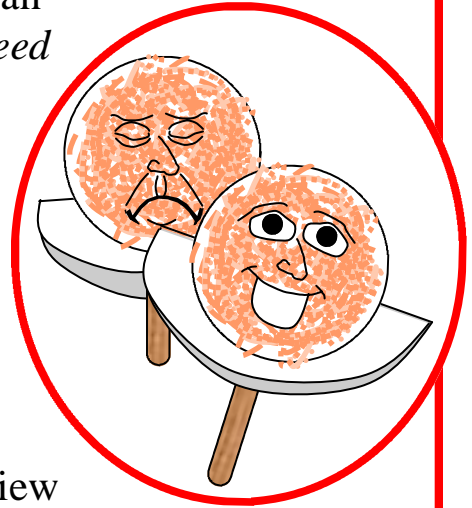


Day Two

KNOWING JESUS

- **Large Group**
 - Songs
 - Puppets
 - Opening Time: Sooooo Thirsty
 - *We Need to Make a Choice*
 - Memory Verse: Loud and Soft
- **Small Group**
 - Story: The Blind Man
 - *Theme: We Need to Decide to Believe in Jesus*
 - *John 9:1-38*
 - Craft: Blind Mask
 - Act out the story of the blind man
 - Memory Verse Review
- **Large Group**
 - Story review questions



Day Two Opening

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.

TIP—The Large Group Leader should lead his opening monologue and 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.

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 enjoy the puppet music, it is okay to perform more than one of the songs and repeat the songs from day to day.

The Opening

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. Prepare ahead of time by making a fun costume.

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 lead the opening time.

(The Large Group Leader will need one helper for this opening. The large group leader needs an empty cup. The helper needs a cup of water.)

I am glad to see all of you here today. If this is your first day, then I want to welcome you here. This week we’re learning what it means to know Jesus.

I need your help. I am having a real problem. I am very, very thirsty today, and I can’t figure out why. I have watched other people when they get thirsty. They take a drink from a cup. I have a cup. *(Show the children your empty cup.)* I keep drinking from this cup, but I’m still thirsty. Does anybody know why I’m still thirsty? *(Let the children*

respond. Lead them to tell you that you need water in your cup.) You mean I have to have water, too? My cup is not enough by itself? I must have really misunderstood.

I'm going to try an experiment. I need a cup of water. *(Have the helper give you a cup of water.)* I'm going to try drinking out of both cups. Let's see which one makes me feel better. *(Take a "drink" from the empty cup.)* Well, that didn't work. I'm still very thirsty. *(Take a drink from the cup of water.)* That's great! Now I don't feel thirsty anymore. Thank you so much for helping me! I thought I knew what would make me not thirsty any more, but I was wrong. I'm glad that you told me the truth.

Sometimes people think they know the truth, but they are wrong. We are going to learn about that in our story today. Jesus helped a man, but some people did not like it. These people thought they knew how to go to Heaven. They thought they just had to be good and go to church. They did not know that knowing Jesus is the only way to go to Heaven. We're going to see that Jesus wants to help us know the truth. Jesus wants us to know Him.

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.

After the Memory Verse Teacher finishes, divide the children into small groups to continue.

Day Two Scripture

John 9:1-38 (NIV)

As [Jesus] went along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”

“Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life. As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

Having said this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. “Go,” he told him, “wash in the Pool of Siloam” (this word means Sent). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, “Isn't this the same man who used to sit and beg?” Some claimed that he was.

Others said, “No, he only looks like him.”

But he himself insisted, “I am the man.”

“How then were your eyes opened?” they demanded.

He replied, “The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see.”

“Where is this man?” they asked him.

“I don't know,” he said.

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man's eyes was a Sabbath. Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. “He put mud on my eyes,” the man replied, “and I washed, and now I see.”

Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.”

But others asked, “How can a sinner do such miraculous signs?” So they were divided.

Finally they turned again to the blind man, “What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened.”

The man replied, “He is a prophet.”

The Jews still did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they sent for the man's parents. “Is this your son?” they asked. “Is this the one you say was born blind? How is it that now he can see?”

“We know he is our son,” the parents answered, “and we know he was born blind. But how he can see now, or who opened his eyes, we don't know. Ask him. He is of age; he will speak for himself.” His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for already the Jews had decided that anyone who acknowledged that Jesus was the Christ would be put out of the synagogue. That was why his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. “Give glory to God,” they said. “We know this man is a sinner.”

