

**Come,  
Follow Me**

Mission Arlington / Mission Metroplex  
Rainbow Express Mission Trip  
May-June 2009 Curriculum & Trip Planning Packet

# What is this packet?

We are so grateful that you have decided to come to Mission Arlington / Mission Metroplex for your 2009 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, puppet song lyrics, craft sheets, 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 craft sheets, song lyrics, etc. The copies 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 you still have questions about anything at all after reading this packet, 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. 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.*

**If the Monday of your mission trip week with us falls in May or on June 1st, you will use this schedule:**

8:30	Meet for morning training time
9:30	Training time dismisses
9:45	Work projects groups begin assignment (work projects will last from 10:00-1:00) <i>most groups</i>
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	Clean up at apartment community and return to Mission Arlington Help with various projects at Mission Arlington.

**If the Monday of your mission trip week with us falls on June 8, 15, 22, or 29, you will use this schedule:**

8:30	Meet for morning training time
9:30	Training time dismisses
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>
1:15	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. Begin projects at Rainbow Express location or Mission Arlington.

*By 6:00 PM, regular projects end. Option nights to stay and participate in extended activities.*

# 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

- Clothing: see dress code. Bring plenty of comfortable clothing and be ready for Texas Summer weather, which means temperatures ranging from 80° to 95° (or above).
- 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

### A daily backpack

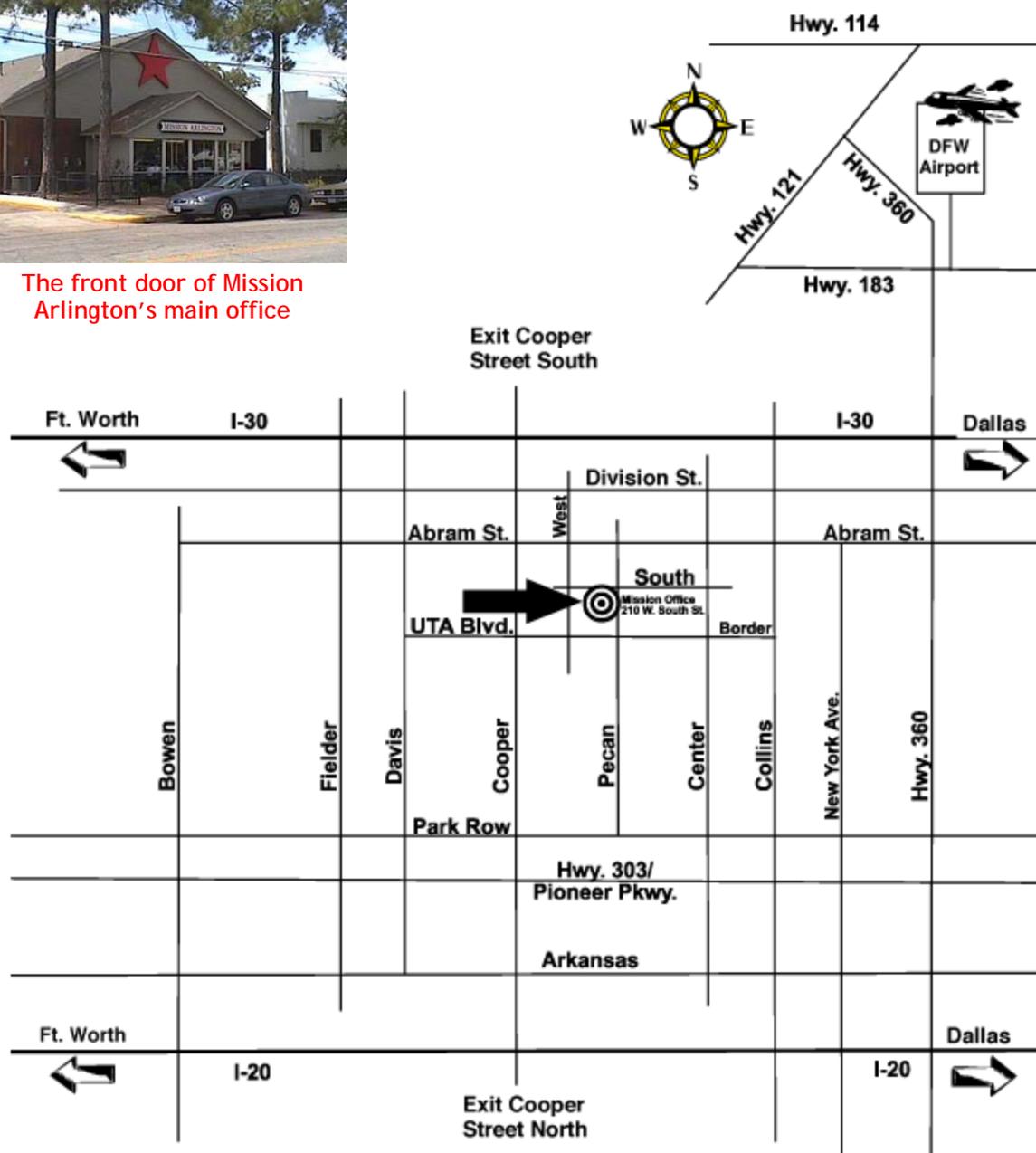
This optional suggestion is borrowed from some of our groups, and it has worked great for them. Have everybody bring a backpack with any or all of the following items:

- 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

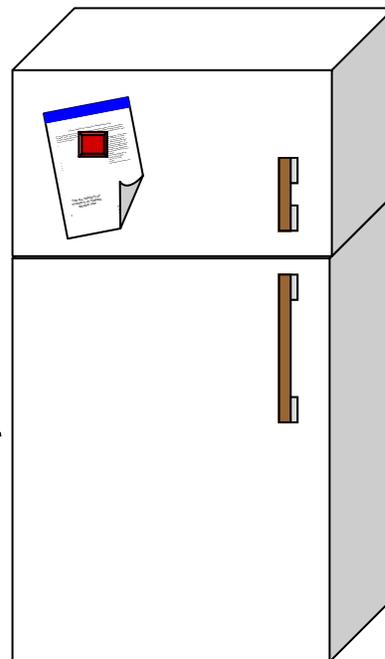


This map, which is not to scale, shows Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex in relation to all of the major highways in and around Arlington.

