody to follow Him. The problem is that sometimes we do bad things that the Bible calls sin. A sin is anything that we do that God does not want us to do. God still loves us, even though we sin. That’s why Jesus came. Jesus died on the cross to be punished for our sins. Then on the third day He came back to life. Now, for anybody who asks, Jesus will take away our sins and become a part of our lives. He will help us to follow Him. The Bible says that if we believe Jesus in our hearts and follow Him, He will save us from our sin and help us to follow God. Then one day we will be with Him in heaven. Anybody that wants to choose to follow Jesus can do that today. We would love to help you know how.

## Prayer Time

Take this time after the story to pray with the children in your small group. Ask them for things they would like to pray about. Tell God how awesome He is. Ask Him to help you and the children in your small group to listen to God and obey Him. Pray that the children in your group will get to know God and feel the love He has for them.



# Day One

## Craft

While still in your small groups, lead the children in making the craft or filling out the activities packet for the day. The craft time is not only a way to reinforce the lesson, but it also allows time to get to know the children in your small group. During this time, ask them questions about their families, friends, and school. Invest in their lives. For today's craft time you will give each child an activity packet with pictures to color and various puzzles to solve.

*Supplies needed:* crayons, 1 activities packet for each child

*Note—an activities packet for days 1,2, & will be provided while you are here. This packet will include coloring pages, word searches, etc. that relate to the story. Day 3 you will be making a bead necklace to share the plan of salvation instead of packets.*

## Memory Verse Activity

Each day the small group time will include a Memory Verse Activity. The Memory Verse time is one of the most important activities of the day. We want these children to remember God's word and why it is important to them. A list of potential activities is included in the Supplements and Handouts portion of this packet. Use a different idea from that list each day to help the children learn the words of the verse and to explain why it applies to their lives. (Some require extra preparation, so be sure to review the list in advance.) The memory verse for this week is:

*English: Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. Psalm 119:105*

*Spanish: Tu palabra es una lámpara a mis pies; es una luz en mi sendero. Salmos 119:105*

**TIP—There are one page posters with the memory verse in English and in Spanish in the Supplements and Handouts portion of this packet. Having a copy of the one page memory verse poster with you can help you teach the verse.**

## Wrap Up

Each day you will end your Rainbow Express in a second large group session. Have all the children return to the tarp where you started. Sometimes the movement from small groups to large group becomes distracting, especially to younger children. If you find your children becoming noisy as you return to your large group, consider singing a few songs to help everybody focus again.

The last thing you will do before games and snacks is to review the memory verse and the day's lesson. Have the large group leader give a brief re-telling of the day's story. As you tell the story, frequently pause to let the children answer questions and fill in the blanks about the lesson. When you finish reviewing the story, have everybody say the memory verse together one last time. After reviewing the memory verse, pray before dismissing to game time and snacks.

## Game Time/Snacks

When you are finished, pray together and be ready to play games until the end of the Rainbow Express program. After the game time, pass out snacks, clean up the area, and walk everyone home. Return to Mission Arlington to turn in your materials and attendance sheet.

# Day Two

## SUMMARY

- **Large Group**
  - Songs
  - Puppets
  - Testimony
  - Opening Time: Good News for Everybody
- **Small Group**
  - Story: The Healing of the Man Born Blind
    - Today's Theme: God wants everybody to have the Good News of the Bible
  - Memory Verse Review
- **Large Group**
  - Story review questions

### Pre-Rainbow Express Gathering

You will begin each day by knocking on doors and then playing games to help attract children to your Rainbow Express.

### Song Time/Puppets

When it is time to begin your activities, have all the children sit down in a large group. It would be helpful to bring a tarp for them to sit on. When the children are together and seated on the tarp, begin your song time.

The Song Leader will come to the front of the group to lead songs. One or two others may also want to come to the front to help show motions. Be sure to have several songs ready to sing and that everyone in the group knows the songs.

During this time you will also have the puppets sing their song(s). Doing the puppet show in between songs can help keep the children's attention. You are provided with one song for each day. If the children are responding well and enjoying the puppet music, it is okay to perform more than one of the songs and repeat the songs from day to day.

### Memory Verse Activity

When the Large Group Leader finishes his opening time, the Memory Verse Teacher will come to the front to lead the memory verse activity. The large group memory verse activity for day two is "Loud and Soft". Have your poster of the memory verse available. Read through the verse all together several times to practice. Practice saying the memory verse together. Slowly begin to increase the volume. Divide the children into two or more teams. Have them try saying the verse together as a team. See who can say it loud and who can say it soft. Try playing Telephone by having all the children sit in a circle. Have the verse travel around the circle by having each child whisper the next word in the verse to their neighbor.

### Introduction of Today's Story--Building the Foundation

*Each day the Large Group Leader will welcome the children and provide an introduction to the day's themes and activities. The more creative and engaging the Large Group Leader acts, the more interested and involved the children will be during the large group.*

*The Large Group Leader will come to the front of the group and explain the day's theme before the children divide into their small groups. What is provided here is a guide for the day's opening. Do not simply read from this page. Read through the discussion guide repeatedly and be able to lead it from memory. Do not feel that the Large Group Leader has to memorize and recite this page. It is not*

**TIP**—The Large Group Leader should serve as a sort of "master of ceremonies" to keep each activity flowing smoothly. He should not, however, tell the day's Bible story. That will go much smoother in the small group time. Children listen more attentively in smaller groups.

# Day Two

*necessarily intended to serve as a script. Rather, use it as a suggestion to help you know how to lead the opening time.*

Hello everybody. I am glad you all came back to Rainbow Express today. We are going to have lots of fun all week long learning about God's special book, the Bible. Yesterday we learned that the Bible is like a letter from God to us. God gave us the Bible so that we could know how much He loves us. That's why the Bible is such very good news.

I want you to think about the last time you had some really good news. Think about something that you learned or that somebody told you that made you really happy. Maybe it was a new baby brother or sister. It might have been a special present you got for Christmas or your birthday. I can think of a time I learned some really good news.

*(Share a very brief story of good news from your own life. Tell about how excited you were. Emphasize that you wanted everybody to know your good news. Talk about how excited you were to tell your friends and others the good news. The whole story doesn't need to be more than a few sentences. When you finish, invite three or four others to share a brief story from their own life. Encourage the children to go first. If they seem slow to warm up or are reluctant to share, have members from your own group share. With each story, make it a point to emphasize that the storyteller was excited to share their good news with other people.)*

Those are really good examples. Did you notice something that all of those stories had in common? Every single person who had good news wanted to share it with other people, too.

God's love is His good news for us. He wants to share it with people, too. In fact, God wants to share His good news with *all* people. God wants the all people to have the Bible, no matter who they are. Everybody hold up your hands. Look at the hands of everybody all around you. They are all different. Our hands are not all the same color. We don't all speak the same language at home. We go to different schools, we have different families, we even live in different places. But God wants us *all* to know about the Bible. He wants us to know all the good news the Bible tells us.

I have a piece of paper I'm going to give to all of you. You're going to recognize some of the words on this piece of paper. Can anybody tell me what it is? *(Allow the children to answer.)* That's right, this is the memory verse that we are learning this week. This is a little piece of the Bible that we can memorize and take with us everywhere that we go.

There are some words on this sheet that you don't recognize. Can anybody guess what these words are? *(Allow the children to guess.)* This is the same memory verse that we are learning this week, written in many different languages. This sheet shows that the Bible really is for people all over the world, no matter where they are from. God wants His special gift, the Bible, to be for everybody.

Today we're going to learn a story about a group of people that got to hear the Bible for the very first time. We're going to see how happy they were to get to learn about God's special gift.

## Small Group Story Time

*When the Large Group Time is over, divide the children into small groups for story time. The text provided here is to serve as a guide for you while you tell the story. Read it through several times and be able to tell it from memory. It is not important to be able to recite this story word-for-word. Your goal is to be able to relate the story to a level children will understand. Use the wording included here as suggestions to help you make these concepts understood by elementary age children. Feel free to adapt these words to fit well with your own style.*

## Today's Story:

Yesterday we learned that the Bible is a very special book. We learned that God gave us the Bible so that we can learn about Him. Today we are going to learn about a little boy that helped a whole country learn about the Bible.

Yesterday we had a story about the Hebrews. The Hebrews were slaves in a far away country. God helped them escape and gave them their own country to live in. The Hebrews named their new country Israel. God wanted the people in Israel to love Him and obey Him, just like He wants us to. After a while, though, the people stopped listening to God. They stopped studying His words in the Bible. They stopped going to church to learn about the Bible. They stopped obeying God's rules.

Israel put some wicked kings and queens in charge. These kings and queens told all the people not to believe in God or pray to Him. They closed the doors of the church and threw away all the books of God's words. It was a very sad time to live in Israel.

# Day Two

One of the worst kings Israel ever had was an evil man named Amon. Amon did not love God. He did not let the people in Israel learn anything about God or how much God loved them. Finally, Amon died. When a king died, his son became the next king. Amon died when his son, Josiah, was only a little boy. Josiah became the king of the country of Israel when he was only eight years old!