PREPARATION TIP—We have included the scripture today's story is taken from. Before you learn the children's version of the story (next in this packet) you will be using to teach at Rainbow Express, please read through the verses. Pray and ask God to help you understand the scripture and the point He wants you to help the children understand.

He replied, "Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!"

Then they asked him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?"

He answered, "I have told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples, too?"

Then they hurled insults at him and said, "You are this fellow's disciple! We are disciples of Moses! We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don't even know where he comes from."

The man answered, "Now that is remarkable! You don't know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly man who does his will. Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing."

To this they replied, "You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!" And they threw him out.

Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

"Who is he, sir?" the man asked. "Tell me so that I may believe in him."

Jesus said, "You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you."

Then the man said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him.

Day Two Story

Small Group 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 translate the story as it is written in the Bible (see previous pages) 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: The Blind Man

Yesterday I told you about when John first met Jesus. John was excited to get to be with Him and see the incredible things that He could do. Soon John learned that knowing Jesus means more than just watching Him do amazing things. It also means believing what He came to do.

John was part of a group of people called the disciples. The disciples were twelve men that went with Jesus everywhere He went. Jesus taught them, so they could teach other people about Him. John's brother James and his friends Simon and Andrew were disciples, too.

One day, all of the disciples were walking along with Jesus. A blind man was sitting on the side of the road. When this man was born, his eyes didn't work right. He had never seen anything in his whole life. All of the disciples thought they knew why this man was blind. They thought that God made him blind to punish him for something bad.

"Who did the bad thing that made this man blind?" One of the other disciples asked Jesus. "Was it him, or his parents?"

Jesus shook His head. "This man is not blind because of something bad he did," Jesus told us. "He is blind so that you can see how God works."

Jesus walked over to the blind man and knelt down beside him. Then Jesus did something very strange. He made some mud on the ground. He took a little bit of the mud on His fingers and put it on the blind man's eyes. "Now go to the water and wash this mud off," Jesus told the blind man.

The blind man was confused. He did not know what to think, but he decided to trust Jesus. He stood up and somebody helped him go to the water. As soon as he washed the mud off his face, something amazing happened. He could see! This man that had been blind his whole life could suddenly see. The blind man wasn't blind anymore!

He hurried home to tell his family and friends that he could see. The other people in the neighborhood did not know what to think. Some were happy to see that their friend could see now. Some people did not believe it was really their friend.

"It really is me," the man told them. "I used to be blind, but now I can see."

"How can you see?" The people asked the man.

"Somebody named Jesus helped me," the man told them. "He made me able to see again."

Remember yesterday when Jesus helped the man that could not walk. There were some

PREPARATION TIP—When you tell the story use as many interactive elements as you can. You are going to be outside talking to kids with short attention spans. Keep them involved so they will hear the story! Remember that involving the children will help them pay attention. Use hand motions and sound effects. Have your children repeat things back to you. Ask questions.

DO NOT READ TO THE KIDS. TELL THEM THE STORY! Even though you will be telling and not reading the story, have your Bible open to the story in your lap. This will help the children recognize that the story comes from the Bible and is not simply a fairy tale or something we have made up.

Helpers: While the story teller is teaching, sit with the children and be a good example by listening to the story. Watch for children who need special attention.

bad men that did not like what Jesus was doing. They did not believe that Jesus was really the Son of God. These same church leaders heard about the blind man. They did not want him to tell people that Jesus made him able to see.

The church leaders told the man that used to be blind to come see them. They asked him lots of angry questions. They tried to make him say that Jesus did not really help him.

“How are you able to see?” the church leaders asked him.

“I already told you that Jesus made me able to see,” the man that used to be blind told them. “He put mud on my eyes and told me to wash it off. When I did, I could see.”

“We think Jesus is a bad person,” the church leaders said. They did not want to believe that Jesus was from God. “What do you think about Jesus?” They finally asked the man.

“I don’t know very much about Jesus,” the man told them. “All I know is that I used to be blind, and now I can see. I don’t think Jesus is a bad man. I think He came from Heaven to help us.”

The church leaders became very angry. “How dare you tell us that Jesus came from Heaven!” They yelled. “You are a bad person. You don’t know anything.” They threw the man out of the church. They told him to never come back. They decided they wanted to find a way to stop Jesus.