# The Refrigerator Sheet

## FOR ALL PARENTS OF STUDENTS ATTENDING SUMMER MISSION TRIP

For our Summer 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.)
- 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 \$8 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. The theme for this year's shirt is *This Is How We Know What Love Is*. 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: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Contact name and phone number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Receipt needed:  Yes  No

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

Small \_\_\_\_\_  
 Medium \_\_\_\_\_  
 Large \_\_\_\_\_  
 X-Large \_\_\_\_\_  
 XX-Large \_\_\_\_\_  
 XXX-Large \_\_\_\_\_  
 Total: \_\_\_\_\_  
 X \$8.00= \_\_\_\_\_

Method of Payment:

- Check  
 Credit Card

*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: \_\_\_\_\_

3 digit security code on back: \_\_\_\_\_

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.

[Continued on next page . . .](#)

- ◆ 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 not simply 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:

**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.

*English: Christ, who suffered for you, is your example. Follow in His steps. 1 Peter 2:21b*

*Spanish: Cristo sufrió por ustedes, dándoles ejemplo para que sigan sus pasos. 1 Pedro 2:21b*

## 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).
- ◆ You will receive 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.
- ◆ The words to these songs are in the back of the packet. These songs talk about the messages of the stories. You are not limited to these songs. You can bring additional puppet songs or short skits to use.
- ◆ 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

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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)

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

*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. Then the large group leader gives the day's large group introduction.
- ◆ 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.

*NOTE—these tips were written by members of Mission Arlington's East Arlington Team. The youth groups from their apartment churches actively participate in helping in other Bible Studies, leading Rainbow Express, and other mission work.*

## 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

- Large Group
  - Songs
  - Puppets
  - Testimony
  - Memory Verse: Fast and Slow
- Small Group
  - Story: John Follows Jesus
    - Scripture for today's story: Matthew 4:18-25, Mark 1:16-20
  - Memory Verse Review
- Large Group
  - Story review questions

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## 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.

## Testimony

The theme for this whole week is following Jesus. Each day you will be sharing stories, songs, crafts, and other activities that help the children understand that God has a perfect plan for our lives which we interrupt through sin. They will learn that Jesus came to save us from sin and restore us to a new life with God. Obviously, the decision to follow Christ is an incredibly personal decision. It is important that the children and youth who attend your Rainbow Express understand that a personal relationship with Christ is a very important reality for the members of your group. Every day during the opening time one or two members of your group can share a short version of their testimony in front of the large group. The goal is to let the children see how listening and obeying as God has spoken in your life has made a practical and meaningful difference. *(For help on sharing in a way that will be age-appropriate and meaningful with children, each person who plans to give their testimony should read the sheet Tips on Preparing Your Testimony in the training materials section of this packet.)*

## 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

**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

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

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 that truth about God’s love and the Savior He sent for us.

Introduce today’s story by having two or three members of your group share how they knew they were following God by coming on this mission trip. These mini-testimonies should not be more than a few sentences. You are trying to paint a picture that your relationship with God is a real part of your day to day life, not something that ended with your decision to trust Christ. Explain that accepting Jesus into our lives begins a life-long adventure of following Him.

Tell them that in today’s small groups they are going to learn the true story of a man named John. They are going to learn how John chose to follow Jesus and how it changed his life.

## 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 is going to be all about following Jesus, God’s Son. We are going to learn what it means to love Jesus and obey what He teaches us.

Jesus was sent by God with a very important plan. He came so that He could help all people know that God loves them. Jesus came to help people love God back. Jesus spent His life helping people learn to follow God. This week we are going to learn a lot about how Jesus followed God’s plan. If we follow Jesus, then we will be following God’s plan, too.

Jesus chose a group of people to be His closest followers. These people would follow Him everywhere He went. They would learn Jesus’ teachings, so that they could teach other people. They were called the disciples.

Today we’re going to learn about one of these disciples. His name was John. John was a fisherman from a family of fishermen. He worked with his brother James and his father Zebedee fishing on Lake Gennesaret. They sold the fish they caught to buy what they needed. John thought he would be a fisherman for his whole life, just like his father.

One day some exciting news reached the area around the lake. The people there knew that God had promised to one day send a Savior to take away sin from the world. A preacher in the desert had begun to say that this Savior had arrived. Do you know who the Savior was? It was Jesus. God had sent His one and only son Jesus to save people from sin. Jesus came to forgive us and to help us know how to follow God’s plan for our lives.

One day John, James, and their friends Peter and Andrew were all at the lake fishing. Jesus came walking along the lake as they worked. The four men had heard of Jesus. They had heard some say that Jesus was the Savior they had been waiting for their whole lives. Jesus called out to Peter and Andrew in their boat first. He said “Come, follow me, and I will make you a different kind of fishermen. You will bring in people, not fish.” (*Matthew 4:19 ERV*) Peter and Andrew immediately left their boats

# Day One

and came with Jesus.

A little further along Jesus saw James and John in the boat with their father Zebedee. They were just about to throw their nets into the water to catch fish. Jesus told the two brothers to come with Him. In that moment, they had a decision to make. Their whole lives, everything they knew, was wrapped up in that lake in that boat and those fishing nets. Jesus was asking them to change their whole lives to follow Him. They did not know where they were going to go with him. They did not know how long they would stay. They only knew that Jesus invited them to come.

The Bible says that John and the others immediately followed Jesus. They did not know the answers to all their questions. They had no guarantees of what would happen next. They just knew they wanted to obey Jesus by following Him. John and the others became part of a special group of followers called the apostles. He traveled with Jesus everywhere. He learned Jesus' teachings. He got to see Jesus do amazing things that only God can do called miracles. He saw Jesus heal sick people and even bring dead people back to life. John and the other disciples grew to love Jesus very much as they followed Him.

It must have been exciting to follow Jesus that way, but it wasn't always easy. There were people who did not like Jesus or His message. Jesus' followers were sometimes treated unkindly. John was even sometimes in prison, just for believing the truth that Jesus is God's only son, our Savior.

John was there when Jesus died to take away our sins. He saw Jesus nailed to the cross. John was one of the first to know when Jesus came back to life. He was one of the first to see that the cave that had held Jesus' body was empty. John met and spoke with Jesus many times after He came back to life. He shared dinner with Jesus and the other apostles. He was part of a small group that had breakfast with Jesus on the beach. John was also there when Jesus returned to His home in Heaven.

John spent the rest of his life helping people know Jesus. He taught what Jesus taught. He told the stories of the miracles Jesus had done. God even helped John to write five of the books that are now part of our Bible.