Josiah was very different from his father. He was very different from almost all the other kings. Josiah loved God very much. He obeyed God's rules, and told the people in Israel to obey God, too. Even though Josiah worked hard to do what God wanted, he still had a big problem. Nobody had any of the books with God's words. The people wanted to obey God, but they did not have a book to help them learn how.

The evil kings before Josiah had closed the doors of the church and messed up everything inside. After Josiah had been king for a while, he told the people he wanted to fix the church. The people went to work fixing the church. One day, one of the men working in the church found something very exciting. He found one of the books with God's words. The people had not had God's word for a long time. They missed it very much. The worker hurried and took the book to the king.

King Josiah read from God's words. He became very sad. He realized that the people had broken many of God's rules. Josiah knew that God must not be happy that they had not obeyed what he said. The king was so sad that he tore his clothes and cried.

God sent a message to Josiah. "Don't be afraid," God told Josiah. "You are right that the people disobeyed me. They did not obey my words. I was going to send them punishment for what they did. But I see that you love me, and you love my words. You believe what I said and you obey me. I will forgive you and the people. I will not punish you, because you have asked to be forgiven."

Josiah was very happy. He called all the people of Israel together. He read God's words to all the people. The whole country was glad to hear God's words again. They knew that the Bible is a special gift from God.

In front of all the people, King Josiah prayed to God. He promised to obey the word of God and do what God wanted. Then all the people promised they would read God's word and obey it too.

The day became a huge celebration. Everybody was happy to have God's word back. They were glad to hear that God loved them. King Josiah gave an order to the people. "We are going to celebrate and thank God for loving us and for saving us."

All the people came together to thank God. For one week they stayed together, celebrating how much God loved them. They had music and special food. They read God's words over and over and thanked God that He loved them so much.

Josiah was only a little boy when he became king, but he made a big difference in the country. In fact, people still say that Josiah was one of the greatest kings that Israel ever had. What made Josiah such a good king? He wasn't the strongest or the bravest or the biggest. Josiah was a good king because he loved God and loved God's word.

Everybody can learn from God's special words in the Bible. It does not matter if you are a grown up or a young child. It does not matter if you are the king of a whole country or a little girl at school, the Bible is for you. God loves all people. That's why He gave the Bible as a gift for all of us.

The Bible tells us about another special gift from God. It tells us that Jesus came to help us. Jesus died on the cross to take away the bad things we do. Then he came back to life to help us be friends with God. Any person can ask Jesus to be a part of their life. The Bible promises that Jesus will be there for anybody that asks Him. If you want to know how to ask Jesus to be in your life, let us know. We would love to help you know how.

*Each day you will close the story time with an invitation to accept Jesus. Say something like this: God wants everybody to follow Him. The problem is that sometimes we do bad things that the Bible calls sin. A sin is anything that we do that God does not want us to do. God still loves us, even though we sin. That's why Jesus came. Jesus died on the cross to be punished for our sins. Then on the third day He came back to life. Now, for anybody who asks, Jesus will take away our sins and become a part of our lives. He will help us to follow Him. The Bible says that if we believe Jesus in our hearts and follow Him, He will save us from our sin and help us to follow God. Then one day we will be with Him in heaven. Anybody that wants to choose to follow Jesus can do that today. We would love to help you know how.*

## Prayer Time

Take this time after the story to pray with the children in your small group. Ask them for things they would like to pray about. Tell God how awesome He is. Ask Him to help you and the children in your small group to listen to God and obey Him. Pray that the children in your group will get to know God and feel the love He has for them.

# Day Two

## Craft

While still in your small groups, lead the children in making the craft or filling out the activities packet for the day. The craft time is not only a way to reinforce the lesson, but it also allows time to get to know the children in your small group. During this time, ask them questions about their families, friends, and school. Invest in their lives. For today's craft time you will give each child an activity packet with pictures to color and various puzzles to solve.

*Supplies needed:* crayons, 1 activities packet for each child

*Note—an activities packet for days 1,2, & will be provided while you are here. This packet will include coloring pages, word searches, etc. that relate to the story. Day 3 you will be making a bead necklace to share the plan of salvation instead of packets.*

## Memory Verse Activity

Each day the small group time will include a Memory Verse Activity. The Memory Verse time is one of the most important activities of the day. We want these children to remember God's word and why it is important to them. A list of potential activities is included in the Supplements and Handouts portion of this packet. Use a different idea from that list each day to help the children learn the words of the verse and to explain why it applies to their lives. (Some require extra preparation, so be sure to review the list in advance.) The memory verse for this week is:

**TIP—There are one page posters with the memory verse in English and in Spanish in the Supplements and Handouts portion of this packet. Having a copy of the one page memory verse poster with you can help you teach the verse.**

*English: Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. Psalm 119:105*

*Spanish: Tu palabra es una lámpara a mis pies; es una luz en mi sendero. Salmos 119:105*

## Wrap Up

Each day you will end your Rainbow Express in a second large group session. Have all the children return to the tarp where you started. Sometimes the movement from small groups to large group becomes distracting, especially to younger children. If you find your children becoming noisy as you return to your large group, consider singing a few songs to help everybody focus again.

The last thing you will do before games and snacks is to review the memory verse and the day's lesson. Have the large group leader give a brief re-telling of the day's story. As you tell the story, frequently pause to let the children answer questions and fill in the blanks about the lesson. When you finish reviewing the story, have everybody say the memory verse together one last time. After reviewing the memory verse, pray before dismissing to game time and snacks.

## Game Time/Snacks

When you are finished, pray together and be ready to play games until the end of the Rainbow Express program. After the game time, pass out snacks, clean up the area, and walk everyone home. Return to Mission Arlington to turn in your materials and attendance sheet.

**Your word is a lamp  
to my feet and a  
light for my path.  
Psalm 119:105 NIV**

Lời Chúa là ngọn  
đèn cho chơn tôi,  
Ánh cho đường  
lối tôi. Thi-thiê-n  
119:105

Ta parole est comme  
une lampe qui guide  
tous mes pas, elle est  
une lumière éclairant  
mon chemin. Psaume

119:105

**TU PALABRA ES  
UNA LÁMPARA A  
MIS PIES; ES UNA  
LUZ EN MI  
SENDERO. SALMOS  
119:105**

Нун. Твоето слово е  
светилник на нозете ми,  
И виделина на пътеката  
ми. Псалми 119:105

Az én lábamnak  
szövétnéke a te igéd,  
és ösvényemnek  
világossága. Zsoltárok  
119:105

He rama tau kupu  
ki oku waewae, he  
marama ki toku  
ara. Psalm  
119:105

Dit Ord er en Lygte  
for min Fod, et Lys på  
min Sti. Salme 119:105

Слово Твое--светильник  
ноге моей и свет стезе  
моей. Псалтирь 119:105

# Day Three

- **Large Group**
  - Songs
  - Puppets
  - Testimony
  - Opening Time: What Does it Mean to Have Jesus in Your Life?
- **Small Group**
  - Story: Jesus Teaches from the Bible
    - Today's Theme: The Bible Tells Us That Jesus Came to Save Us
  - Memory Verse Review
- **Large Group**
  - Story review questions

S  
U  
M  
M  
A  
R  
Y

## Pre-Rainbow Express Gathering

You will begin each day by knocking on doors and then playing games to help attract children to your Rainbow Express.

## Song Time/Puppets

When it is time to begin your activities, have all the children sit down in a large group. It would be helpful to bring a tarp for them to sit on. When the children are together and seated on the tarp, begin your song time.

The Song Leader will come to the front of the group to lead songs. One or two others may also want to come to the front to help show motions. Be sure to have several songs ready to sing and that everyone in the group knows the songs.

During this time you will also have the puppets sing their song(s). Doing the puppet show in between songs can help keep the children's attention. You are provided with one song for each day. If the children are responding well and enjoying the puppet music, it is okay to perform more than one of the songs and repeat the songs from day to day.

## Memory Verse Activity

When the Large Group Leader finishes his opening time, the Memory Verse Teacher will come to the front to lead the memory verse activity. The large group memory verse activity for day three is "Teams". Have your poster of the memory verse available. Read through the verse all together several times to practice. Divide your children into teams. Have the teams compete saying the memory verse many different ways: loudest, softest, fastest, slowest, telephone style, English, Spanish, with hand motions, etc.