Jesus heard about what had happened to the man. He went to visit the blind man. The man had met Jesus while he was still blind. He did not recognize Jesus.

“Do you believe that God’s Son came to help people?” Jesus asked the man.

“Yes sir, I do,” the man said. “I want to know Him.”

“I am God’s Son,” Jesus said. Jesus told the man that He had come to help all people. The man that used to be blind became very excited. He fell down on his knees in front of Jesus and thanked Him. That man started to believe and follow Jesus.

Lots of people liked to follow Jesus around. They enjoyed watching all the amazing things that He could do. They liked to see when Jesus healed people. Jesus wants us to know that He didn’t just come to heal people. Jesus came to forgive us for the bad things we do. He came to be a part of our lives and tell us that God loves us.

The disciples and the blind man still had more to learn about Jesus. They had to learn that Jesus was not just a great man or a fun story to learn about. They had to learn that Jesus really was God’s Son. He came to help all people be friends with God.

The greatest thing that Jesus did to help us was make a way to take away our sins. When we sin, we get in trouble. Jesus died on the cross so that He could get in trouble for what we did. He took the punishment for our mistakes. Then, on the third day, Jesus came back to life.

Now we all have a choice to make. We can learn lots of stories about Jesus, but the most important thing is to really believe in Him and let Him be a part of our lives. If you want to know how to have Jesus in your life, just ask us.

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

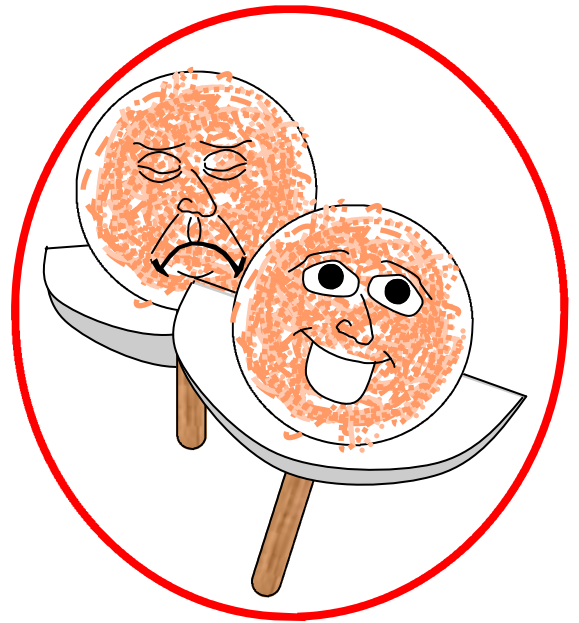
While still in your small groups, lead the children in making the craft for the day. The craft time is not only a way to reinforce the lesson, but it also allows time to get to know the children in your small group. During this time, ask them questions about their families, friends, and school. Invest in their lives.

Blind Man Plate

Supplies:

Crayons, Scissors, Glue or glue sticks, Paper plates (1 per child), Blind Man Pages (1 per child), Popsicle sticks (one per child)

1. Give each child a blind man page to color. Go back over what happened to the blind man in the story.
2. As they are coloring, pass out one paper plate to each child.
3. Cut out the two faces. Talk about the change that happened for the man that used to be blind. Ask the children how he must have felt.
4. Fold the plate in half.
5. Glue the bottom half of one of the faces to middle of the plate. Then fold the plate and glue the second face the same way to the other side of the plate. Talk about how it is very exciting and amazing that Jesus could heal him, but what is more exciting is how He made a way for us to be able to go to Heaven.
6. Have the children use their masks to act out the story of the blind man.
7. Glue a popsicle stick to the plate so it can be held up as a mask.
8. Extra idea: Glue some dirt to the blind face to show the mud Jesus used.



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 back 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

John 3:16—For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son that whoever believes in Him will not perish, but have eternal life.

When all the small groups are beginning to wrap up their memory verse activities, begin to re-gather the groups on the tarp for large group .

Day Two Closing

Closing Time

Each day you will end your Rainbow Express in a 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 one person in your group dress up as John. This person can be, but does not necessarily have to be, the Large Group Leader. Many churches or school drama departments have costumes you might be able to borrow. If not, you can make a very simple costume out of fabric or linens. Another possibility is to use a puppet as John.

Have John give a brief re-telling of the day's story in the first person. As John tells the story, have him 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.

Game Time/Snacks/Wrap-Up

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.