That day on the beach John had to make the most important decision of his life. Would he stay in the fishing boat and keep living his life the way he always had? Or would he follow Jesus, wherever Jesus wanted him to go? Don't you think John was glad he made the decision he did? He got to spend the whole rest of his life getting to know Jesus and helping other people know Him, too.

Listen to some of the words from John's books in the Bible. They help us know how much Jesus cares for us. They help us know that Jesus invites us to follow Him too. In John chapter 3 John tells us that Jesus said "Yes, God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him would not be lost but have eternal life. God sent his Son into the world. He did not send Him to judge the world guilty, but to save the world through Him." (John 3:16, ERV) God helped John record these words for us so that we can know Jesus, just like John did.

All of us have to make a decision just like John did. Will we keep trying to live our lives the way we always have? Or will we follow Jesus? Will we let Jesus forgive our sins? Will we let Jesus save us and give us a brand new life? If you would like to know more about how to follow Jesus, just ask us. 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

# Day One

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. 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, & 4 is included in the Supplements and Handouts portion of this curriculum. These pages are copyright free and available for reproduction. You may also find additional resources such as more coloring pages by searching on-line or using Bible coloring books. We will have some copies of these types of additional materials available for you here during your trip. 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: Christ, who suffered for you, is your example. Follow in His steps. 1 Peter 2:21b*

*Spanish: Cristo sufrió por ustedes, dándoles ejemplo para que sigan sus pasos. 1 Pedro 2:21b*

## 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.

**TIP—**There are one page posters with the memory verse for older and younger children 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.

## 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

- Large Group
  - Songs
  - Puppets
  - Testimony
  - Memory Verse: Loud and Soft
- Small Group
  - Story: Martha Believes in Jesus
    - Scripture for today's story: John 11
  - Memory Verse Review
- Large Group
  - Story review questions

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## 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.

## Testimony

The theme for this whole week is following Jesus. Each day you will be sharing stories, songs, crafts, and other activities that help the children understand that God has a perfect plan for our lives which we interrupt through sin. They will learn that Jesus came to save us from sin and restore us to a new life with God. Obviously, the decision to follow Christ is an incredibly personal decision. It is important that the children and youth who attend your Rainbow Express understand that a personal relationship with Christ is a very important reality for the members of your group. Every day during the opening time one or two members of your group can share a short version of their testimony in front of the large group. The goal is to let the children see how listening and obeying as God has spoken in your life has made a practical and meaningful difference. *(For help on sharing in a way that will be age-appropriate and meaningful with children, each person who plans to give their testimony should read the sheet Tips on Preparing Your Testimony in the training materials section of this packet.)*

## 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

**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

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

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 that truth about God’s love and the Savior He sent for us.

Thank everybody for being at Rainbow Express today. Be sure to welcome any new people that weren’t there yesterday. Explain that we’re going to continue learning about God’s plan for us to follow Him. Take a moment to review yesterday’s Bible Story and let the children answer questions about what they learned. Emphasize the life changing impact of choosing to follow Jesus.

Introduce today’s story by telling an age-appropriate and short (not more than a couple of minutes) story from your own life of a time God took a bad experience or circumstance in your life and turned it into something good. Tell them that today you are going to learn about one of Jesus’ followers who had a very sad situation in her life. She had to choose to trust Jesus’ plan. When she did, she got to see Jesus do something wonderful. Explain that when we follow Jesus he can take the really difficult things in our lives and turn them into some wonderful opportunities.

## 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 about John and how following Jesus changed his life. Today we’re going to learn about a woman named Martha who was also a follower of Jesus. We’re going to see that, no matter what, we can always trust Jesus to have a perfect plan for our lives and to be able to carry out that plan.

Martha lived with her sister Mary and her brother Lazarus in a town called Bethany. They became close friends with Jesus. He often visited their home when he travelled near Bethany. Martha would prepare meals to take care of Jesus and His other followers.

One day Lazarus became very sick. He was so sick that Mary and Martha became afraid that he was going to die. They sent a message to Jesus, who was travelling. They wanted Jesus to come help their brother. When Jesus heard the message, He did not go immediately to Bethany. He told His followers that He was going to do something that would help them believe that Jesus is really God’s Son.

In the meantime, Lazarus became sicker and sicker until at last he died. Think of how sad Mary and Martha must have been. Many of their friends came to see them to try to help them feel less sad. Four days after Lazarus died, Martha heard that Jesus was coming into Bethany. She hurried out to meet Jesus while He was still outside of the town. She was incredibly sad about her brother.

Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will give you anything you ask.”

# Day Two

Jesus said, “Your brother will rise and be alive again.”

Martha answered, “I know that he will rise to live again at the time of the resurrection on the last day.”

Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection. I am life. Everyone who believes in me will have life, even if they die. And everyone who lives and believes in me will never really die. Martha, do you believe this?”

Martha answered, “Yes, Lord. I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God. You are the one who was coming to the world.” (John 11:21-27, ERV)

Even though Martha was very, very sad about her brother, she knew she could trust Jesus. Following Jesus is like that sometimes. We don’t always understand God’s plan. Sometimes it might not seem like what is happening to us could possibly be part of a perfect plan. When we have feelings like that we can remember Martha. She knew that Jesus loved her. She knew that Jesus is God’s Son. She knew that she could trust Jesus to care for her family. We can have the same trust. We can know that Jesus loves us. We can know that Jesus is God’s Son. We can know that Jesus will take care of us and that He has a perfect plan for us.

After Martha talked to Jesus she ran back to her sister Mary. Mary ran outside the village to see Jesus. Mary and Martha’s friends saw her leave. They followed Mary to where Jesus was. When Jesus saw how sad His friends were He cried. Jesus cares for us so much that the Bible tells us He feels sad when we are sad. It is important to remember that we are not alone. Jesus knows just how we feel.

Mary, Martha, and their friends took Jesus to where Lazarus was buried. His body was inside a tomb with a large stone rolled across the door to close it. Jesus told the people to move the stone away from the entrance. They were surprised. Martha was worried there would be a bad smell if they opened the door.

Jesus said to Martha, “Remember what I told you. You will see God’s power if you really believe.”