## Introduction of Today's Story--Building the Foundation

*Each day the Large Group Leader will welcome the children and provide an introduction to the day's themes and activities. The more creative and engaging the Large Group Leader acts, the more interested and involved the children will be during the large group.*

*The Large Group Leader will come to the front of the group and explain the day's theme before the children divide into their small groups. What is provided here is a guide for the day's opening. Do not simply read from this page. Read through the discussion guide repeatedly and be able to lead it from memory. Do not feel that the Large Group Leader has to*

**TIP—The Large Group Leader should serve as a sort of "master of ceremonies" to keep each activity flowing smoothly. He should not, however, tell the day's Bible story. That will go much smoother in the small group time. Children listen more attentively in smaller groups.**

# Day Three

*memorize and recite this page. It is not necessarily intended to serve as a script. Rather, use it as a suggestion to help you know how to lead the opening time.*

*For today's opening time you will need several volunteers from your group who are willing to briefly share their personal testimony about their relationship with Jesus. Prayerfully prepare these testimonies ahead of time. Those that speak should focus on two areas: how they accepted Jesus, and how God's word has helped them in their own lives. It would be ideal to share a specific story of a time that something in the Bible helped to make a right decision or in some other way. These testimonies do not need to be very long. Two to three minutes will most effectively hold the children's attention.*

*Have the Large Group Leader stand up and welcome the children to Rainbow Express as always, then follow with three to four of these testimonies.*

It is so wonderful for all of you to be here today. All week we have been learning about people that knew Jesus. Today we are going to hear from a couple of other people. They are going to share with you how they know Jesus. *(Have two or three people in your group briefly share how they asked Jesus to be in their life. When they finish, continue with your large group time.)* All of us here love Jesus. We know Jesus. Jesus is part of our lives. We want you to know Jesus, too. Now we are going to learn more about Jesus. We're going to learn about the most important thing Jesus ever did to help us.

## Small Group Story Time

*When the Large Group Time is over, divide the children into small groups for story time. The text provided here is to serve as a guide for you while you tell the story. Read it through several times and be able to tell it from memory. It is not important to be able to recite this story word-for-word. Your goal is to be able to relate the story to a level children will understand. Use the wording included here as suggestions to help you make these concepts understood by elementary age children. Feel free to adapt these words to fit well with your own style.*

## Today's Story:

This week we have been learning about God's special book the Bible. Monday we talked about Moses. We learned God gave us the Bible as a gift. Yesterday we talked about King Josiah. We learned that the Bible is for all people. Today we're going to talk about the most important person in the whole Bible.

We have learned this week that the Bible is a big book with lots of different kinds of things inside it. The Bible tells lots of different stories, about lots of different people and places. The stories may all be different, but they have one thing in common: the whole Bible talks about how much God loves us. The whole Bible tells the story of how God helps people to be friends with Him. All the parts of the Bible help us know that God loves us so much that He sent Jesus to help us.

God made all of us. He loves people, and He made us so that we would love Him back. Sadly, we sometimes mess up God's plan. Sometimes we do things that are against God's rules. These bad things that we say, do, or think are called sins. Sin is a big problem, because it pushes us away from God. God still loves us, but He's so perfect that He can't be around all that sin. We needed a way to get rid of our sin.

That's why Jesus came. Jesus made a way to take away our sin. Jesus is God's son. He lived in Heaven, the wonderful, perfect place where God lives. A long time ago, Jesus came to Earth to live as a person for a little while. He was born as a baby, just like us. He grew up in a family, went to school, and played with His friends, just like us. But Jesus was perfect, not like us. Jesus never sinned. He did not do anything that broke God's rules.

When Jesus grew up, He began to teach people about God. He told them that God loves us and wants to take away our sins. One of the places that Jesus started was in His own hometown. He went to the church there, and the people asked Him to read part of the Bible. Jesus opened to a very old part of the Bible where God promised somebody would come to help all people. "God is with me," Jesus read. "He has sent me to tell good news." Jesus read that God promised somebody would come to help people that are poor, sad, or in prison. God promised somebody would come so that anybody who asked could have their sins taken away. "This part of the Bible is talking about me," Jesus said. "I am the one God sent to take away sin."

The people at the church were very surprised. "Is Jesus really God's son?" they asked. Some of the



people became very happy. They believed what Jesus said. They were glad that Jesus came to forgive sin. Other people were not happy. They were angry that Jesus said these things. They did not realize that Jesus was telling the truth.

For three years Jesus traveled around, helping people and telling them that God loves them. Jesus told people that God would forgive us for the wrong things we have done if we ask Him. Many people knew that Jesus was telling the truth. They believed in Jesus and asked God to forgive them. Some people did not believe Jesus. They did not understand that the Bible says God loves us and wants to forgive us.

Finally, these people became so angry that they decided to kill Jesus. They came and arrested Jesus in the night. They took Jesus to a judge. They took Jesus' clothes and spit on Him. They made fun of Him and beat Him up. They were mean to Jesus for the whole night. In the morning, they took Him outside the city to kill Him.

They laid Jesus down on a big wooden cross. They hammered nails into His wrists and feet. Then they stood the cross up and left Jesus hanging there to die. For six hours Jesus hung on that awful cross. He could have escaped anytime He wanted to. He could have left the cross and gone back to Heaven. He did not have to stay there to suffer and die.

Jesus stayed on the cross because He loves us so much that He wanted to take away our sin. The Bible says that all sins have to be punished. Our punishment for the wrong things that we have done would be to stay away from God forever. Instead, Jesus, who never did anything bad, was punished for what we do. Jesus got in trouble instead of us so that our sins could be forgiven.

After hanging on the cross for six hours, Jesus finally died. Some of His friends came and took down His body. They wrapped His body in clean cloth and put it inside a dark cave. Then they rolled a giant rock in front of the cave so that nobody could go in or out. For three days Jesus' dead body was in the cave.

Then, on the third day, something amazing happened! God brought Jesus back to life. Jesus stood up and walked and talked again. He was alive! Jesus went to speak to the people that believed in Him. He showed them that God had brought Him back to life. They could see that Jesus really is the Son of God. Jesus told them to tell everybody what they had seen. God wants all people to know what Jesus did for them. He wants everybody to hear that God will forgive their sins if they ask Him.

The whole Bible tells us the story of God's plan for us. It tells us that God made us, and that we sinned by breaking God's rules, and that all sins have to be punished. The best news of all, though, is that the Bible tells us that Jesus took that punishment for us. Now, if we let Jesus be in our lives, He takes away our sin and helps us be friends with God again.

If you would like to know more about what Jesus did for you, please tell us. We want you to know how to let Jesus be in your life.

*Each day you will close the story time with an invitation to accept Jesus. Say something like this:* God wants everybody to follow Him. The problem is that sometimes we do bad things that the Bible calls sin. A sin is anything that we do that God does not want us to do. God still loves us, even though we sin. That's why Jesus came. Jesus died on the cross to be punished for our sins. Then on the third day He came back to life. Now, for anybody who asks, Jesus will take away our sins and become a part of our lives. He will help us to follow Him. The Bible says that if we believe Jesus in our hearts and follow Him, He will save us from our sin and help us to follow God. Then one day we will be with Him in Heaven. Anybody who wants to choose to follow Jesus can do that today. We would love to help you know how.

### **Prayer Time**

Take this time after the story to pray with the children in your small group. Ask them for things they would like to pray about. Tell God how awesome He is. Ask Him to help you and the children in your small group to listen to God and obey Him. Pray that the children in your group will get to know God and feel the love He has for them.

### **Craft**

While still in your small groups, lead the children in making the craft for the day. The craft time is not only a way to reinforce the lesson, but it also allows time to get to know the children in your small group. During this time,

ask them questions about their families, friends, and school. Invest in their lives.

### *Salvation Necklaces*

Supplies: For each child—one string or cord for necklace, and five beads, one each of red, black, white, green, yellow, plus one additional bead of any color.

For instructions on how to make today’s craft, see the following pages. Step by step instructions on which order to put the beads on the bracelet and bilingual explanations of the colors’ meanings are included. You will also find optional hand out pages to give the children to help them remember the meaning of the bracelet. During this craft you will be explaining God’s plan for salvation. It is very important that you approach it with sensitivity to children that may be ready to make decisions to accept Christ. Please spend time in practice and prayer so that you will be ready when the time comes to clearly explain what salvation means.

### **Memory Verse Activity**

Each day the small group time will include a Memory Verse Activity. The Memory Verse time is one of the most important activities of the day. We want these children to remember God’s word and why it is important to them. A list of potential activities is included in the Supplements and Handouts portion of this packet. Use a different idea from that list each day to help the children learn the words of the verse and to explain why it applies to their lives. (Some require extra preparation, so be sure to review the list in advance.) The memory verse for this week is:

*English: Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. Psalm 119:105*

**TIP**—There are one page posters with the memory verse in English and in Spanish in the Supplements and Handouts portion of this packet. Having a copy of the one page memory verse poster with you can help you teach the verse.

*Spanish: Tu palabra es una lámpara a mis pies; es una luz en mi sendero. Salmos 119:105*

### **Wrap Up**

Each day you will end your Rainbow Express in a second large group session. Have all the children return to the tarp where you started. Sometimes the movement from small groups to large group becomes distracting, especially to younger children. If you find your children becoming noisy as you return to your large group, consider singing a few songs to help everybody focus again.