So they moved the stone away from the entrance. Then Jesus looked up and said, “Father, I thank you that you heard me. I know that you always hear me. But I said these things because of the people here around me. I want them to believe that you sent me.” After Jesus said this he called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” (John 11:42-43, ERV)

As soon as Jesus said these words Lazarus came back to life. He walked out of the tomb. There was a large group of people there who had come to visit Mary and Martha. When they saw Jesus bring Lazarus back from the dead they were amazed. They believed that Jesus truly is the Son of God. Jesus had proved that, as God’s Son, He really did have power over death. More and more people began to know that Jesus truly is the Savior that came to take away our sin. More and more people began to follow Him.

Jesus proved over and over again that He is who He said. It was not long after raising Lazarus that He proved His love to us in the strongest way possible. Jesus allowed His enemies to nail Him to a cross so that He could take away our sin. He died and came back to life so that we could be saved to follow Him.

We have to decide if we will accept His invitation to follow Him.

Yesterday, we learned that John chose to follow Jesus without knowing where He was going. He only knew that the new life Jesus offered is better than living our own way. Today Martha had to learn to trust Jesus even when she could not understand why things were happening. She only knew that Jesus loves us and cares for us and has a plan to help us. We have to make a decision, too. Will we trust Jesus to save us? Will we trust Him to take away our sins? Will we trust Him enough to

# Day Two

follow Him? If you want to know more about how Jesus can save you, just ask us. 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.

## 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, & 4 is included in the Supplements and Handouts portion of this curriculum. These pages are copyright free and available for reproduction. You may also find additional resources such as more coloring pages by searching on-line or using Bible coloring books. We will have some copies of these types of additional materials available for you here during your trip. 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 for older and younger children 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: Christ, who suffered for you, is your example. Follow in His steps. 1 Peter 2:21b*

*Spanish: Cristo sufrió por ustedes, dándoles ejemplo para que sigan sus pasos. 1 Pedro 2:21b*

## Wrap Up

Each day you will end your Rainbow Express in a second large group session. Have all the children

# Day Two

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

- Large Group
  - Songs
  - Puppets
  - Testimony
  - Memory Verse: Teams
- Small Group
  - Story: The Thief on the cross Believes in Jesus
    - Scripture for today's story: Luke 23:32-46
  - Memory Verse Review
- Large Group
  - Story review questions

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## 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.

## Testimony

The theme for this whole week is following Jesus. Each day you will be sharing stories, songs, crafts, and other activities that help the children understand that God has a perfect plan for our lives which we interrupt through sin. They will learn that Jesus came to save us from sin and restore us to a new life with God. Obviously, the decision to follow Christ is an incredibly personal decision. It is important that the children and youth who attend your Rainbow Express understand that a personal relationship with Christ is a very important reality for the members of your group. Every day during the opening time one or two members of your group can share a short version of their testimony in front of the large group. The goal is to let the children see how listening and obeying as God has spoken in your life has made a practical and meaningful difference. *(For help on sharing in a way that will be age-appropriate and meaningful with children, each person who plans to give their testimony should read the sheet Tips on Preparing Your Testimony in the training materials section of this packet.)*

## 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

**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

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

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 that truth about God’s love and the Savior He sent for us.

Begin by welcoming everybody to Rainbow Express today. Take the time to welcome and introduce any new people that have come today. Explain that today’s story is the most important story of all: the true story of Jesus’ death and return to life. If Jesus had not done this for us there would be no way for our sin to be taken away. Explain that some people think we have to work to receive Jesus’ love. They think following Jesus means following orders. Those people don’t understand how much God loves us. They don’t understand that Jesus’ invitation to follow Him is a free gift. We don’t work for it. We can’t earn it. We just accept it. Share a brief, age-appropriate story from your own life of a time you were loved freely, even when you had not done anything to earn it. Explain that God shows us the greatest example of that type of love: love so great that He gave His own Son to save us.

Tell them that in today’s story they are going to meet one of Jesus’ followers who shows us an example of the free gift of Jesus’ love: a thief who could not possibly have done anything to deserve Jesus’ love but who Jesus saved anyway.

## 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 what it means to follow Jesus. Every day we have learned that Jesus wants to help us follow Him. Remember that the most important thing Jesus did to help us was to die on the cross to take away our sins, all the bad things we have done. Today we’re going to learn more about that.

We have learned that Jesus was God’s Son. He came from Heaven to live here on Earth for about thirty years. He spent His time here teaching people how to know and follow God. He also did a lot to help people, like feeding them or healing the sick.

There were some people that did not like Jesus. These people were leaders that wanted people to follow *them*. They wanted to make themselves more rich, famous, and powerful. These leaders did not like people following Jesus. These people decided that they wanted to get rid of Jesus. They decided to kill Him.

The leaders arrested Jesus and ordered soldiers to kill Him on a cross, even though He had never done anything wrong. Two other men were being killed that same day. These men were not good like Jesus. They were thieves who were dying for crimes they committed.

The soldiers took Jesus and the two criminals to a hill called the Skull. They nailed Jesus’ hands and feet to a cross. They put the two thieves on crosses too, with Jesus in the middle.

A big crowd of people came to Skull Hill to watch Jesus die. While Jesus was nailed to the

# Day Three

cross, He talked to God, His father. "Father, please forgive them," Jesus asked "because they do not know what they are doing."

The people watching started to make fun of Jesus. They laughed and called Him names. The leaders that hated Jesus began to yell. "Jesus said He could save people from sin. Why doesn't He save Himself from the cross?" The soldiers made fun of Jesus too. The soldiers and the leaders did not understand that Jesus stayed on the cross so that He could take away our sins.

One of the criminals on a cross began to shout at Jesus. "You're not really God's Son," the man yelled. "If you were, you could save yourself and us from these crosses."

The other criminal told the first to be quiet. "Have respect for God," the second criminal said. "We are being punished for things we really did do. Jesus hasn't done anything wrong. He is being punished for no reason."

The thief looked at Jesus. "I know that you are God's Son and that you are going back to Heaven. Please remember me when you get there."

We already said that Jesus died on the cross so that He could save everybody that follows Him. What do you think He said to this thief? This was a very bad man who was being killed for his crimes. Do you think that Jesus loved him, too?

Jesus did love that thief, just like He loves you and me. Jesus told him "I promise that today you will be with me in Heaven."

Soon it became very dark, and Jesus died. The good news is that the story does not end there. Jesus did not stay dead. His friends took His body down and put it in a cave. It was in the cave for two days. On the third day, something wonderful happened: Jesus came back to life!

Jesus spent the next six weeks visiting His friends and showing them that He really is alive. Before Jesus left He gave His followers some instructions: help everybody else in the world know how they could follow Him, too. That message all those years ago still applies to us: we can decide to be followers of Jesus too.

God sent Jesus to help us. Jesus died to take away all the bad things that we have done. Then He came back to life, and invites everybody to follow Him. Jesus had a choice. He did not have to die on the cross, but He chose to so that He could help us. You can see that Jesus loves us very much!

Sometimes we might feel a little bit like the thief on the cross. We know that we have done bad things, and we might wonder if God still loves us. He does! It's easy to see from this story that Jesus loves all of us, no matter who we are or what we have done. Jesus loves the bad people that put Him on the cross. He prayed that God would forgive them. Jesus loved the thief, too, so He promised to take the thief to Heaven. Just like the thief, all we have to do is ask. If anybody here would like to know how to do that, please just let us know. We would love to help.

*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 for the day. The craft time is

# Day Three

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 Bracelets*

**Supplies:** For each child—one string or cord for bracelet, and five beads, one each of red, black, white, green, yellow

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:

**TIP—There are one page posters with the memory verse for older and younger children 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: Christ, who suffered for you, is your example. Follow in His steps. 1 Peter 2:21b*

*Spanish: Cristo sufrió por ustedes, dándoles ejemplo para que sigan sus pasos. 1 Pedro 2:21b*

## 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.*



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.

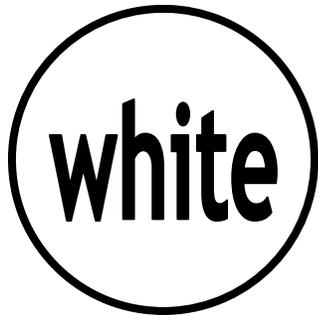
*Un día estaré en El Cielo con Jesús.*



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



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



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



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



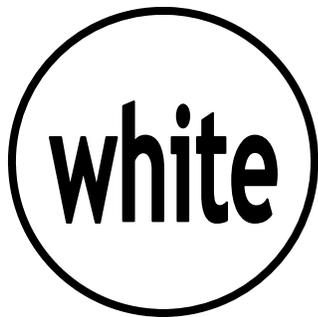
[Jesus said] "In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am." John 14:2-3



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
  - Memory Verse: Next Word Relay
- Small Group
  - Story: Matthew Follows Jesus  
Scripture for today's story: Matthew 9:1-13
  - Memory Verse Review
- Large Group
  - Story review questions

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## 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.

## Testimony

The theme for this whole week is following Jesus. Each day you will be sharing stories, songs, crafts, and other activities that help the children understand that God has a perfect plan for our lives which we interrupt through sin. They will learn that Jesus came to save us from sin and restore us to a new life with God. Obviously, the decision to follow Christ is an incredibly personal decision. It is important that the children and youth who attend your Rainbow Express understand that a personal relationship with Christ is a very important reality for the members of your group. Every day during the opening time one or two members of your group can share a short version of their testimony in front of the large group. The goal is to let the children see how listening and obeying as God has spoken in your life has made a practical and meaningful difference. *(For help on sharing in a way that will be age-appropriate and meaningful with children, each person who plans to give their testimony should read the sheet Tips on Preparing Your Testimony in the training materials section of this packet.)*

## 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

**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 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 that truth about God’s love and the Savior He sent for us.

Begin by welcoming everybody to Rainbow Express and introducing your group again. Take a few minutes to review everything you have learned so far this week. Ask questions and let the children retell each day’s stories. As you are retelling the Resurrection story from Day 3, remind the children that Jesus gave all His followers the mission of helping others trust Jesus and come to follow Him.

Have a member of your group tell a story of a time in their own life that they shared their faith with somebody and helped them come to know Christ. Tell them that today they are going to learn the story of a man that nobody thought would follow Jesus. God changed his life and he helped many, many people know Jesus.

## 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 following Jesus. The first day we learned about John. We learned that John trusted Jesus enough to follow Him, even though John did not know what would happen. Then we learned about Martha. We learned that Martha trusted Jesus, even when her life was very sad and she did not understand Jesus’ plan. Yesterday we talked about the thief on the cross. We learned how he became a follower of Jesus even when he did not deserve it. We learned that Jesus loves us and lets us follow Him, even though we don’t deserve it. We learned that being saved by God is a free gift He offers just because He loves us.

Today we are going to talk more about the free gift Jesus offers us. We are going to learn about one of Jesus’ followers named Matthew. *Nobody* thought Matthew would be a follower of Jesus because Matthew was a tax collector. Nearly everybody thought that tax collectors were some very, very bad people. Tax collectors worked for the enemies of Israel, the country where Jesus lived. They were Israelites who took money from other Israelites and gave it to the Romans. Nobody in Israel liked the Romans, so nobody in Israel liked the tax collectors either. That means that almost nobody liked Matthew.

Matthew lived and worked in a city called Capernaum. He had a table there where he collected people’s money to give to the Romans. Jesus spent a lot of time around Capernaum healing sick people and teaching. Matthew must have seen Jesus heal the sick. He must have

# Day Four

heard Jesus tell people about God's love. Think about how it must have felt for someone like Matthew, who almost everybody hated, to hear that God loved him.

One day Jesus came through Capernaum again. While he was there some people carried on a blanket to Jesus a man who could not walk. Jesus healed the man. He made him walk. The people in the crowd around Jesus were amazed to see God's power in Him. As Jesus was leaving from there He passed Matthew's tax table. "Follow Me," Jesus said to Matthew.

How do you think the people felt that saw Jesus talking to Matthew? Don't you think some of them were surprised to see Jesus talking to somebody that they thought was a very bad person? Do you think they expected to see Jesus loving somebody that so many of them hated? How do you think Matthew felt? Do you think Matthew thought Jesus would ever talk to him? The Bible tells us that right then Matthew got up from his seat, left behind his tax collector table, and followed Jesus.

Matthew invited Jesus to his house for a feast. Matthew's friends came to see Jesus and eat with them, too. All of Matthew's friends were people that most others did not like. They were people that everybody else living in Capernaum thought of as the very worst sinners. Some of Jesus' enemies saw the party happening at Matthew's house. "If Jesus is really God's Son, why does He spend time with such bad people?" they wondered.