The last thing you will do before games and snacks is to review the memory verse and the day’s lesson. Have the large group leader give a brief re-telling of the day’s story. As you tell the story, frequently pause to let the children answer questions and fill in the blanks about the lesson. When you finish reviewing the story, have everybody say the memory verse together one last time. After reviewing the memory verse, pray before dismissing to game time and snacks.

### **Game Time/Snacks**

When you are finished, pray together and be ready to play games until the end of the Rainbow Express program. After the game time, pass out snacks, clean up the area, and walk everyone home. Return to Mission Arlington to turn in your materials and attendance sheet.

# Day Three Craft

**Note-**When explaining the meanings of the colors refer to the bead and the sin it represents as dark rather than black.

**DARK-** This reminds us of sin. Sin is anything we do that is not what God wants us to do. The Bible says that everyone has sinned.

**OSCURO-** Este representa el pecado. El pecado es cualquier cosa que hacemos que no complace a Dios. La Biblia nos dice que todos hemos pecado.

**TIP**—This page is given for small group leaders to use as a guide to help them when explaining the meanings of the colors. The next two pages are intended as optional extras you can send home with your Rainbow Express students to help them remember the meaning of the necklace.

**RED-** This reminds us of Jesus' blood. Jesus was God's Son and He died on the cross to pay the punishment for our sins.

**ROJO-** Este representa la sangre de Jesús. Jesús es el Hijo de Dios y El murió en la cruz para pagar por las consecuencias de nuestros pecados.

**WHITE-** This reminds us of our new lives. The Bible says that after we have accepted Jesus, we are brand new. He cleans out the sin that was in us. Jesus is in our lives! He will never leave!

**BLANCO-** Este representa nueva vida. La Biblia dice que al aceptar a Jesús como nuestro Salvador, somos hechos nuevos. El limpia el pecado que estaba dentro de nosotros. ¡Esto es porque Jesús esta en nuestras vidas!

**GREEN-** This reminds us that we are to grow as a Christian. In order to grow in our relationship with God, we need to pray, read the Bible, and hang out with other Christians by coming to Bible Study.

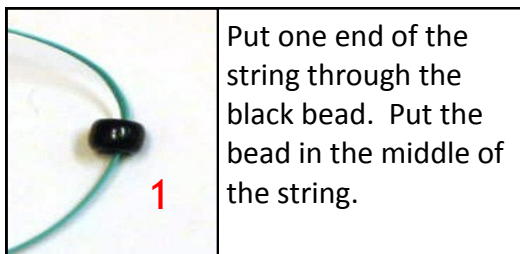
**VERDE-** Este representa crecimiento como Cristiano. Para crecer necesitamos tener una relación con Dios. Esto es posible orando, leyendo la Biblia, y teniendo convivió con otros Cristianos por venir al Estudio Bíblico.

**YELLOW-** This reminds us of Heaven! The Bible says that every person who has trusted Jesus to be his or her Savior will spend forever in Heaven with Him.

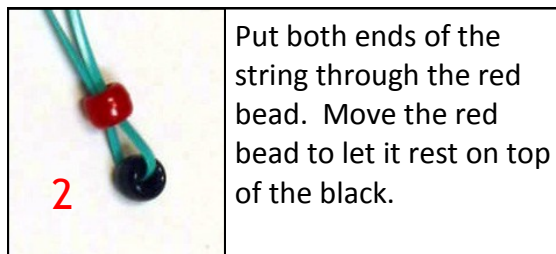
**AMARILLO-** Este representa el cielo. La Biblia nos dice que cada persona que ha puesto su fe en Jesús como Salvador estará por toda la eternidad en el cielo a lado de El.

# Day Three: Salvation Cross Necklace

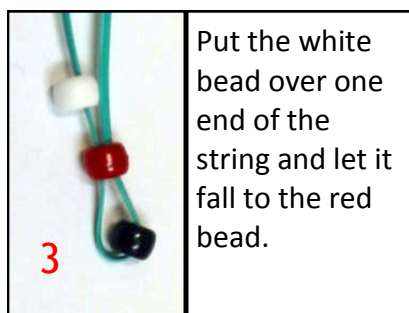
## Step-By-Step Instructions



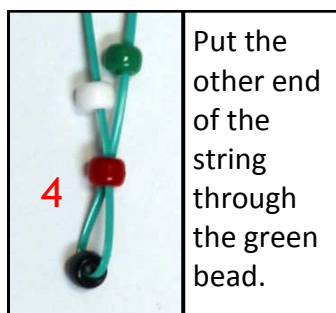
Put one end of the string through the black bead. Put the bead in the middle of the string.



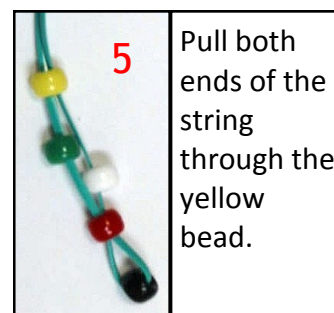
Put both ends of the string through the red bead. Move the red bead to let it rest on top of the black.



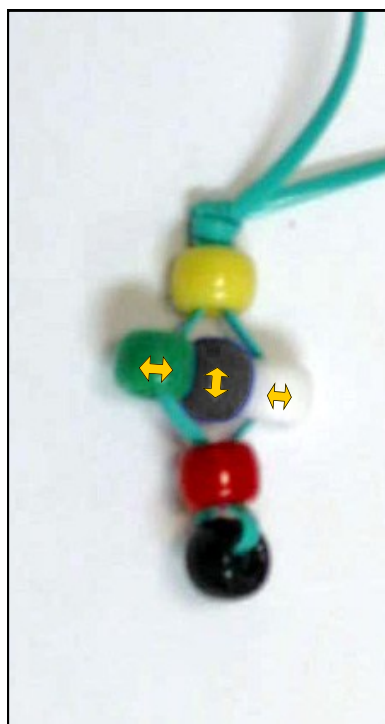
Put the white bead over one end of the string and let it fall to the red bead.



Put the other end of the string through the green bead.



Pull both ends of the string through the yellow bead.



- Line up the green and white beads next to each other on top of the red bead.
- Move the yellow bead down to just above them. Put the filler bead (usually clear, but can be any extra bead that you want to use) in between the green and white beads.
  - ***The open ends of the filler bead need to be against the sides of the other two.*** (In other words, the filler bead has to be perpendicular to the green and white.)
- Push the yellow bead down so that it tightens the string through the green and white beads. The green and white beads should squeeze tight enough to keep the filler bead in place.
- If you have gel glue, a little bit will help keep the beads secure. Tie a knot just above the yellow bead. Make sure you tie it tightly enough to keep the yellow bead secure against the others or the filler bead might fall out. (Tying more than one knot can help keep the yellow bead from being able to slide up the string.) Tie the two ends of the string together, and your cross necklace is complete.



dark

Sometimes I do bad things that make God sad.

*A veces hago cosas malas que no le gustan a Dios.*



red

Jesus loves me, so He died on the cross to help me.

*Jesús se murió en la cruz por mí porque me ama.*



white

Jesus can take away all the bad things I do.

*Jesús puede quitar todas las cosas malas que hago.*



green

I can follow Jesus and learn to be more like Him.

*Yo puedo seguir a Jesús y aprender ser mas como El.*



yellow

One day I will be with Jesus in Heaven.

*Un día estaré en El Cielo con Jesús.*



dark

Everyone has sinned. No one measures up to God's glory. Romans 3:23

red

But here is how God has shown his love for us. While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8

white

Anyone who believes in Christ is a new creation. The old is gone! The new has come! 2 Corinthians 5:17

green

You are the children that God dearly loves. So be just like Him. Ephesians 5:1

yellow

[Jesus said] "In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am." John 14:2-3



Pues todos han pecado y están privados de la gloria de Dios.  
Romanos 3:23



Pero Dios demuestra su amor por nosotros en esto: en que cuando todavía éramos pecadores, Cristo murió por nosotros. Romanos 5:8



**Por lo tanto, si alguno está en Cristo, es una nueva creación. ¡Lo viejo ha pasado, ha llegado ya lo nuevo! 2 Corintios 5:17**



Por tanto, imiten a Dios, como hijos muy amados. Efesios 5:1



En el hogar de mi Padre hay muchas viviendas; si no fuera así, ya se lo habría dicho a ustedes. Voy a prepararles un lugar. Y si me voy y se lo preparo, vendré para llevármelos conmigo. Así ustedes estarán donde yo esté. Juan 14:2-3

# Day Four

- **Large Group**
  - Songs
  - Puppets
  - Testimony
  - Opening Time: Telephone
- **Small Group**
  - Story: Lazarus
  - Today's Theme: We Can Use the Bible to Tell Other People About Jesus
- **Large Group**
  - Story review questions

## SUMMARY

### Pre-Rainbow Express Gathering

You will begin each day by knocking on doors and then playing games to help attract children to your Rainbow Express.

### Song Time/Puppets

When it is time to begin your activities, have all the children sit down in a large group. It would be helpful to bring a tarp for them to sit on. When the children are together and seated on the tarp, begin your song time.