Jesus knew what they were thinking, so He answered them. He reminded them that a doctor helps people who know they're sick. In the same way, Jesus came to help people who know that they need God's help. Jesus wanted everybody to understand that God's love is for all of us, no matter what we might have done or how bad somebody else might think we are.

Matthew became one of Jesus' followers and closest friends. He was with Jesus as He travelled around the country, helping people know that God loved them and how to follow Him. Matthew was one of the people with Jesus the night before He died to take away our sins. He was also one of the people who saw Jesus after He came back to life. Matthew understood that Jesus loves all people. He understood that Jesus invites all of us to follow Him. Matthew also understood that Jesus wants us to help other people know Him, too.

After Jesus returned to Heaven, God helped Matthew write a book to help other people know about Jesus. Today, the book of Matthew is part of the Bible. It tells us about Jesus' life and teachings. In the end of his book Matthew tells us that Jesus wants the whole world to know that they can follow Him. Jesus told His followers "So go and make followers of all people in the world. Baptize them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach them to obey everything that I have taught you, and I will be with you always, even until the end of this age."

Jesus told Matthew and His other followers to share His Good News with the whole world. That means the Good News is for us, too. That means the Good News is for you. Jesus loves you. He wants you to know that you can follow Him. He promises to be with you forever. If you would like to know more about how to follow Jesus and how He wants to save you, just ask us. We would love to help you know.

*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 Four

## 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, & 4 is included in the Supplements and Handouts portion of this curriculum. These pages are copyright free and available for reproduction. You may also find additional resources such as more coloring pages by searching on-line or using Bible coloring books. We will have some copies of these types of additional materials available for you here during your trip. 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 for older and younger children 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: Christ, who suffered for you, is your example. Follow in His steps. 1 Peter 2:21b*

*Spanish: Cristo sufrió por ustedes, dándoles ejemplo para que sigan sus pasos. 1 Pedro 2:21b*

## 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  
crafts, 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 surfen' 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

**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

**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,

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

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...

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

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

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)

**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

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

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?  
widdle widdle widdle  
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. widdle widdle widdle

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:** Chose 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 guides 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 chasee. Just like regular tag, It tries to tag the chasee. If the chasee is tagged, he or she in turn becomes it and the chase reverses. The chasee's goal is to link with another player. When the chasee links arms with one side of a pair, the other player must unlink, becoming the chasee.

# 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.

**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. You will be given a CD of four songs while you are at Mission Arlington, each of which will incorporate thematically with one of the days of Rainbow Express. Use these as the final song from each day's puppet concert and as a segue to introduce the days' topic. You can add your own songs too. We have had great response with upbeat Christian music, especially if there is an easy chorus the kids can catch on to and sing along with. Songs like “Get Down” or “Big House” by Audio Adrenaline, “Dive” by Steven Curtis Chapman, “Shine” or “He Reigns” by the Newsboys, and a huge number of others by artists like David Crowder, The Supertones, and more are fun songs 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, such as Thousand Foot Krutch or some Tobymac. Don't forget that the music is for the residents of the apartments, not for our personal listening pleasure. If you would like to purchase more puppet music, the CDs we will loan you while you are here are from a series called RPM-Righteous Pop Music. You can order from them online from the company that produces them at [onewaystreet.com](http://onewaystreet.com).*

**PREPARATION TIP:** Print the lyrics to each of the four puppet songs. Taping these sheets to the inside of your puppet stage will help you as you perform. 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.



## PUPPETS DAY ONE

Are You Gonna Go His Way?—*to the tune of  
Are You Going My Way? By Lenny Kravitz*

Christ was born long ago  
He is Messiah, He's the one  
He came to wash your sins away  
Because He is God's only Son  
So that's why He had to die  
And shed His blood for everyone  
He beat the grave, He came to save  
Let's thank Him for the things He's done

But what I really want to know is  
Are you gonna go His way?  
Will you let Him take control?

I don't know why we always try  
To live this life all on our own  
He's always there, and Jesus cares  
He'll never leave you all alone  
So tell me why we always try  
To put ourselves upon the throne?  
We need His power for every hour  
The power that rolled away the stone

## PUPPETS DAY TWO—

God Moves in Mysterious Ways—*to the tune of Mysterious Ways by U2*

Everyday we walk on these feet of clay  
 And we can't escape the hard times that come our way  
 We've been trusting in the Lord  
 But cannot see His plan  
 There're so many things in life  
 That we just don't understand, look

God loves you  
 Stop looking down  
 He'll be there  
 He won't let you down

*Chorus:*  
*It's alright...It's alright...it's alright*  
*God moves in mysterious ways*  
*It's alright...It's alright...it's alright*  
*God moves in mysterious ways, Uh huh*

God will never change He's always the same  
 So just trust Him with the things you can't explain  
 Remember what's real He knows how you feel  
 If you want to rise above better learn how to kneel (on your knees boy!)

Look up!  
 Here comes your help  
 Depend on Him  
 Not on yourself

*Chorus*  
*It's alright...It's alright...it's alright*  
*Strength by day, comfort by night, oh*

One day you'll look back and you'll see  
 Where you were held by Jesus' love  
 Cling to this hope though we don't know 'bout tomorrow  
 He holds tomorrow

*Chorus*  
*It's alright...It's alright...it's alright*  
*Strength by day, comfort by night, oh*

## PUPPETS DAY THREE—

Salvation—*to the tune of Vacation by The Go-Go's*

Can't seem to get my mind off of you  
 Ever since you let me start fresh and new  
 I'll never go away  
 With you I'll stay  
 You've given my whole life a brand new meaning

When I think about all that you've done  
 And how you sent your only Son  
 I see I was wrong  
 And I'm not so strong  
 'Cause you're the only one worth living for

Oh, I could never  
 Repay the debt  
 For what you've done for me  
 'Cause you forgive and you forget

Chorus:  
 Salvation, all I ever wanted  
 Salvation, wash my sins away  
 Salvation, never have to be alone  
 Salvation, all I ever wanted  
 Salvation, wash my sins away  
 Salvation, 'cause you rolled away the stone

I'm gonna witness  
 I'm gonaa tell  
 About your love  
 And how you conquered death and hell

Chorus

## PUPPETS DAY FOUR—

Stand—to the tune of *Stand* by R.E.M.

*Chorus:*

Stand in the place where you live for the Lord  
 Think about your witness  
 For Him more than ever before  
 Now stand in the place where you work for the Lord  
 Think about what's right and Stand for God like never before

If you are confused, check with the Son  
 His Spirit's in your hand to help you along  
 Once you were lost, but now you are found  
 And there are people who need His love all around

*Chorus*

The world is lost in sin and in shame  
 So stand for Christ, and call on His name  
 The times are hard, and people are falling  
 Be strong in the Lord, His Spirit is calling

*Chorus*

God's always there, He'll never forsake you  
 He is your strength, Satan can't shake you  
 He'll lift you up, He won't let you down  
 So spread the love of Christ all around

And stand (stand)  
 (for the Lord)  
 Think about your witness for Him more than ever before  
 Now stand (stand)  
 (for the Lord)  
 Think about what's right  
 And stand for God's love and mercy

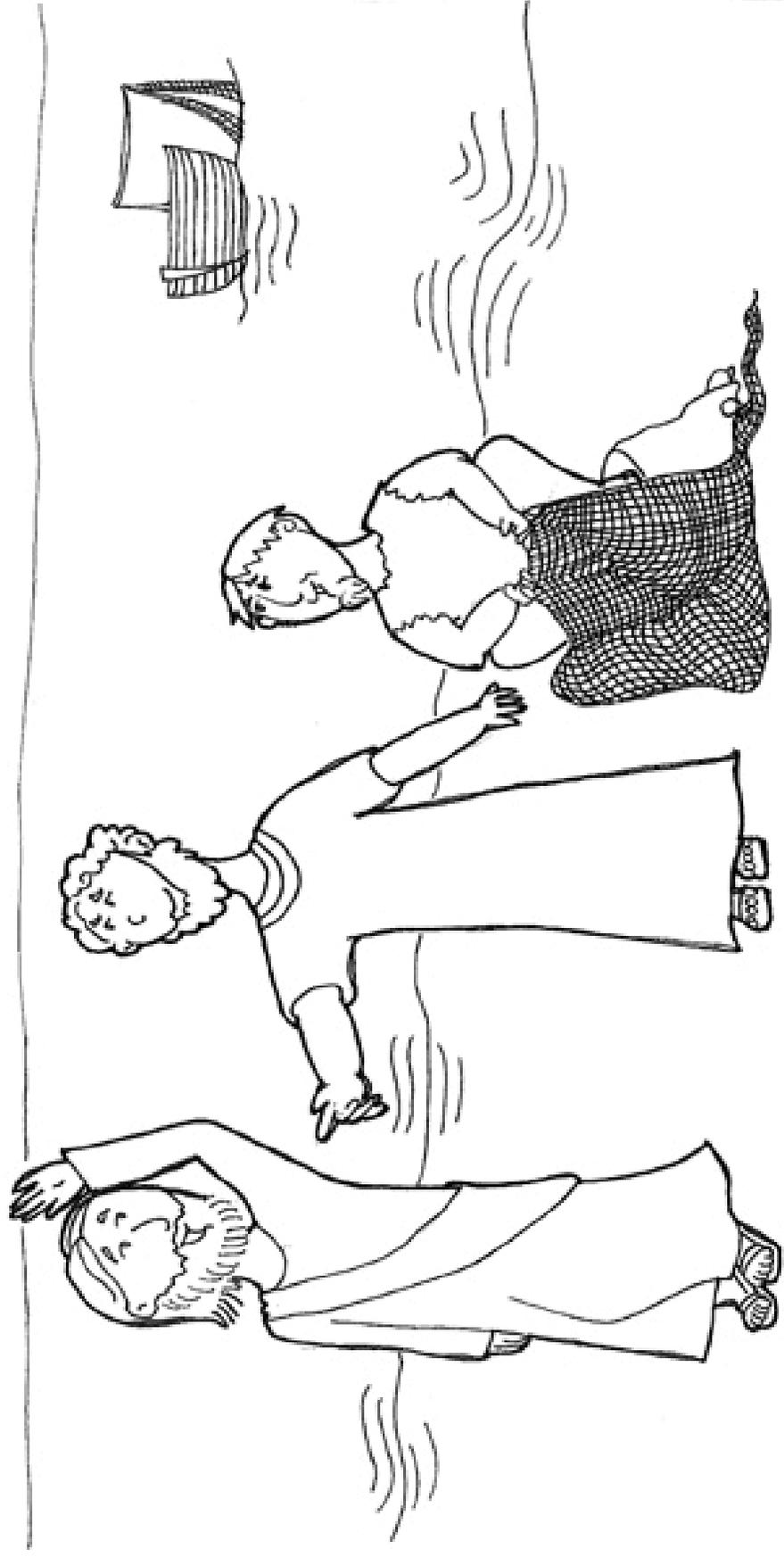
*Chorus*

# Following Jesus

## Activity Packets

Handouts with coloring pages and other activities for days 1, 2, and 4 (day 3 you will be making a bracelet instead)

John left his fishing boat and nets to  
follow Jesus. Jesus invites us to  
follow Him too!





John was one of the  
first people to know  
Jesus came back to life

# JOHN FOLLOWS JESUS

N Z B C T R P A E Q H S N J O  
V M E V R E G N H K J E P C P  
V U G B O C L D U X A N R X G  
T K Z P E S R R M X G L U C X  
A K L M G D A E Q I F J P J U  
B E O L E N E W T V Z O V Y S  
T A P J B M E E H E A H O Y E  
I D U F V I S Y Q M P N M C M  
W R I T E U B G W O L L O F A  
R S U L S Y T L F C D Y S U J  
H K L E M Y Y E E J A T A N X  
E N J T Q T A O B Y K F U Z U  
Q W F X X A V C M Y K O U K F  
U E F B W K B S I P R G V F U  
L J P T X B G S M D C L R T Z

ANDREW  
BIBLE  
BOAT  
COME  
FISH

FOLLOW  
JAMES  
JESUS  
JOHN  
LAKE

LEFT  
PEOPLE  
PETER  
WRITE  
ZEBEDEE

Christ, who suffered for you,  
is your example.

Follow in His steps.

1 Peter 2:21b

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Cristo sufrió por ustedes,  
dándoles ejemplo para que  
sigan sus pasos.

1 Pedro 2:21b

Jesus brought Lazarus back to life.