The Song Leader will come to the front of the group to lead songs. One or two others may also want to come to the front to help show motions. Be sure to have several songs ready to sing and that everyone in the group knows the songs.

During this time you will also have the puppets sing their song(s). Doing the puppet show in between songs can help keep the children's attention. You are provided with one song for each day. If the children are responding well and enjoying the puppet music, it is okay to perform more than one of the songs and repeat the songs from day to day.

*Each day the Large Group Leader will welcome the children and provide an introduction to the day's themes and activities. The more creative and engaging the Large Group leader acts, the more interested and involved the children will be during the large group.*

*The Large Group Leader will come to the front of the group and explain the day's theme before the children divide into their small groups. What is provided here is a guide for the day's opening. Do not simply read from this page. Read through the discussion guide repeatedly and be able to lead it from memory. Do not feel that the Large Group Leader has to memorize and recite this page. It is not necessarily intended to serve as a script. Rather, use it as a suggestion to help you know how to lead the opening time.*

*For today's opening time have all the children sit in a circle. You will be playing "Telephone" with the children to let them practice telling other people about Jesus. If you have a large number of children, you may want to divide into several smaller groups to help this activity to run more smoothly.*

**TIP**—The Large Group Leader should serve as a sort of "master of ceremonies" to keep each activity flowing smoothly. He should not, however, tell the day's Bible story. That will go much smoother in the small group time. Children listen more attentively in smaller groups.

Hello everybody. Thank you for coming to Rainbow Express today. I hope you have had as much fun this week as I have. We have learned a lot about the Bible. We have learned that it is God's special gift to us. We learned the Bible is for all people. Yesterday we learned that the whole Bible tells us about Jesus.

Today is our very last day of Rainbow Express. Now we need to talk about what you are going to do next. I know that you have learned lots of wonderful things about the Bible this week. I also know that you have lots of friends at school that weren't at Rainbow Express this week. Now you have a job to do. You can tell all your friends about what you did this week. You can tell them what you know about the Bible.

God tells us that He wants us to share the good news in the Bible with other people. He wants us to tell people



# Day Four

how much He loves them. You can do that. You can tell people what you know about God. We're going to play a game today to practice. We're going to tell each other what we know about the Bible. Then you can tell your friends at school or that you play with about the Bible too.

*Play "Telephone" with the children. The first few times have members of your group start the phrase around the circle. Use simple phrases from the memory verse or the stories you have learned this week. Then have the children pick phrases to play with. Encourage them to think of things they could tell their friends about Jesus. Compliment each child on their choice.*

*End with a group prayer. Ask God to help the children to tell their friends about Him and His love.*

## Memory Verse Activity

When the Large Group Leader finishes his opening time, the Memory Verse Teacher will come to the front to lead the memory verse activity. The large group memory verse activity for day four is "Next Word Relay". Have your poster of the memory verse available. Read through the verse all together several times to practice. Divide the children into two or more teams. Then, split each team in half. Have the two halves face each other in a single file line, about ten feet apart. Have the first person on the team say the first word of the verse. That player then runs across and tags the first player in the line facing them. The first player then runs to the back of that line. The second player then says the next word in the verse, then runs across to tag the player on the opposite line. Keep going until each team has said the whole verse. You may want to bring a stopwatch to time the children and see which team can do it the fastest.

## Introduction of Today's Story--Building the Foundation

When the Memory Verse Teacher is finished, the Large Group Leader will return to the front to provide a brief introduction to the day's theme and story. Each day you will re-introduce the concept that the Bible tells us the truth about God's love and the Savior He sent for us. Take time to sum up the previous day's stories and themes. Be sure each day to introduce the theme for the day's story. The stories for the whole week are intended to show that we can be confident in Jesus as our Savior. Help the children understand that God wants desperately for all people to know Him and accept Christ as their Savior. When you have finished this introduction, divide the children into small groups to hear the Bible story.

## Small Group Story Time

*When the Large Group Time is over, divide the children into small groups for story time. The text provided here is to serve as a guide for you while you tell the story. Read it through several times and be able to tell it from memory. It is not important to be able to recite this story word-for-word. Your goal is to be able to relate the story to a level children will understand. Use the wording included here as suggestions to help you make these concepts understood by elementary age children. Feel free to adapt these words to fit well with your own style.*

## Today's Story:

This week we are learning about the Bible. The Bible is a special book God gave us to tell us how much He loves us. The first day we learned that the Bible came from God. Tuesday, we learned that the Bible is for all people. Yesterday, we learned that the whole Bible tells us about what Jesus did for us.

Yesterday, we also learned that Jesus gave everybody who believes in Him a job to do. After Jesus came back to life, He went to visit many of His friends. He told them that God wants all people to know how much He loves them. Jesus told us to tell all people in the world about God's wonderful plan for us in the Bible.

Today we're going to learn about Philip, a man who told other people about Jesus, just like Jesus said. After Jesus gave instructions to His friends, He returned to Heaven to be with God. Jesus' friends went to many different places, teaching about Jesus everywhere they went. Philip was one of these men. He went to a place called Samaria to tell people there about God.

One day Philip was walking along the road outside Samaria. He could see another man on the road, riding in a chariot. A chariot is like a two-wheeled car that gets pulled around by horses. The man in the chariot was from Ethiopia, a country in Africa. He was a very important man who was in charge of all the queen's money. The Ethiopian

# Day Four

had traveled from Africa to worship God at the church in Israel. Now he was on his way back home. He was reading from the Bible during His long trip back home.

Philip ran up to the chariot to speak to the Ethiopian. "I see that you are reading the Bible," Philip said. "Do you understand what you are reading?"

"No, I don't understand," the Ethiopian answered sadly. "I need somebody that can explain to me what this Bible is talking about."

"I can help you," Philip said happily.

The Ethiopian gladly helped Philip climb into the chariot with him. He showed Philip what he had been reading. The Ethiopian was reading a part of the Bible that talked about a special person God sent to take away people's sins.

"He was beaten down and made to suffer. But he didn't open his mouth. He was led away like a sheep to be killed. Lambs are silent while their wool is being cut off. In the same way, he didn't open his mouth. He was arrested and sentenced to death. Then he was taken away. He was cut off from this life. He was punished for the sins of my people." (Isaiah 53:7-8 NIRV)

After the Ethiopian read, he looked at Philip. "I don't understand this part. Who is the person these words are talking about?"

"These words are about Jesus," Philip explained. "Jesus is God's son. He never did anything bad, but He was killed on a cross. He got in trouble for the bad things we do."

Philip told the Ethiopian all about Jesus. He told how Jesus had helped people. He told how much Jesus loves us. He explained that anybody can ask Jesus to be a part of their life.

The Ethiopian became very excited. He wanted to have Jesus in his life! He wanted Jesus to forgive him, just like the Bible said He would. "Please tell me how to have Jesus in my life," the Ethiopian asked Philip.

After Philip explained how to pray and talk to God, the Ethiopian prayed and asked God to forgive him. He told God he was sorry for his sin. Then he asked Jesus to come be in his heart and give him a new life.

The Ethiopian went home to Africa, telling God thank you the whole time he went. He was very happy to have Jesus in his life now. God took Philip to another place to tell even more people about Jesus and what Jesus did for us.

Philip knew that Jesus gave us a special job. The Bible is full of wonderful stories of God's love. The good news in the Bible is for everybody, but many people don't know about it. There are many people who don't know about all God's love and promises in the Bible. Jesus gave us the job of telling people about the good news in the Bible.

There are lots of ways you can help people around you know about Jesus' love. You can tell them the Bible stories you have learned here at Rainbow Express. You can invite them to come to Bible Study with you. You can teach them the memory verse you have learned here this week. Your friends might like to see the crafts you have made. They need to hear about the bead necklace you made, and what all the different colors mean.

Aren't you glad that God loves us so much that He sent Jesus to help us? Aren't you glad He gave us His special book, the Bible, to help us learn about it? Now you can help do the important job Jesus gave you and tell other people the good news you have learned in the Bible.

*Each day you will close the story time with an invitation to accept Jesus. Say something like this:* God wants everybody to follow Him. The problem is that sometimes we do bad things that the Bible calls sin. A sin is anything that we do that God does not want us to do. God still loves us, even though we sin. That's why Jesus came. Jesus died on the cross to be punished for our sins. Then on the third day He came back to life. Now, for anybody who asks, Jesus will take away our sins and become a part of our lives. He will help us to follow Him. The Bible says that if we believe Jesus in our hearts and follow Him, He will save us from our sin and help us to follow God. Then one day we will be with Him in heaven. Anybody that wants to choose to follow Jesus can do that today. We would love to help you know how.

## Prayer Time

Take this time after the story to pray with the children in your small group. Ask them for things they would like to pray about. Tell God how awesome He is. Ask Him to help you and the children in your small group to listen to God and obey Him. Pray that the children in your group will get to know God and feel the love He has for them.