# JESUS BRINGS LAZARUS BACK TO LIFE

M B T B E E B I B S T W U U A  
O F W R P V I O O M Y F X P H  
V B P K U A E N W E O U Y B T  
X W D Q C S O I S V S T R C R  
F G Y R P F T U L C X Q K Y A  
P Y M B G S S L Q E M T M C M  
F N U O Q E N I C Q B H C B U  
X E D J J P N V L L D Y K H R  
D E I D L W A E S U R A Z A L  
F A U M L Q D A G Y T Y L S G  
M H J L K E O G J K L O I I Q  
A S T O N E Y A L R W C T C W  
R I S K L X A I A S K G I T M  
Y G J H M X R N V U F Z Y Q J  
U W C N A O P D L K W X C Q X

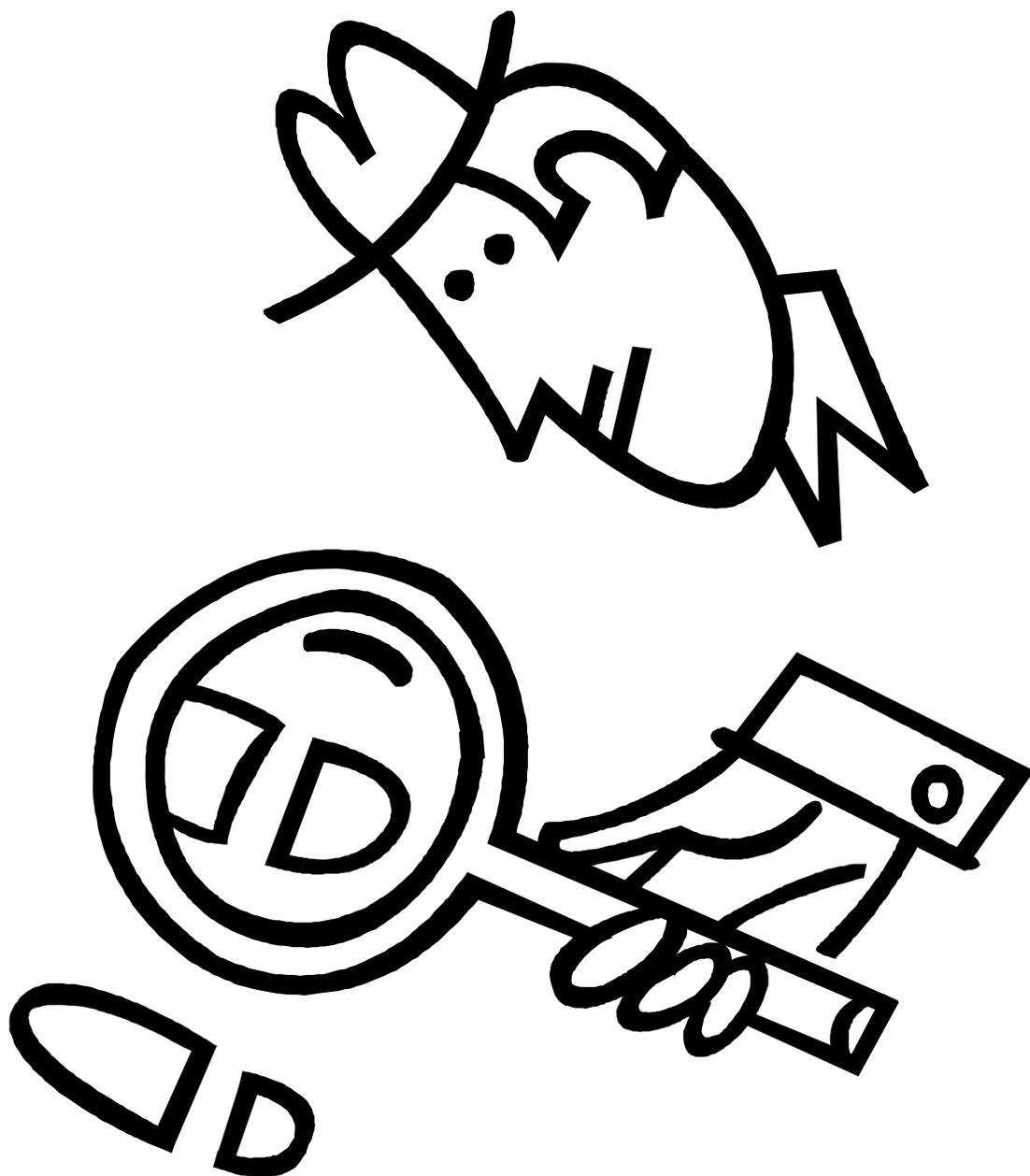
BELIEVE  
LAZARUS  
MARY  
SON OF GOD  
TRUST

DIED  
LIVE AGAIN  
PRAY  
STONE  
JESUS

MARTHA  
SICK  
TOMB



Christ, who suffered for you, is your example.  
Follow in His steps.  
1 Peter 2:21b



*Cristo sufrió por ustedes, dándoles  
ejemplo para que sigan sus pasos.  
1 Pedro 2:21b*



Jesus invited Matthew  
to follow Him.



Matthew had a party for Jesus at his house. All Matthew's friends came.

# MATTHEW FOLLOWS JESUS

T A D H Y R Q X L C W Q M W S

I A V M O H W A A Y H V R X I

I K X M I E O P D H O E R L N

Z N A C H P E C D A L G C L N

Y N V T O R D F R I E N D S E

S M T I N L K E M T W Y S Z R

X A E A T B L G W G O M W K S

M I U N F E M E X O R J E Q Y

A M M P E K D M C T L X N K T

T T F I G E E R F T D L D K R

L E A R S I E Y J Y O X O I A

J E S U S L Z F D C O R O F P

Z O R N B F O R O H B H G R M

G T Q A Q Q D X A P J F K S L

C P T R Z F A L C B M M D W M

CAPERNAUM  
ENEMY  
FOLLOWED  
FREEGIFT  
FRIENDS  
GOODNEWS

INVITED  
ISRAEL  
JESUS  
MATTHEW  
PARTY  
ROMANS

SINNERS  
TABLE  
TAXCOLLECTOR  
WHOLEWORLD

*Cristo sufrió por ustedes, dándoles  
ejemplo para que sigan sus pasos.*

*1 Pedro 2:21b*

Christ, who suffered for you, is your example.  
Follow in His steps.

1 Peter 2:21b



**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.

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1 Peter 2:21b

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ustedes, dándoles  
ejemplo para que sigan  
sus pasos.*

*1 Pedro 2:21b*

# *A final word . . .*

Whether you are coming here to Mission Arlington 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*

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