## Craft

While still in your small groups, lead the children in making the craft or filling out the activities packet for the day. The craft time is not only a way to reinforce the lesson, but it also allows time to get to know the children in your small group.

# Day Four

During this time, ask them questions about their families, friends, and school. Invest in their lives. For today's craft time you will give each child an activity packet with pictures to color and various puzzles to solve.

*Supplies needed:* crayons, 1 activities packet for each child

*Note—an activities packet for days 1,2, & will be provided while you are here. This packet will include coloring pages, word searches, etc. that relate to the story. Day 3 you will be making a bead necklace to share the plan of salvation instead of packets.*

## Memory Verse Activity

Each day the small group time will include a Memory Verse Activity. The Memory Verse time is one of the most important activities of the day. We want these children to remember God's word and why it is important to them. A list of potential activities is included in the Supplements and Handouts portion of this packet. Use a different idea from that list each day to help the children learn the words of the verse and to explain why it applies to their lives. (Some require extra preparation, so be sure to review the list in advance.) The memory verse for this week is:

*English: Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. Psalm 119:105*

*Spanish: Tu palabra es una lámpara a mis pies; es una luz en mi sendero. Salmos 119:105*

**TIP**—There are one page posters with the memory verse in English and in Spanish in the Supplements and Handouts portion of this packet. Having a copy of the one page memory verse poster with you can help you teach the verse.

## Wrap Up

Each day you will end your Rainbow Express in a second large group session. Have all the children return to the tarp where you started.

Sometimes the movement from small groups to large group becomes distracting, especially to younger children. If you find your children becoming noisy as you return to your large group, consider singing a few songs to help everybody focus again.

The last thing you will do before games and snacks is to review the memory verse and the day's lesson. Have the large group leader give a brief re-telling of the day's story. As you tell the story, frequently pause to let the children answer questions and fill in the blanks about the lesson. When you finish reviewing the story, have everybody say the memory verse together one last time. After reviewing the memory verse, pray before dismissing to game time and snacks.

## Game Time/Snacks

When you are finished, pray together and be ready to play games until the end of the Rainbow Express program. After the game time, pass out snacks, clean up the area, and walk everyone home. Return to Mission Arlington to turn in your materials and attendance sheet.

# Section Four

## Supplements and Handouts

Reproducible  
song lyrics,  
games,  
memory verse  
activities, and  
more

**SONGS:** Use these suggested songs during your opening song time.  
Feel free to add any fun Christian children's songs that you know too.

### 1. Bubbling

It's bubbling, it's bubbling,  
it's bubbling in my soul  
There's singing and laughter  
since Jesus made me whole  
Folks don't understand it,  
I cannot keep it quiet!!  
It's bubbling, bubbling, bubbling,  
bubbling, bubbling day and night

### 2. Come and Go with Me

Come and go with me to my Father's house  
Come and go with me to my Father's house  
It's a big, big house with lots and lots of room  
A big, big table with lots and lots of food  
A big, big yard where we can play football  
A big, big house, it's my Father's house

### 3. Deep and Wide

Deep and wide, deep and wide  
There's a fountain flowin' deep and wide  
Deep and wide, deep and wide  
There's a fountain flowin' deep and wide

### 4. Do You Love my Jesus

Deep, deep Ohhh deep down down  
Deep down in my heart, I love you Jesus  
Deep, deep Ohhh deep down down  
Deep down in my heart  
Do you love my Jesus deep down in your heart?  
Yes I love my Jesus deep down in my heart!

### 5. Father Abraham

Father Abraham had many sons  
Many sons had Father Abraham  
I am one of them, and so are you  
So let's just praise the Lord - Right Arm!

...Left arm, right foot, left foot, nod your head, turn around, sit down!

### 6. God Is So Good

God is so good, God is so good,  
God is so good, He's so good to me  
He answers prayer...  
I love Him so....

### 7. Give Me Oil in my Lamp

Give me oil in my lamp,  
Keep me burning, burning, burning  
Give me oil in my lamp, I pray  
Give me oil in my lamp,  
Keep me burning, burning, burning

Keep me burning til the break of day  
Sing Hosanna, sing Hosanna,  
Sing Hosanna to the King of Kings  
Sing Hosanna, sing Hosanna,  
Sing Hosanna to the King

Give me gas in my Ford,  
Keep me truckin' for the Lord...  
Give me wax on my board,  
Keep me surfin' for the Lord...  
Give me umption in my gumption,  
Make me function, function, function....

### 8. The B-I-B-L-E

The B-I-B-L-E, yes that's the book for me  
I stand alone on the Word of God  
The B-I-B-L-E

**TIP**—Don't know some of the songs? Has it been too long since you did the motions to Deep and Wide? If you need to learn/refresh any melodies or motions, you can find lots of these songs on youtube. Just search by the song title.

### 9. He's a Peach of a Savior

He's a peach of a Savior  
He's the apple of my eye  
He prunes away the branches  
when my branches get too high  
He stomps my grapes of wrath  
when my life gets too tough  
That's why I'm bananas for the Lord  
He's the vine and we're the branches  
He's the vine and we're the branches  
He's the vine and we're the branches  
That's why I'm bananas for the Lord

### 10. I'm All Wrapped Up

I'm all wrapped up, I'm all tied up,  
I'm all tangled up in Jesus  
I'm all wrapped up, I'm all tied up,  
I'm all tangled up in God  
I'm all wrapped up, I'm all tied up,  
I'm all tangled up in Jesus  
I'm all wrapped up, tied up, tangled up in God

### 11. I'm Gonna Sing, Sing, Sing

I'm gonna sing, sing, sing  
I'm gonna shout, shout, shout  
I'm gonna sing, I'm gonna shout, Praise the Lord  
When those gates are opened wide  
I'm gonna sit by Jesus' side  
I'm gonna sing, I'm gonna shout, Praise the Lord

**SONGS:** Use these suggested songs during your opening song time.  
Feel free to add any fun Christian children's songs that you know too.

**12. I'm in the Lord's Army**

I may never march in the infantry,  
ride in the cavalry, shoot the artillery  
I may never fly o'er the enemy  
But I'm in the Lord's army, Yes sir!  
I'm in the Lord's army, Yes sir!  
I'm in the Lord's army, Yes sir!  
I may never march in the infantry,  
ride in the cavalry, shoot the artillery  
I may never fly o'er the enemy  
But I'm in the Lord's army

**13. I've Got a River of Life**

I've got a river of life flowing out of me  
Makes the lame to walk and the blind to see  
Opens prisoners' doors, sets the captives free  
I've got a river of life flowing out of me  
Spring up oh well (gush gush gush gush)  
within my soul  
Spring up oh well (splish splash) and make me whole  
Spring up oh well (whoosh) and give to me  
That life abundantly

**14. I've Got Joy Down in my Heart**

I've got joy down in my heart  
Deep deep down in my heart  
Spell it J-O-Y Down in my heart  
Deep deep down in my heart  
Who put it there? Jesus put it there  
And nothing can destroy it,  
destroy it, destroy it — UGH!  
I've got joy down in my heart  
Deep deep down in my heart

**15. I've Got Peace Like a River**

I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river  
I've got peace like a river in my soul  
I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river  
I've got peace like a river in my soul  
I've got love like a mountain.....  
I've got joy like a fountain.....  
I've got peace, love, and joy  
like a river mountain fountain.....

**16. I Have So Much**

I have so much, so much, so much, so much, so much,  
so much, so much, so much, so much, so much,  
so much, so much, so much (clap) to be thankful for.  
(REPEAT)  
I have Jesus to be thankful for.....  
I have the Bible to be thankful for.....  
I have you to be thankful for.....

**17. Little Square Box**

If I had a little square box to put my Jesus in,  
I'd take Him out and hug His neck  
and share Him with a friend  
But if I had a little square box  
to put the devil in,  
I'd take him out and STOMP HIS FACE  
and put him back again.

**18. I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy**

I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart  
Where? Down in my heart  
Where? Down in my heart  
I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart  
Down in my heart to stay  
And I'm so happy, so very happy  
I've got the love of Jesus in my heart  
Down in my heart  
And I'm so happy, so very happy  
I've got the love of Jesus in my heart

And if the devil doesn't like it  
he can sit on a tack! Ouch!.....  
And if the devil doesn't like it  
he can swallow a bomb! Boom!.....  
And if the devil doesn't like it  
he can fall off a cliff! Ahhh!.....  
I've got the wonderful love of my blessed redeemer  
way down in the depths of my heart....

**19. If You're Happy and You Know It**

If you're happy and you know it clap your hands  
If you're happy and you know it clap your hands  
If you're happy and you know it  
then your face will surely show it  
If you're happy and you know it clap your hands  
If you're happy and you know it  
stomp your feet...  
If you're happy and you know it say Amen...  
If you're happy and you know it Praise the Lord...  
If you're happy and you know it say Yee-Haw...

**20. Jesus in the Morning**

Jesus, Jesus, Jesus in the morning  
Jesus at the noon time  
Jesus, Jesus, Jesus when the sun goes down  
  
Love Him....  
Serve Him...  
Praise Him...  
Share Him...  
Thank Him...

**SONGS:** Use these suggested songs during your opening song time.  
Feel free to add any fun Christian children's songs that you know too.

**21. Jesus Is my Rock**

Jesus is my Rock, and He rolls my blues away  
Bop shoe Bop Shoe Bop Woo!! (Repeat 2x)

**22. Jesus Loves Me**

Jesus loves me this I know,  
for the Bible tells me so  
Little ones to Him belong  
They are weak but He is strong  
Chorus:  
Singing na na na na na na na na- Heh!  
Na na na na na na na na- Huh!  
Yes, Jesus loves me, Yes, Jesus loves me,  
Yes, Jesus loves me, The Bible tells me so

Jesus loves me when I'm good  
When I do the things I should  
Jesus loves me when I'm bad  
Though it makes Him very sad  
(Chorus)

**23. My God Is So Big**

My God is so big, so strong and so mighty  
There's nothing my God cannot do  
My God is so big, so strong and so mighty  
There's nothing my God cannot do  
The mountains are His, the rivers are His  
The stars are His handiwork too  
My God is so big, so strong and so mighty  
There's nothing my God cannot do, for you

**24. No One That I Know**

No one that I know walks like you,  
Talks like you, or looks like you  
No one that I know is like you  
No one else does what you do

**25. Sheep Song**

I wanna be a sheep baa baa,  
I wanna be a sheep baa baa  
Cuz Jesus loves sheep  
I wanna be a sheep baa baa  
I don't wanna be a goat nope nope  
I don't wanna be a goat nope nope  
Cuz there ain't no hope for goats  
I don't wanna be a goat nope nope

**26. Satan Didn't Like It**

Satan didn't like it when we  
Came outta the wilderness  
Came outta the wilderness  
Came outta the wilderness  
Satan didn't like it when we  
Came outta the wilderness  
Walkin' with the Lord, Walkin' with the Lord  
Walkin' with the Lord  
Satan didn't like it when we  
Came outta the wilderness  
Walkin' with the Lord

Swimmin' with the Lord...  
Dancin' with the Lord...

**27. Shake a Friend's Hand**

Shake a friend's hand,  
Shake the hand next to you  
Shake a friend's hand and sing along  
Shake a friend's hand,  
Shake the hand next to you  
Shake a friend's hand and sing,  
Sing a ha-la-la-la-la-la-leluah,  
Ha-la-la-la-la-leluah (repeat)

Scratch a friend's back, ...  
Hug a friend's neck...

**28. Swing Low, Sweet Chariot**

Swing low, sweet chariot  
Comin' fo' to carry me home  
Swing low, sweet chariot  
Comin' fo' to carry me home

**29. On a Day Like This**

On a day like this (clap, clap)  
On a day like this (clap, clap)  
On a day like this (clap) Ohhhhhhhh  
I need the Lord to help me  
On a day like this (stomp, stomp, clap, clap)  
On a day like this (stomp, stomp, clap, clap)  
On a day like this (stomp, clap) Ohhhhhhhh  
I need the Lord to help me

On a day like this (toot, toot, stomp, stomp, clap, clap)...  
On a day like this (pat, pat, toot, toot, stomp, stomp,  
clap, clap)...  
On a day like this (bounce, bounce, pat, pat, toot, toot,  
stomp, stomp, clap, clap)

**SONGS:** Use these suggested songs during your opening song time. Feel free to add any fun Christian children's songs that you know too.

**30. The Fruit of the Spirit**

The fruit of the Spirit's not a banana  
 The fruit of the Spirit's not a banana  
 If you wanna be a banana  
 You might as well hear it  
 You can't be a fruit of the Spirit  
 Cuz the fruit is love, joy, peace and patience, kindness,  
 goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control  
 The fruit of the Spirit's not a coconut...  
 The fruit of the Spirit's not a lemon...

**31. This is the Day**

This is the day, this is the day  
 That the Lord has made, that the Lord has made  
 I will rejoice, I will rejoice  
 And be glad in it, And be glad in it  
 This is the day that the Lord has made  
 I will rejoice and be glad in it  
 This is the day, this is the day  
 That the Lord has made

**32. This Little Light of Mine**

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine  
 This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine  
 This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine  
 Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine  
 Hide it under a bush, oh no!  
 I'm gonna let it shine  
 Hide it under a bush, oh no!  
 I'm gonna let it shine  
 Hide it under a bush, oh no!  
 I'm gonna let it shine  
 Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

Won't let satan blow it out,  
 I'm gonna let it shine

**33. Walk, Walk, Walk, Walk in the Light**

It's a great day to praise the Lord.  
 It's a great day to praise the Lord.  
 It's a great day to praise the Lord.  
 Walking in the Light of Love.  
 Walk, walk, walk, walk in the light (Hey!)  
 Walk, walk, walk, walk in the light (Hey!)  
 Walk, walk, walk, walk in the light (Hey!)  
 Walking in the Light of Love.

It's a great day to hug a neck...  
 It's a great day to say "Amen!"...

**34. What a Mighty God We Serve**

What a mighty God we serve  
 What a mighty God we serve  
 Angels bow before Him  
 Heaven and earth adore Him.  
 What a mighty God we serve.

**35. Who's the King of the Jungle?**

Who's the king of the jungle? ooo ooo  
 Who's the king of the sea?  
 wiggle wiggle wiggle  
 Who's the king of the universe,  
 and who's the king of me?  
 I tell you J-E-S-U-S! Yes!  
 He's the King of me  
 He's the king of the universe,  
 the jungle, ooo ooo  
 and the sea. wiggle wiggle wiggle

**36. With Jesus in your Boat**

With Jesus in your boat,  
 you can smile through the storm  
 Smile through the storm,  
 smile through the storm  
 With Jesus in your boat,  
 you can smile through the storm  
 When you're sailing home  
 Sailing, sailing home, sailing, sailing home  
 With Jesus in your boat, you can smile through the  
 storm when you're sailing home



## GAMES: These games are just suggestions to help you get started. Feel free to incorporate other children's games you think will work well.

**Big, Bad Wolf:** Have the children stand in a line at one end of the game area. One leader or child is the “Big, Bad Wolf” and will stand at the other end of the area with her back to the children. In unison, the children shout, “What time is it Mr. Wolf?” The wolf answers with an hour, “4 o'clock”, for example. The children take that number of steps forward. If the wolf said “4 o'clock,” the children would take 4 steps toward the wolf. When the wolf thinks the children are close enough to her, she answers their question with, “It's eating time!” Then she chases them back to their starting line. Anyone she tags joins her as a wolf. The game ends when all but one participant has been tagged.

**Knots:** Direct children to stand in a circle, then tell them to join right hands with someone across from them. While maintaining that grip, each person should grab a different person's left hand. No one should join hands with a person immediately beside him or her. The objective of the game simply is to untangle masses of arms, legs, and bodies without releasing hand grips. Twisting or adjusting a grip is permissible and needed to prevent impossible movements of joints! Untangling the knot may take time, but usually a single large circle or two small ones (interconnected) are formed. If, after a reasonable amount of time, the group is still helplessly tangled, direct two participants to drop each other's hands. Doing so will permit a quick solution.

**Overall Understanding:** Players are divided into two teams. Teams line up in parallel rows with players standing behind one another. The first player on each team is given a beach ball, or balloon. When the leader says, “Go,” the first player on each line passes the ball backward over her head to the second player. The second player passes the ball under his legs to the next person in line, and so forth. The ball continues to be passed backward down the line, alternately over and under, until it reaches the last player. The last player, receiving the ball, runs to the front of his or her line and begins to pass the ball back again. This continues until every player on the line has a chance to be at the beginning. The team whose first player gets to the front of the line again is the winner.

**PREPARATION TIP**—Once children get “wound up”, it can be tough to get them “wound down” again. Games time is an important bonding opportunity between you and the children. Don't use games that are too rough or that could become a distraction: Red Rover, roughhousing, etc.

**Parachute:** You will have a tarp with you to use for the children to sit on each day. The tarp can double as a “parachute”. Have the kids stand on all sides of the tarp and hold it at waist level. Each side of the tarp is a team, making four teams. Put a beach ball on the tarp. Have the kids shake the tarp. They should try to shake the tarp so that the beach ball falls off another team's side. Whenever the beach ball falls off the tarp, the team on that side gets a point. The team that has the fewest points at the end of the game wins.

**People to People:** Tell everyone to find a partner and choose one person to lead the game. The leader yells a body part, and the players will touch each other using that part. For example, the leader might say, “knee to knee,” and the partners will touch knees. After several rounds, the leader will yell, “people to people,” and everyone has to find a new partner. The leader also runs into the crowd and finds a partner. Whoever is left without a partner is the new leader.

**Sharks and Minnows:** You will need a good size running area for this game. Have the children line up along one side of the area. They are the “minnows”. Have the leader stand in the middle of the area. The leader is the shark. When the shark yells “Go!”, the minnows run to the other end of the area. The shark runs around and tags as many minnows as possible before they reach the other end of the field. When a minnow is tagged, he or she must freeze wherever tagged. When all of the untagged minnows reach the end of the area, the shark yells, “Go!” again. This time the shark and the frozen minnows may tag the runners. The game continues until there is only one minnow left. That minnow is the winner and begins the next game as the shark.

**Everybody's It Tag:** There are two rules: (1) everybody is It, and (2) when a player is tagged, he or she is frozen. Have everyone stand in a circle. Then the leader shouts “Everybody's it!” and the game starts (and quickly ends).

**GAMES:** These games are just suggestions to help you get started. Feel free to incorporate other children's games you think will work well.

**Hospital Tag:** The first time a player is tagged, she puts her hand on the part of herself that was tagged. The second time she is tagged, she must put her other hand on that area. The third time, because she is out of hands, she must sit down.

**Freezer/Defroster Tag:** A tagged player must freeze with his hands and feet on the ground and his back to the sky. He can move again when another player crawls between his hands and feet.

**Trust Walk:** Choose a landmark in your area to be the "goal" of this game. A mailbox or tree will probably be readily available for this purpose. Blindfold one player and choose another player to be the "guide." Have the rest of the children scatter themselves between the blindfolded person and the goal. The guide leads the blindfolded person through all the people to the goal while the children in the way will call out other directions. The blindfolded player must listen carefully to the guide's instructions. Let the children take turns being blindfolded and being the guide.

**Circle Spot Rush:** All players stand in a circle, arms' length apart, facing inward. In the center of the circle are small markers (paper plates, pieces of construction paper, etc.). The number of markers is always one less than the number of players. The leader of the game stands just outside the circle and calls out various types of movement: run, skip, hop, etc. The players move clockwise around the circle in the way directed by the leader. The game leader can also call out *stop* (all players freeze wherever they are) or *about face* (players continue to move in the same manner but reverse directions). When the game leader yells *rush* all players run to the center of the circle and try to stand on one of the markers. Whichever player does not stand on a marker is eliminated. One marker is removed and play continues. The object of the game is to be the last player remaining.

**Animal Relay:** Each small group will be a team. Teams stand in single file lines, facing a finish line about fifty feet away. The first player runs across the finish line, runs back, tags the next player, and goes to the end of the line. The relay continues until each player has run twice. While they run the game leader calls out various animals. All players must run like that animal until the next one is called. The first team to have all their players finish twice wins.

**Sit Down Volleyball-** *materials needed: beach ball:* Divide all players into two equal teams. Have the two teams sit down indian-style facing each other in two to four rows. The object of the game is to get the ball behind the other team. One person throws the ball up in the air and the two teams hit the ball back and forth until one team hits it over the heads of the other team and it lands behind them. Score just like regular volleyball. The catch is that both teams have to stay seated throughout the entire game. You can add variety to the game by having each team use only one hand or sitting with teams backs toward each other instead of facing each other.

**Elbow Tag:** Assign all players a partner. Spread pairs out evenly across the playing area. Have the pairs link arms. Choose one pair to start out as the chaser "It", and the chatee. Just like regular tag, It tries to tag the chatee. If the chatee is tagged, he or she in turn becomes it and the chase reverses. The chatee's goal is to link with another player. When the chatee links arms with one side of a pair, the other player must unlink, becoming the chatee.

# PUPPETS

**Remember that you can borrow puppets from Mission Arlington / Mission Metroplex if you do not have any.**

More than two decades ago, we learned that puppets have a power to draw people. Obviously a simple puppet show holds the most charm for young children. You will be amazed, however, how many parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles will come to watch puppets just because they are curious. This gives you a great opportunity to connect with them and potentially share the gospel. So don't be afraid to try using them, even if you never have before. Here are some tips on how easily incorporate puppets into your Rainbow Express program:

**SONG TIME**—Have the puppets sing along with the songs. This is fun for young children.

**MEMORY VERSE**—Have the puppets help teach the memory verse. We have found it to be especially helpful to have the children teach the memory verse to the puppets. Let the puppets “play dumb” so that it takes them several tries to learn it.

**GATHERING**—Have the puppets going while you are out knocking on doors and taking attendance. You will find the puppet show attracts plenty of curiosity.

**CLOSING TIME**—Have the puppets ask the review questions in the final large group time. Alternatively, you could have the puppets give funny answers to the review questions asked and let the children help correct them.

**PREPARATION TIP:** If you do not have a puppet stage you can easily make one out of a large cardboard box (at Mission Arlington we use refrigerator boxes or washer/dryer boxes). Just cut and unfold the box and then decorate the front with butcher paper, spray paint, or any other way that you would like. If you are not able to make one, you may borrow one from Mission Arlington / Mission Metroplex while you are here.



**PUPPET CONCERTS**—One of the simplest and surprisingly effective ways to use puppets is to let them give a one or two song “concert” each day during your Rainbow Express program. Bring a portable boombox and a CD or MP3 player with fun, upbeat Christian music, especially if there is an easy chorus the kids can catch on to and sing along with. Songs from bands like Audio Adrenaline, TobyMac, Newsboys, David Crowder and a huge number of other possibilities can be fun to do with puppets.

*A NOTE ON PUPPET MUSIC—It is very important to remember that some songs that might be youth group favorites may be more likely to drive away than attract some parents. Keep in mind that the goal is to find opportunities to interact with all age groups, not just children and teenagers. We recommend not using some of the “rockier” Christian music out there. Don't forget that the music is for the residents of the apartments, not for our personal listening pleasure.*

**MEMORY VERSE: these are suggested activities to help you review the memory verse during your small group times. Feel free to add other ideas as well.**

### Teams

Divide the kids into two teams. Let one side say the first part of the verse and let the others complete it. See how loud and soft and fast and slow each side can be. (Remember you can be creative in your team divisions: Boys v. Girls, Sandals v. Tennis Shoes, Eye or Hair Colors, kids wearing shorts v. kids wearing jeans...etc.) Compliment both teams on a job well done.

### Memory Verse Challenge

Make signs using construction paper with one or two words of the verse on each. Have several workers or children stand at the front and hold the signs so that everyone can see the words. Lead the children in saying the verse together a few times. Then, one at a time, have the sign holders hide their sign, and say the verse together again. Repeat this until all the signs are hidden and say the verse one more time.

**PREPARATION TIP:** Some of these ideas require extra supplies and/or preparation ahead of time. You need to decide which activities you want to use ahead of time so that you can be sure to pack the supplies you will need.

### Hand Signs

Assign a hand motion for each word of the verse. Teach the children the hand signs and the words at the same time. Then say the words while the children only do the hand motions. And then do the hand motions while the children say the words.

### Volley Verse

Sit or stand in a circle. Take a soft ball or balloon and pass it around in a circle, each person saying one word of the verse as they hold the ball and pass it on. Go fast and slow, repeating the whole verse each time. When the kids feel comfortable saying the verse, volley the ball from person to person across the circle, letting each person say one word as they pass the ball.

### Verse Pop

Gather several small strips of paper and write one or two words of the verse on each strip. Put each paper inside a balloon and inflate the balloon. Let the children who are sitting the most quietly pop the balloon handed to them, and say the word they find inside. Have all the children repeat the word and continue until all the balloons are popped. Have a copy of the entire verse ready so that, in the end, the children can see the whole verse on one page. Repeat the verse several times with all the children. (It is a good idea to write numbers on the balloons so you can hand them to the children in the correct order. Also, be aware of smaller children who might be afraid of the popping noise.)

### Verse Puzzle

Write the verse on a piece of paper and cut the paper into 6-10 pieces. Let the children put the puzzle together as a team. Make sure everyone gets a chance to help. When it is finished, say the verse altogether. Put the puzzle together again. See how fast the children can finish the puzzle and say the verse.

### Verse Sticks

Write phrases of the verse on several craft sticks. Work together to put the sticks in the correct order.

### Verse Chain

Gather several small strips of paper and write one or two words of the verse on each strip. Working together in your small group, tape the links together in circles to make a paper chain. When you finish, say the verse all together.

Your word is a lamp  
to my feet and a  
light to my path.

Psalm 119:105

---

Tu palabra es una  
lámpara a mis pies;  
es una luz en mi sen-  
dero. Salmos 119:105

# *A final word . . .*

**Whether you are coming here to Mission Arlington / Mission Metroplex or using this material for another mission outreach, we are grateful for the opportunity to partner in ministry with you. Please contact us with any questions or to let us know how we can pray for you. Daily updates and prayer requests at Mission Arlington, as well as a variety of additional curriculum resources, are available at our web site.**

**For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.**

**Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. *Ephesians 3:14-21***

**Mission Arlington / Mission Metroplex  
210 W. South Street  
Arlington, TX, 76010  
Phone: 817-277-6620  
E-mail: [mission@missionarlington.org](mailto:mission@missionarlington.org)  
Web: [www.missionarlington.org](http://www.missionarlington.org)**